



**Design Review Board (DRB)  
Staff Report**

**Public Space Enhancements**

- Case # 19-48:** MLK Streetscaping Improvements  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38103
- Applicant:** Susannah Barton  
Memphis Medical District Collaborative  
656 Madison Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38103
- Background:** At the November 14, 2018 CCDC Board Meeting, the CCDC Board approved the request to partially fund extending enhanced streetscaping along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. in the blocks between Fourth St. and Vance Ave. The streetscape enhancements will be installed following the repaving of the street by the City of Memphis in spring 2019. The project has been a collaboration with the Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC).
- Project Description:** Streetscaping improvements will be made along MLK Jr. Ave. from Fourth Street to Vance Ave. to enhance bike and pedestrian connections along the southern edge of the Central Business Improvement District. The intersections include MLK and Fourth, MLK and Danny Thomas, MLK and Walnut, and MLK/Linden and Camila.
- The proposed streetscaping plan includes a series of curb extensions, pedestrian and bike striped crossings and defined bike lanes. Additionally, trash receptacles, planters, benches, bike racks, and bike repair stations will be incorporated.
- Staff Report:** In 2016, the CCDC approved funding up to install semi-permanent streetscape and public realm improvements at four key intersections in the Edge District. This work, completed in partnership with the Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC), has since been completed and actively contributes to improved pedestrian safety throughout the neighborhood. CCDC investments, like this streetscape work, the funding of public art and other façade improvements, have changed perceptions about

the neighborhood and are helping to attract new energy and investment to the Edge.

MLK Jr. Avenue serves as a critical bike connection between Downtown and Midtown, and the proposed investment allows cars and bikes to better share an equally significant street for vehicular traffic.

This shared street maintains capacity while ensuring multi-modal access to Downtown. The proposed enhancements improve the bike paths and pedestrian connections along a significant spine Downtown while improving the experience for all users.

Staff is supportive of the proposed streetscaping design and believes that it will serve as a strategic reimagining of Dr. MLK Jr. Ave.

**Staff Recommendation:**     **Staff recommends approval.**