

News

Grants Offered, Events Planned for Bicentennial

The yearlong celebration of Mississippi's bicentennial is underway. Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant kicked off festivities in December to a crowd of more than 100 people at the annual Statehood Day program at the Old Capitol. Bryant's remarks focused on her experiences welcoming visitors to the Mississippi Governor's Mansion, and preparing to celebrate 175 years of the mansion's continuous occupation. The Mississippi Humanities Council is partnering with Mississippi Development Authority's Visit Mississippi to oversee a \$500,000 bicentennial grant program, which will award up to \$10,000 toward individual public events celebrating the state's historic year. "We hope to inspire and empower organizations throughout the state to produce public programming documenting community culture," said MHC executive director Stuart Rockoff.

New Director of Archives Division Chosen

The former head of the Electronic Archives section has been named the new director of the MDAH Archives and Records Services division. David M. Pilcher succeeds division head Julia Marks Young, who retired after eleven years in the position.

Pilcher earned his B.A. in history from Belhaven College in 1985 and holds two certificates from the Mississippi Certified Public Manager program. He has been employed at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History since 1985, first in the Official Records Section working with archival records generated by state and local government agencies, then as manager of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission records imaging project. In 2000 Pilcher became the first director of the department's new Electronic Archives section. There he oversaw the implementation of standards and guidelines for the management of digital records, and led the work to catalog and provide access to electronic government records and digitally reformatted materials of the department.

"David Pilcher has been a leader in the field of digital records and will be a strong leader of the Archives and Records Services division," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "His experience with the department has given him a deep understanding of the work of the division."

The Archives and Records Services Division oversees the state archives and public reading rooms, where documents, photographs, and other items from the collection are processed and made available free of charge to the public. The Government Records section helps state agencies, counties, municipalities, school districts, libraries, and other local government entities manage their records. The division currently holds 57 tera-bytes of electronic materials, including digitized and born-digital records received from government agencies and officials and reformatted items from MDAH collections.

Toyota Makes \$750,000 Gift to Museums

Toyota Motor North America has made a \$750,000 contribution for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's 2 Mississippi Museums project. Toyota's donation will advance programming at the Museum of Mississippi History and create the Toyota Gallery at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.



The Toyota Gallery will contain seven thematic galleries of exhibits encircling a central gallery. “This tremendous gift will support the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History in Jackson,” said Judge Reuben V. Anderson, chair of the Foundation for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. “It ensures students across the state will

have access to the museums, that teachers are supported by them, and that communities are inspired by them.” “We are excited to partner with the museums to educate future generations about a critical time in Mississippi’s history,” said Adrienne Trimble, general manager, diversity and inclusion, at Toyota Motor North America. “We thought that this donation would be an excellent way to mark our ten-year anniversary in the state, contributing to something we care deeply about and that can make a lasting impact with our youth and the community.” Toyota and the department will also partner to bring traveling exhibits to Toyota’s manufacturing facility over the next three years. Toyota’s plant in Blue Springs builds the Corolla and employs nearly 2,000 people.

“We look forward to engaging the communities of northeast Mississippi with these traveling exhibits,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “The stories we tell are the stories of all Mississippians.” The Legislature has invested \$90 million to date for construction and exhibits for the museums. The Legislature required a dollar-for-dollar match for the exhibits, and the Foundation for Mississippi History has raised more than \$17 million in gifts and pledges.

As the construction phase draws to a close, fabricators are on track to begin installing museum exhibits in early April. Museum staff members are expected to move into new office space in July. In late summer the artifacts that have been in climate-controlled storage will be brought to the museums and integrated into exhibits. The landscaping of Entergy Plaza is in progress. Specially formulated rooftop garden soil has been laid on the plaza, and the irrigation system, benches, and lighting have been installed. The staff parking garage, located under the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, is set to open this summer.

The museums will open Saturday, December 9, 2017, at 11 a.m. with a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration throughout the day. The festivities, which will highlight the state's bicentennial celebration, will include remarks by state leaders, musical performers from around the state, and food vendors. Admission will be free on opening weekend.

Museum Administrator, Directors Hired

The leadership team for the 2 Mississippi Museums is now in place with Cindy Gardner as site administrator, Pamela Junior as director of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, and Rachel Myers as director of the Museum of Mississippi History.

