

Children's Museum of Memphis

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CAROUSEL TIMELINE

Timeline of the Grand Carousel

The Children's Museum of Memphis has restored the 1909 Dentzel Memphis Grand Carousel. It has gone from being a hidden gem to being propelled into the national spotlight rallying Memphians' pride in their city and bringing joy to future generations. Here's the history of the Grand Carousel:

- 1909 The Carousel was built by Gustave Dentzel and installed at Forest Park Amusement Park in Chicago.
- 1921 Forest Park Amusement Park was destroyed by fire and the Carousel was sent back to the Dentzel factory for repairs, done by William Dentzel.
- 1923 The Memphis Park Commission (through their third party park manager, the Tri-State Fair) purchased the Carousel from Dentzel for inclusion in the city amusement park on the Memphis Fairgrounds.
- 1974 The Carousel was dismantled, moved 60 feet and partially restored.
- 1976 2005 Libertyland opens to the public with the Grand Carousel as a centerpiece ride.
- 1980 The Grand Carousel named to the National Registry of Historic Places.
- 2005 Libertyland closes to the public and the Carousel is saved from being sold.
- 2009 The Carousel is packed up for safe keeping and stored in the Mid-South Coliseum.
- 2014 The Children's Museum of Memphis signs a 25-year lease with the City of Memphis for the Carousel.
- 2015 James Rout III, the Carousel's premier "historian," joins the museum's team as a volunteer to help raise the funds for the new building as well as insure the integrity of the restoration. The Children's Museum has the Carousel shipped to Ohio for restoration.
- 2016 Construction began on a brand-new \$4.5 million facility to house the Memphis Grand Carousel.
- 2017 The Memphis Grand Carousel opened in a brand-new facility - a part of The Children's Museum on December 2, 2017.