

News

Artifact Collection Moved to Museums



A twenty-five-foot-long dugout became the first of 17,000 artifacts to enter the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum last week. The circa-1500 Native American canoe was brought in through the front doors since it was too long to fit on the freight elevator. It will be positioned in “The First Peoples” gallery of the MMH.

The other artifacts entered the facility via the rear loading dock and into the new, state-of-the-art collection facilities where MDAH staff has begun unpacking and shelving many of the items. Some 1,800 of the objects will be prepared for display in the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

The bald cypress canoe was discovered submerged in mud on a bank of Swan Lake in Washington County in 1989. The dugout is between 400 and 500 years old, dating to the late Mississippian period, and was constructed using a variety of techniques, including controlled burning, chipping, and scraping.

Due to the historical significance of the collection, specialized movers were hired load, transport, and unload the artifacts. Artemis Fine Arts Services, based in Dallas, Texas, conducted the move with a team of eight people. Artemis works primarily with museums, galleries, collectors, and other members of the fine art community.

“Our collection spans 500 years of history, with artifacts ranging from trade beads from the DeSoto era to a window unit air conditioner from the 1950s,” said Nan Prince, MDAH curator of collections. “We are very excited to move into our new collections storage space. Years of planning have gone into creating the best facilities to house and preserve our artifacts for generations to come.”

Construction of the new museums is expected to be completed in early fall. Exhibit fabrication and installation in each museum began in March and is expected to be complete by November, with artifact installation beginning in October. The Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum will open on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The opening day celebration will begin at 11 a.m. There will be free admission all weekend.

Community Foundation Donates \$750,000

The Community Foundation of Greater Jackson has made a \$750,000 contribution to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History's Two Mississippi Museums project. The gift, made possible by a bequest from John F. and Lucy Shackelford, will sponsor the permanent exhibit gallery at the Museum of Mississippi History.

During a news conference the group also announced that it will rename itself as the Community Foundation for Mississippi. "This organizational name change represents a larger vision for the community foundation that includes an expanded philanthropic footprint," said Jane Alexander, president and CEO of the Community Foundation for Mississippi. "As the Community Foundation for Mississippi, we are seeking to serve as a point of connection for individuals, institutions, and our network of community foundations to ensure the resources needed to do good work are accessible and available in every community."

"There could be no more appropriate sponsor for the permanent exhibit gallery of the state history museum than the Community Foundation for Mississippi, and we are deeply grateful to the Shackelford family who made that gift possible," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "Both the Community Foundation and the Shackelford gift embody what the museum is all about: One Mississippi, Many Stories."

The Museum of Mississippi History will tell the state's story through eight smaller galleries that explore the entire sweep of Mississippi's history, from earliest times to the present. The museum features interactive exhibits incorporating more than 1,500 artifacts, as well as the firsthand stories from people who shaped the state.

The state 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 \$18 million in gifts and pledges. The museums will open December 9 as the centerpiece of the state's bicentennial celebration.

Two Mississippi Museums Open

The Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, interconnected museums that take visitors through the sweep of Mississippi history and the state's role



as ground zero in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, opened in Jackson on December 9, culminating the state Bicentennial Celebration.

After participating in the red ribbon cutting line in front of the museums, civil rights leader Myrlie Evers, former Gov. William Winter, and Gov. Phil Bryant led a group of children through the front doors as the first official visitors.

“Inside these walls will be exhibited Mississippi’s unique story, both the illustrious history and deep failure,” Gov. Bryant told the crowd that packed Entergy Plaza in front of the museum complex. “There is no question that Mississippi has had its portion of trials and tribulations, epic struggles that cannot be forgotten or excused, but also a rich history that should be celebrated and honored by all of us collectively.”

President Donald Trump toured the Civil Rights Museum at the invitation of Gov. Bryant. The President then spoke to a group of civil rights leaders, public officials and invited guests at a private event before the grand opening.