“We could not ask for a better group to head up these world-class museums,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “Cindy Gardner has been a guiding hand for the project from the start, and Pamela Junior and Rachel Myers bring a wealth of experience and energy that will help connect the museums to all Mississippians.”

Before being selected as site administrator, Gardner worked as MDAH project manager for the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum while also serving as director of collections for the department's Museum Division. She began at MDAH in 1999 as a collections registrar at the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History after working at two museums in Florida. Gardner holds a bachelor's in history from Stetson University and three certificates from the Mississippi State Personnel Board's Certified Public Manager program. She is past treasurer of the Southeastern Registrars Association and a member of the Mississippi Museums Association and Field Services Alliance.



Cindy Gardner, top, and Pamela D.C. Junior and Rachel Myers, bottom l-r.

Pamela D.C. Junior comes to MDAH from the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center in Jackson, where she had been manager since 1999. Junior is a member of the board of directors for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and Mississippi Book Festival and a co-founder of the Mississippi Black Theater Festival. She is the recipient of the Freedom Rider award from the Mississippi Freedom 50th Foundation, the For My People award from the Margaret Walker

Center at Jackson State University, and the Hometown Hero award from the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau. Junior holds a bachelor's in education from Jackson State University.

Rachel Myers has been director of the Museum Department of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life since 2010. She is Mississippi State Leader for the American Association of State and Local History and serves on the boards of the Council of American Jewish Museums and Jackson 2000. Before moving to Mississippi, Myers worked as a program assistant at the New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts. She holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Brandeis University and a master's in museum studies from Johns Hopkins University.

The Museum of Mississippi History will explore the entire sweep of the state's history, from earliest times to the present. The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum will focus on the period 1945 to 1976 and tell the story of the struggle for equal rights and fair treatment under the law.

Brother Rogers Hired to Head New MDAH Programs Division

William "Brother" Rogers has been tapped to lead a new division at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. As director of the Programs and Communication Division, Rogers will oversee outreach through the combined MDAH education, exhibits, publications, and public relations sections.

"For many years I have appreciated the department's role in preserving and commemorating the state's history and historic places," Rogers said. "I am excited to join the team and continue the good work." Rogers comes to MDAH from the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service in Starkville, where he was the associate director. He holds a master's degree in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a bachelor's in economics from the University of Alabama. From 2008 to 2014, Rogers was an adjunct professor in the Honors College at the University of Alabama. Before joining the Stennis Center in 1990, Rogers served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Representative Donald Payne of New Jersey. He grew up in Brandon.

Rogers was the 2016–17 president of the Mississippi Historical Society, president of the board of directors of Friends of the Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum, and serves as a member of the board of the Mississippi Heritage Trust and the Mississippi Humanities Council. Rogers is the 2017 recipient of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation's Staats Award, presented annually to those who have distinguished themselves in public service careers and have made significant contributions to help other Truman Scholars. "We have enjoyed great success working with Brother on past projects," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "His deep experience in public programming will strengthen the department's ability to connect our resources with people across the state." Rogers began his new position on February 1.

State Capitol Named National Landmark

The Mississippi State Capitol Building has been recognized for its contributions to the country's cultural and historical heritage with the designation of National Historic Landmark. Elected

officials were joined by National Park Service representative Kathleen Bond at a ceremony commemorating the honor at the capitol on May 4.



“The Mississippi State Capitol is being recognized today as nationally significant for its architectural splendor, but it is also important to me because it stands witness to all the momentous events of the twentieth century in Mississippi,” said Bond. “This building was born in a time of newly legislated racial segregation and stood through the unfolding events that marked the progress of civil

rights for Mississippians.”

The Mississippi State Capitol is a magnificent example of the Beaux Arts style, with large, grandiose spaces and an abundance of classical detail, stone finishes, and architectural elements. The building is 402 feet long, 225 feet wide at the center, and rises 180 feet at its dome. An eight-foot tall copper eagle, coated with gold leaf, sits atop the dome and measures fifteen feet from wingtip to wingtip. The exterior of the capitol is limestone over a base course of Georgia granite. The interior is also designed to impress. When the capitol was being constructed, electric lighting was a novelty of modern technology. Consequently, 4,750 lights were used throughout the building as an architectural element, highlighting and outlining the structure’s other features. The building features a significant collection of art glass by Louis J. Millet of the Art Institute of Chicago. The main rotunda is of Italian marble with trimmings of jet-black marble from New York. Its friezes and columns lead the eye to the majestic and colorful dome. The House of Representatives and Senate chambers at the ends of the building are built of marble and scagliola and feature domed ceilings richly decorated with oxidized copper, plaster, and stained glass.

