

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY NEWSLETTER

MDAH
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
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In Memoriam

NEH Awards MDAH \$1M for Natchez Center for American History



We are thrilled to announce that the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded \$1 million to MDAH for “The Natchez Center for American History” project at Historic Jefferson College (HJC).

Known as the chairman’s award because it is the highest level of funding given by the NEH, the grant will cover restoration and rehabilitation of buildings at HJC so they can be re-opened and operated as a preservation field school and interpretive center.

MDAH must raise \$4 million in matching funds from the Mississippi Legislature to access the NEH money. I am particularly proud of the fact that MDAH received the highest monetary award in the country.

“MDAH cannot only boast of impressive past successes but clearly is also moving dynamically forward,” commented one evaluator.

This \$1 million award is another example of how embracing complex stories and telling them honestly draws audiences and earns the trust of partners in a position to pour resources into Mississippi.

More than the money, the NEH’s stamp of approval for the project will help us bring more funders to the table. We are grateful to the state, the federal government, and the many donors who are helping us tell stories that illuminate our history and shape our future.

Thank you.



Katie Blount
Director
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Flags From Mississippi: Emblems Through Time Exhibit Showcases 20 Rarely Displayed Flags

Flags From Mississippi: Emblems Through Time opened March 9 at the Two Mississippi Museums in the FedEx Exhibition Hall. Rarely shown state, national, and military flags from the collection of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) will be on display through November 8.

The exhibit features twenty flags made from a variety of fabrics, such as wool and silk. Some were sewn by hand. Highlights include an original Magnolia flag (see photo below), adopted in 1861 as the first official flag of Mississippi, that was saved by conservators after it became severely fragmented.

The show also includes military flags and battle flags captured during the Civil War. Visitors will see the First National Flag of the Confederacy, commonly known as the Stars and Bars, which was seized by Samuel Loring Percival Ayers of the *USS Pensacola* at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.

Another highlight is a reproduction regimental flag of the United States Colored Heavy Artillery (see photo above right), an African American regiment formed in Vicksburg that fought in the Battle of Milliken's Bend.



A flag officially adopted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in 1994 displays symbols expressing resilience, progress achieved in the face of adversity, and Choctaw political ties spanning the last 500 years with Mississippi, the United States, Spain, and France.

Flags From Mississippi: Emblems Through Time exhibit programming includes free gallery talks on March 14, June 14, and August 22, and a lecture in the *History Is Lunch* series on August 21.



MDAH Awards \$3.4M in Community Heritage Preservation Grants

The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History approved \$3.4 million in grants through the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program to seventeen preservation and restoration projects in Mississippi at its regular meeting on January 19.

The grant awards are as follows:

Angeley House, Natchez, Adams County — \$142,161

Carroll County Courthouse, Carrollton, Carroll County — \$243,291

Masonic Building & Courthouse, Okolona, Chickasaw County — \$171,977

Okolona Elementary School, Okolona, Chickasaw County — \$170,775

Harriette Person Memorial Library, Port Gibson, Claiborne County — \$274,931

GM&O Railroad Depot, Quitman, Clarke County — \$65,010

Hattiesburg City Hall, Hattiesburg, Forrest County — \$99,200

Hinds County Courthouse, Jackson, Hinds County — \$410,715

Jefferson Davis County Courthouse, Prentiss, Jefferson Davis County — \$182,118

Spain House, Tupelo, Lee County — \$110,936

Greenwood Fire Station #1, Greenwood, Leflore County — \$237,450

Tennessee Williams House, Columbus, Lowndes County — \$158,423

Old Salem School, Macon, Noxubee County — \$159,538

Quitman County Courthouse, Marks, Quitman County — \$188,008

Sharkey County Courthouse, Rolling Fork, Sharkey County — \$368,000

Drew Rosenwald School, Drew, Sunflower County — \$253,760

Senatobia High School, Senatobia, Tate County — \$260,000



Rev. Reginald Buckley of Jackson Elected to MDAH Board

Rev. Reginald Buckley of Jackson has been elected to the Board of Trustees of MDAH.

“Reverend Buckley has a wealth of pastoral and leadership experience,” said MDAH board president Spence Flatgard. “I am thrilled he agreed to join our board. MDAH will benefit greatly from his insight and enthusiasm.”

At a meeting of religious leaders convened by MDAH in 2022 through a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant, Buckley outlined plans of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc. (GMBSCM) to make capital improvements to Huddleston Memorial Chapel at historic Natchez College—a historically Black college open from 1884 to 1989.

This preservation project is now supported, in part, by the MDAH Religion Initiative, which is funded by Lilly Endowment’s Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative.

Buckley has served as a pastor at Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church since 2007 and became senior pastor in January 2015. He is president of the GMBSCM of Mississippi and has served as chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

He is married to Lecretia A. Buckley, and they are the parents of two children, Jonathan and Anna.

Program Highlights



Participants create collages during a Pressed Flower Workshop at the Eudora Welty House & Garden.



Amy Bluemel of the Chickasaw Nation shares traditional tales at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians.



Historian Daphne Chamberlain of Tougaloo College teaching at the 38th Social Studies Teachers Workshop.



Author Joy-Ann Reid (left) talks about her book on Medgar and Myrlie Evers with JSU professor Ebony Lumumba for the Evers Lecture, supported by W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



Gov. Tate Reeves greets guests at the Governor's Mansion during MDAH's annual Christmas By Candlelight Tour.



