



The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian Hosts *Storytelling Festival*

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - MERIDIAN

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Meridian, Miss. – The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian (MCM-Meridian) is hosting its first annual *Storytelling Festival* on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

Storytelling Festival is a unique celebration of MCM-Meridian's literacy initiative. By hosting special guests, the interactive art of telling stories is brought to life through performing arts, music, and rich character voice.

Terrence Roberts is a teaching artist and storyteller with a talent for weaving stories together with music, movement, and culture. He will captivate audiences in the theater exhibit at 10am and 2pm.

Braylen Rimmer has always loved reading heroic tales and expressing himself through writing. At just 8-years-old, he published his first book, *The Phoenix Son: The Saga Begins*. From 10am-4pm, Braylen will have a booth set up in the museum lobby to sell his book. At 1pm, he will share the inspiration behind his book during a Q&A session.

Anne B. McKee is a freelance writer, storyteller, and published author who enjoys bringing the narrative of Mississippi's rich history to life. Learn about Susie Glover, the "star" of Union Station and the Lady of the Grand Opera House during interactive performances at 11am and 3:30pm.

Meridian Little Theater will also make an appearance and put on a special performance at 12pm with characters from their play, *Mary Poppins, Jr.*

Guests of all ages will not only find themselves captivated by these special performances, but through hands-on activities too. Children will create their own stories through an "all about me" art activity, weaving together colorful kente cloths, and writing a wish for the future.

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, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, 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 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.

About the Mississippi Children’s Museum

The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission of creating unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning in all children. 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. In response to community needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MCM shifted operating and programming priorities to best serve Mississippi’s children and combat learning loss through facilitating virtual schooling and creating online educational enrichment – services that continue today through a robust, daily afterschool program and an online platform for teacher professional development.

In 2021, MCM celebrated a monumental year by receiving an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the nation’s highest honor for museums, and through opening its first satellite museum, MCM-Meridian, which received the 2021 Governor’s Award for Travel Attraction of the Year.

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