



**Mississippi
Arts+
Entertainment
Experience** SM

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THE MAX WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER AND NEW BOARD CHAIR

MERIDIAN, Miss. (February 2, 2023) – The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience welcomes Dianne Walton as a new member of its Board of Directors and Eddie Kelley as Chair of the board.

Dianne Walton served on the Mississippi Arts Commission board and has a statewide knowledge of arts organizations throughout Mississippi. Dianne, formerly a trustee for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, is retired from Meridian Community College, where she served as director of admissions and registrar. She is also the past president of the Junior Auxiliary of Meridian. Dianne and her husband, Ronnie, live in Meridian and are the parents of two adult children and a growing number of grandchildren.

Eddie Kelly, of Bay St. Louis, steps up as Chair of the board after joining The MAX board in 2020. A Marine Corps veteran and Gulfport native, Eddie was the chief administrative officer for the City of Meridian after serving as an area division manager for Mississippi Power.

“I am delighted to step up and serve in this capacity and welcome Dianne to the board. Her experience and passion for the arts and education will be invaluable to The MAX,” said Eddie Kelly, board chair. “She will help us serve the entire state as we work to further the mission of inspiring a new generation of writers, musicians, painters, actors, and other artists.”

About The MAX

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience explores the state’s creative legacies in one immersive attraction. Come discover the Mississippi roots of some of the world’s arts and entertainment icons – Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King, Faith Hill, Sela Ward, Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, and Jim Henson, to name just a few.

The MAX is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum is located at the corner of Sela Ward Parkway (22nd Avenue) and Front Street, overlooking the railroad at the edge of Meridian’s historic downtown. Street parking is available, with shops and restaurants within walking distance. For more information visit msarts.org or call 601-581-1550.

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