



Culture and Heritage Committee Meeting

AGENDA - 7/15/25

- Tom Lee Park, Memphis, TN - See notes below and the attachment. We need a serious discussion of this.

Tom Lee Park, Memphis, TN

See the email below from Andrew Kiepe, City of Memphis, with regard to Tom Lee Park. I've attached our comments to Andrew from our July 22, 2024, Culture & Heritage Committee meeting. To date he has not addressed these comments. I will reply to Andrew following our conversation.

*From Andrew Keipe, City of Memphis, John Anfinson and Edmund McDavis,
July 10, 2025*

Please let me know how to proceed. Do I need to submit an additional application, or could we present to the governing body our case?

The Memphis Riverfront has quickly transformed into the premiere destination on the Mississippi from major projects like River Garden, Fourth Bluff, Riverline, and the newly opened Tom Lee Park. To date Tom Lee Park has been mentioned in over 270 articles including 70 national programs. We have received 80+ awards including the ULI Excellence in Americas designation. Additionally, we will open the Flyway early January 2026 which will be the only observation deck of its kind on the Mississippi River. It will be 218-feet in length and at its terminus will tower 3 stories over the banks of the Mississippi River. I understand that we are outside of the parameters of an indoor interactive museum, but what better way to truly experience the Great River Road than to be immersed in 14 million SQFT of publicly accessible riverfront space. Especially knowing that 90% of the Lower Mississippi River is under private ownership.

I believe our projects and investment in Memphis is exactly what the Great River Road needs to expand its visitors and to inspire river cities like St Louis, Missouri, and Baton Rouge to invest critical dollars to unique riverfront experiences. Again, I know that we are outside of the normal precedent, but I think that if the Great River Road dismisses our application it sets an even more dangerous precedent which is that there is an unwillingness to support cities like Memphis who care about the river, want to grow attendance and shine national support for our greatest asset,

the River. Especially a city and organizations like ours that have put nearly \$100M into our Riverfront.

If I need to add letters of support from the Mayor, our Congress Representatives, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Governor I can get that to you. All are advocates of the Memphis Riverfront.

Andrew Keipe

Thanks, John

- Topics for our National Meeting in September
- Have each state give a report on their ICs.
 - How are they doing?
 - Are they doing anything for America 250?
- America 250
 - What is MRPC doing for this?
 - How do we promote American culture and heritage related to America 250 along the GRR and Mississippi River?
 - Which IC's have a C&H focus? What are they doing in 2025?
- Other ideas?