

Mississippi History

NEWSLETTER

MDAH

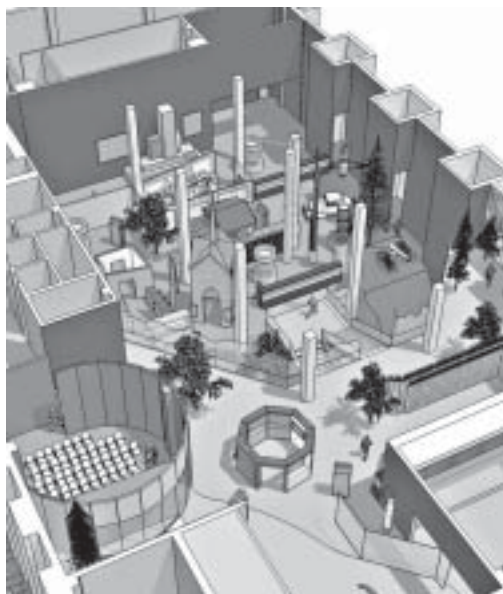
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Planning Meetings: New Museum

The Department of Archives and History is holding a series of public meetings around the state to involve communities in the planning of exhibits for the new Museum of Mississippi History.

Architectural renderings of the new museum and preliminary exhibit designs are on display at the meetings. "We hope the public will offer ideas about how we can best present the local history of each region we visit," said Museum Division director Lucy Allen. "We also welcome suggestions about artifacts that we might want to exhibit in the new museum."

The new museum will be constructed on state land adjacent to the William F. Winter Archives and History Building. In the fu-



ture, the museum will stand with the Winter Building, a restored Old Capitol, the War Memorial Building, and the Charlotte Carpers Building as a State History Center in downtown Jackson.

The new museum will have more than four times the exhibit space available in the Old Capitol. The larger public space will enable the museum to expand its education programming, enhancing the museum's effort to serve as a leader in history education statewide and as a model nationwide. The Legislature has allocated funds for the design of the new building and for planning the exhibits, but construction costs are still unfunded. Meetings are scheduled for July 7 in Natchez, July 12 in Hattiesburg, July 19 in Columbus, and July 20 in Jackson. For more information call 601-576-6920.

MDAH July Events

Old Capitol Museum, Jackson

Fourth- through sixth-graders will learn about frontier life in Mississippi through museum tours, crafts, demonstrations, films, and games **Monday through Friday, July 18 -22, 9 a.m. to noon at Frontier Fun Week**. Space is limited. Registration deadline is July 8. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$10 per child. For more information, call 601-576-6920

Winterville Mounds, Greenville

Winterville Adventures, a series of workshops for children ages six to twelve will be held **Monday, July 11, through Friday, July 15, 10 a.m. to noon**. Free. For more information, call 662-334-4684.

Welty Biography Published

Eudora Welty: A Biography, by Suzanne Marrs, will be in bookstores August 1. In this definitive account, Millsaps College professor and Welty scholar Suzanne Marrs traces Welty's life from her roots in Jackson to her position as internationally acclaimed writer. She makes generous use of Welty's correspondence—particularly with contemporaries, including Katherine Anne Porter, E. M. Forster, and Elizabeth Bowen.

Dorothy Allison, reviewing the book in *Publishers Weekly*, wrote, "You need a good biogra-

phy to counter the myths perpetrated by those photos, a good biography that sends you back to the actual work, the novels and short stories and essays. Suzanne Marrs has written that biography of Eudora Welty—a book that debunks the myths and quotes enough of the writing to make you hunger for the novels and stories. Marrs takes pains to refute the image of Eudora as a perfect 'Southern Lady'. . . [We] get to love her as a writer, and with this biography the whole of her extraordinary world."

From Harcourt, Inc., 672 pages with illustrations. \$28 cloth.

Join Marrs at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building on Wednesday, August 24, at a noon brown-bag lunch session, when she will read from and sign copies of the biography.



Old Capitol Damaged

High winds and rain caused leaks in the Old Capitol roof on Sunday, May 29, resulting in significant damage to artifacts, exhibits, and the historic fabric of the building in the Senate gallery and chamber areas.

The Old Capitol has suffered serious leaks in the last few years, and its condition has slowly deteriorated over the last decades. The building is scheduled for a complete restoration as funding is made available. The Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History, a National Historic Landmark, is located in Jackson on State Street at Capitol.



John Gardner, Old Capitol exhibits staff, removes weakened plaster from wet ceiling.

B. B. King Museum Groundbreaking Ceremonies Held



Groundbreaking ceremonies for the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center were held in Indianola June 10. Among those present in tribute to the "King of the Blues" were King's manager Floyd Lieberman; Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck; former governors William F. Winter and Ray Mabus; and former attorney general Mike Moore. Coordinating the event for the B. B. King Foundation was foundation executive director Allan Hammons, Greenwood. Visit the museum Web site at www.bbkingmuseum.org. For more information on B.B. King, visit *Mississippi History NOW* at <http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/>.

Evers Signing

On June 10 at the Old Capitol, Myrlie Evers-Williams read from *The Autobiography of Medgar Evers* and signed over one hundred copies of the new volume that she co-edited with Manning Marable, historian. Evers-Williams donated the *Evers Papers* to MDAH in 2002.



Left: Evers signs copy for James Meredith, who integrated the University of Mississippi in 1962.



Chris Goodwin