

# MEMPHIS 2026: YEAR OF CULTURE!

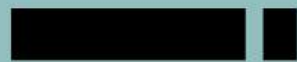


# MEET THE TEAM



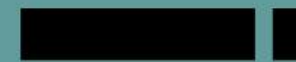
HYDE FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

Created by Barbara and Pitt Hyde, Hyde Family Foundation is grounded in generations of giving to create a thriving Memphis for all.



ARTS  
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ARTSmemphis is a granting organization and lead arts funder in the Mid-South, distributing over \$100 million in local artists and organizations since 1963.





# THE INTERSECTIONS OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

- **Artistic Heritage** — Memphis' evolution from the birthplace of blues and rock 'n' roll to the epicenter of hip-hop innovation.
- **Historical Significance** — Civil Rights history like the National Civil Rights Museum alongside cultural landmarks like Sun Studio and Stax Museum.
- **Cultural Institutions** — Home to countless cultural institutions like Brooks Museum of Art/Memphis Art Museum, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Young Actors Guild, and the Overton Shell.
- **Sports as Culture** — The Grizzlies' "Grit and Grind" philosophy reflects Memphis' authentic spirit.
- **Authentic Culinary Identity** — World-renowned barbecue tradition alongside an award winning food scene reflecting diverse cultural influences.
- **Public Celebration** — Memphis in May, Riverbeat, Mempho Music Festival, and countless neighborhood cultural events.

# FIRST, BEST, ONLY

Memphis is defined by its cultural assets that are first, best, and only in the State of TN, the Southern region, and the nation.

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**Brooks Museum:** Tennessee's oldest encyclopedic art museum & oldest art museum in Tri-State area.

**Cazateatro:** The Midsouth region's only bilingual theatre company, bridging cultures through performance.

**Collage Dance Collective:** The South's largest Black dance company, nurturing 700 students weekly in the region's largest dance school.

**Hattiloo Theatre:** The nation's only freestanding Black repertory theatre with a partnership with HBCU.

**National Ornamental Metal Museum:** The only museum dedicated to metalwork in the world.

**National Civil Rights Museum:** The first major museum in the United States dedicated to chronicling the civil rights movement.

**Opera Memphis:** Innovators of the "30 Days of Opera" concept, now a nationwide phenomenon.

**Stax Museum of American Soul:** The only museum dedicated to preserving and promoting soul music and the legacy of Stax Records.



## ARTSmemphis

- United Arts Fund founded in 1963
- \$3.5M raised annually from mostly private sources
- \$3.4M distributed in 2025 to 90 organizations and artists – enabling 1.5M art experiences

## Mission

Supporting the arts to strengthen our community.

