

President + CEO

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The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (“The MAX”) is seeking a President + CEO to provide dynamic leadership and, in partnership with the board and by managing and leading key staff, to implement a vision and strategic plan for the organization into the future.

The President + CEO will work closely with the Board of Directors and its Committees to refine, develop, and implement a progressive program for The MAX’s revenue generation, fundraising, exhibitions, educational activities, and state-wide outreach. The MAX tells Mississippi’s unparalleled story of greatness through interactive exhibits featuring its native sons’ and daughters’ contributions to art, entertainment, and cultural activity.

The MAX and its 30+ staff welcome families, groups of all ages, and tourists, and hosts a wide range of educational, professional and community offerings. An outdoor performance stage, community meeting and event spaces, and state-of-the-art recording, pottery, and fine arts studios make The MAX not only a thriving hub of arts and community in Meridian but also a statewide, regional, and national resource. This center highlights and celebrates Mississippi’s rich, unparalleled contributions in arts and entertainment.

“The Mississippi story is often misunderstood and unknown. We enlighten and inspire by sharing stories of creative expression to provide opportunity for all generations to reach their full creative potential.”

The Mississippi Legislature authorized The MAX and its mission in 2001. The \$4.3 million annual budget for the nonprofit comes from donations, memberships, gate admissions, grants from government and foundations, and a local food and beverage tax. More can be discovered about The MAX at MSArts.org.

About Meridian

Meridian, the Queen City, located 90 miles east of Jackson and 150 miles west of Birmingham, has experienced a modern renaissance anchored by The MAX, the MSU Riley Center, and Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian and the newly renovated Threefoot Hotel. Visitors to Meridian can explore historic trails, dine at Mississippi’s oldest restaurant, and enjoy shopping and live music. The city celebrates its status as the birthplace of icons like Jimmie Rodgers, Sela Ward, and David Ruffin, all contributing to the rich tapestry that makes Meridian a hub of arts and culture.

Culturally rich, Meridian offers the MSU Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts, Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian, and a thriving downtown arts scene, including The MAX. Outdoor experiences such as the 3,300-acre Bonita Lakes Park and Okatibbee Lake, complement historical markers and quality healthcare facilities, making Meridian a significant cultural and community hub.



The MAX by the Numbers

2001 Year of authorization of museum
with statewide mission

60,000+ Building square footage

\$50M State and private investment
in museum facility

301 Total artists featured in The MAX

28 Legendary artists
honored in Hall of Fame

17 Changing exhibits since opening

5,800 MAX members in all categories
(active and non-active) since November 2017

725 Total number of adult and
youth classes held

3,300 Attendees of annual
Sipp & Savor culinary event

20,429 Number of social media
followers, all platforms

111,000 Visitor and event attendees since
opening of The MAX in April 2018



ABOUT THE POSITION

Summary of Responsibilities:

- Works in conjunction with the Board and its Committees to develop a sustainable strategic direction and establish initiatives to fulfill the mission of The MAX and increase local, statewide, national, and international awareness and prominence.
- Directs The MAX's operations to include the alignment of revenue opportunities, development, education and public programming, finance, external communications, and staffing.
- Manages and leads the staff (full-time year-round and seasonal), volunteers, and consultants.
- Works with the Director of Finance to create a strong financial backbone – balanced budgets, sufficient cash reserves, growing endowments, and financial systems that allow for monitoring of financial status.
- Works closely with the Director of Development to implement robust fundraising activities and results. Leads and participates in all fundraising and development activities, oversees grant writing, and develops relationships with foundations, corporations, and individual donors.
- Serves as spokesperson and chief advocate for The MAX. Establishes strong partnerships in the community and throughout Mississippi. Enhances The MAX's public image to expand interest and support.
- Works closely with the Director of Programs and Communications to create an effective communications plan to raise the profile of The MAX. Oversees and directs the development of marketing initiatives.
- Works closely with the Director of Operations to manage, secure, and maintain the property and facilities of The MAX, as well as the objects on loan and held in public trust.
- Advocates in the state legislature and on a national level on important issues related to Mississippi's creative legacy and artistic and cultural resources on the local, regional, national, and international levels.



Desired Leadership Attributes

Leadership
Fundraising Ability
Passion for Mission
Credibility
Judgment
Interpersonal Skills
Communications
Strategic Thinking
Results-Driven Mindset
Demonstrated Success in Community Networking
Financial Management Expertise
Human Resources Management Experience
Steward of Positive Organizational Culture

Required Qualifications

EDUCATION | Bachelor's degree required, advanced degree preferred.

EXPERIENCE | Ideal candidate has 10 years of experience in museums, historic sites, business or nonprofit organizations with a cultural focus, with at least 10 years at an executive or senior managerial level.

LEADERSHIP | Ability to provide strong leadership, vision, and strategic direction.

STRATEGIC PLANNING | Experience in developing and implementing strategic plans with the board of directors.

KNOWLEDGE | Demonstrated business knowledge of standards and best practices for museums, nonprofits, or similar organizations, along with a history of involvement in relevant professional organizations.

FUNDRAISING | Strong track record of success in fundraising and audience development.

COMMUNICATION | Demonstrated excellence in writing and public speaking.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING | Proven ability to work cooperatively with the board of directors, facilitating their engagement and sharing of skills and expertise in pursuit of THE MAX's mission.

MANAGEMENT | Competence in managing museum operations, including supervising and successfully working with museum staff, volunteers, and diverse public constituencies.

BUDGET MANAGEMENT | Evidence of success in developing, managing, and growing an annual operating budget.

BUSINESS SKILLS | Strong business management skills.

ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS | Excellent planning, time management, and decision-making abilities.

FLEXIBILITY | Willingness to travel and work a variable schedule, including weekends and evenings, when needed.

COMPENSATION | Salary commensurate with experience, along with a competitive benefits package.



How to Apply

The MAX has retained Kinetic Staffing, a Mississippi-based executive recruiting firm, as the exclusive search consultant for this position. Resumes (Word or PDF preferred) with a list of 3 references (at least one professional reference) may be sent in confidence to themaxceo@kineticstaffing.com to the attention of Alan Lange, CEO. Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis and those interested are encouraged to apply immediately. References will not be contacted without prior permission of the applicant.

The MAX follows equal employment guidelines and employs personnel without regard to race, creed, color, class, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability (as prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act), veteran status or marital status.

The logo for Kinetic Staffing features the word "kinetic" in a large, lowercase, serif font, with five blue dots above the letters "i", "n", "e", "t", and "i". Below "kinetic" is the word "STAFFING" in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font.

