

**Letters in Response to Brooks Museum DRB Review
As of 2 pm, Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

1.

From: David Kmet

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 5:04 PM

Mr. Roler -- The Brooks' current design is a dead-end for the Bluffwalk --> We can have a continuous greenway system along the bluff above the Mississippi River AND have a world-class museum.

Please, postpone the work to allow for a fix in the design to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk.

Sincerely, David Kmet

2.

From: Mike Watson

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 5:11 PM

Mr. Brett Roler,

The Brooks Museum design needs to be postponed and the design fixed to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk. Why would you not want a continuously connected Bluffwalk where tourist and locals could bike or walk to see multiple sites along the way. Please don't be singularly focused and short sighted.

Thanks,

Mike Watson, Bluff City Canoe Club member

3.

From: Juliet Wischmeyer

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 5:03 PM

Dear Mr Roler, I urge the Design Review Board to postpone its review of the proposed Brooks Museum so that the architects can re-design the building to allow for a continuous Bluff Walk along the river.

Thank you,

Juliet Wischmeyer, 27 Ashlawn CV, Memphis, TN 38112

4.

From: Gene Carkeet

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 4:56 PM

Mr. Roler, It has come to my attention that the Brooks Museum plan as it currently exist would block the Bluffwalk.

I feel that is a great disservice not only to the residents of Memphis and Shelby County but also to the visitors and tourist that come to the city. I am sure you are aware of the importance of river walks.. Oklahoma City moved the interstate to have a river walk. Cincinnati and Austin are both famous for their river walks.

The Mississippi River is an awesome feature and resource of the region and deserves to be accessible for all to appreciate.

Please consider how we can have the best of both.

best regards,
Gene Carkeet

5.

From: Tom Lawrence

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 4:28 PM

I would like for your review of the Brooks Museum design postponed and the design fixed to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk.

Thomas B. Lawrence, PE

6.

From: Susan Caldwell

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 4:25 PM

Dear Bret,

I must express my disappointment with the proposed design for the Brooks Museum's new bluff top facility. For the first time in my memory, we have the golden opportunity to have this unique attraction: a continuous greenway atop our Mississippi Riverbluff and a connected systems of parks along the river. Brooks' current design will prevent this. We can have a worldclass greenway AND a worldclass museum. They are not mutually exclusive! Why be shortsighted and fail to capitalize on this once-in-a-lifetime chance?!

PLEASE postpone review and decision Wednesday on the design as submitted. Allow public input and ask Brooks for a revision to the design that allows for Memphians to have the riverfront amenities that we deserve: a continuous bluffwalk AND a bluff top museum!

Respectfully,

Susan Caldwell, 4650 Laurel Oaks, Memphis, TN 38117

7.

From: Hite McLean

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 3:43 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Roler:

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed design by Brooks Museum which would block the path of the Bluffwalk. I support the museum, but alternatives must be considered to preserve the integrity and history of our Riverfront, including maintaining the continuity of the Bluffwalk.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

G. Hite McLean, III

6000 Poplar Avenue, Suite 400, Memphis, Tennessee 38119

8.

From: Rose Garrett

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 3:41 PM

Dear Mr. Roler,

Please postpone the DRB review of the Brooks' Museum design until it is redone to allow a continuous Bluffwalk.

Rose Garrett, 6419 Blue Heron Cove, Memphis, TN 38120

9.

From: Cindy Crivich Tucker
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 3:41 PM

Bret,

I am contacting DMC to urge you to consider postponing the upcoming vote on the plan for Brooks Museum Downtown.

I live at 43 Union Ave #2... the Timpani Building directly across from the new Brooks site. I have not had the opportunity to review the plans as they were never shared publicly to my knowledge. I did not receive notification as a property owner and resident directly across from the site.

I am a longtime supporter of Brooks and am looking forward to having them as my neighbor. However, I am just requesting postponement to allow time to review the design as it impacts my block... including the omission of a public promenade.

Thank you for this consideration. I look forward to having the opportunity to review the plans.

Cyndy Crivich Tucker, 43 Union Ave #2, 38103

10.

From: Christine Todd
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, 6:48 PM

Dear Mr. Roler,

Please postpone the Brooks Museum design review until the design can be fixed to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk.

If it can be connected, it will be better for the whole city, and not impeded by those who only want to visit our great future museum. Thank you for your service to our wonderful city.

Sincerely, Carroll and Christine Todd

11.

From: S.W. Farnsworth III

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, 7:37 PM

Mr. Roler and Members of the Design Review Board of the City of Memphis:

Review of the design application for new facilities for the Brooks Museum, to be located on the Memphis Promenade easement land between Front St. on the East and the railroad and Riverside Drive ROWs on the west, and between Union Av. on the south and Monroe Av. on the north (the "Proposed Location"), is, I understand, set for review by the DRB this Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

Unfortunately, as much as I love the Brooks, it is a private museum. And while it is the oldest and largest in our state, and one in which Memphians, including myself, have long taken great pride, and deservedly so, many years of serving Memphians and the Mid-South have not changed its nature from its status as a private entity. While it is open during certain times and on certain occasions to the public, such use by the public has not somehow transformed the Brooks into a public entity, any more that a McDonald's restaurant is a public entity because it is open, during operating hours, to the public.

As I am certain you are aware, when the original subdivision plat of the City of Memphis was recorded, the landowners deeded certain rights of way to the City, and, critically, reserved certain land to themselves subject to an easement to the City for use as a Public Promenade. The Proposed Location sits squarely on the Promenade Easement and completely blocks any and all pedestrian traffic along and within the Proposed Location.

Immediately prior uses of the Proposed Location have been for what have been public uses, a fire station for the City Fire Department and a municipally owned parking garage built to facilitate shopping in the downtown core (and which was known as the "Shopper's Garage").
Simply put, the Brooks is not a public use facility.