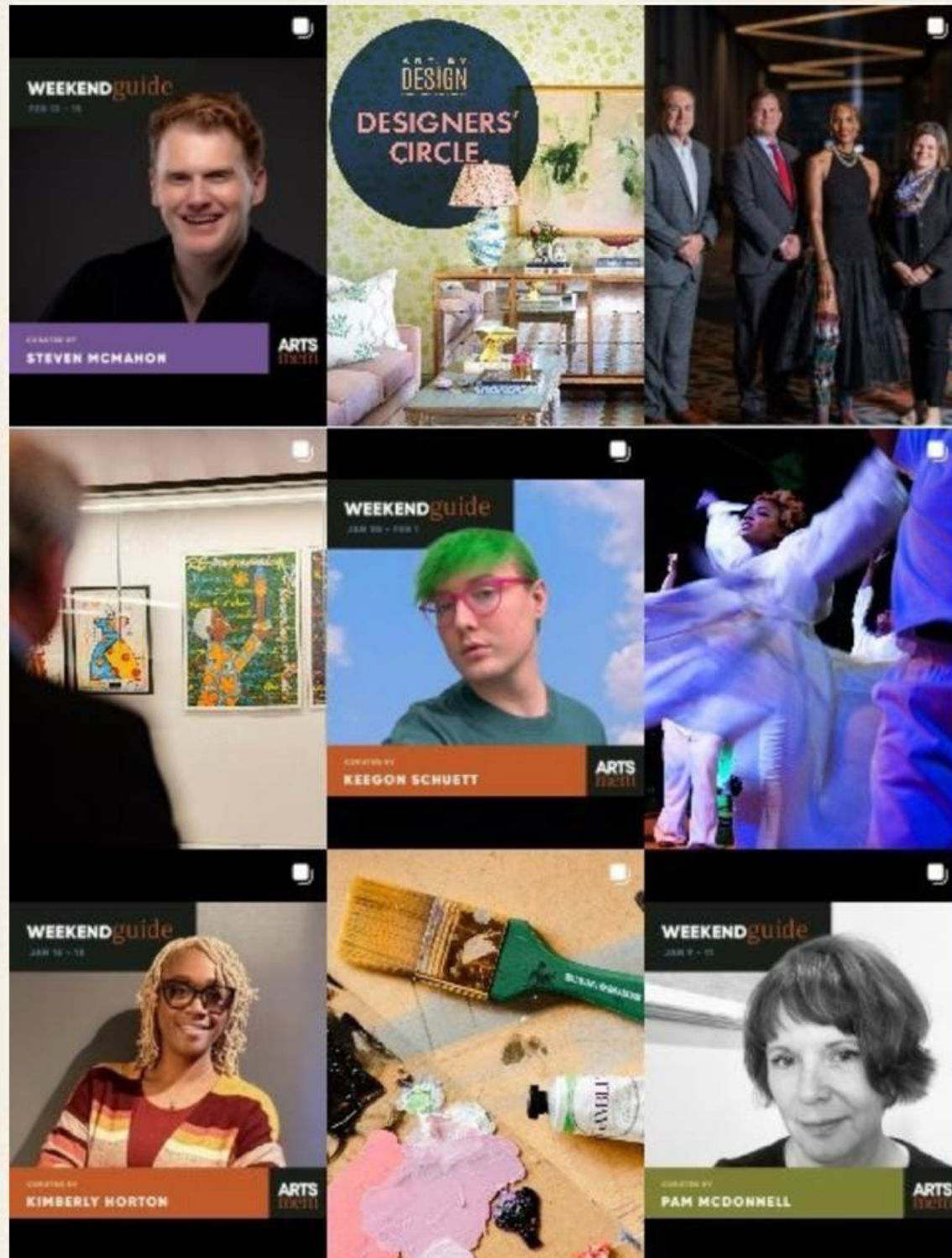
## Vision

A thriving, sustainable Memphis arts community where all people have access to participate, artists flourish, organizations flourish, and the city's cultural identity drives pride and connection.



# ARTSmemphis: THE Arts Resource

# ARTS mem



**ARTSmemphis**  
& MEMPHIS MAGAZINE PRESENT

**YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE ARTS**  
March 08 - 14

**Tulips and Daffodils: Floral Arranging Workshop with Midtown Bramble & Bloom**  
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art  
March 8, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

**Like Really Creative MUSE: Speed Portrait Swap with Justin Williams**  
Bar DKDC  
March 9, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Export 101: LIVE**  
Memphis Music Hall of Fame  
March 10, 6:00pm - 7:30pm

**Munch and Learn: Art and Practice**  
Dixon Gallery and Gardens  
March 11, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

**Grind City Coffee Xpo**  
Crosstown Concourse  
March 14, 9:00am - 2:00pm

# Supporting Art: Strengthening Community

## 2025 Grantee Partners



### Organizations

ACT/YADA  
AngelStreet Memphis  
Arkwings  
Ballet Memphis  
Baptist Memorial Health Care  
Beale Street Caravan  
Blues City Cultural Center  
Buckman Performing Arts Center  
Carpenter Art Garden  
Cazateatro Bilingual Theater  
Center for Transforming Communities  
Children's Museum of Memphis  
Circuit Playhouse, Inc.  
Classical Melodies Incorporated  
Collage Dance  
Company D  
Contemporary Arts Memphis  
Creative Aging Memphis  
Crosstown Arts  
Dixon Gallery and Gardens  
Everystory  
Germantown Community Theatre  
Germantown Symphony Orchestra  
GPAC  
Hattiloo Theatre  
Historic Clayborn Temple  
Iris Collective

