STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recognizes the arts as one of its greatest treasures; and

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the semi-quincentennial of the United States of America, and Mississippi is proud to honor its contribution through arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is the birthplace of numerous legends in music, visual arts, literature, performing arts, film, acting, and other forms of art that have influenced our Nation's culture; and

WHEREAS, the arts help communities throughout Mississippi celebrate their culture and heritage with the support of arts patrons and local and statewide partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the arts are a $2.7 billion industry for the State of Mississippi, providing over 31,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that arts integration in schools through the Mississippi Whole Schools Initiative has proven to increase test scores and student attendance rates; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Arts Commission serves to foster creativity that enhances the quality of life in Mississippi communities through statewide investment in the arts; and

WHEREAS, the week of February 8-14, 2026, artists, arts organizations, and communities throughout Mississippi will celebrate the arts and its impact on the State of Mississippi, through events across the state; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Association of Arts Educators, along with other Mississippi arts groups and individuals, will host events in Jackson to showcase some of Mississippi's greatest artists throughout Arts Week; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Arts Commission will host the 2026 Governor's Arts Awards in partnership with the Governor's office on February 12, to honor the recipients: Dorothy "Dottie" Armstrong, Heather Christian, Greg Harkins, Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, and Jesse Robinson.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim the week of February 8-14, 2026, as

ARTS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all of our residents to join in the appreciation and celebration of Mississippi's cultural heritage expressed through the arts and visit the events and performances during Arts Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 30th day of January, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR