



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART
380 South Lamar Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

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MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART PREPARES FOR “AN EVENING IN THE GARDEN”

(Jackson, Miss.) ... The long awaited unveiling of The Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art (The Art Garden/the Museum) takes place on Thursday evening, September 29, 2011 with “An Evening in the Garden,” a fundraising gala to benefit the Museum. The Art Garden marks the second phase in the Museum’s renovation of the former Mississippi Arts Pavilion, located at 380 South Lamar Street in Downtown Jackson.

The Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art is a multi-million dollar project and a collaboration between various public and private partners, including the Museum and the city of Jackson. Flanked by the Jackson Convention Complex and several of the city’s most active cultural organizations, the Museum is now the cornerstone of an arts district that is unified by a vast, outdoor public space, and is poised to become the thriving epicenter of Downtown Jackson.

Museum Director Betsy Bradley said, “Our gala committee members have been working on this event since early this year, and there is no doubt that the evening will be a festive and memorable one. We invite everyone to join us for this celebratory preview of The Art Garden.”

Working in conjunction with Museum staff, the opening gala committee is planning and promoting “An Evening in the Garden,” which features a seated dinner by Executive Chef Luis Bruno of The Palette Café by Viking and entertainment throughout the evening by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Symphony performances include excerpts from *Sunday in the Park with George*, the 1984 musical with music by Stephen Sondheim inspired by the painting *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* by Georges Seurat. Liz Spratlin, gala committee chair, said, “The Art Garden opening gala will be an elegant evening with cocktails in the garden, a seated dinner inside the Museum prepared by a renowned chef, music by the full Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, and even an element of surprise! Join us on the 29th for the unveiling of The Art Garden.”

The evening begins at 6:00 PM with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in The Art Garden, followed by a seated dinner inside Trustmark Grand Hall. The night continues with champagne and dessert in The Art Garden. In addition to the evening’s entertainment, guests can purchase “keys” to win one of three commissioned boxes handcrafted by local artists. Works of art in their own right, each box contains a mystery gift. The total value of each set is approximately \$2,000. Artists contributing their handmade boxes are Yerger André, John F. Clark, and Elizabeth Robinson.

“An Evening in the Garden” is presented by Butler Snow. “We’re excited to be a part of the unveiling of The Art Garden at this gala event. The event will certainly showcase this magnificent Art Garden which will be extremely important

and impactful to our community for years to come. The project will also highlight the incredible vision, contributions, and commitment of the Mississippi Museum of Art to downtown revitalization in particular, and to the Jackson Metro area and the state of Mississippi as a whole,” stated Donald Clark, Jr., Chairman, Butler Snow.

In addition to Butler Snow, numerous individuals and organizations have put forth their support of the gala. Magnolia sponsors are *The Clarion-Ledger* and The Yates Companies, Inc. Cypress sponsors are St. Dominic Health Services and John N. Palmer. Dogwood sponsors are Au Courant; Yerger André; Bank of Yazoo; Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi; John Clark; Myrna Colley-Lee; Corbin & Associates, PLLC; Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy LLP; Jane Crater Hiatt; Lynn and Stewart Gammill; Green Oak Garden Center and Florist; Juniker Jewelry Co.; Ellen and Eason Leake; Parkway Properties, Inc.; Elizabeth Robinson; The Everyday Gardener; and Trustmark Bank. In addition, “An Evening in the Garden” is supported by a number of individual patrons.

Proceeds from the gala support the Museum’s mission “to engage Mississippians in the visual arts.” Reservations for “An Evening in the Garden” can be purchased for \$150 per person; \$300 per couple by calling 601-960-1515. For more information about The Art Garden opening gala and how you can support The Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art, visit www.msmuseumart.org.

The Mississippi Museum of Art and its programs are sponsored in part by

the city of Jackson and the Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau. Support is also provided in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Art Garden and its programming are supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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