Families participate in Black History Month program activities at the Two Mississippi Museums.

FedEx Supported Free Admission to Two Mississippi Museums for MLK Weekend

Because of icy weather on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in January, the Two Mississippi Museums closed early and moved the annual MLK Night of Culture program to February and added a free day.

With generous support from FedEx, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History were free to visitors on MLK weekend January 13–15 and on February 17.

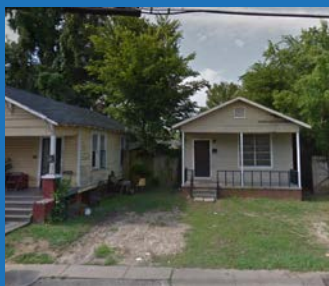
More than 1,100 people enjoyed free admission days and 150 more turned out for the Night of Culture program that featured performers and artists.



Michael Morris, director of the Two Mississippi Museums, leads a tour for Jerome Heard of FedEx and JeNiyah Heard.



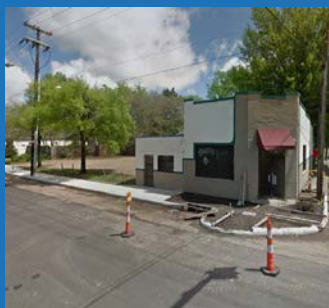
Historic Site Preservation Grants Awarded



MDAH awarded \$753,150 in Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Grant (MHSPG) funding to Gulf Coast Housing Partnership and American Battlefield Trust for the purchase of historic properties.

Gulf Coast Housing Partnership was awarded \$125,000 for the acquisition of Leonard Court in Jackson. The historic location on North Mill Street includes sixty houses and one corner store.

The area lies within the Farish Street National Register Historic District, which was an important center of culture, Black economic empowerment, and an incubator for community organizing during the Civil Rights Movement.

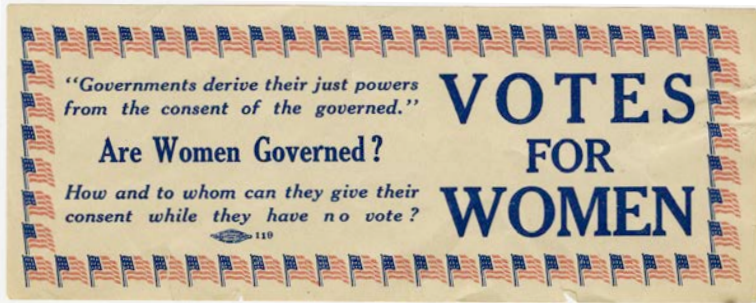


American Battlefield Trust was awarded \$628,150 for the acquisition of fifteen tracts of land at Civil War battlefields.

In 2021, the Mississippi Legislature authorized the creation of the MHSPG program to acquire sites related to Civil War battles, Native American archaeology, and civil rights history.

From the Digital Archives

This broadside advertises support for women's voting rights. It was printed in New York City by the Allied Printing Trades Council 119 during the Women's Suffrage Movement of the last century.



From the Collection

A Mississippi rifle returned to MDAH by the FBI is back on exhibit in the Museum of Mississippi History gallery displaying artifacts from the Mexican-American War. Charles Gibbs of the First Mississippi Infantry carried this rifle and a cartridge box, also on display, during the war. More than forty years ago, the rifle was stolen while on loan to Beauvoir in Biloxi. It was donated to MDAH in 1903 by Gibbs' daughter.



From the Archives

Hubert Creekmore (front) was a poet, writer, editor, and WWII veteran. Before his death in 1966, Creekmore donated a significant portion of his manuscripts and collected magazines to MDAH, and additional papers were donated by his relatives following his death. The Hubert Creekmore Collection is now available for research. Creekmore's writings reflect military life during WWII as well as contemporary life in the South. His most famous works include *The Fingers of Night*, *The Chain in the Heart*, and *The Welcome*. Creekmore was also close friends with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eudora Welty (pictured back left). Also in this picture from the 1930s are Margaret Harmon (center) and Nash K. Burger. Photo Copyright © Eudora Welty, LLC; Courtesy Eudora Welty Collection (Z/0301).



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Katie Blount, director

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In Memoriam

James C. “Sammy” Bradford, 1942–2023, civil rights veteran and member of the Tougaloo Nine, participated in a sit-in at the Jackson Public Library with eight fellow Tougaloo College students on March 27, 1961.

Charles Sallis, 1935–2024, professor at Millsaps College and co-author with James W. Loewen of award-winning textbook *Mississippi: Conflict & Change*, and member of the scholarly advisory committee for the Museum of Mississippi History.

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Mark Your Calendar

Freedom Seder

Thursday, April 11, 6 p.m.

Co-presented with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, this program at the Two Mississippi Museums will feature the rituals, readings, songs, and ceremonial food of the Passover tradition. Tickets can be purchased at 2mm.mdah.ms.gov.

History Happy Hour: Music

Thursday, April 18, 5 p.m.

Join us at the Two Mississippi Museums for music-themed flash tours, live music by the Epic Funk Brass Band, and refreshments. This event is made possible with support from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Mississippi Makers Fest

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Grammy Award-winning Mississippi bluesman Christone “Kingfish” Ingram will headline Mississippi Makers Fest. With title sponsorship by Nissan, this free, family-friendly event features Mississippi’s finest artisans and food vendors.