“This beautiful building is distinguished from other state capitols by its unity of design and construction,” said MDAH chief architectural historian Jennifer Baughn. “It was built in three years by a single construction firm, W.A. and A.E. Wells of Chicago.” The site draws more than 25,000 visitors each year.

The state’s first capitol, no longer standing, was a two-story building constructed in Jackson in 1822. The second statehouse was completed in 1839 and now serves as the Old Capitol Museum in downtown Jackson. Soon after his election in 1899, Governor Andrew Longino led an effort to address the need for a new capitol. By May 1900, St. Louis architect Theodore Link had completed designs for the structure. Construction began in 1901 and was completed in 1903 at a total cost of \$1,093,641, which was funded entirely by back taxes from a lawsuit settlement with the Illinois Central Railroad.

The National Park Service nominates sites to be National Historic Landmarks and the Secretary of the Interior makes the final designation. The State Capitol becomes one of just over 2,500 sites in the United States to receive this prestigious recognition. Other National Historic Landmark properties administered by MDAH and open to the public include the Eudora Welty House and Garden in Jackson, the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians in Natchez, the Old Capitol in Jackson, and Winterville Mounds in Greenville.

Sites

Magna Carta Exhibit at Old Capitol Museum

The traveling exhibit Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015 will be at the Old Capitol Museum through Sunday, April 30. This Law Library of Congress exhibit commemorates the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and features images of objects from the Library of Congress collections, an interpretive video, and other materials illustrating Magna Carta's influence throughout the centuries and how it came to be recognized as the foundation of modern democracy. The Old Capitol Museum partnered with the American Bar Association to bring Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy to Mississippi.

“This exhibit shows how the past is relevant to our present and will shed light on some of the core documents that serve as the foundation of our society,” said Larry Houchins, executive director of the Mississippi Bar Association.

Magna Carta is a proclamation of liberties granted by King John of England in 1215. The charter established the protection of fundamental freedoms of modern civilization: religious liberty, due process of law, and the recognition of private property. The founders of the United States of America looked to Magna Carta as a major influence in the creation of the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and Bill of Rights.



Mr. Manship's Mystery Rooms

Visitors matched wits with the world's most famous detective, teased out the cause of a Victorian-era death, used vintage photographs and postcards to reconstruct a family's 1870s vacation route, and more—at Mr. Manship's Mystery Rooms in July at the Manship House Museum.

“During the Manships' era, people devoured the detective novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and others,” said Manship House director Marilyn Jones. “These mystery rooms celebrate the genre today in a fresh and inventive way.”

The Sherlock Holmes Room is set in a Victorian smoking parlor. Designed for adults, this classic whodunit challenges participants to find clues around the room that will reveal the location of stolen jewels—and the identity of the jewel thief.

In Death in Victorian Mississippi, adult teams are challenged to enter a room of mourners and establish how the victim died, using only the items at hand to solve the case.

The Wonderland Room, themed after the immensely popular *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, has a beginner's version for families and children thirteen and under, and an advanced version for ages fourteen and up.

The final puzzle room is based on a Manship family vacation to Europe. Visitors used family memorabilia, letters, journals, maps, and a globe to trace the itinerary and find the Manships' ultimate destination.

Old Time Music Festival at HJC

Historic Jefferson College hosted the tenth annual Great Big Yam Potatoes Old-Time Music Gathering and Fiddle Contest. This free event, sponsored by the Mississippi Fiddlers Association, celebrated the state's bicentennial with performances of traditional string band music and a dance at the birthplace of Mississippi statehood.

"This is one of our favorite events, and many people make a day of it," said Historic Jefferson College director Robin Person. "I enjoy wandering between the jam sessions behind the buildings and listening to the tunes played on many types of instruments—not just fiddles!"

