



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Laura Hester, Director of Programs and Communications
601-581-1550 x. 18 | laura@msarts.org

November 11 Swine & Dine dinner at The MAX features great live music

White-tablecloth whole-hog barbecue event stars award-winning Mississippi chef Cole Ellis

MERIDIAN, Miss. (October 4, 2021) – Music with deep Mississippi and Alabama roots will add down-home flavor to Swine & Dine, a white tablecloth whole-hog barbecue dinner by award-winning chef Cole Ellis. The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) will host the fundraising event on November 11.

Rob Aldridge will open for Cary Hudson and the Piney Woods Players. Hudson, a guitarist, singer, and songwriter originally from Sumrall, Mississippi, co-founded the alt-country/roots rock band Blue Mountain in the early 1990s. Now backed by the Piney Woods Players of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, he performs frequently in New Orleans. Aldridge and his band, The Proponents, are fixtures of the indie rock scene in North Alabama.

Ellis owns Delta Meat Market and Bar Fontaine in Cleveland, Mississippi. He was a 2017 James Beard Award semifinalist for best chef in the South, was third on Southern Living's list of the South's 10 best chefs in 2019, and has been featured nationally in publications such as Bon Appétit, Delta Magazine, and Garden & Gun.

Homeplace Pastures in Como, Mississippi, has graciously donated the hog for the event. Mitchell Distributing of Meridian has provided the beer.

Swine & Dine is the first major fall fundraising event for The MAX and will benefit the Sound of Success Program. Sound of Success is a weeklong immersive music program led by industry professionals and celebrities, teaching students how to navigate the music industry and improve their talents. The program is open to high school students nominated by their teachers and chosen by committee. These students come from many different socioeconomic backgrounds. Money raised by Swine & Dine will allow The MAX to continue offering this free program.

Swine & Dine will take place at The Citizens National Bank Courtyard at The MAX beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 11. Tickets are \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members, and \$2,000 for an eight-person table.

About The MAX

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience showcases Mississippi's creative legacies in one immersive museum experience. Visitors of all ages can explore the global impact of Mississippians on music, literature, art, entertainment, and cuisine. Discover the Mississippi roots of some of the world's biggest arts and entertainment icons – Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King, Faith Hill, Sela Ward, Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, and Jim Henson, just to name a few.

###