

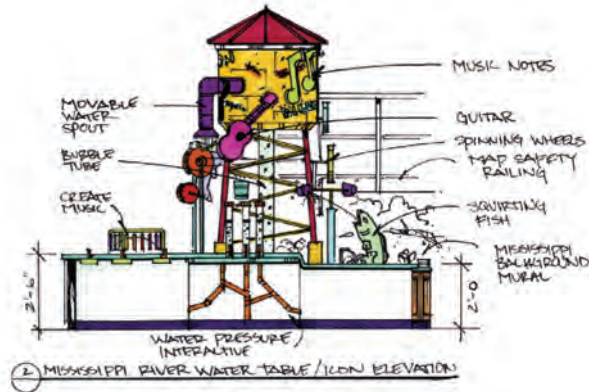
## The Story of the Mississippi Children's Museum

"Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, there were children of all sizes and colors, boys and girls, from the city and from the farms and from the coast. But they all had one thing in common. They wanted to learn about the world around them - and the world within their own minds and hearts.

These children came from all over the land to a place they recognized as their own. They came to play, and they actually learned. They came to explore, and they found themselves. Soon they were filled with curiosity. They wanted to learn more.

They came to a place called the Mississippi Children's Museum."

It is up to us to finish the story.



### Together let us create a place that...

- Represents the values and cultures of Mississippi's diverse communities.
- Gives our children the opportunity to create for themselves the experience of mastering tasks to grow into lifelong learners.
- Addresses the needs of Mississippi children, especially in the areas of literacy, health and nutrition.
- Reaches children in schools and communities throughout the state.
- Complements state education goals and partners with families and community organizations across the state.
- Promotes tourism and economic development and improves the quality of life for families and businesses.

This will be a place that children will want to come to over and over because they recognize it as their place. They know that something wonderful happens when they go there. Let us together create a place for all our children to begin creating the story of their own lives.

Please help finish this story.



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[www.mississippichildrensmuseum.com](http://www.mississippichildrensmuseum.com)

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This is home  
The Story of the Mississippi Children's Museum

## What is a children's museum?

Scaled to children ages toddler to 12, this children's museum will unleash the imagination and curiosity of young people and engage the inherent desire of children to learn. Children learn best in hands-on, open-ended and interactive settings. Children's museums are fun gathering places where families can learn and play through diverse exhibits that develop motor and cognitive skills in children. They are inclusive, non-judgmental environments where kids can be kids and lifelong learning is nurtured. The Mississippi Children's Museum will empower and inspire all our state's children, regardless of their social, educational or economic background, to discover their potential through tapping their curiosity and creativity. We do this through engaging exhibits and programs focusing on literacy, health, the arts, science & technology—the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners.



Marsha Barbour  
Honorary Chair, First Lady of the State of Mississippi

## When will the Mississippi Children's Museum open?

After the groundbreaking celebration on 08-08-08, construction of the building and fabrication of the exhibits will begin. The projected completion date is early 2010. Our capital campaign goal, to help build one of the top five children's museums in the country, is \$24,500,000. You can keep up with the construction progress at [www.mcm.ms](http://www.mcm.ms), but we need everyone's support to finish the story. Donate today!

Please visit our website at [www.mississippichildrensmuseum.com](http://www.mississippichildrensmuseum.com) to help make a difference.

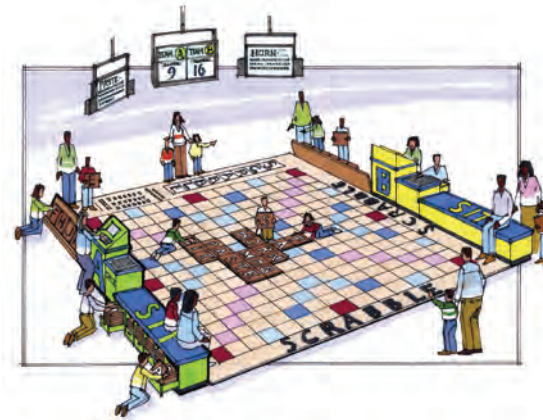
For inquiries, please call 601-981-5469.

## Where will the Mississippi Children's Museum be located?

The museum will be located in beautiful LeFleur's Bluff State Park in Jackson. With easy access from major roads and highways that crisscross the state, LeFleur's Bluff State Park is a desirable destination for families and teachers. With the Mississippi Science Museum as its neighbor, the serene park setting provides visitors with picnic and playground areas, hiking trails and plenty of parking.

## We know the challenges the children of Mississippi face.

- Poverty and low literacy are a vicious cycle that is difficult to break.
- The interrelationship of childhood health and nutrition is correlated to early childhood development and school readiness.
- If a young person is not ready to learn, the school experience too often becomes so negative that the student gives up hope of ever succeeding in school.
- The personal and social repercussions of low literacy and poor health are enormous for a young person and diminish all our communities.



“Some people talk about play as if it were a relief from serious learning and even worse: a waste of time. In fact, play is a way for children to learn who they are, how the world works, solve problems and to express feelings. Play is the real work of childhood, and children's museums offer play experiences that other settings are not able to give them.”

Mr. Fred Rogers



## The Plans

To meet the needs of our children, we will create a comprehensive environment where the community gathers together to help children learn and grow into healthy and fully engaged members of society. This museum will invite community-wide participation in its exhibits and programs. We will create a community resource providing a unique, interactive environment where children and adults connect.

- Programs will be designed to help educators meet state education outcomes. Exhibits in the museum, resources on the museum website and programs through the traveling outreach will all be synched to educational objectives. The museum, along with its outreach program, will be a rich resource for our state's families and educators.
- The space will be designed to invite children and their parents and caregivers to explore together — to read, build, create and play. They experience that learning is a lifelong project.
- The exhibits will be hands-on and interactive, allowing children to learn through exploration and trial and error. The exhibits will be designed in shapes, colors and sounds that stimulate their imaginations.
- The museum will be dynamic. There will be space for changing exhibits, and our outreach program will extend to classrooms throughout the state.