The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum includes the papers and artifacts of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, the doors of the Bryant Grocery that 14-year-old Emmett Till walked through before his fateful encounter with the shopkeeper that led to his murder; a series of lighted columns that display the name of every known lynching victim in the state—more than 600 individuals; and a dramatic two-story “This Little Light of Mine” sculpture that celebrates the hope of the Civil Rights Movement in song and lights.

“We must learn from our history to understand ourselves,” Myrlie Evers, who was instrumental in the development of the Civil Rights Museum, told the crowd. “We must learn the stories of Native Americans, African Americans, women and children and all those who have been given a voice inside these museums.”

The Museum of Mississippi History’s theme—One Mississippi, Many Stories—runs throughout galleries that include a 500-year-old Native American dugout canoe discovered submerged in mud on the bank of a Mississippi lake, author Eudora Welty’s manual typewriter and a recreated Delta juke joint that hops to the sounds of Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf, and Bo Diddley.

Former Gov. Winter, a key official involved in the creation of the museums, said the exhibits represent “not one narrative, but all our stories woven together. The fascinating and complex, tragic and inspiring – all are captured here in these museums.”

Mississippi’s former history museum was closed after Hurricane Katrina ripped apart its roof in 2005. The two new museums expand the way the state’s history is presented, from prehistoric times to the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. Both museums use Mississippi’s rich tradition of storytelling to showcase the compelling lives of ordinary people who made extraordinary contributions to the state and the nation. The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum is the only state-operated civil rights museum in the nation.

The Mississippi Legislature provided \$90 million for the museums. Another \$19 million has been raised through private donations for exhibits and endowments. The two museums share a lobby, auditorium, classroom, collection storage, and exhibit workshop for a facility that covers a total of 200,000 square feet—the equivalent of three and a half football fields.

Private donors have created an endowment aimed at bringing every ninth-grade student in the state to visit the museums every year. At today’s opening, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation announced it would match the \$1 million it has already contributed to the endowment.

“We envision future generations will be inspired by the authentic narratives in these extraordinary exhibits,” La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the foundation, said in the opening ceremonies.

“These museums have had the support of an extraordinary coalition of people, including five governors, legislators from across the political spectrum, corporations, foundations and hundreds of individuals from across Mississippi whose voices have contributed to the stories we are telling,” said Katie Blount, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which operates the two new museums.

Free Admission to Museums January 13–16

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation supported free admission to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History from Saturday, January 13, through Tuesday, January 16, in honor of the second annual National Day of Racial Healing.

“The Kellogg Foundation's gift of free admission to the Two Mississippi Museums is a most appropriate and meaningful way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and to celebrate his extraordinary legacy,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “We looked forward to welcoming thousands of people over the holiday weekend, and we are so grateful to the Kellogg Foundation for their continued generosity and support.”

“The museums tell powerful stories about our state’s past and how the racial hierarchies in Mississippi in particular have impacted everything from our education system to our economy,” said Rhea Williams-Bishop, director of Mississippi programming for the Kellogg Foundation. “The National Day of Racial Healing helps us come together and develop a shared understanding of our history, as an important step in healing and moving us toward a stronger future for our children.”

Keenum Elected to MDAH Board

Mark Keenum, president of Mississippi State University, has been elected to the board of trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The action took place at the regular meeting of the MDAH board of trustees on Thursday, February 15. His nomination will be submitted to the Mississippi State Senate for confirmation.

“Keenum’s work to bring the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library to Mississippi State University shows his commitment to supporting and making accessible historic resources—a commitment particularly significant to MDAH,” said Kane Ditto, president of the MDAH board of trustees. “He has been an outstanding steward of the historic structures on the



campus of MSU. His experience as a university president and longtime public servant will serve the department well.”

Keenum was named the nineteenth president of Mississippi State University in 2009 after a long career in public service. His accomplishments at the university include increasing enrollment, expanding the campus through multiple construction projects, and acquiring the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana—a vast collection of documents relating to the life and times of President Abraham Lincoln. Keenum has also expanded the MSU Promise Program, which provides need-based scholarship assistance to Mississippi students whose families have limited financial means.