Events began with an old-fashioned barn dance featuring fiddle music by Jack Magee. Dance caller Bridget Edwards created a special composition titled "The Mississippi Mixer" that commemorated the state's two hundredth birthday.

Live music throughout the day included Johnny Rawls, Harry Bolick, Shelly Gendusa and Jack Magee, Faith and Buddy McClure, Connie and Hal Jeanes, Reeves Jones, and Jason Smith.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Projects

Gulf Coast Image Collection Now Online

One of the newest collections being added to the MDAH Digital Archives offers a rare, early look at life on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Randy Randazzo Collection contains more than 4,000 color and black-and-white postcards of shipbuilding, hotels, hurricanes, agriculture, seafood factories, Camp Shelby, Keesler Air Base, and Ship Island, and more than 1,000 negatives from the 1920s and '30s of Biloxi Back Bay factories, regatta races, the annual blessing of the fleet, and other moments largely lost to time.

The collection is being processed and cataloged by location, and pieces are being scanned in alphabetical order and added to the digital archives. Nearly 400 are [viewable online now](#).

When the scanning of the postcards is complete, work will begin on the negatives, most of which Randazzo attributes to Anthony Ragusin, a professional photographer who covered the Gulf Coast from the 1930's to the 1970's. The negatives were acquired by Randazzo's uncle Walter Fountain, a Biloxi historian whom Randazzo credits with sparking his own interest in history and collecting.

Randy Randazzo is a ninth-generation Biloxian. After an army career, graduate school in Texas, and a move to Atlanta, Randazzo began collecting postcards in 1992 when he came across a set of antique postcards of Biloxi and Pass Christian while Christmas shopping.

"I started seriously collecting in 1993 and for many years would arrange my travel schedule around postcard conventions," said Randazzo. "After twenty years and over 4,000 cards it was hard to find something I didn't have, and I was ready to donate them. I was very impressed with the level of professionalism at the state archives and that they will be put online so people from the coast can access them but the cards will be safe from hurricanes."

Images can be accessed [through keyword search](#) or by [browsing within each series](#), as they become available online.

Digitized Images, Documents Added to Website

The amount of digital content from the state archives available on the MDAH website continues to grow. Dozens of newly scanned collections highlighting the state's agricultural history, the Civil Rights Movement, Territorial documents, and the four Mississippi constitutions have been added in the last eighteen months.

The Thomas Foner Freedom Summer Papers is a collection of correspondence, photographs, and news clippings from Thomas Foner's work as a volunteer with the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project in 1964. The collection documents what life was like for those working on the project, including the conditions faced by volunteers during the summer.

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Collection provides a unique overview of Mississippi farm practices and land use from the late nineteenth through the early twenty-first centuries, as well as the institutional history of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation from its inception during the Great Depression. Images from the collection show the effects of natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods on agriculture; health and safety issues such as lifesaving and fire prevention techniques; visiting politicians, including several United States presidents; and the evolving roles of women in society.

George Rapalji was a prosperous trader and landowner in the Natchez District at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Rapalji's Collection includes a notebook of accounts, miscellaneous notes, and Choctaw vocabulary words from April 9, 1788, through April 1, 1797. The notebook records customer names and a list of items purchased or traded as well as amounts owed and paid. Rapalji recorded memoranda of events, recipes, home remedies, and geographic

notes regarding the Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers. The School Photographs Collection (1920s–1980s) consists of six series of photographs received from the Mississippi Department of Education, totaling nearly 8,000 images.

Two series contain images that accompanied surveys sponsored by the Educational Finance Commission to document the condition of Mississippi schools in the 1950s. The remaining series depict school buildings, school transportation, and other aspects of education in Mississippi from the 1920s to the 1980s. The Mississippi Territory Administration Papers pertain to the administration of the Mississippi Territory (1798-1817) by the four territorial governors: Winthrop Sargent, William C.C. Claiborne, Robert Williams, and David Holmes. The series includes papers of settlers, soldiers and diplomats, as well as Territorial, United States, and Native American officials. It includes firsthand accounts of frontier privations, political factions and intrigues, notably Aaron Burr's arrest near Washington, Mississippi, for allegedly plotting against the United States.

The State Constitutions Series contains Mississippi's constitutions of 1817, 1832, 1868, and 1890. This collection allows the public to see digital versions of the original handwritten documents previously unavailable for preservation purposes.

