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# Lighthouse clones

Replicas of landmark unveiled as fundraisers

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## Take Part in Something Special

The Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce is inviting you to take part in "The Biloxi Lighthouse Project," a fundraising campaign aimed at continuing the rebuilding efforts along our beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The campaign's centerpiece will be a 7-foot fiberglass scale replica of our famous Biloxi Lighthouse mounted on either a concrete or stained-wood base, depending on your display location (indoor or outdoor). These lighthouse replicas will serve as the canvas for artists from around the Gulf Coast to display their unique art creations.

Once finished, your lighthouse can be proudly displayed in your business, at home, or anywhere else wish to show-off your Gulf Coast pride.

You can choose to have your lighthouse custom-finished by an in-house artist, or you can purchase a blank copy and have an artist of your choice transform your lighthouse into a very special and unique creation. Either way you'll be contributing to an excellent cause.

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**BILOXI** — It's on the beach, on a postage stamp and on Mississippi license plates. Soon replicas of the **Biloxi Lighthouse** will be popping up across the Coast. "Now you can have your own personal **lighthouse**," Rusty David, president of the **Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce**, said Wednesday as a 7-foot-tall replica was unveiled at BancorpSouth in **Biloxi**.

Similar to "Cows in Chicago" and "Swans in Hattiesburg," the **Lighthouse Project** in South Mississippi invites businesses, organizations and individuals to start with a white fiberglass **lighthouse** and give it personality. "You can get a local artist to paint it however you want," said Tina Ross-Seamans, chamber director.

Rachel and Tate Elsensohn, owners of Mardi Gras Decorators of New Orleans, are creating the replicas and presented ideas for customizing them. One was the shape of the Hard Rock Casino guitar over the **lighthouse**. Other **lighthouse** designs were painted with magnolias, beach scenes, a portrait of Jefferson Davis, a sunset, an American flag and a shrimp boat. "Or it can be just like the **lighthouse**," Rachel Elsensohn said, complete with the light. "It's pretty much limitless what you can do to it."

Richard and Suzy Moss are considering paying \$1,500 to support the chamber and buy a **lighthouse** for their **Biloxi** home. Richard Moss, retired commander of the Hurricane Hunters at Keesler Air Force Base, said he'd like to have it painted with a C130 plane, a fleur-de-lis and pelicans. **Biloxi** Councilman George Lawrence said San Antonio uses the Alamo everywhere as the symbol of the city, and the Coast can do the same with the **lighthouse**.

The Elsensohns did a similar **project** with trolleys and sold about 80. "They are scattered all over New Orleans," Rachel said. "The little streetcars went in gardens, they went everywhere."

Louis Skrmetta, owner of Ship Island Excursions in Gulfport, is rebuilding his headquarters at the Gulfport Harbor and is considering buying a **lighthouse**. He thinks the appeal will extend beyond **Biloxi**. "I'm always sending people to the **lighthouse**," he said. "It's such a landmark."

Eventually the chamber hopes to print a map with the lighthouses' locations. "People will be looking for these all over town," Ross-Seamans said. "The **lighthouse** defines us as a community," said Jim Farrell, vice president of the Chamber's beautification committee. He said the **Lighthouse Project** is designed to unite the Chamber and the communities behind one symbol that shows the resolve of the Coast.

(Images added to news article by MardiGrasDecorators.com)



Artist Steve Ulness stands next to a replica of the lighthouse