Keenum succeeds Jack Garner, who retired after 19 years on the board as the senior member. During his tenure, Garner served as the vice-president of the board and as a member of the National Register Review Board. A Grenada native, Garner is the former president of the Ramey Agency, spent twenty-five years in banking, and led the effort to restore the First National Bank of Jackson building. When Garner was a board member of the Margaret Walker Center, he assisted in having Ayer Hall restored to house the research center. An accomplished artist, Garner’s work is included in many private and corporate collections as well as the Mississippi Museum of Art’s permanent collection.

“The department relied heavily on Jack Garner’s leadership in preservation projects across the state,” said Ditto. “He has provided stability on the board through the construction of the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, the restoration of the Old Capitol Museum, and the opening of the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum—and has been instrumental in the success of each one of those.”

Board nominees must be confirmed by the state senate. Members serve six-year terms. The other members of the board are Kane Ditto, president; Reuben V. Anderson, Jackson; Nancy Carpenter, Columbus; Valencia Hall, Natchez; Betsey Hamilton, New Albany; Web Heidelberg, Hattiesburg; Hilda Cope Povall, Cleveland; and Roland Weeks, Biloxi.

Entergy Provides Free Museums Admission

To celebrate its birthday, Entergy Mississippi, Inc. provided free tickets to the Museum of Mississippi History and Mississippi Civil Rights Museum throughout the month of May. In observance of its 95th birthday, the company announced a donation of \$25,000 to cover admission for the first 95 attendees to the museums each day.

“Four years ago at Entergy’s last shareholder meeting in Jackson we announced a \$1 million gift from Entergy stockholders to the State of Mississippi, which kicked off fundraising for the Two Mississippi Museums project,” said Haley Fisackerly, Entergy Mississippi president and CEO. “We were pleased and proud to be a part of preserving our state’s rich history then, and now that it’s a reality we want to share it with the world. This is our way of helping to do that.”

“We congratulate Entergy on their 95 years in Mississippi, and we thank them for celebrating this special occasion by offering the public free admission to the Two Mississippi Museums,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “We have had no stronger partner in building these museums

than Haley Fisackerly and Entergy, who stepped up at the very beginning with a generous donation and continued to play a leadership role as we saw the project through.

“We’re proud of what we have accomplished together at the Two Mississippi Museums, and we’re grateful for all Entergy does for our state.”

Lonnie Bunch is Evers Lecture Speaker

Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, was the 2018 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series speaker. The program was held on April 19 at Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

“Lonnie Bunch has orchestrated the building of the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture,” said Kane Ditto, president of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. “We are honored and excited to welcome him to our state to see the Two Mississippi Museums and to deliver the 2018 Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture.”

As director, Bunch is the lead administrator and senior curator of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. Since opening in September 2016, the museum has welcomed more than 3.5 million visitors. Bunch was named director in 2005 after serving for four years as the president of the Chicago Historical Society, now known as the Chicago History Museum, from 2001 to 2005.

The Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series was established in 2003 to honor the legacy of civil rights leader Medgar Evers, one year after Myrlie Evers made an extraordinary gift to the people of Mississippi when she presented the Medgar and Myrlie Evers papers to the Department of Archives and History. Previous Evers lecturers include Henry Louis Gates, Robert P. Moses, and Manning Marable. The series is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

“We are grateful for the generosity of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which allows us to expand and enhance such signature MDAH programs as the Medgar Wiley Evers Lecture Series,” said MDAH director Katie Blount.

In 2014, the Kellogg Foundation awarded \$2.3 million to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to support programming at the Two Mississippi Museums and fund a partnership between MDAH and the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute.

The lecture will be held at Galloway United Methodist Church, located at 305 N. Congress Street

MCRM Film Wins National Honors

Two short documentary films created for the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum (MCRM) have been honored by the American Alliance of Museums. The museum’s Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Theater won a gold MUSE award for Video, Film, and Computer Animation, while the MCRM’s Freedom Summer Immersive Theater won an honorable mention in the same category.

Jury members for the national competition called the Chaney Goodman Schwerner Theater “an essential cultural experience for all ages.” They praised the “scale and shape of the projected images, which quite literally spill on the walls and floor, [and] involve the viewer emotionally and intellectually from a fresh perspective.”