Les Passes  
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art  
Memphis Challenge  
Memphis Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association  
Memphis ChoralArts  
Memphis Jazz Workshop  
Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum  
Memphis Symphony Orchestra  
Memphis Youth Symphony Program  
Metal Museum  
Music Export Memphis  
National Civil Rights Museum  
New Ballet Ensemble & School  
New Day Children's Theatre  
OFF THE WALLS  
On Location: MEMPHIS  
Opera Memphis  
Orpheum Theatre Group  
Overton Park Shell  
Perfecting Gifts  
Princeton James Project  
PRIZM Ensemble  
RiverArtsFest, Inc.  
Soulsville Foundation  
STAR Theater  
Tennessee Shakespeare Company  
THE ACTORS RENAISSANCE THEATRE

The Blues Foundation  
The Collegiate School of Memphis  
Theatre Memphis  
TheatreWorks  
Tipton Fine Arts Council  
Trezevant Manor Foundation  
UrbanArt Commission  
W.E. A.L.L. B.E. Group Inc.  
WYXR  
YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South  
Young Actors Guild

Highlight = FY26 Operating Support Partner

### Individual Artists

DeAngelo Cheatom  
Eric Echols  
Keenya Creates\*  
Kenthia Farmer  
Kiersten Williams  
Jaylon McCraven  
LaDarryl\*  
Lindsay Overbey

Ozioma\*  
Noah Miller  
Richard Echols  
Kate Roberts  
Summer McNeill  
Therrious Davis

+10 Artist Emergency Grantees

\*Grantees in partnership with  
Music Export Memphis

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Atlanta, Georgia, featuring a large stadium with a distinctive blue, tent-like roof structure on the left. A wide river flows through the center, with a multi-lane bridge crossing it. In the foreground on the right, there is a residential development with several multi-story apartment buildings. The city skyline with various skyscrapers is visible in the background under a clear, bright sky.

**WHY IS THIS YEAR DIFFERENT?**

# KEY DATES FOR CULTURE 2026-2027

## Openings

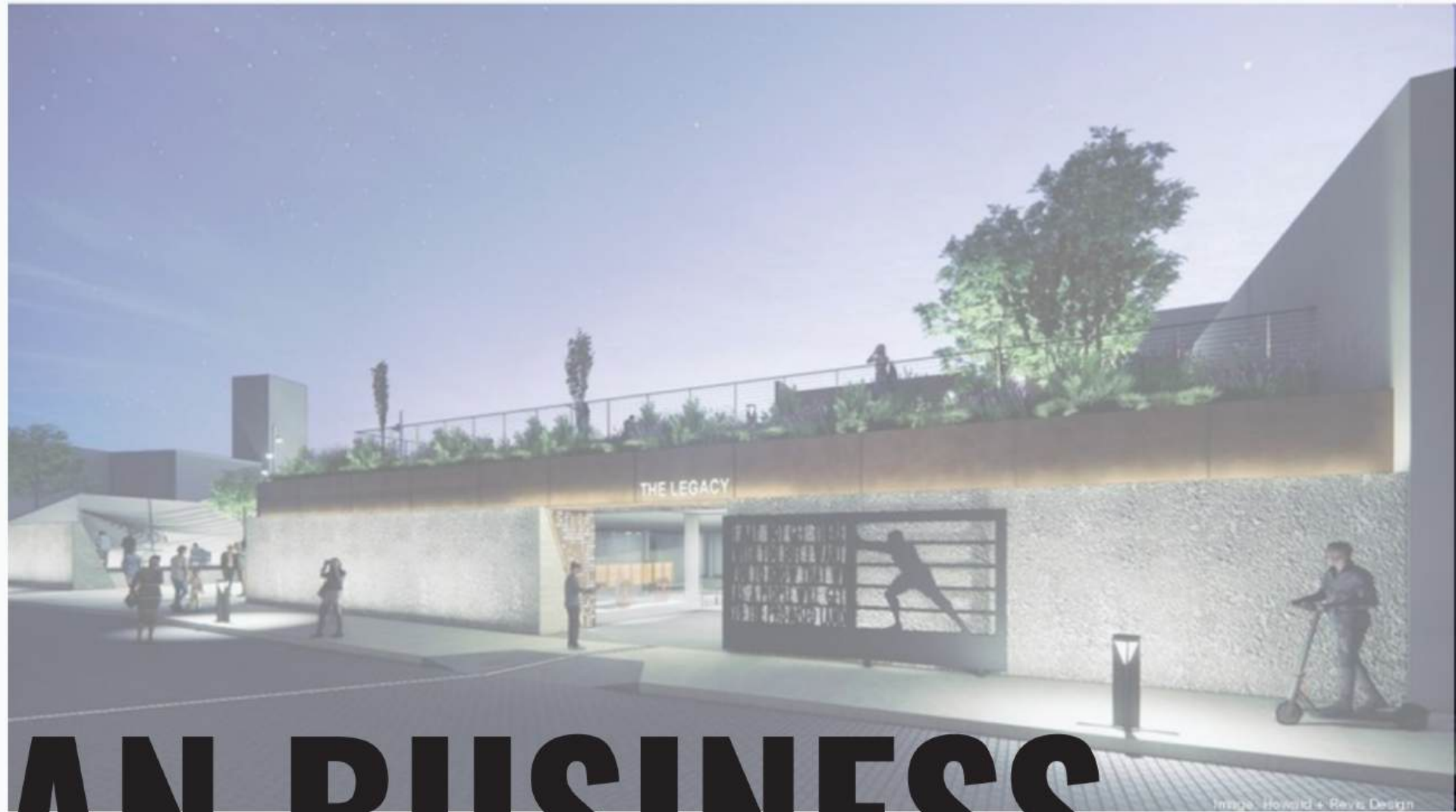
- Baron Von Opperbean (May 2026)
- National Civil Rights Museum Legacy Renovation Opening + 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (May 2026)
- National Ornamental Metal Museum Opening (September 2026)
- Live Nation's Satellite Music Hall Opening (September 2026)
- Memphis Art Museum (December 2026)