In 1888 the state of Mississippi began providing pensions to former Confederate soldiers and sailors, as well as their widows and wartime servants residing in the state. The Confederate Pension Applications contain a wealth of information about the military service, wartime experiences, and post-war quality of life of the applicants.

The Milk Quality Improvement Campaign Scrapbook is a collection of images documenting the crusade for clean milk in Mississippi from 1949 until 1950, primarily in the dairy communities of Booneville and Macon. The campaign, which was a coordinated effort of the Kraft Food Company and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture, targeted dairy farmers who supplied milk to Kraft's Mississippi dairy plants. Images include dairy farm families and workers, milk trucks and milk carts loaded with milk cans, dairy buildings, classroom scenes of milk quality improvement courses taught to dairy farmers, and dairy cattle.

The Parchman Photograph Booklet documents the early decades of the Mississippi State Penitentiary located in Sunflower County, Mississippi. Also known as Parchman Farm, the Mississippi State Penitentiary, which was initially operated on the basis of a plan proposed by Governor John M. Stone in 1896, is in many ways reminiscent of a gigantic antebellum plantation. These two photograph collections showcase photographs taken at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in the early twentieth century.

The Posner SNCC Collection was assembled by Rabbi Philip M. Posner and consists of correspondence, memoranda, reports, newsletters, news releases, and copies of newspaper and magazine articles generated by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during its Civil Rights Movement activities. Items of interest include SNCC fundraising materials, original copies of the SNCC newsletter *The Student Voice*, and a memorandum reporting on surveys of the condition of African American farmers in Ruleville and Sunflower County at the close of the cotton season.

The contents of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Papers are being systematically digitized and now include seventeen recent additions that may be viewed on the terminals in the reading rooms of the Winter Building. The collection includes the papers of Medgar Evers as Mississippi field secretary of the NAACP, the family papers of Medgar Evers and of Myrlie Evers, and records relating to the case of the State of Mississippi v. Byron De La Beckwith.

Outreach

Preservation Boot Camp

City and county elected officials, local Main Street organizers, and interested citizens participated in the 2017 Historic Preservation Boot Camp on Thursday, May 4, and Friday, May 5, at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson. The annual workshop serves as both an introduction course to historic preservation and a refresher course for those already active in the field.

This year's program covered a variety of subjects pertaining to historic preservation. Topics covered on Thursday included the history of historic preservation in the United States, the architectural history of Mississippi, the economic benefits of historic preservation, historic inventory surveys, and the National Register of Historic Places. On Friday, MDAH staff members gave presentations on historic preservation law, guidelines of the Secretary of the Interior, the Mississippi Landmark Program, and state and federal tax credit opportunities.

Society Awards History Prizes at Meeting

The Mississippi Historical Society held its annual meeting March 2–4 in Gulfport to honor its 2017 award winners and to commemorate the state's 200th birthday. The society's award for the best Mississippi history book of 2016 went to Jason Morgan Ward, professor of history at Mississippi State University, for *Hanging Bridge: Racial Violence and America's Civil Rights Century*.

Emory Student Named Welty Fellow

The 2017 Eudora Welty Research Fellowship has been awarded to Sophia Leonard, a doctoral student in English at Emory University. Established by the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Department of Archives and History, the fellowship seeks to encourage and support research use of the Eudora Welty Collection by graduate students.

“We're grateful to the Foundation for funding this award for a seventh consecutive year and delighted that another highly qualified fellow will



make extensive use of the Welty Collection again this summer,” said David Pilcher, director of the MDAH Archives and Record Services Division. Leonard will use the \$2,000 fellowship to cover travel, housing, and other expenses incurred while doing primary research in the Eudora Welty Collection at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. Leonard will explore how the literary material of the New Yorker impacts perceptions of the South at the height of its cultural influence. “This research project revisits this transitional period at mid-century by searching for the ways that the particular context of the New Yorker magazine shaped the contours of place in Welty’s fiction,” says Leonard.

The Eudora Welty Collection at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is the premier collection of Eudora Welty materials in the world and one of the most varied literary collections in the United States. The collection includes manuscripts, letters, photographs, drawings, essays, and film and video footage that spans Welty’s entire life. Beginning in 1957, and over the course of more than forty years, Welty donated materials to the department, primarily literary manuscripts and photographs. At her death the remainder of her papers were bequeathed to MDAH and included unpublished manuscripts and 14,000 items of correspondence with family, friends, scholars, young writers, and noted writers.