It is not like a fire or police station, a municipal parking structure, a bus or train terminal or an airport or a public park. Nor is use of the Proposed Location by the Brooks a public use of the Promenade, nor may the City claim that its permission to use the Promenade, or, particularly, the Proposed Location, can be granted to another, like the Brooks, pursuant to an agreement for use, a lease, or other such agreement when that other party is not a public entity.

Accordingly, I believe the application of the Brooks for design review approval of its plans for structures and facilities to be located on the Proposed Location must be rejected by the DRB as the use of that property, as planned, would make any and all structures an illegal violation of the recorded public easement known as the Promenade. I further believe that should approval be granted, it will be an unenforceable action, beyond the power of the City and its departments, including the DRB, as a ultra vires act, and subject any improvements placed on the Proposed Location to removal, with the costs of removal and restoration of the Proposed Location to use as a Public Promenade, including the unencumbered use by pedestrian traffic over and within the Proposed Location.

Perhaps a design might be developed that could both serve the purpose of the Promenade as a pedestrian promenade, and the desire of the Brooks to use a portion of the Proposed Location for construction of new museum facilities could be developed among representatives of the Brooks, the City and advocates for the Promenade. But the currently submitted design and use plan is not that plan and consequently should be rejected.

Well prior to the planned meeting to review the application of the Brooks for design approval, please pass this letter on to the Chair and other members of the DRB, including: Michelle Ye, Chair; Aaron Campbell; Mike Hammond; Sophorn Olsen; Blair Perry; Brett Ragsdale; Mario Walker; Michael Winter; Victoria Young (I note that the Non-voting Division of Planning & Development representative is Brett Ragsdale).

I urge you to reject the application of the Brooks Museum for approval of its proposed design.

Cordially,

S. W. Farnsworth III, 16 South Humes Street, Memphis, TN 38111

12.

From: Ted Morton

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, 7:57 PM

Mr Roler,

As an enthusiastic supporter of the outstanding redevelopment and revitalization of downtown Memphis, I implore you to postpone review of the Brooks Museum design so that it can be fixed to accommodate a continuous connection of the Bluffwalk. The Bluffwalk is an amazing civic asset, and it has recently been augmented by pedestrian and handicapped accessible integration into the reinvented Tom Lee Park. Integrating the Bluffwalk into the new downtown Brooks Museum will build on this existing world-class infrastructure, as thus enhance public pedestrian access to the museum. We can have BOTH. We can have a continuous greenway system along the bluff above the Mississippi River AND have a world-class museum.

Thank you, Ted

Ted Morton PharmD, BCIDP

13.

From: Jim Spake

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, 8:12 PM

I do hate to think that the Bluffwalk will be interrupted by the Brooks plans. Can we please have a great museum AND a beautiful continuous walk along the bluff?

It's one of my favorite things to do with visitors to Memphis!

14.

From: Heathie Colvett

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, 8:57 PM

I urge you to reconsider the new Brooks Museum design to include the Bluffwalk.

Brooks moving downtown is an excellent addition to Memphis and the entire community. Please make it inclusive for all citizens by seeing the importance of the Bluffwalk. Heathie Colvett

15.

From: Diane Coons

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 8:48 AM

Hi Mr. Roler,

Writing to ask that the decision on the design for the Brooks be postponed and the design reevaluated. It should not block the walk along the Promenade.

In addition, the building looks like a complete eyesore - something like a prison with an oversize aircraft window. It's completely terrible but I know you can't address that (or at least I think that's true - perhaps you do get a vote on design?)...

Again, the walking path needs to be allowed to flow along the Promenade instead of being blocked per the current design, and anything that is redesigned needs to make sense as well.

Warm regards, Diane Coons

16.

From: Mary Ogle

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 6:57 AM

The current Brooks Museum proposal will prevent a continuous Riverwalk. It can be modified to allow the Riverwalk to be continuous. Please postpone the scheduled review and request that the proposal be modified to allow a continuous Riverwalk.

Thank you -

Mary Ogle, 3776 Carnes, Memphis 38111

17.

From: Mimi Hurley

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 10:50 PM

I want the review of the Brooks Museum design postponed and the design fixed to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk.

Thank You

Mimi Hurley

18.

From: Cindy Brasher

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 10:17 PM

Please ask that the review of the Brooks Museum design is postponed and the design fixed to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk.

Thanks,

Cindy Brasher

19.

From: Rénee Lartigue

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 10:05 PM Rénee Lartigue

Hello Brett and Paul and Design Review Board,

Please postpone the review of the submitted Memphis Brooks Museum of Art plan scheduled for Wednesday, April 5.

Late last week, I received a copy of the plans for the property along Front Street between Union and Monroe. Seeing this, it was difficult to imagine that the designers had visited our riverfront at all. It is as if they have not one clue about what this property means to the city, to its people and their heritage.

The current design puts the building and its most dramatic 'gallery' element directly as an obstruction to the line of the bluffwalk. It fails to recognize the opportunities of view surrounding the property, and it prevents a very important connection between the whole population of Memphis and our riverfront. With fairly simple adjustments to the design, the site can improve not only the Brooks Museum's connection to the public, but also more importantly the thru-connection of the bluffwalk that takes us all far beyond this one important block.

This building is using public ground - we have waited for this opportunity to reclaim this portion of the promenade. The exhibits of the Brooks Museum will change, the people who are drawn to these exhibits will change, and every single person who visits this site on our riverfront, regardless of what the Brooks Museum has showing, should *and could* have the open and free opportunity to enjoy what Memphis has always had to offer from this site - an amazing long walk along the bluff of the Mississippi River. Aside from it being the right thing for the Brooks Museum to do, the encouragement of all people to treasure the public ground along our riverfront on this site will put the Brooks Museum as a leader and a fellow steward of our public and special riverfront. Not only Memphians but also visitors from around the world will be

able to thank the Brooks for their wisdom and insight on treasuring this very special Memphis heritage.

It is not a difficult revision to make to the design. And it is one that will add value to the project, to the downtown area, to the Memphis Riverfront, and as the designers dream through their submittal, to the world at large (world class!).