## Conferences

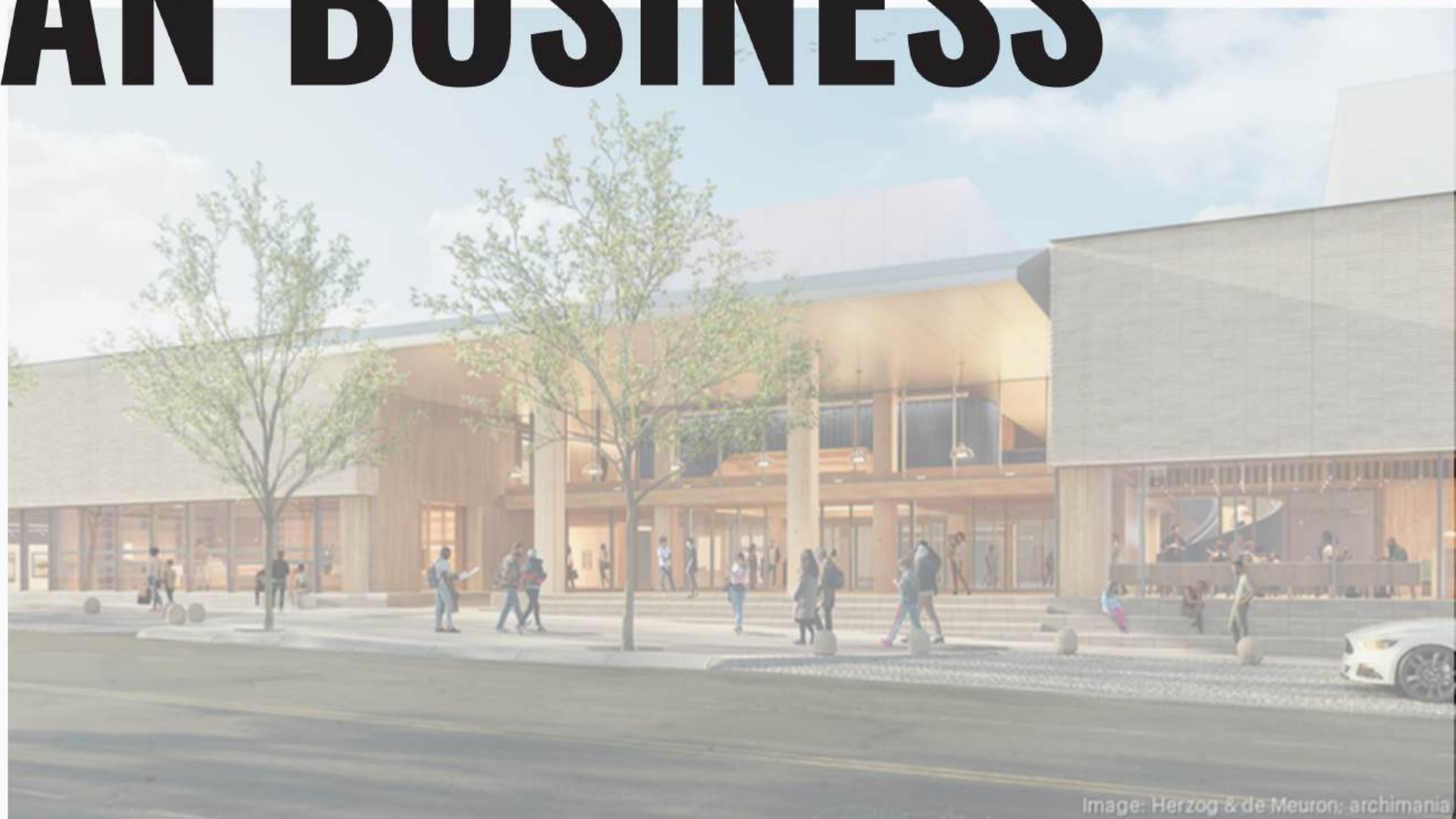
- Grantmakers in the Arts (October 18-21, 2026)
- US Civil Rights Trail (October 2026)

