



The Mississippi Children's Museum Opens a New STEAM Makerspace Exhibit, *WonderBox*!

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MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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Jackson, Miss. - On Friday, June 18, the Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) will open its newest exhibit experience, *WonderBox*, a 1,500 square foot science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) exhibit in the museum's existing arts gallery.

MCM's newest exhibit, *WonderBox* is a makerspace that offers visitors the opportunity to design, create, and test their amazing creations. As an open-ended space, people of all ages can explore what it's like to be a maker. *WonderBox* will be filled with various types of materials, tools, and machines to promote interaction with all aspects of STEAM.

Another component of *WonderBox* will be the display cases featuring amazing stories from the state of Mississippi. Mississippi has a rich history of innovators, tinkerers, and creators. Some of those incredible people will be highlighted within the *WonderBox* displays, including Gilroy Chow's work on the first Apollo space mission to the moon and Jim Henson's *Fraggle Rock*.

"When you say STEAM, people's reactions often are 'I Don't' know how to do that,'" said Kate Perry, MCM Assistant Director of Exhibits. "With *WonderBox*, we wanted to create a space that would make STEAM concepts approachable so that anyone can come in and have makers experiences, regardless of their existing knowledge or skill set."

WonderBox will incorporate both technological elements like a 3-D printer and pens, robotics, and circuitry, as well as making activities using simple, strategically incorporated objects. It will utilize interactive exhibit components to challenge visitors to create and test out their creations. Illumination Station, a gigantic Lite Brite, will be one of the exciting new features. Visitors can also build a custom flying machine called The Craft and launch it across the ceiling in *WonderBox*!

MCM is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. MCM and MCM-Meridian will be open for Magic Mondays from July 5-Aug. 2. General admission tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the door.

WonderBox at MCM in Jackson was funded by Entergy, an Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for America grant, and a Hearst Foundations grant.

MCM-Meridian's *WonderBox* exhibit is already open to the public! The makerspace at MCM-Meridian will feature similar STEAM programming, but the displays in Meridian focus on East Mississippi innovations to inspire and spark creativity.

About the Mississippi Children's Museum

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering in its visitors a passion for lifelong learning, improving the health and well-being of Mississippi children, and instilling a sense of state pride in all Mississippi residents. The mission of MCM is to provide unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. The vision of MCM is to inspire Mississippi's children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. The 40,000-square foot museum is designed around five primary initiatives, with correlating exhibits, programs and outreach efforts. These initiatives include: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts and Mississippi Heritage—the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. Museum exhibits provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. MCM's first satellite campus, MCM-Meridian, opened to the public in Spring 2021. To learn more about MCM visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org.

About the Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian

The Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian (MCM - Meridian) is the East Mississippi satellite campus of the statewide Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM)—a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that creates unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. MCM- Meridian is a 25,000-square-foot facility with exhibit space designed around three primary initiatives: Literacy and Arts; STEAM; and Health and Nutrition with Cultural Arts and Mississippi History woven throughout all galleries. Outdoors is a 25,000-square-foot exhibit gallery that allows children a safe and magical space to explore and enrich the learning experience. The museum's exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities will provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. MCM - Meridian is a strategic part of the statewide Mississippi Children's Museum which is dedicated to inspiring ALL of Mississippi's children from ALL backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. To learn more about MCM – Meridian, visit www.mcmmeridian.org.

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