City of Greenville, Mississippi

City Councilmembers

Al Brock, Ward 1 Lois Hawkins, Ward 2 Carolyn Weathers, Ward 3 Betty J. Watkins, Ward 4 Ann Hollowell, Ward 5 James Wilson, Ward 6

Office of the Mayor

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE



Errick D. Simmons

Mayor

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Bicentennial Photo Gallery Launches on Washington Ave

Mississippi - August 8, 2017 - The City of Greenville, Greenville, Washington County Economic Alliance, Greenville and Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, will commemorate the unveiling of a large-scale interactive photo gallery, Friday, August 18, 2017, 5-6 p.m. using window spaces at The Lofts and Downtown Grille (517-525 Washington Ave.)

The launch of the Photo Gallery, one of ten across the state, will be followed by a screening of ten photo stories, produced by Greenville community leaders and Blue Magnolia Films, at E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center, to celebrate the theme of "One Greenville" and highlight the importance of cultural and economic revitalization for the City. Admission to both events is FREE and open to the public.

Greenville Mayor, Errick D. Simmons says, "We are proud to be a part of this Bicentennial occasion, representing one of only ten "host" cities to celebrate positive leadership through this work, as well as to integrate the arts into public spaces."

One of the featured stories encapsulates the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of Bill Boykin, lead developer of an \$8-million downtown redevelopment project, comprised of a Boutique Hotel with luxury hotel rooms and loft apartments.

Community leaders will use Saturday's events to engage the public in revitalization efforts and announce upcoming opportunities to build on the vision of "One Greenville".

"I'm excited about what we can accomplish," says Boykin, who is lending his storefront to accommodate massive (10) 5 x 5 foot images for the project. "I grew up here and my vision for Greenville is to see a revitalization of not only just the downtown area, but our entire community."

Community leaders whose work will be featured in the downtown gallery, and showcased at Bass screening on Friday include: Claude Marchesini, Betty Lynn Cameron, Benjy E.E.

Nelken, Raymond Wong, Johnny Toy and Alex Jackson, Sharon Walker, Essie Patterson, Sylvia Jackson, Mable Starks and Genesis Norman.

The events will take place:

Date: Friday, August 18, 2017

Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

Launch of interactive Bicentennial Photo Gallery

517-525 Washington Ave, Greenville, MS

<u>7 p.m. − 9 p.m.</u>

Film Screening: (10) Bicentennial Photo Documentaries

E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center 323 South Main Street, Greenville, MS

Official hashtags for the events are: #onegreenville, #greenvillepride #MS200 Visit our Facebook Page. Search @GreenvilleMS

For more information, contact: Mayor Errick Simmons <u>EDSimmons@greenvillems.org</u> or Tel: 662-378-1501 and Alison Fast <u>alison@bluemagnoliafilms.com</u> Tel 310-497-7109.