Cornell Doctoral Student Named Evers Scholar



A doctoral student from Cornell University has been named the 2017 Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Scholar. Bobby J. Smith II will explore the relationship between the politics of food, race, and activism using the holdings of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

“Bobby’s research focuses on the historical antecedents of contemporary ideas about food

justice and food sovereignty,” said Cornell University associate professor of development sociology Lori Leonard. “His starting point is the iconic Greenwood Food Blockade, which is a prominent example of how food—and control over access to food—mattered to movement politics.” In October 1962, the Leflore County board of supervisors voted to discontinue the USDA’s federal commodity program, which provided corn meal, rice, flour, and sugar free of charge each month to more than 20,000 African American residents. In response, the nascent Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee organized a national food drive, which also gave them direct access to black residents of Leflore County for a voter registration campaign. In the spring of 1963, the supervisors reinstated the commodities program.

“My goal is to reveal unexplored aspects of movement politics,” said Smith. “My project departs from the traditional line of civil rights inquiry and investigates the Greenwood Food Blockade with a focus on how food was a weapon of opposition and a tool of resistance in the civil rights era.” Smith graduated summa cum laude with a BS degree in agricultural economics from Prairie View A&M University. He holds an MS in agricultural economics from Cornell University, where he is at work on a PhD in the Department of Developmental Sociology. Smith will use the \$4,000 award to cover travel, housing, and other expenses while doing primary research at the state archives. He plans to focus initially on the Citizens’ Council (Miss.) collection, 1954-1956; the Medgar Wiley and Myrlie Beasley Evers Papers, 1900-1994; and the Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer collection, 1967-2001.

“We’re delighted to partner with the Evers Institute and the Kellogg Foundation on this scholarship,” said David Pilcher, director of the MDAH Archives and Records Services Division. “Our goal is to facilitate new and exciting research using the tremendous resources here at the state archives.”

The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Scholars Program, a collaboration between MDAH and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, encourages work in the history of civil and human rights using the state archives’ holdings to publish original research.

Grants

MDAH Receives \$100K Grant for Online Classrooms

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a \$100,000 Humanities Access grant to MDAH to launch an online classroom learning initiative in December 2017. The project will extend the reach of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum directly into schools by using state-of-the-art equipment and multimedia programs delivered on the web. Students will communicate with curators, historians, and history makers and interact with artifacts, stories, music, and art as they experience the museums from their classrooms before and after visits to the site.

“We are committed to expanding our outreach across the entire state and connecting the resources of the department with teachers, students, and communities,” said Lucy Allen, MDAH Museum Division director. “This program, developed with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will allow students to immediately access the holdings of the museums and interact with Civil Rights Movement veterans, Mississippi authors, musicians, and historians right from their desks.”

The project will provide technological and academic funding for a pilot program in select schools across Mississippi to support teaching innovation and student engagement with Mississippi history, culture, and literature. “We are very grateful to many people who supported this application, including Senator Thad Cochran, Mrs. Myrlie Evers, and Mississippi teachers across the state who made the case regarding the impact of this initiative,” said Kane Ditto, president of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

MDAH will provide a dollar-for-dollar match for the grant with non-public funds. The NEH grant is one of 34 totaling more than \$3 million in their new Humanities Access program, which offers matching grants toward term endowments for programming at cultural institutions that broadens access to excellent humanities content for underserved groups.

\$2M in Preservation Grants Awarded Statewide

At a special meeting on December 2 the MDAH board of trustees awarded nearly \$2 million in grants from the Community Heritage Preservation Grant (CHPG) program to seventeen preservation and restoration projects throughout the state. The CHPG program, authorized and funded through the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government communities, other historic properties. Over the life of the program the department has awarded more than \$37 million to 300 projects. “The Legislature has saved hundreds of significant Mississippi properties through this program,” said MDAH Historic Preservation division director Jim Woodrick. “The Department of Archives and History is grateful for the Legislature’s support and pleased to be able to help preserve these local treasures.” The grant awards are as follows:

Temple B’nai Israel, Natchez, Adams County—\$105,795. For roofing and electrical repairs and interior rehabilitation.