Please give pause to this project - postpone this review from Wednesday April 5 and give time to develop this plan to better reflect the spirit of this promenade ground - to make it for the public.

Please reschedule the review. Do not have it on April 5. Let it improve.

Thank you,
Rénee Lartigue, NCARB, RA
38104

A quick followup note of reality - just because a building has a public entrance, it is not a public building. The Brooks Museum in Overton Park has a Public entrance, but you don't go past the vestibule before they ask you to pay admission. We must do better than that on the river.

20.

From: Robert Shatzer
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 9:53 AM

Please postpone the review of the Brooks Museum design until the proposed design is corrected to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk along the Mississippi River.

Also concerning is the blank wall of the current proposed museum design that faces the river. The building should embrace its site, rather than "turning its back" on it.

Thank you - Robert Shatzer, 1289 West Crestwood Drive, Memphis - 38119

21.

From: Louella Weaver
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 9:56 AM

The current design plan for the new Brooks museum will cut off the Bluffwalk right in the middle of the downtown riverfront. Please request modifications to allow for the continuation of the Bluffwalk and delay review until the new design is completed.

Many people have worked hard to create an accessible walkway along the bluff so that everyone can enjoy the magnificent view. Please don't ruin this resource.

22.

From: Harold E. Crawford
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 16:24

Do not block pathway to the biggest asset this city has, namely the Mississippi River. Commerce turned its back for over a century and our planners are only now realizing what a goof the old folks made. Museums can go anywhere-the River needs to decide what we do with design and be sure it is ALWAAAYS in our eyes. Roy Harrover knew it; why do we have to relearn it!

Jeanne Crawford

23.

From: Angie Kirkpatrick
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 11:04 AM

Please, please postpone the review for the new Brooks museum until the design can be corrected to allow for a continuous greenway system along the Bluff.

Angie

24.

From: Becky Muska

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, 6:17 PM

My ancestor John Rice who purchased the 5000 acre land grant which I have to say now unfortunately became mps. (I use lower case & abbreviation to avoid giving any respect to a city which was a thorn in the side of my ancestors since the late 1700s) could have created a beautiful city on the bluff if he had not been scalped & shot to death by an Indian chief who hated white settlers in Clarksville, TN. John Rice's great nephew, John R. Dougherty, my 4 greats uncle, purchased Lot 13 & was one of the original lot owners along the Promenade. Dougherty did not sell the lot before he died in 1828. There was no sale of my ancestor's lot to the federal government to build the Navy yard along with all the lots required for the shipyard so mps. would have a Navy to fight the Yankees in the Battle of mps. on June 6, 1862. The city took the lot from my ancestors without compensation, the Navy yard was built, & today the pyramid is sitting on my ancestors' lot. Just one of many thorns.

If Riceville was sitting on the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff instead, there would be a grand promenade designed by George Kessler of St, Louis for the west side connection of the parkway system on the north, east, & south, joining the parks which were originally designed with ornamental trees, shrubs, & flowers with lily ponds, fountains, statuary, benches & walkways. But mps. got in the way with its political cronies & destroyed every single park I had visited & enjoyed as a child with my parents & fellow school classmates. History was removed from the parks in lock step with Karl Marx's dictate, "Keep people from their history and they are more easily controlled."

Think about what George Kessler could have done. The bluff walk is not as grand as the original Promenade could have been, but it's the best feature available for a dumb-downed mps. Don't allow the museum to block the bluff walk when there is an alternative to keep the bluff walk going along the river.

Becky Muska - 8th generation Shelby County taxpayer

25.

From: R Hartzog

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 9:39 AM

PLEASE. Do NOT let the Brooks block the Bluff Walk! Memphis is finally TRYING to make the river and interactive piece of our town. Don't put up a hurdle! PLEASE!

26.

From: DeMere Dwyer

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 10:03 PM

Please postpone the Brooks's design review until there has been a change to see the Bluffwalk.

Sincerely,

Didi Dwyer - DeMere Dwyer

27.

From: Peggy McClure

Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 5:24 PM

PLEASE revise the plans to accommodate the Bluff Walk! I understand it can be done and have both parties satisfied. Don't let this unique walkway be stopped with the building.

Thanks!

Peggy McClure

28.

From: Lisa Snowden
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 3:35 PM

Please postpone design review until design can be seen by the general public and accommodations made to include the promised Promenade Bluff walk.

Thank you
Lisa Snowden

29.

From: Julie Ellis
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 3:52 PM

Please allow bluff walk to be integrated and design amended!

Thanks Brett!
Julie

30.

From: Joy Terral
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 12:09 PM

Mr. Roler,

RE: PLEASE HELP Stop the "Brooks Museum Plans"

The BluffWalk is an important part of our Memphis Heritage and Once lost it will be gone forever!

Very few cities have the amazing view of the Mighty Mississippi River that we have and cherish. The BluffWalk as you know was a gift to the City of Memphis and Her Citizens.

All her citizens and guests not to a few chosen who happen to have the dollars to buy and persuade politicians to do promote their private agendas.

YES, we want a world class museum – but I say we can have Both and be even Prouder of the Results.

We can have a continuous greenway system along the bluff above the Mississippi River AND have a world-class museum.

On Wednesday, April 5, the Design Review Board (DRB) is scheduled to review the design for the new Brooks Museum which will be located where the fire station and parking garage were recently torn down. This design will block the path of the Bluffwalk!

Brooks' current design is a dead-end. But it can be corrected. We've been told by professionals that it's an easy fix.

Please, have the Design Review Board to review the Brooks Museum design and fix said design to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk. Allowing Memphis to Maintain her Gift and Giving all of Memphis the obturity to see both the River and The New Tom Lee Park from the Bluff. TODAY:

We crossed the Mississippi. We connected to the Wolf River Greenway. We built the Bluffwalk. We cannot stop now!

Sincerely and with the Best Intentions for Memphis!
Joy Terral and Mark Warren

31.