## Anniversaries

- |                                    |                                     |                                  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Ballet Memphis (40th)            | • Memphis Men's Chorale (20th)      | • Opera Memphis (70th)           |
| • Carpenter Art Garden (15th)      | • Memphis Symphony Orchestra (75th) | • Overton Park Shell (90th)      |
| • Collage Dance Collective (16th)  | • Memphis Youth Symphony (60th)     | • Perfecting Gifts (10th)        |
| • Crosstown Radio/WYXR (5th)       | • Memphis Music Initiative (10th)   | • Princeton James Project (10th) |
| • Dixon Gallery and Gardens (50th) | • Memphis Zoo (120th)               | • RiverArtsFest (20th)           |
| • Hattiloo Theatre (20th)          | • Music Export Memphis (10th)       | • TN Shakespeare (20th)          |
| • Memphis Jazz Workshop (10th)     | • New Day Children's Theatre (20th) | • UrbanArt Commission (30th)     |
|                                    |                                     | • Young Actors Guild (35th)      |



# THE ARTS MEAN BUSINESS



# THE ARTS MEAN BUSINESS



**\$38million**

Tax revenue generated\*

**3,775jobs**

Supported\*

**\$192.9million**

Economic activity generated\*

**\$72.2million**

Event-related spending\*

\*in Shelby County, 2022

**ARTS**  
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**ARTS &**  
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY 6



# THE ARTS MEAN BUSINESS: AVERAGE YEAR

122.6K

attendees outside of Shelby County annually

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1.5K

hotel nights per year (from 18 orgs)

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300+

room nights for arts-based conferences/year





# THE ARTS MEAN BUSINESS: PROJECTED 2026-2027

Projected attendance for NCRM, NOMM, and MAM

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## 900K Visitors

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Cultural Tourists spend <sup>1</sup>

## 63% more

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These tourist stay an average of <sup>2</sup>

