



The Mississippi Children's Museum to Host 12th Annual *Storytelling Festival* as it Celebrates America's Stories

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MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

MEDIA CONTACT

Clara Draughn
Director of Marketing
clara@mcm.ms
P: 601.709.8978

(Jackson, MS) -- Families are invited to experience the power of storytelling at the Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) during the annual *Storytelling Festival* on January 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's festival celebrates both 250 years of America and MCM's ongoing Literacy Initiative.

The 2026 *Storytelling Festival* holds special significance as the museum commemorates America's 250th birthday by honoring the stories that shape the nation. From tales passed down through generations to personal journeys that reflect the diverse American experience, this festival's theme, "Telling America's Stories," celebrates the role that storytelling plays in preserving history and building community.

As part of the celebration, MCM will debut its reimagined *Story to Stage: America250* exhibit, featuring more than 50 books that highlight historical figures and key moments in American history through six themes: Bravery, Freedom, Home, Stewardship, Citizenship, and Generosity. An interactive Story Tree further engages young visitors by allowing them to sequence essential story elements such as character, plot, setting, problem, and solution.

Designed with young learners in mind, *Story to Stage: America 250* encourages children to connect with familiar narratives while exploring new perspectives on American history. Through thoughtfully curated stories and themes, the exhibit aims to strengthen identity, broaden understanding of the nation's past, and inspire reflection on how shared experiences and collaboration can help shape a stronger future.

Throughout the day, visitors will enjoy performances, workshops, and special programming that celebrate Mississippi's rich storytelling traditions and storytellers past and present.

Visiting Artists:

- Da Terrence Orlando Roberts, *Storyteller*
- Ann Fisher-Wirth, *Literary*

This event is included with \$13 general admission and free with museum membership. MCM will be open on Monday, January 19th for a Magic Monday! Visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org for more information.

This project is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. This official America250 project was made possible by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council, through support from the State of Mississippi.

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

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