The film, one of five original video pieces that are shown only in the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, is narrated by longtime WLBT news anchor Howard Ballou. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History worked with Monadnock Media to create the film and theater. “It was a dark moment in Mississippi's history and a challenging story to tell without sensationalizing it,” said Steven Bressler, executive director of Monadnock Media, Inc. “But we felt it was important to immerse visitors in this tragic event, which we did by projecting imagery onto a distorted, three-dimensional space.”

Jury members said the Freedom Summer theater “takes immersion to the next level. Inside a recreated Mississippi-style country

church viewers are invited to sit in the pews to experience an innovative way of presenting first-person narratives. With unique uses of auxiliary lights and sound, this program succeeds in providing a physical context to draw nearer to the stories of struggle for freedom and equality.”

The MUSE awards competition received more than 200 applications from institutions in North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Winning projects for each category are chosen by more than ninety gallery, library, archive, and museum professionals from across the world. Entries were judged based on their ability to demonstrate outstanding achievement in their content, design, interface, technical merit, accessibility, innovation, and appeal. This year’s entries included videos and films, interactive kiosks and installations, mobile applications, podcasts, digital communities, and more.

“It’s always gratifying to have other museum professionals appreciate the hard and difficult work that went into the creation of this museum,” said MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen, who accepted the award. “We are truly honored to receive this recognition.”

The AAM represents more than 35,000 museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and

Free Museum Admission for Military Personnel

The Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum participated in the annual Blue Star Museums program to offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military

personnel and their families. The free admission program ran from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day 2018.

“We are proud to take part in this program, which allows the families of servicemen and servicewomen to enjoy these museums at no cost,” said MDAH director Katie Blount. “It is a great way to show our appreciation for our armed forces. The proud tradition of military service is reflected in exhibits in each museum.”

The Blue Star Families program is available for those currently serving in the United States military and up to five family members. The military ID holder can be either an active duty service member or another dependent family member with an appropriate ID card. The active duty member does not have to be present for family members to use the program.

Blue Star Museums is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums nationwide. A complete list of participating museums is at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Sites

Black and Blue Civil War Program at HJC

In its tenth year at Historic Jefferson College, the Black and Blue Civil War living history program focused on the role of the Union inland navy.

Civil War historian and retired brigadier general Parker Hills told the story of the Union’s “Brown Water Navy,” the fleet that became known as the Mississippi Squadron. These ironclads and gunboats were specialized craft designed to navigate the narrow but strategically significant inland waterways of the South. The vessels provided fire support for Union forces while also delivering vital supplies to isolated troops. The Mississippi Squadron was active at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, Memphis, Vicksburg, Grand Gulf, and many other battles.

“General Hills’s presentation helped our audience understand the experiences of this fleet, which included sailors and nurses of African descent,” said Black and Blue organizer Ser Boxley. “We were glad to see everyone come out to learn about these heroes of the Civil War.”

Magnolia mayor Anthony Witherspoon portrayed Claiborne County native and Union Navy sailor Williams Mitchell.

The Black and Blue Civil War History Program is presented by the Friends of the Forks of the Roads Society, with assistance from the Adams County Board of Supervisors, City of Natchez, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the Natchez National Historical Park.

Present Meets Past at Old Capitol

Living historians portrayed well-known and nearly forgotten Mississippians at the ninth annual Present Meets Past on October 26, at the Old Capitol Museum.

“Present Meets Past is one of our most popular programs,” said Old Capitol Museum director Lauren Miller. “It is a personal glimpse into our state’s history that children and adults can enjoy.”

Nine historical figures were stationed throughout the building, ready to discuss the events of their times: Fannie Lou Hamer, civil rights activist and leader in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; William Lattimore, delegate to the United States House of Representatives from the Mississippi Territory; Governor Andrew Longino who served from 1900 to 1904; John Roy Lynch, African American member of the legislature during the Reconstruction Era; Burnita Shelton Matthews, suffragist, legal pioneer, and first woman ever appointed to federal trial court; Isaiah T. Montgomery, founder of Mound Bayou and delegate to the 1890 Constitutional Convention; anti-lynching activist and writer Ida B. Wells; and novelist and playwright Stark Young.