From: Jerred Price
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 12:12 PM

Brett,

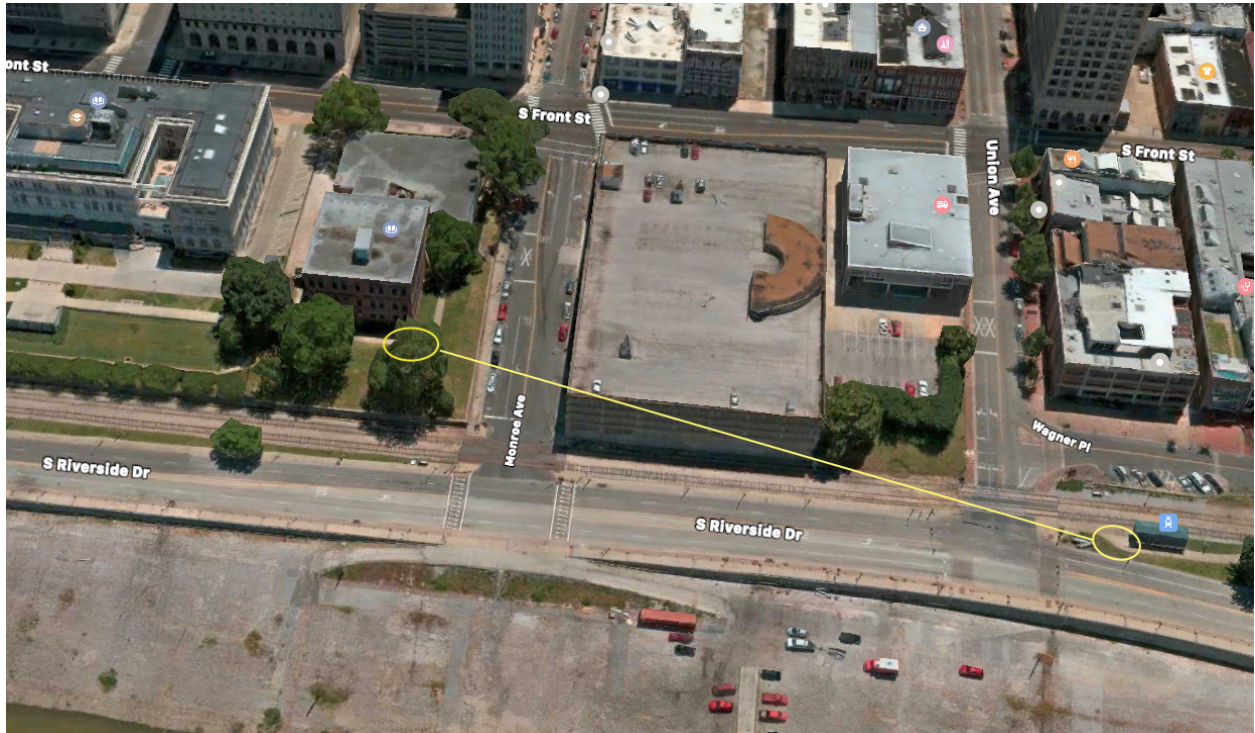
Thanks for taking my call yesterday. I know that designing has come quite a long way on this new museum, but the point of these meetings is to get feedback and approval on the final design (So I understand).

I have to say I like the overall design and eager to see them in downtown. However, if we could some how use this opportunity to continue the river walk that extends from the north and now dead ends at the library, that would be optimal!!! We have a chance now, with a blank lot, to connect the river walk from the north side to the existing south walk that now is very hard to navigate up and down and around the block. We have made a lot of strives and efforts toward connecting spaces and walks to our riverfront (Such as

cutback bluff), so I think is another once in a lifetime opportunity to do just that and once again make more sense of this historic, infamous walk along our river.

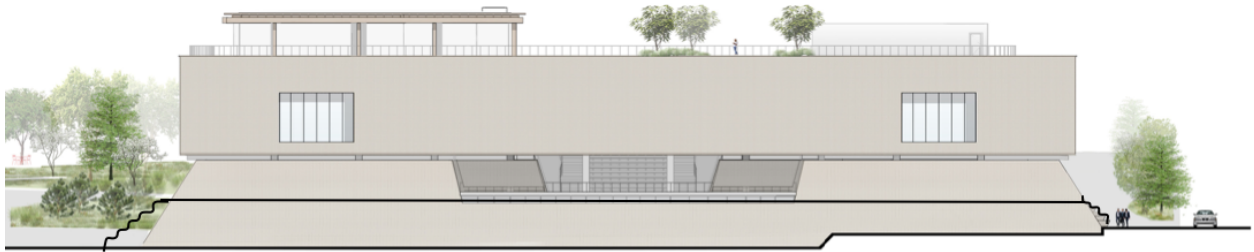
Here are some visuals that may help:

