MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART

POSITION: Chief Presenter

REPORTS TO: Director of the McNair-Davis Planetarium

STATUS: Full-time

About this Opportunity
The Mississippi Museum of Art is looking for a charismatic and skilled presenter to bring the wonders of the McNair-Davis Planetarium to audiences of all ages as the Chief Presenter. This person will be instrumental in delivering both pre-packaged and live Planetarium shows that captivate and inspire the public, while also creating engaging content for dome programs and interactive exhibits. Beyond the stage, they will train and collaborate with fellow staff to ensure every experience meets a high standard of excellence, helping to establish the planetarium as a dynamic and community driven center for science and space exploration.

The McNair-Davis Planetarium is a not-for-profit entity that is owned by the City of Jackson and is currently under the management of the Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) for the next three years. Planetarium staff are part of the Mississippi Museum of Art's staffing structure, payroll system, benefits package, and employment policies.

Job Summary
The Chief Presenter ensures the quality and impact of every public-facing experience in the planetarium and exhibits. Their central responsibility is to perform pre-packaged and live shows that spark wonder in audiences of all ages, while also crafting original content for dome programs and interactive exhibits. They will train and mentor fellow staff in presentation techniques, fostering a consistent standard of excellence across all public programming.

Beyond the dome, the Chief Presenter serves as a role model of engaging in science communication, equipping colleagues with the skills and confidence to deliver compelling experiences of their own. Whether through scripted dome productions or spontaneous moments on the floor, they adapt their approach to diverse audiences, always prioritizing connection over instruction and a balance between engagement and entertainment.

Essential Functions
Role #1: Present pre-packaged and live, interactive programs to the public

- Learn to operate Planetarium equipment and systems, including the dome, sound systems, projectors, and interactive exhibits
- Develop overall presentation standards for the theater
- Present media for evening events, rentals, and laser shows
- Ensure the safety and comfort of all visitors to both the planetarium and exhibits

- Provide entertaining and engaging experiences before, during, and after programs, in the dome and with our interactive exhibits
- Build and sustain relationships with the community and members of the planetarium

Role #2: Create Content for Dome Programs and Interactive Exhibits

- Develop live, interactive shows for weekly star talks, children's programs, public programs, and evening dome events
- Create custom media to enhance and support planetarium rentals
- Design dome content to supplement laser shows and new laser shows for use in public programs and events
- Assist the Chief Educator in the creation of content for school tours, education programs, and summer camps
- Develop a training manual for part-time and volunteer presenters
- Assist the Planetarium Director in creating content for updates to interactive exhibits

Role #3: Training and Collaboration

- Stay up to date on current astronomical events and science methodologies
- Cross-training with other roles such as Technical Director, Chief Presenter, and Visitor Services and be able to step into those roles as needed
- Participate in programs outside of the dome, such as star parties and teacher workshops
- Communicate with the Technical Director to report on equipment and facility issues
- Conduct staff training on dome presentations
- Mentor part-time staff and volunteers in planetarium presentation techniques, fostering a collaborative and supportive work environment

Supervisory Responsibility

Some oversight over part-time presenters and volunteers

Salary Range

$40,000 - $50,000

Competency

- Bachelor's degree in Astronomy, Physics, or Science Education, or a closely related field and a minimum of 1 year of professional experience in planetarium education, or a related field
- Strongly prefer 2 years of professional experience in planetarium technologies or a closely related field

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Demonstrated expertise in all planetarium educational programming
- Must be an engaging and entertaining public speaker with a broad knowledge of astronomy
- Experience working with culturally and age-diverse populations
- Excellent communication, presentation, and interpersonal skills
- Experience working with a range of technology
- Experience developing and delivering engaging dome programs and exhibits for diverse audiences.
- Experience working with, training, and supporting part-time staff, program presenters, and volunteers

Travel
Occasional travel may be required, particularly in the local metro area.

Physical Demands and Work Environment
The typical workweek is 40 hours a week during normal business days from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, the Planetarium is open six to seven days a week. Full-time staff may be required to work some evenings and weekends to accommodate public programming, public operating hours, and supplement for part-time staff. All Planetarium staff are required to be cross trained to run the facility.

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Some duties may require long periods of movement as well as frequent reaching and kneeling, pushing, pulling, carrying, lifting and moving objects 5 pounds or more.
- Work may be performed both indoors and outdoors throughout the facility and grounds.
- A successful candidate must pass a background check secured by the Mississippi Museum of Art.

About the McNair-Davis Planetarium
The McNair-Davis Planetarium is a not-for-profit entity that is owned by the City of Jackson and is currently under the management of the Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) for the next three years. The building has recently undergone a significant $23 million renovation, featuring a redesigned theater with a state of the art 360-degree projection and 52-feet in diameter dome, interactive and immersive exhibits, a multi-use event and educational space, and a welcoming three-story foyer that features a built-to-scale model solar system. The Planetarium is named for Dr. Ronald McNair, a filmmaker, physicist, and one of NASA's first African American astronauts, and former Jackson Mayor Russell C. Davis.

About the Mississippi Museum of Art
The Museum is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The Museum is a private not-for-profit and is not a department or agency of the state or federal government.

The Mississippi Museum of Art is more than an art museum in Jackson, Mississippi. It is a museum *of* Mississippi – a museum that connects Mississippians to our culture, our history, our communities, and to each other. It is a museum informed by the legacy of our past and emboldened by a vision of a future without division.

We believe it our responsibility to the community to explore and examine every facet of the Mississippi story. The Mississippi Museum of Art is committed to curating a shared space for every Mississippian – a brave space where we can all find wonder, peace and a voice.

We pride ourselves in being a visitor and community-focused art museum and garden in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. The Museum employs a collaborative staff that works to

ensure the exhibitions, programs, operations, and community outreach fulfill the mission, vision, and core values of the institution. We are committed to building a culture of inclusivity that includes continued professional development opportunities at all levels of the Museum.

Mission
The Mississippi Museum of Art connects Mississippi to the world, and the power of art to the power of community.

Vision
Committed to honesty, equity, and inclusion, the Mississippi Museum of Art is a leader in engaging art, artists, and participants in the critical work of reckoning with the past, connecting with each other in the present, and envisioning a future without division.

Core Values
- Warm Welcome + Inclusion. The Museum will model open hospitality for all people and will demonstrate inclusiveness at all levels of its operations and programs.
- Honesty + Diversity. Honoring diverse viewpoints, histories, and lived experiences, the Museum will be a place for honest conversations that respect difference in the service of increased understanding and empathy.
- Local Relevance + National Distinction. The Museum pursues deep investigations into Mississippi's cultural history and produces programs of high quality and relevance that attract new national partners seeking to explore the relationship between Mississippi and the world.
- Artworks + Artists. Museum programs will honor the primacy of artistic objects as sources of meaning and will include, when possible, meaningful opportunities for participants to have personal experiences with visual artists.
- Excellence + Equity. Museum programs, exhibitions, and collections will place artistic value as critical, while simultaneously dismantling traditional hierarchies of genre and style.
- Trust + Authority. The Museum values academic scholarship and accuracy; and, at the same time, it trusts the voices of people who have lived experiences that deepen the meaning of its exhibitions.

To apply for this position, please send your current CV and cover letter to careers@msmuseumart.org by December 1, 2026.