Music Festival, Fiddle Contest at HJC

Historic Jefferson College hosted the eleventh annual Great Big Yam Potatoes Old-Time Music Gathering and Fiddle Contest on Friday, May 18, and Saturday, May 19. This free event, sponsored by the Mississippi Fiddlers Association, celebrates Mississippi’s musical heritage with traditional string band music played by some of the state’s finest musicians.

“It’s hard not to love this laid-back music festival,” said Historic Jefferson College director Robin Person. “Visitors find as much music being made at campsites on the grounds as on the stages, and everyone is welcome to sit and listen to those jam sessions, dance, or grab an instrument and join in.”

Natchez Powwow Reaches Thirty Years

The thirtieth annual Natchez Powwow was held March 24-25 at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. The weekend’s activities featured a stickball game between Choctaw and Natchez Indians, intertribal dancing, and plenty of opportunities for local families to meet the participants.



Projects

Windsor Ruins Stabilization Project

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is taking steps to stabilize and preserve the Windsor Ruins site in Claiborne County. More than a century of exposure to the elements has caused erosion to the 45-foot-tall masonry columns and fracturing of the cast iron capitals.



In 2016, MDAH commissioned architectural conservator George Fore to study the site. Fore's report, submitted to the department earlier this year, includes recommendations to repair and conserve the twenty-three columns and five partial columns.

"Windsor Ruins is iconic, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History is committed to preserving the site's integrity," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "About three cubic feet of its masonry disintegrates annually. Half the decorative stucco on the columns has been lost and continues to erode, and four to six pieces of the iron capitals detach and fall every year."

At its September teleconference meeting, the MDAH board of trustees selected WFT Architects, P.A., to develop architectural plans for the stabilization project. Lawson Newman,

the project architect for the restoration of the Mississippi State Capitol, will serve in that same role for the Windsor stabilization project. Newman was the project architect for the restoration of the Medgar Evers House Museum in Jackson and the exterior restoration of the John W. Boddie House at Tougaloo College.

"Preserving this site presents a real challenge," said Newman. "The columns were never intended to stand without the support and protection of the rest of the house. But we are drawn here precisely because of its exposed, deteriorated state, and any attempt to restore or shelter the columns would transform the site from a ruin into something else."

Recent improvements at Windsor include cutting back trees and foliage that were encroaching on the columns, clearing the overgrown area between the site and the road, and the installation of new signage. Temporary fencing has been erected to protect visitors at the site from falling debris. "This metal fence will have a minimal impact on the view of the Ruins while keeping the site safe and accessible for all," said Blount.

Windsor Plantation was built for Smith Coffee Daniell II in 1861. The house, one of the largest private residences in the state before the Civil War, was constructed near the town of Bruinsburg, where Union soldiers crossed the Mississippi River to begin their attack on Vicksburg. In 1890, a fire destroyed the residence but left standing its twenty-nine enormous columns.

Windsor Ruins was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, acquired by MDAH in 1974, and designated a Mississippi Landmark in 1985.

Outreach

Christmas by Candlelight Tour

On Friday, December 1, guests enjoyed live music, holiday decorations, and traditional treats at the twenty-second annual Christmas by Candlelight Tour. The State Capitol, Mississippi Governor's Mansion, Old Capitol Museum, Manship House Museum, Eudora Welty House and Garden, and William F. Winter Building were decked out in seasonal decorations for the tour.

The circa-1842 Mississippi Governor's Mansion was decorated with seasonal greenery and a twelve-foot Christmas tree. The East Garden was open, and a very special guest from the North Pole greeted visitors.

The grand Mississippi State Capitol was decorated with three lighted Christmas trees on the first- and second-floor rotundas. Garlands adorned the rotunda's balustrades, and Mississippi-grown poinsettias lined the grand staircase. Music was provided throughout the evening by Sessions Jazz Ensemble, led by Senate Legislative Services director Bob Davidson

The Old Capitol, Jackson's oldest building, suspended garlands from the rotunda railing on the second floor and the stairwells and decorated the exterior of the building with wreaths. A fourteen-foot-tall Christmas tree stood in the Chancery Court room..

