



The Mississippi Children's Museum Reopens World at Work Gallery with All-New Experiences

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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(Jackson, Miss.) -- The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is thrilled to announce the reopening of the World at Work gallery, now featuring six all-new experiences, including an all-electric vehicle, donated by Nissan, and the *Design Studio*, made possible by the Mississippi Arts Commission.

Since the museum's inception, Nissan has been an advocate for the Mississippi Children's Museum, supporting programs, exhibits, and the annual Mississippi Science Festival. MCM has proudly featured two Nissan Altima vehicles, assembled in Canton, MS. Now, the museum introduces the Nissan ARIYA offering children the unique opportunity to sit in the driver's seat and explore how electric vehicles work. This hands-on experience not only sparks learning through role play but also educates children about the latest advancements in the automotive industry. "Nissan believes that investing in STEM education is investing in the future," said Victor Taylor, Vice President of Manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. "By supporting MCM, we're helping young minds explore innovation, creativity, and the real-world applications of science and technology. We're proud to be part of a community that values education and empowers the next generation of thinkers and makers."

This exhibit space features another unique addition from the Canton Nissan plant, called "*Nikki the Cobot*." A "Cobot" is short for collaborative robot and assists in production and safety during the manufacturing process. In this experience, guests can test their skills against Nikki, moving their wand along the racing rod to see if they can match her precision and speed with the slow, medium and fast settings.

The Mississippi Children's Museum's talented Exhibits Team worked alongside visionary partners on this project, including Kraemer Design & Production who helped bring the ideas of the Design Studio to life, weaving the specific themes behind creative careers throughout the entire experience. Other collaborators included Scott Wolfram and Mike Murphy of Working Studio, who originally fabricated the museum's first Nissan Altima, and were instrumental in retrofitting the newest vehicle exhibit at the museum. Additionally, Nomad Design Shop engineered and adapted many elements within this gallery, including the new test tracks, light table, cobot enclosure and more.

More updates include the "*Test Track Challenge*," where young designers will consider size, shape, weight, and materials when building a vehicle to meet different challenges on the road. Visitors are invited to choose a vehicle model and put its speed and strength to the test on one of the six new tracks.

Alongside these technology-centered exhibits, guests can also explore their creative side through our “*Design Studio*.” The *Design Studio* introduces the design process, offering visitors prompts where they are asked to think like a designer to solve a problem. From prompts encouraging them to illustrate their best day to designing a dinner menu, this station fosters creativity and teaches children about the design process through artistic challenges. This interactive space also features “*Material World*,” which gives children a hands-on approach to selecting the right material in product design challenges. Additionally, our well-loved “*House Build*” structure has been updated with a fresh new look, complete with new design elements, such as siding pieces, brick, windows, and more.

“Our team modeled the very process we are exhibiting in Design Studio with many of these exhibits,” shared MCM Exhibits Director, Rachel Myers. “We were inspired by the design challenges, like how high could we raise the test track, how heavy the cars would need to be, and more. We're excited for visitors to put our ideas to the test and learn how important the design process is in so many aspects of work across our state.”

The World at Work gallery area now proudly features an art installation titled “*Ideas in the Sky*” by Cecelia Moseley. This vibrant acrylic installation sparks children's imagination through art, design, and innovation. Suspended forms of rockets, robots, pencils, and tools create an immersive, floating landscape that encourages young minds to think creatively, like artists, engineers, and inventors. Moseley is a mixed-media artist from Meridian, and currently houses a permanent sculpture at the Mississippi Children’s Museum in Meridian, MS.

Portions of the updated gallery were made possible by the generous support of the Mississippi Arts Commission. Their funding helped bring to life key elements of the space, including the *Design Studio* containing an 8-foot illuminated drafting table, *Material World*, *House Building*, and Art Installation. We are grateful for their commitment to fostering creativity and the arts in Mississippi.

“The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is proud to support the update of the gallery through the Building Fund for the Arts grant,” said David Lewis, executive director of the MAC. “The Mississippi Children's Museum received a generous grant to help redesign these exhibits. As a design graduate, I'm personally excited for these exhibits that inspire the next generation to create and think like a working artist. We are grateful to the Mississippi Legislature for supporting this grant, which helped make this project possible.”

Explore the new updates this Saturday, Sept. 20, during the 10th Annual Mississippi Science Festival, presented by the C Spire Foundation. Learn more and purchase tickets at mssciencefest.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. MCM’s two award-winning museums in Jackson and Meridian collectively offer over 100,000-square feet of exhibits and educational programming designed around five primary initiatives, Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi Heritage – the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. MCM offers exceptional resources for children, families, and educators through MCM at Home virtual programming, traveling exhibits and programs, community outreach, *Launch into Learning* afterschool program, professional development for educators, and *Talk from the Start* and *Reach Out and Read*, initiatives for parents and caregivers to promote language development in children from birth to five years old.

MCM is honored to have received an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal, the Mississippi Tourism Association Governor’s Award for Travel Attraction of the Year, and USA Today’s ‘10Best Travel Award for Best Children’s Museum. Learn more: www.mschildrensmuseum.org