1. We should work on connecting point A (circle on left side) to point B, for a seamless river walk experience.



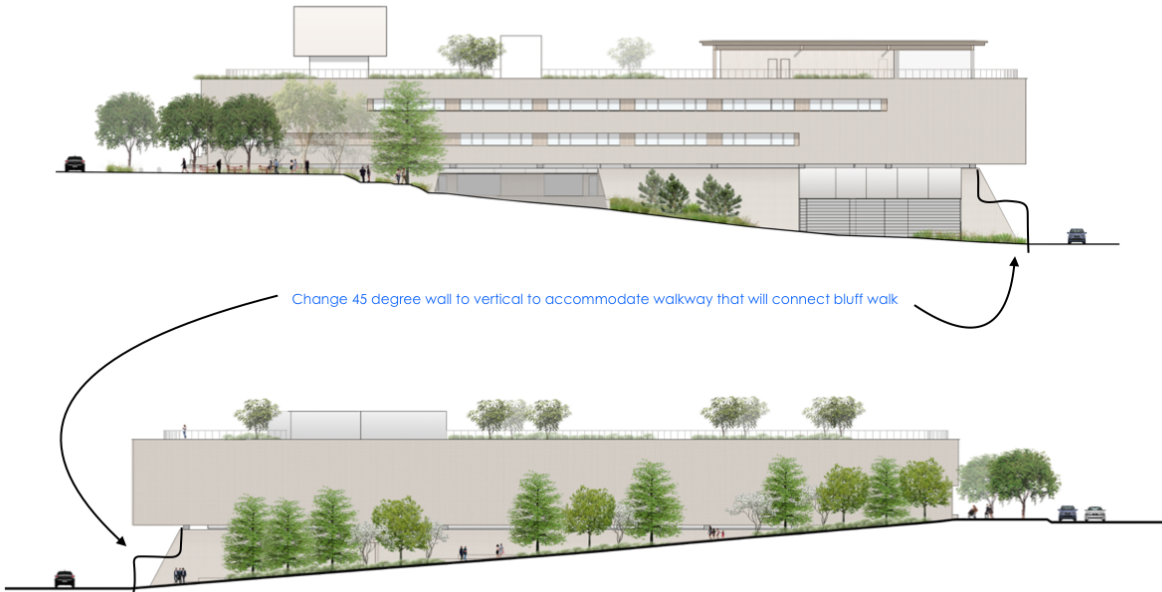
2. Maybe we create a new pedestrian bridge that connects the river walk from the library lot to the new museum. If this isn't feasible, let's make a ramp that brings it down to street level on Monroe. Then, create some kind of elevated walk way or a walk way between the tracks & museum that leads folks to the street level access to the south at Union & the tracks. Maybe they can incorporate a freestanding balcony/walk on the west side of the design of the new museum? Example:

Extend public river window to span entire front of building to allow for walk connecting bluff walk.



EAST & WEST ELEVATIONS

BROOKS MUSEUM | CD PHASE



I think with this slight modification, we will increase pedestrian traffic around the museum and connect the riverwalk from the north to the south, something that if we don't do with this new construction opportunity, will probably never have a chance to do again. I think these two examples are a great solution that will benefit the museum as well as pedestrians who want to walk the riverfront.

In closing, we have spent millions to connect spaces and people to our river with several pedestrian centric projects in recent years. Let's utilize this design phase to help folks "COME TO THE RIVER" as MRPP's motto reads.

32.

From: Steve and Cathy Edmundson

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 12:44 PM

Please make sure the design of the Brooks Museum doesn't block the riverwalk

Steve and Cathy Edmundson

775 N Auburndale, Memphis TN 38107

33.

From: Pat Morgan

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 1:31 PM

Don't mess it up, PLEASE!! There's another way. Use it. THANKS.

34.

From: Lauren Estes

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 1:23 PM

Mr. Roler,

Please postpone the Brooks design review until the design is improved to accolade for the bluff walk. This is a project that has drastically changed our city and to stop it with the Brooks is wasteful.

Thank you, Lauren Estes

35.

From: Irene Hallett

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 1:22 PM

postponed the review of brook's museum design until it provides for a continuous connection to the Bluffwalk

Keep a walkable river front.

Irene Hallett. 38117 zip code

36.

From: Brantley Ellzey

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 4:54 PM

Dear Brett,

I heard recently from Friends For Our Riverfront that the current design of the new Brooks Museum is in conflict with the path of the Bluff Walk and that the new building will act as a "dead end" for Walk users. This is very distressing. I'm not sure how or why the Bluff Walk wasn't taken into consideration by the designers but there seems little reason why our new world class museum should conflict with our existing world class river thoroughfare.

I would ask that review of the current design of the museum be postponed until this issue is resolved. Why compromise an existing amenity as well designed and popular as the Bluff Walk for the new museum? One should compliment the other.

Thank you!

Brantley Ellzey, 1666 Overton Park Ave., Memphis, TN 38112

37.

From: Carol Coletta

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 4:19 PM C

Brett, I am writing as a neighbor of Brooks, not as CEO of Memphis River Parks. The new Brooks is right outside my window, where I have expansive views of the site from my kitchen and my living room.

Obviously, I am a daily user of the riverfront and specifically of the Bluff Walk. I value the Bluff Walk very much.

But the Bluff Walk (which is not on Promenade property) ends at Union Avenue on the north. If I want to continue on a “riverfront journey” at that point, I would cross over RSD and continue north on the Cobblestone Walkway to River Garden. I would not walk between Brooks and the RR tracks (nothing appealing about that) nor would I walk up Union – even partially – and turn through Brooks.

The design of the new Brooks is doing what it ought to do – provide a generous sidewalk on Front and transparency into the museum from Front, providing eyes on the street and light, thus increasing activation and security on a block that has had neither.

Further, if I want to see the river, I’m not going inside Brooks to see it. I’m going to the river. I don’t understand the demand for views to the river from inside the museum.

I hope the Design Review Board will approve the museum’s design so construction can get underway and that DMC will focus the city’s attention on making sense of Wagner and Riverside and expanding the width of and improving the sidewalk at the top of the cobblestones from Beale to Jefferson.

Thanks,
Carol

38.

From: Gary Wunderlich
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 4:29 PM

I was blown away recently after seeing the latest renderings for the new Brooks! It appears very open and airy and indeed pedestrian friendly and welcoming unlike many museums that struggle with natural light and can be almost foreboding. Designed by world renown architects Herzog & de Meuron the building itself will attract visitors from around the world. It will be an amazing addition to all that is going on on our river front! I can't wait to see our riverfront in a few years with new cobblestones and a redesigned Tom Lee with the Brooks sitting above it all!

Best regards,
Gary

Gary Wunderlich, Live Oak Merchant Partners
40 S Main Street, Suite 2550
Memphis, TN 38103

39.

From: Russ Wigginton
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 2:51 PM

As the President of the National Civil Rights Museum, I am excited about the Memphis Brooks Museum's move to Downtown Memphis. The presence of the Memphis Brooks Museum will help densify and intensify the rich cultural context for our city and encourage deeper collaboration between our organizations. The design of the new building demonstrates an intentionality to connect with all Memphians and the millions of visitors we attract every year. The National Civil Rights Museum has already engaged in discussions with the Memphis Brooks Museum to explore creative and visionary opportunities to partner in ways that benefit our organizations and the community at large.

