



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION SERVICE

The Art Garden, MS Museum of Art

Jackson, MS

Project Highlights:

- 1.2 acre urban park
- Features performance spaces for various productions such as ballet and symphonies
- Spaces include outdoor terrace dining, native garden beds, and fountains
- Contains a variety of art pieces and outdoor sculptures from numerous Mississippi artists

Biodiversity



The Tray Gardens at The Art Garden

Project designers:

Edward L. Blake, Jr., Robert Poore
landscape architects

Madge Bemiss, JBHM Architects
architects

Fletcher Cox, artist
Martha Ferris, artist

Context: museum, urban

Award: Merit Awards, Professional,
Public Design, Mississippi Chapter,
ASLA

Project Overview

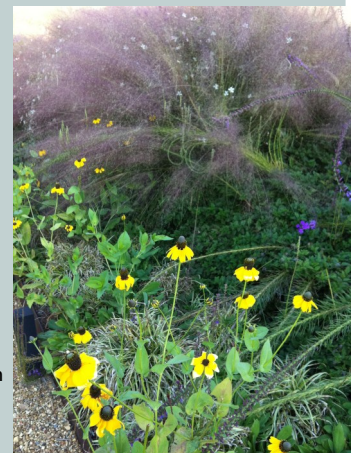
The Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art is a 1.2 acre park that replaced a former parking lot, and was completed in 2011. The garden features a large open lawn space, native garden "plant trays", fountains, outdoor dining and permanent art installations. Numerous events are held in the garden spaces and stage throughout the year.

Smart landscape features and practices

Biodiversity. While the Art Garden features a large open lawn that is used for seating and events, the gardens features a diverse number of native trees, shrubs and perennials which creates a dynamic display. Landscape architect Ed Blake conceived of the "tray gardens" where paths are carved between stepped, steel and concrete planters. Landscape architect Robert Poore completed the design details, then created a planting plan that offers interest and color throughout the seasons. Over 60 species of plants were used in the planting plan. Seat walls, alcoves, the and sounds of water and breezes through the foliage invite visitors to sit down and look around. The selection of native plant species offers food and habitat for a variety of birds, butterflies, and larger animals.

See following page for additional images.

Native grasses and wildflowers abound in the tray gardens.





MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SERVICE

The Art Garden, MS Museum of Art

Jackson, MS

A plant schedule was created that list the various blooming times of the selected plants throughout the year.



Native goldenrods, asters and verbenas provide late summer and fall color.

Grasses are well-suited to hot, dry sunny conditions and have a variety of foliage colors. Their winter seedheads animate the landscape when they move in the wind and provide variety and intrigue.



Grasses of varying heights separate spaces and provide winter interest.

Written by Robert F. Brzuszek, Associate Extension Professor, The Department of Landscape Architecture, Mississippi State University. All photos by Robert F. Brzuszek.