The 1857 Gothic Revival Manship House Museum interpreted Clement Moore's *A Visit from St. Nicholas*.

Visitors to the Eudora Welty House and Garden toured the first floor of Welty's house and saw holiday photographs and a selection of greeting cards written by poet laureate William Jay Smith, British author V.S. Pritchett, artist Jose de Creeft, American writer Katherine Anne Porter, and others.

At the William Winter Building, the ever-popular model town of Possum Ridge and its trains were on display. Historic holiday-themed videos from the WLBT Newsfilm Collection and footage of a Cleveland, Mississippi, Christmas parade during the 1940s were shown.

2018 Eudora Welty Fellow Named

A former Germantown High School teacher and current Mississippi State University graduate student has been named the 2018 Eudora Welty Fellow. Caroline Brandon will use the \$2,000 award to allow her to work in the Eudora Welty Collection at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson this summer.

“Eudora Welty depicted strong female characters in her fiction,” Brandon said. “I want to follow changes the author made as she developed the stories to see if her revisions add complexity to those female protagonists or limit them to better align with societal expectations.”



Established by MDAH and the Eudora Welty Foundation, the fellowship seeks to encourage and support research use of the Eudora Welty Collection—the world’s finest grouping of materials related to Welty and one of the most varied literary collections in the United States. It includes manuscripts, letters, photographs, drawings, essays, and film and video footage that spans Welty’s entire life.

“We’re grateful to the Welty Foundation for their continuing support and excited that another highly qualified fellow will make extensive use of the Welty Collection in July,” said David Pilcher, director of the MDAH Archives and Record Services Division.

Brandon graduated cum laude with a B.A. in English literature from Millsaps College in 2015. While there she won the Robert H. Padgett English Award and was a Ford Fellow, working under the direction of Welty biographer Suzanne Marrs. Brandon taught English and French at Germantown High School in Madison for two years. She is working toward an M.A. in English literature at Mississippi State University, where she is the recipient of the Howell H. and Elizabeth S. Gwin Endowed Scholarship.

“Many current studies of Welty attempt to uncover subtle social and political implications of her writing,” Brandon said. “Given the increasingly important movements involving women in the present day, Welty’s fiction can offer valuable insights into the roles of females who are marginalized by society.”

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.

2018 Evers Research Scholar Chosen



Telisha Dionne Bailey, a post-doctoral teaching fellow at the University of Virginia, has been named the 2018 Medgar and Myrlie Evers Research Scholar. Bailey’s research examines the complex and often overlooked history of the imprisonment of African American women in Mississippi between 1890 and 1980.

While at the Mississippi state archives, Bailey will work in the papers of Medgar Evers from his time as field secretary for the NAACP to develop a clearer understanding of Evers’s involvement in the Freedom Rides in Mississippi.

“I would especially like to discover whether the organization did anything to aid incarcerated female Freedom Riders,” Bailey said. “While at the archives I’ll also research clemency and pardon requests for African American women and complaints against law enforcement from civil rights workers.”

Bailey is in the middle of a two-year post-doctoral research and teaching fellowship at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia. She holds a bachelor's from Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia, and a master's and doctorate in U.S. history from the University of Mississippi. While at the University of Mississippi, Bailey organized the inaugural Biennial Conference on Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South, won the Georgia Nix Miller Women's Activism Award from the Sarah Isom Center, and was a William Winter Student Scholar at the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation.

Bailey's manuscript is titled "'Please Don't Forget About Me': African American Women, Mass Incarceration, and the Business of Black Women's Bodies in Mississippi's Parchman Penal Farm, 1890-1980." The manuscript was developed from her dissertation, which won the Mississippi Historical Society's Riley Prize.

Bailey will use the \$4,000 award to cover travel, housing, and other expenses while doing primary research at the state archives during the month of June.