40.

From: Henry Turley
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 2:39 PM

I've been improving properties on Monroe and Union for about 45 years. Our offices are at Union and Front. I'm so very happy to have the new Brooks as a neighbor.

We have been asked by the city to join with them in developing a group of restaurants that float

in the Wolf at the foot of Union and serve to animate the newly improved Cobblestone Warf.

Your providing a perfect public overlook will contribute greatly to our prospects of success.

Glad to have you, neighbor.

41.

From: james inscho
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 8:06 AM

As an artist, I'm thrilled to see Memphis get its due as a cultural epicenter with a world-class art museum. The thoughtful architecture and prominent location downtown are reasons to be excited. This museum will be another jewel in our crown, and will draw even more visitors from surrounding regions to experience what Memphis has to offer.

42.

From: Brandon Ticer
Date Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 3:26 PM

That river view sunset Mississippi bridge looks AMAZEBALLS YA'LL.

43.

From: Ken Welch

Tues, Apr 4, 2023, at 7:09 PM

Members of the Design Review Board:

Please delay any action on the application before you April 5, 2023, for the design of the Brooks Museum.

I have been advised by reliable sources that the current design impinges, interrupts, or terminates the Bluffwalk. This proposal and alternatives need further review by the public and design professionals.

Thank you.

Ken Welch

44.

From: Cristina Pinkham

Wed, Apr 5, 2023, at 8:05 AM

To Brett Roler

I'm writing to you to express my concern about the Brooks Museum design which appears to discontinue the Bluffwalk. I ask you to please postpone today's meeting until the plan can be revised to include the walk. The Bluffwalk is too important to Memphis to be blocked intermittently.

Thank you.

Cristina Pinkham

45.

From: Dr. James White, Dean, College of Arts and Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina;

Dr. Eugene Turner, LSU Boyd Professor, Louisiana State University, Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences, Baton Rouge, Louisiana;

Tom McGlynn, artist- curator, New York City, New York;

Dr. Aviva Rahmani

Wed, Apr 4, 2023

Dear Friends concerned with the Memphis Waterfront project,

My colleagues and I are writing to urge you to postpone the scheduled hearing planned for Wednesday, April 5 and allow adequate time for design revisions.

The spring of 2013, at the invitation of Tom McGlynn, curator of Memphis Social, Drs. Eugene Turner and James White studied how art might identify a tributary point on the Mississippi River, in the Mississippi Water Basin whose restoration might have an effect on the various nexuses of society, art, history, and environment. The point we identified was where the Wolf River meets the Mississippi River - exactly where the design you would be developing is located. These efforts gave rise to an analysis that regreening the planet by 36% could mitigate climate change – something the esteemed biologist E.O. Wilson (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E._O._Wilson) promoted. A brief account of our efforts is here:

https://www.academia.edu/8364657/Fish_Story_Memphis_Memphis_is_the_center_of_the_world.

The museum proposes using the site atop the Bluff between Front Street and Riverside Drive, and between Union Ave. (the original southern most point of the City) and Monroe Ave.. That location is part of the Public Promenade set aside in 1819. Originally the Wolf River flowed into the Mississippi River several blocks north of this particular block, where Bass Pro Shops is now. The lower section of the Wolf was channelized by the Corps. In 1956, it was diverted to the north by an earthen dam, connecting Mud Island peninsula, colloquially call Mud Island, and creating the still-water Wolf River Harbor.

"The site has a symbolic significance, is an educational illustration, and experiential exemplar of the problem set. It is illustrative about how we

ignore, extract, and rebuff; bringing the interrelationships between and among land and people into focus, which is what Memphis Social was about."
- Dr. Eugene Turner

We would be glad to provide further testimony by Zoom or another platform of your choice at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. James White, Dean, College of Arts and Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Dr. Eugene Turner, LSU Boyd Professor, Louisiana State University, Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Tom McGlynn, artist-curator, New York City, New York; Dr. Aviva Rahmani

46.

From: Aaron Cuellar

Date Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 8:10 PM

The new design of Brooks museum has this beautiful and awesome look that is going to add to the skyline and landscape of the city of Memphis. I can't wait to see the Brooks working as a hub for art and community, I am so excited to visit the galleries and atriums.

47.

From: Sheila Urevbu

Date Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 11:16 AM

I am the owner of an art gallery Downtown and I couldn't be more inspired by this work of art that will be the new home for the Brooks. I am excited to see that this project is creating so many spaces for people to be immersed in art. This is a big win for Memphis!

48.

From: Whitt Mitchell

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 11:32 AM

A living temple to the arts befitting the cradle of Southern culture. Earth is formed into a mighty ziggurat emphasizing the beauty of the raw materials. Amazing.

49.

From: Eva Krug

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 11:30 AM

With this new design, the Brooks museum has truly committed to creating a uniquely Memphis space to celebrate art and design

50.

From: Molly Quinn

Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 4:12 PM

Downtown Memphis has long deserved a world class museum. The relentless commitment of the advocates for the new Brooks museum is delivering on that ambition — in a new design, complementing and contrasting to downtown architecture. The new site will be visually and culturally dynamic, and a landmark of the American south - in other words, part of what makes Memphis, Memphis.

51.

From: Taylor Cupples

Mon, Apr 3 at 3:32 PM

I'm so impressed with the design for the new Brooks museum. This is what Memphis needs and deserves

52.

From: Elizabeth Rouse
Tue, Apr 4, 2023, at 7:34 PM

The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art's investment in our community through an approachable museum that includes partnership possibilities with diverse organizations of varying artistic disciplines, a dynamic retail space, opportunities to elevate Memphis' arts infrastructure and aspects that will draw locals and visitors to downtown will be game-changing for our city and especially downtown. I am so excited about this iconic asset on the bluff!

Elizabeth

53.

From: Joel Parsons
Wed, Apr 5, 2023, at 8:15 AM

I can't wait to see my favorite art from the Brooks Museum collection installed in the new building. It's a world-class design, worthy of our city. It's going to change the way Memphis views art, and I think it will change the way the world views Memphis.

