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Mississippi Arts +Entertainment Experience names new Director of Development, Coleman Warner

Meridian, MS – The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience in Meridian has selected Coleman Warner, a veteran administrator at The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, as its Director of Development, charged with strengthening financial support for the two-year-old institution.

Warner, a Meridian native, devoted many years to newspaper journalism in New Orleans, Jackson, Mississippi, and elsewhere before joining the New Orleans museum’s senior professional staff nearly a decade ago. He served as chief communications assistant to the museum’s co-founder and longtime President, Gordon “Nick” Mueller, PhD, and later directed Mueller’s Emeritus office.

His work at the highly ranked history museum included support for fundraising and membership programs and participation in strategic planning, as well as coordination of research for Mueller’s recently published book on the D-Day Normandy invasion. Warner also represented the museum during previous outreach efforts in Meridian.

Opened in 2000, The National WWII Museum was founded by Mueller and bestselling author Stephen Ambrose, a longtime resident of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and has become a leading Gulf South attraction. Warner has been an enthusiastic supporter of The MAX since before its opening, viewing its mission of education and outreach as vital to sharing Mississippi arts legacies – and to economic development.

As a recent board member for The MAX, Warner participated in development of a strategic plan designed to reach new audiences and inspire young artists who will add to Mississippi’s powerful reputation in diverse arts fields.

“Coleman has been an important figure in advancing education, fundraising, capital expansion and research at a national museum that is achieving great things in telling America’s WWII story,” said MAX President/CEO Mark Tullos. “He has demonstrated skill in working with key stakeholders as well as other museum professionals, and will be an important asset as we advance our own vital mission.”

MAX Board of Directors Chair Ann Alexander said Warner brings a passion for cultural history and for his hometown to his new professional role. “I’m excited to see what we will accomplish as Coleman works closely with our other talented staff members and our supporters – in the community, in government, at foundations

and in business,” Alexander said. “He will help us carry the message of what we can achieve, together, through the arts.”

Warner is the son of former Chancery Court Judge and prosecutor George D. Warner Jr. and the late Eloise Comer, a former Meridian Junior College theater and speech instructor who helped direct productions at the Meridian Little Theatre. He has family roots in the Mississippi Delta and Tupelo and spent his first two years of college at Mississippi State University.

Warner earned a bachelor’s in journalism at San Diego State University and a master’s in history at the University of New Orleans.

During his journalism career, he covered education at *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson and, while in college, interned one summer at *The Meridian Star*. Warner was part of a team at *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans that won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage after Hurricane Katrina. He will relocate from New Orleans to Meridian with his wife, Cindy, who began her teaching career at Poplar Springs Elementary School in Meridian.

About The MAX

[The MAX](#) showcases Mississippi’s Arts + Entertainment Experience in one immersive destination. Here, visitors of all ages explore the global impact of Mississippians on music, literature, art, entertainment and cuisine. The MAX honors our state’s creative legacy and inspires the next generation of creators through a unique experience of interactive exhibits. Come discover the Mississippi roots of some of the world’s greatest arts and entertainment icons – like Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King, Faith Hill, Sela Ward and Kermit the Frog, just to name a few.

The MAX is dedicated to keeping its facility and exhibits clean and safe. Visit our website for The MAX@Home, an online series of lectures, classes, musical performances and celebrity commentaries.

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