## 4.7 nights

### Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Travel Association

<sup>2</sup> Tourism Economics

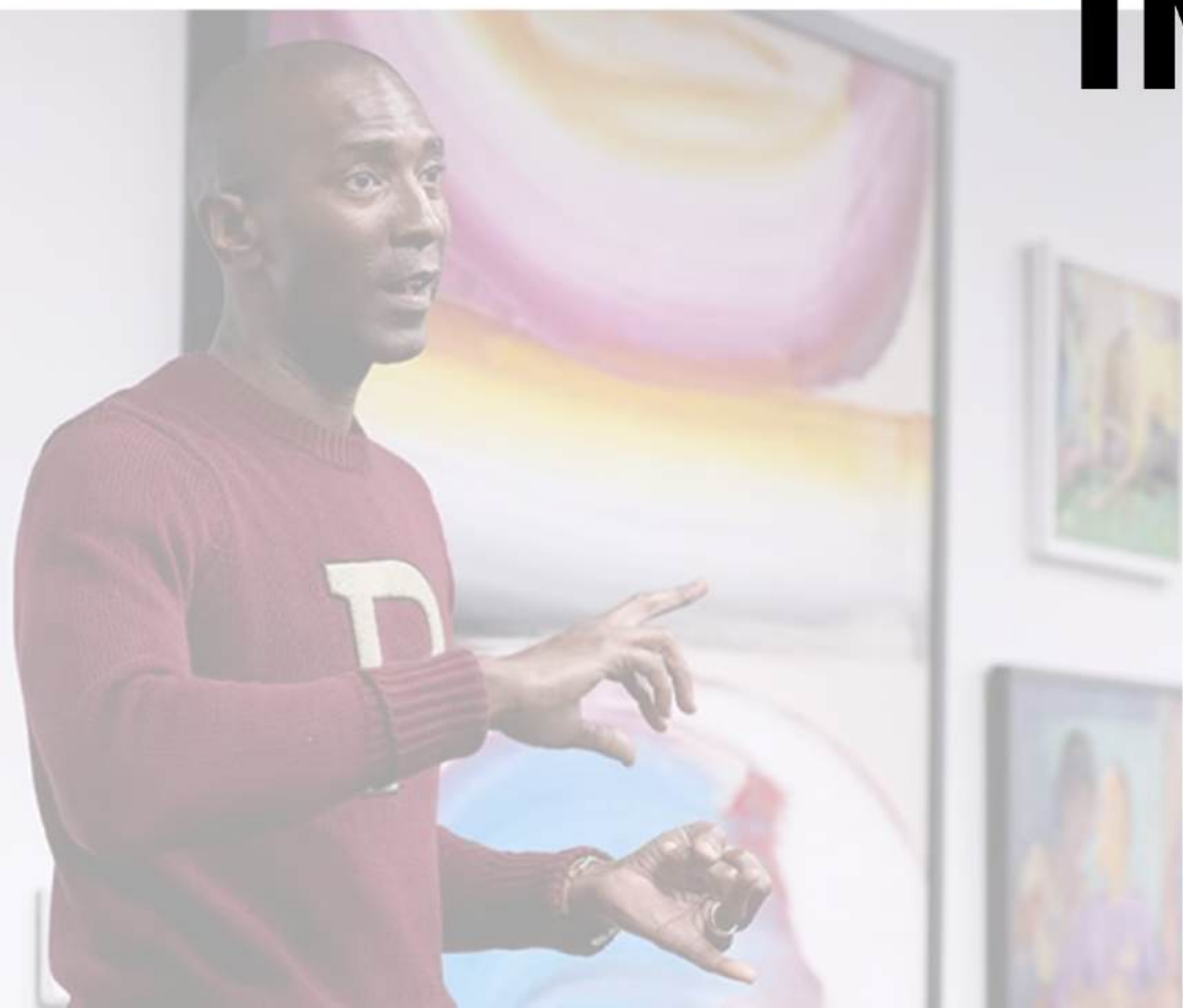
# RECOGNIZE THE CULTURE

## MEMPHIS IN THE NEWS





**MEMPHIS DOESN'T JUST PARTICIPATE  
IN THE CULTURE;  
WE CREATE IT.**



A blurred cityscape at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow light on the left and a clear blue sky on the right. The buildings are out of focus, creating a bokeh effect. The text 'THANK YOU!' is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font.

**THANK YOU!**