54.

From: Lauren Kennedy
Tues, Apr 4 at 12:29 PM

The plans for the new Brooks Museum building downtown are exciting to me because of the beautiful design and the obvious thoughtfulness that has gone into them. There are very intentional opportunities to bring people into different spaces and see into the building from the outside that feel really special. Museums can be intimidating places, and this new building will go a long way to inviting people in and making them feel welcome. It's a museum that Memphis deserves.

55.

From: Nathan Bicks
Wed, Apr 5 at 7:32 AM

Brett—hope all is well in your world. I am writing to express my support for the application for approval submitted by the Memphis Brooks Museum to the DMC Design Review Board. I have worked downtown for almost 40 years and am a regular user of both the River Walk and the Bluff Walk for long walks for exercise. I am pleased that the Brooks design offers connectivity to both walkways with a world-class public art facility. The museum design stitches together many disparate facets of downtown in a spectacular fashion, and it deserves the support of DMC and all Memphians who recognize the centrality of downtown to our community. Thanks, Nathan Bicks, Burch Porter & Johnson, 130 N Court

56.

From: Dan Conaway
Mon, Apr 3 at 9:03 AM

I have been convinced of how important this project is for our city. The entrance and block-wide front will invite public notice and participation. The founders' promenade will have a new beating heart, from Riverside to Front, from Union to Monroe.

57.

From: Anna Mullins Ellis
Wed, Apr 5, 2023, at 8:05 AM

New Memphis' work to attract and retain talent in Memphis is inextricably tethered to efforts to make Memphis a more livable and lovable place. Our work focuses on engaging professionals of all ages and sectors, who have choice in where they choose to live and work. In our surveys across those demographics, measuring how satisfied talent is with life in Memphis, we ask questions about satisfaction specifically with our city's arts and culture assets. The data is clear that our arts and culture offerings are the most appreciated and distinct facets of Memphis life. Additionally, when asked which

neighborhoods professionals – living across the broader Memphis region – most frequently visit and value, Downtown is consistently the highest rated. Downtown is a destination for local talent, and any investment in the Downtown infrastructure and experience makes our city more magnetic to the college-educated workforce we very much need to build. To have a world-class art museum in our Downtown neighborhood compounds that impact. I am in strong favor of the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art relocating to the heart of Downtown, and am I am confident that this will have broad and long-lived economic impact for our city.

Anna Mullins Ellis
President & CEO, New Memphis

58.

From: Kaci Murley
Mon, Apr 3 at 11:12 AM

The new designs for Brooks art museum reflect a new vision for our downtown that showcases our beautiful, mighty river. It makes me proud of my city for dreaming big. I can't wait to have even more reasons to bring my family there and watch my daughter grow up within these new walls along the river!

59.

From: Suzanna Connolly
Tues, Apr 4 at 4:02 PM

I think this will be incredible for our city... who doesn't want to hangout at a rooftop garden overlooking the river

60.

From: Jennifer Draffen:
Mon, Apr 3 at 2:21 PM

It looks really people friendly and accessible - plus I'm excited to have another cool place to shop and eat downtown.

61.

From: Bethann Easterly
Wed, Apr 5, 2023, at 9:15 AM

I love the open feel, natural light, and functional flex spaces like the auditorium. The plaza will be amazing for our community events and outside art exhibits. I'm excited to be in a building where our galleries are on the same floor and visible to the public from outside. I'm looking forward to having all our staff on one floor for easier collaboration. I can't wait to have a building designed for community and the 21st century.

62.

From: Monse Vallin
Wed, Apr 5, 2023, at 11:13 AM

The new location will be a building that brings our community together and will be a spot where every one feels a part of our city.

63.

From: Rosamund Garrett
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 9:17 AM

There is a lot about this building that is truly extraordinary for an art museum on an international level – that the art is on a single floor in galleries of equal gravitas, that it's easy to navigate, that it's open, transparent, and welcoming, that sincere and careful attention has been paid regarding how you feel in each space both in the museum and its surrounds. Each element has been so highly considered, and I believe that ultimately, through design and programming, will really feel like Memphis.

64.

From: Johnny Hill
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 11:23 AM

I love the openness and transparency of the new building

65.

From: DeMario Champion
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 10:15 AM

I really like how the design seems to connect to the river.

66.

From: Jeff Rhodin
Mon, Apr 3, 2023, at 6:17 PM

I am incredibly excited for the new museum building downtown. More than just beautiful, this building is a work of art

67.

From: Melissa Whitby
Tues, Apr 4, 2023, at 8:05 AM

I am so excited about the park at Monroe Plaza, making a pedestrian friendly outdoor space that will connect existing assets and a museum overlooking the river! Downtown has completely transformed during my 47 years here and I am excited what the museum will do for the momentum of that transformation.

68.

From: Dorothy McClure
Tues, Apr 4, 2023, at 12:43 PM

I am thrilled about the museum's move downtown and the significantly enhanced access to art and art experiences it will offer our community. I'm especially excited about the open, inviting design, and the ways it will reconnect the current pedestrian pathways through Monroe Plaza and Front Street.

69.

From: Diane Weickenand
Wed, Apr 5 at 10:02 AM

I am excited about this building's capacity to transform and activate a critical part of Downtown Memphis. With the redesign of the adjacent Cossitt Library, the new Brooks Museum will be an anchor for inclusive visual arts and creativity. The world-class design is spectacular from every angle. It will be an incredible addition to our community.

70.

From: Katherine Brown
Tues, Apr 4 at 7:22 PM

I like the openness of the building. It is very light, bright, and inviting inside. The roof will be the perfect place to watch the sunset on the river.

71.

From: Patricia Daigle
Wed, Apr 5 at 8:12 AM

I'm struck by the simple elegance of the building's design and its reverence for its setting on the bluff.

72.

