

Greetings,

I am writing on behalf of Bill Tyler

I had the pleasure of having Bill on my staff as an exhibits designer and builder when I was the director of the Mississippi State Historical Museum. We had an active program of changing exhibits as well as a continuing focus on redesigning our “permanent” exhibits which traced the history and culture of the state.

Bill participated in the design and mounting of one of our major exhibits on the Choctaw Indians of Mississippi, titled “Persistence of Pattern in Mississippi Choctaw Culture.” The exhibition problems successfully tackled by Bill included fragile artifacts mounted to the satisfaction of a demanding curator, dim historical photographs made successful focal points, and a plethora of space problems successfully designed. Other projects for which I recall his particular contributions were re-designs and installations of several late 19th-century expository exhibits, always to the satisfaction of the curators of our collection of artifacts. We, of course, had a multi-faceted collection ranging from paper, glass, metal, wood, fabric, etc., involving all manner of conservation challenges which Bill understood and worked carefully around.

One of my favorite exhibitions co-designed by Bill, was “Phantamagoria: the Wood Carvings of Willie Barton.” The title referred not only to the carvings themselves, but also to the inventive lighting that created a phantasmagoric scene of shapes and shadows.

Beyond his design and creative abilities, Bill was extremely easy to work with, energetic and interested in his work, willing to try new ideas and mindful always of the effects of design on artifacts. I think your museum, which we all greatly admire, would be lucky to have him.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia C. Black

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(Retired Director)

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