"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 Record 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

Society Honors Award Winners

During its annual meeting March 1–3 at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson, the Mississippi Historical Society announced its 2018 awards, including best book and outstanding teacher. Longtime MDAH Museum Division director Lucy Allen received one of the society's highest honors, the Dunbar Rowland Award for lifelong contributions to the preservation, study, and interpretation of Mississippi history

Grants

Grants Fund Preservation Projects

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has awarded grants totaling more than \$63,000 to ten preservation projects in Certified Local Government (CLG) communities across the state. Amounts range from \$1,250 for the development of an interactive website that interprets Boonville's historic district to \$12,500 to continue the rehabilitation of the Weinberg House in Greenville.

“We are delighted to be able to assist our CLG communities in their local preservation efforts,” said Shelby Tipton, MDAH local government assistance coordinator. “We are especially pleased with some of the innovative projects we were able to fund this year.”

The 2018 grants are as follows:

Baldwyn, \$1,280, for the development of a brochure that interprets Baldwyn’s historic district and the county line.

Biloxi, \$10,000, to continue a historic resources survey and GPS mapping of the Old Biloxi Cemetery.

Booneville, \$1,250, to develop an interactive website that interprets Booneville’s historic district.

Claiborne County, \$2,000, to design a map application and printed brochure that interprets the Port Gibson Civil War Battlefield.

Greenville, \$12,500, to continue the restoration of the historic Weinberg House.

Greenwood, \$5,000, to consolidate Greenwood’s historic districts into one commercial district.

Jackson, \$12,500, to complete the second phase of a historic resources survey and National Register nomination of the Midtown Neighborhood.

Oxford, \$2,451.10, to complete a historic resources survey and National Register nomination of the Avert Acres Neighborhood.

Starkville, \$6,500, to produce an addendum to the Design Standards for Starkville’s Downtown Historic District.

Tupelo, \$10,000, to continue the restoration of the historic Spain House.

Volunteers

During 2018, MDAH volunteers served a total of **29,715** hours. The labor value of this service is **\$733,633.35** based upon Independent Sector’s current value placed on a volunteer hour (\$24.69)¹. There were **412 individual and continuous service, episodic, and short-term volunteers** serving MDAH in 2018, many of the volunteers served in multiple placements. Also, **13 service groups** with an additional **297 individuals serving within these groups** (e.g. Boy Scouts, AmeriCorps, reenactment group, gardening groups, music groups, clubs, university service groups, etc.) helped with special events and projects for MDAH in 2018.

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.

Volunteers served within all five divisions of the department:

Administration:	1,131.51 hours
Archives and Records Services:	1,571.00 hours
Historic Preservation:	4,396.00 hours
Museum:	19,769.26 hours
Programs and Communication:	2,846.50 hours

Additional Statistics

Archives and Records Services Division

Onsite patrons	4,251
Offsite inquiries answered	12,707
Attendees at public programs	2,445
Items digitized	23,940
Electronic assets processed (gigabytes)	113,308

Museum Division

Visitation numbers by site

Eudora Welty House & Garden	7,051
Governor's Mansion	8,603
Grand Village of the Natchez Indians	23,856
Historic Jefferson College	10,861
Manship House Museum	2,068
Old Capitol Museum	18,532
Winterville Mounds	12,549

Programs and Communication Division

At the beginning of January 2018, the *History Is Lunch* series moved from the Winter Building to the Craig H. Neilsen Auditorium in the Two Mississippi Museums. In addition to the most modern audiovisual equipment, the auditorium offers more seating and easy access to the museum store and museum café.

The Two Mississippi Museums were featured in more than 90 outlets in the first three months of 2018. Coverage included international media such as BBC, *The Guardian*, and *The Telegraph*; national media such as the *New York Times*, *Travel + Leisure*, NPR, and the U. S. Civil Rights Trail Guide; as well as state and local coverage in the *Clarion-Ledger* and on WLBT, WJTV, and WDAM television stations. MPB's Mississippi Roads program with Walt Grayson featured the Two Mississippi Museums on April 12. Going forward the non-news travel media will continue to be an outreach priority, as well as capitalizing on important events, such as civil rights anniversaries.