

## Mississippi in the Park returns to NYC next month

Tupelo native designs official art for the long-running event.

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NEW YORK — The Mississippi Society of New York City is proud to announce the 2026 return of its signature event, Mississippi in the Park. Dedicated to promoting the rich heritage, culture, and traditions of the Magnolia State, this annual gathering transforms a piece of New York City into a soulful Southern homecoming for expats, alumni, and friends of Mississippi.

The 2026 event centers on the theme of "Family Reunion," celebrating the enduring connections between Mississippi roots and life in the Northeast. To mark the occasion, the Society has named Mississippi native and NYC-based artist Gracey Massengill, a Tupelo native, as the official 2026 Artist for Mississippi in the Park. Her winning submission, a tribute to Southern tablescapes featuring sweet tea, fried chicken, and McCarty-inspired pottery, will serve as the visual cornerstone for this year's festivities.


"Mississippi in the Park is a bridge between our heritage and our lives here in New York. It's an opportunity to connect and meet with old friends and like-minded people," said Scott Barton, a board member of the Mississippi Society of New York City. "The bigger this becomes, the more people who are not from Mississippi will open up their minds to what the future of Mississippi can be."

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“The Big Apple is not too big for us Southerners,” added board member DeAnne Applewhite. “I hope that people who attend see the essence and soul that can’t be replicated. I want any light shone on Mississippi to be a bright one.”

## A taste of home in the Big Apple

The event serves as a high-profile platform for Mississippi brands to reach a Northeastern audience. This year’s attendees will be treated to:

A Taste of the South: Award-winning Sugaree’s Bakery will provide their famous time-honored Southern layer cakes. Mississippi-founded McAlister’s Deli will serve as the official provider of Sweet Tea.



Gracey Massengill, a Tupelo native, has been named the official 2026 Artist for the annual NYC-based event Mississippi in the Park. Her winning submission, a tribute to Southern tablescapes featuring sweet tea, fried chicken, and McCarty-inspired pottery, will serve as the visual cornerstone for this year’s festivities.

Magnolia Film

Musical Lineup: The stage will feature singer-songwriter Daniella Katzir, Southern pop-rock artist Thompson Newkirk and blues-driven rocker Alex Cano. Joining the lineup is the indie-rock band Social Creatures, featuring Mississippi native Patrick Roach on drums.

Contests & Traditions: Entries for the "Best Southern Dessert" and other classic picnic competitions.

The event remains a crucial hub for the Mississippi collective, attracting hundreds of alumni from Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Southern Miss, and other state institutions who now reside in the Northeast.

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If You Go

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Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Time: 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Pier 64 @ Hudson River Park

Admission: Free to the public

The Mississippi Society of NYC invites all Mississippians, Southerners at heart, and curious New Yorkers to pack a picnic and bring their blankets for a day of music, food, and community. For sponsorship opportunities, media inquiries, or to get involved, please contact [mississippisocietynyc@gmail.com](mailto:mississippisocietynyc@gmail.com) or visit [www.mississippisocietynyc.com](http://www.mississippisocietynyc.com).