From: John Patrick
Mon, Apr 3 at 1:37 PM

The new Brooks Museum will be a window to the world, where art lovers can discover new perspectives and connect with different cultures. It will also be a mirror of Memphis, where local artists can showcase their talents and inspire the next generation.

73.

From: Evan Lebaroff
Wed, Apr 5 at 11:25 AM

I think the rooftop is going to be a big draw for the building

74.

From: Kelly Hatton
Mon, Apr 3 at 3:02 PM

I'm thrilled for Memphis to join the ranks of other big cities with a modern museum in the heart of downtown. As an avid art fan who travels to see contemporary exhibits, I know it will bring more people to our wonderful city. For residents, it will be a constant community space for all ages. I can't wait to experience the new museum with my family and friends!

75.

From: Grace Korzekwa Evans
Mon, Apr 3 at 5:47 PM

The plans for the Brooks on the Riverfront are inspiring and my family cannot wait to experience exhibitions and community events in this incredible new space. The plans are serving larger city vibes and I believe this will make art in Memphis more available and accessible to tourists and residents alike.

76.

From: Nancy Hand
Wed, Apr 5, 2023 at 11:17 AM

Dear Mr. Roler,

Please postpone the review of the Brooks Museum design until it can be amended to accommodate a continuous connected Bluffwalk. Memphis deserves better.

We crossed the Mississippi. We connected to the Wolf River Greenway. We built the Bluffwalk. We cannot stop now!

Thank you,
Nancy Hand

77.

From: Tiffany Ford
Wed, Apr 5 at 12:37 PM

I love the design of the park the Brooks is planning and how it integrates into the pedestrian nature of downtown. My favorite part is how those plans preserve those gorgeous river views we all love so much. I can't wait to have this gem as part of a walkable downtown landscape.

78.

From: Zena Alhage
Wed, Apr 5 at 1:07 PM

I like the new museum. My favorite part is the courtyard.

79.

From: Kathy Dumlao
Tues, Apr 4 at 11:57 AM

I like that the new building will be so open and welcoming to the community, including that the rooftop space is free and open to anyone.

80.

From: Edith Heller
Wed, Apr 5, 2023, at 10:21 AM

To Brett Roler

I am concerned about the Brooks Museum design which appears to discontinue the Bluffwalk. Please postpone today's meeting until the plan can be revised to include the walk. The Bluffwalk is an historic trail and important to Memphis. It should not be blocked intermittently. Thank you.
Edith Heller Keep Tennessee Beautiful, State Director, Retired

81.

From: Bich Le

Wed, Apr 5 at 8:23 AM

I like the courtyard and how it can house new art.

82.

From: Willis Lawrence

Wed, Apr 5 at 8:29 AM

I like the design of the new building and especially the parking lot.

83.

From: Evonne Shelton

Tues, Apr 4 at 4:43 PM

I like that people can see inside the museum without coming in and the riverfront view

84.

From: Tonlice Brown

Wed, Apr 5 at 6:03 AM

I really enjoy the design of the museum and specifically the open floor design

85.

From: Curley Richardson

Wed, Apr 5 at 10:31 AM

I really like that this is a BRAND NEW museum with BRAND NEW ideas.

86.

From: KT Mccord
Wed, Apr 5 at 9:14 AM

My favorite part is what it means for Memphis. For there to be a beautiful focal point downtown that brings the community together and provides a way to appreciate many cultures.

87.

From: Rachel Lutz
Tues, Apr 4 at 10:31 PM

What I love most about our new building is the location! My husband and I live downtown, and we are beyond excited to witness the impact this will have on our downtown neighborhood and community at large

88.

From: James Hall
Wed, Apr 5, 2023 at 1:44 PM

The new Brooks Art Museum plan and design should include such features that provide for NO interruption of the bluff river walk footpath. I attach the reply of Dr. John Balance Richardson of Baltimore, MD, son of Balance Brooks for whose family the Brooks Art Museum is named, this email being prompted by Virginia Overton McLain at Friends of the Waterfront. While inquiring back to me re. the fate of the Brooks Art Museum building in Overton Park, he expressed his agreement thst the River Walk should NOT be interrupted. You may be amazed by the fact that the descendants of both the Brooks family and the Overton family are not only still present in Memphis, but they actually know and communicate with each other--John and Virginia both grew up on West Cherry Circle where they grew up. I grew up on Belle Meade Cove behind John's childhood home, now the residence of an attorney locally, Jack V. Delaney.

Perhaps you are using an architectural firm as a planner. They are notorious about ignoring important details that surround their "Visions of the Future". If

nothing else, perhaps this email will make you aware of that! :). [Be sure they address the routing of stormwater in their design. If they are good at their job they will have a ready answer. If they give you a blank look it means they haven't done their homework.

Thank you for listening,

Clay

James Clay Hall, P.E.
Valleybrook Cove
Memphis, TN

89.

From: Meredith Regan
Mon, Apr 3 at 5:02 PM

I am thrilled about the Brooks Museum's plan to bring a top tier art experience to the heart of Memphis. The new location offers a unique opportunity for the museum to engage with all that downtown and our beautiful riverfront have to offer. This move represents an exciting new chapter for the museum and for Memphis.

90.

From: Marina Pacini:
Wed, April 5, 2023, at 8:21 AM

I am thrilled that the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art will soon have a world class space in which to exhibit its world class collection. I look forward to joining Memphis on opening day downtown.

91.

From: Ali Bush

Tues, Apr 4 at 10:23 PM

Every year, our Mid-South Scholastic Awards exhibits the work of over 50 middle and high schoolers from the tri-state area. I'm so excited that the work of these young artists will be exhibited in a state-of-the-art museum against the backdrop of the Mississippi River.

92.

From: Cathy Palmer

Tues, Apr 4, 2023, at 6:33 PM

I read about the Brooks Museum's plans for their downtown location in The Daily Memphis in November. I am so excited about this new space! It is gorgeous, and the outdoor spaces will be an asset to downtown Memphis!

93.

From: Natalie Wilson

March 29, 2023:

The design renderings for the new Brooks are just tremendous! Love it so much!