



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The MAX Provides Youth the Opportunity to Learn from Nationally Acclaimed Artists
High School Juniors and Seniors Are Invited to Submit Applications Now

MERIDIAN, Miss. (March 24, 2023) – High school juniors and incoming seniors from a six-county area are invited to participate in intensive music, dance, and writing workshops this summer at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience. The MAX Success programs, Sound of Success, Dance for Success, and Write for Success, are designed for incoming juniors and seniors entering the 2023/2024 school year from Lauderdale, Kemper, Neshoba, Newton, Jasper, and Clarke Counties. The immersive workshops allow students to explore and hone their preferred craft while learning from industry experts in writing, dance, and music. The MAX is accepting online applications now until April 30, 2023, for the workshops that will take place in June and July.

Students create works of art both in groups and individually. Sounds of Success students receive coaching from accomplished songwriters and get the chance to write and record music in The MAX's state-of-the-art Governor's Recording Studio. Dance for Success students work in groups with industry professionals to develop an interpretive dance routine representing the artist's journey to success. Write for Success students workshop with experienced authors to create characters, settings, and storylines. The students are introduced to various colleges and career paths available to them locally and take inspiring field trips to other museums and studios. At the close of each program, students participate in a commencement ceremony and showcase their art form within the museum.

Featured speakers and workshop facilitators include Adam Box, songwriter and drummer for the Grammy-winning country band Brothers Osborne; W. Ralph Eubanks, award-winning author of *A Place Like Mississippi: A Journey Through a Real and Imagined Literary Landscape*; Kiese Laymon, award-winning author of *Heavy: An American Memoir* and *Long Division*; Beth Ann Fennelly, former Mississippi Poet Laureate and author of *Heating & Cooling: 52 Micro-Memoirs*; Erret James, also known as E. Jae, owner and artistic director of X-Finity Dance Academy; Rebekah Pleasant-Patterson, Executive Director of Griot Arts Inc., among others.

"Inspiring the artists of tomorrow is key to our mission, so we offer these programs free of charge as an investment in the next generation of creative thinkers and artists," said Mark Tullos, President/CEO of The MAX. "We also stay in contact with participants long after the weeklong program to support their academic and creative pursuits, encouraging them along their paths to success."

Program Dates and Application Information:

Sound of Success

Monday, June 5 - Saturday, June 10, 2023

Apply at [msarts.org/sound](https://forms.gle/SFC75zR9szZXJNa67) (<https://forms.gle/SFC75zR9szZXJNa67>)

Dance for Success

Monday, June 19 - Saturday, June 24, 2023

Apply at [msarts.org/dance](https://forms.gle/hHPznEKpH4RChnj7) (<https://forms.gle/hHPznEKpH4RChnj7>)

Write for Success

Monday, July 10 - Saturday, July 15, 2023

Apply at [msarts.org/write](https://forms.gle/p3wecgRkTHDjaXvJS6) (<https://forms.gle/p3wecgRkTHDjaXvJS6>)

Applications are due by April 30, 2023.

Video available from original 2021 Success Program: <https://vimeo.com/586894613>

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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