Shaw High School, Shaw, Bolivar County—\$120,000. For interior restoration, structural stabilization, and a conducted facilities study.

Okolona Elementary School, Okolona, Chickasaw County—\$117,600. For building renovation and restoration of barrel roof.

West Point Colored High School, West Point, Clay County—\$67,210. For repair of roofing.

Meadville Armory, Meadville, Franklin County—\$39,600. For stabilization of the structure, foundation repair, and plasterwork.

Bailey School, Jackson, Hinds County—\$370,000. For stabilization of the structure and restoration of the classrooms and auditorium.

LaPointe-Krebs House, Pascagoula, Jackson County—\$210,480. For Phase IV of building rehabilitation and preservation of its mid-18th century characteristics.

Poplar Hill Museum of African American Culture, Fayette, Jefferson County—\$29,904. For exterior and interior restoration and ADA compliance.

Jones County Courthouse, Ellisville, Jones County—\$156,894. For roof repair and drainage improvement.

Wechsler School, Meridian, Lauderdale County—\$85,824. For roofing renovation of the 1951 section of the building.

Columbia Waterworks, Columbia, Marion County—\$69,483. For electrical repair and interior renovation.

Aberdeen M&O Depot, Aberdeen, Monroe County—\$160,000. For restoration of the interior and exterior.

Newton City Hall, Newton, Newton County—\$51,840. For roofing repairs and treating interior water damage due to roofing leaks.

Union County Courthouse, New Albany, Union County—\$148,800. For restoring metal roof cornice and masonry.

Walthall County Courthouse, Tylertown, Walthall County—\$59,648. For repairing the roofing, improving the drainage, and restoring interior windows.

Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation Convent, Vicksburg, Warren County —\$75,447. For rehabilitation of the exterior and porch.

Yazoo City Hall, Yazoo City, Yazoo County—\$128,916. For repairs to the gutters, roof, and

Volunteers

During 2017, MDAH volunteers served a total of 25,711.75 hours. The labor value of this service is \$620,681.65 based upon Independent Sector's current value placed on a volunteer hour. Independent— \$24.14.¹ There were 452 individual and continuous service volunteers serving MDAH in 2017, many of the volunteers served in multiple placements. Also, eleven service groups with an additional 300 individuals serving within these groups (*e.g.* Boy Scouts, AmeriCorps, Reenactment groups, dancing group, gardeners, music groups) helped with special events and special projects for MDAH in 2017.

Volunteers served within all four of the current divisions of the agency:

Administration:	2,195 hours
Archives and Records Services:	1,567.50 hours
Historic Preservation:	5,162.40 hours
Museum:	15,789.88 hours
Programs and Communication:	997.00 hours

¹ Independent Sector is the leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations committed to advancing the common good. Their nonpartisan coalition's networks collectively represent tens of thousands of organizations and individuals locally, nationally, and globally. To learn more about Independent Sector, please visit: www.independentsector.org.

Additional Statistics

Archives and Records Services Division

Onsite patrons	4,717
Offsite inquiries answered	12,653
Attendees at public programs	3,000
Items digitized	20,066
Electronic assets processed (gigabytes)	57,133
Grants received	\$274,175
(National Endowment for the Humanities, Mississippi Digital Newspaper Project, cycle II)	

Museum Division

Visitation numbers by site

Eudora Welty House & Garden	7,266
Governor's Mansion	9,577
Grand Village of the Natchez Indians	27,072
Historic Jefferson College	9,500
Manship House Museum	1,017
Old Capitol Museum	20,378
Winterville Mounds	11,811

Programs and Communication Division

The Programs and Communication Division hosted the third annual *Summer Teachers School*, a professional development program in Jackson for history teachers to learn how to use primary resources related to the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. A Kellogg Foundation grant supported the workshop, and MDAH hosted 22 teachers June 19–23, 2017.

Stories Unfolded, a collection of historic Mississippi quilts, is the first exhibit to be featured in the 2MM temporary galleries. It is the primary focus for the exhibit staff, which is in the midst of design and fabrication. A catalog for *Stories Unfolded* is currently being written and designed in house. The catalog goes into further detail on the history and story of each exhibited quilt, and it will be sold in the Museum Store.