

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

## **HAL'S ST. PADDY'S PARADE HAILS ARTS, HELPS BATSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

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JACKSON, Miss. – Hal's St. Paddy's Parade is tipping its green top hat to the arts in 2018, but its donation to Batson Children's Hospital is helping support pediatric care in Mississippi.

The parade, one of the nation's largest and certainly most unusual St. Patrick's Day celebrations, is set for Saturday, March 17, in downtown Jackson. Revelers will return to Capitol Street in a new route, which will be shown at [halsstpaddysparade.com](http://halsstpaddysparade.com).

"Our theme is 'Artfully Alive at 35,'" said parade founder Malcolm White, noting that V.A. Patterson, retired executive director of VSA Mississippi and the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, is grand marshal.

Having also served as the first curator of the Manship House, the historic home of master craftsman and former Jackson Mayor Charles Manship, and with the 1994 International Ballet Competition, Patterson was chosen for her devotion to the arts. White noted that this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mississippi Arts Commission as well as the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parade and festival.

"I was so surprised to be asked, and I am so excited," said Patterson, who also served as director of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and has marched, since the parade's beginning, as a member of the Krewe of Kazoo. "I'm excited for what the parade means to all of us in Mississippi and for Batson Children's Hospital."

Batson Children's Hospital, part of Children's of Mississippi, has been helped by the annual festival from the parade's start, White said.

"We always want to support the state's only hospital for children," White said, "because of the importance of having the best, most advanced care close to home."

Jen Hospodor, director of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and community-based fundraising at UMMC, said the parade and associated events has, for decades, raised funds for the state's only children's hospital.

"Hal's St. Paddy's Parade truly puts the 'fun' in fundraising," she said. "This festival represents the best of the state's arts and entertainment, and we are thankful for their support of Children's of Mississippi and Batson Children's Hospital."

Children's of Mississippi, the umbrella organization for all University of Mississippi Medical Center pediatric care, is growing, with a new seven-story children's tower now under construction by Batson Children's Hospital. The \$180 million project will include private neonatal intensive care unit rooms, additional operating rooms and pediatric ICU space and a pediatric imaging center. An outpatient specialty clinic for children is also part of the building plans, as are a new lobby, conference center and

parking garage. The Children's Heart Center, representing the Medical Center's pediatric cardiology program, will also call the tower home.

The parade, held perennially for the past 35 years, was named Mal's St. Paddy's Parade until 2016, when the name was changed to honor the memory of White's brother, restaurateur Hal White. Hal White died after suffering an aneurysm in 2013 at 64.

The St. Paddy's fun begins Friday, March 16, with Hal's Marching MAL-Function from the Cathead Distillery to Hal & Mal's, then starts with a bang March 17 at the Fleet Feet Sports St. Paddy's 5K, a benefit for the Children's Heart Center.

5K registration is open and will continue online at [www.fleetfeetjackson.com](http://www.fleetfeetjackson.com) and at [halsstpaddysparade.com](http://halsstpaddysparade.com). Age group awards, team competitions and team prizes for best costumes will be part of the fun.

Bands for the post-parade Hal's St. Paddy's Festival at Hal & Mal's will celebrate the musical arts with perennial favorites: the Molly Ringwalds, the Bluz Boys and the Southern Komfort Brass Band. Gates open at 2 p.m., with music starting at 3. Tickets, priced at \$10 each, are available at [ardenland.net](http://ardenland.net), at Hal & Mal's, and by phone at (877) 987-6487.

A complete schedule is available online.

To learn more about Children's of Mississippi care, visit the website [mississippikids.org](http://mississippikids.org).

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### **About Children's of Mississippi**

Children's of Mississippi, part of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, encompasses all of the pediatric services available at UMMC and at clinical sites throughout Mississippi. At the heart of these services is Batson Children's Hospital, the state's only hospital devoted exclusively to the care and treatment of sick and injured children. The Children's of Mississippi network brings specialized clinical care for children to communities across the state, making it easier for families to get the treatment they need closer to home.

### **About the University of Mississippi Medical Center**

A campus of the University of Mississippi, UMMC is the state's only academic medical center. Located in Jackson, it encompasses seven health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry, pharmacy, graduate studies and population health. The Medical Center's health care enterprise includes the state's only Level I trauma center and its only children's hospital. UMMC's education, research and health care missions share the objectives of improving the health of the state's population and eliminating health disparities. For more information, visit <http://www.umc.edu> and <https://www.umc.edu/PublicAffairs/Office-of-Public-Affairs.html>.