



MISSISSIPPI BLUES TRAIL SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

In an effort to provide clarity about how sites are selected for inclusion on the Mississippi Blues Trail, the Mississippi Blues Commission (MBC) has prepared the following information.

In addition to meeting the site selection criteria listed below, a contract must be executed between a Local Government Unit (LGU) and the MBC committing the LGU to maintain the marker site by regularly mowing grass and removing trash and litter. The LGU will also be responsible for regularly inspecting the marker and reporting any damage or fading to the MBC.

The contract requires the LGU to commit the sum of \$2,000 as a local match.

The order in which Mississippi Blues Trail markers are installed is determined solely by the MBC.

ELIGIBLE PEOPLE

Individual performers, songwriters, producers, radio station personnel, and others who were either born in Mississippi or lived in Mississippi who have made the most important contributions to (or accomplishments in) the blues, as recognized by the international blues community of scholars and enthusiasts or by special notoriety within their local Mississippi communities. This can include individuals who may be known for their work in other genres but whose connections with and contributions to the blues or to the appreciation of the blues are undeniably significant (e.g., Elvis, Pops Staples, Jimmie Rodgers).

ELIGIBLE PLACES AND EVENTS

Record companies, radio stations, nightclubs, festivals, and other entities or events in Mississippi who have made the most important contributions to (or accomplishments in) the blues, as recognized by the international blues community of scholars and enthusiasts or by special notoriety within their local Mississippi communities.

NOTE: The Mississippi Blues Commission's policy is to avoid endorsing ongoing commercial businesses unless the business or business owner has a blues history dating back 25 years or more or can be included on a marker within a broader topic (such as the Broadcasting the Blues marker which is located at a fairly new radio station but which addresses the general subject matter of blues radio history in Mississippi).

ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

Specific streets, neighborhoods, cities or counties that have been important centers of blues activity or have been the areas where a number of blues artists have been born or lived as recognized by the international blues community of scholars and enthusiasts or by special notoriety within their local Mississippi communities.

ELIGIBLE THEMES

A broad topic, such as cotton agriculture or railroad travel, that has been an integral part of the lives of Mississippi blues artists and/or has been addressed in important recordings by Mississippi blues singers as recognized by the international blues community of scholars and enthusiasts.

ELIGIBLE OUT-OF-STATE MARKERS

Out-of-state markers that denote the cities and states where significant numbers of Mississippi blues performers have migrated, or that denote areas that have a documented history (25 years or more) of presenting numerous Mississippi blues artists in clubs or festivals, or of recording Mississippi blues artists, if such activities have raised the levels of appreciation and public recognition for Mississippi blues.

Anyone interested in becoming part of the Mississippi Blues Trail should download an application and submit the completed form to:

Alex Thomas, Program Manager-Music Development
Mississippi Development Authority/Tourism Division
Post Office Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205-0849

Telephone 601-359-3297
Fax 601-359-5048

The Mississippi Blues Commission will review new site requests twice each year. Applications will be acknowledged by email and successful applicants will be officially notified within two weeks of the review by the MBC.