



**NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office**

***Lee Harris, Mayor***

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR'S OFFICE TEAMS UP WITH LOCAL MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES FOR THE RETURN OF FREE ADMISSION AND THE "901 STUDENT PASSPORT" PROGRAM**

*The expanded initiative runs through November 30, 2022 and features free museum admission for school-aged children, plus a new art-in-the-box program.*

**WHAT:** "901 Student Passport" Kick-Off Celebration  
**WHEN:** 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 26, 2022  
**WHERE:** Civic Center Plaza and the Vasco A. Smith, Jr. Administration Building, 160 North Main Street, Memphis, TN, 38103

**Shelby County, TN** – The "901 Student Passport" program kicks off this month, complete with nine historic sites and cultural institutions ready to provide **free admission** to Shelby County's school-aged children and their families. YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South has signed on to assist with distribution of the passports. Families may download a one-page passport by visiting [www.901StudentPassport.com](http://www.901StudentPassport.com). Additionally, this year's "901 Student Passport" program will include an art-in-the-box gift for families who sign up.

On Tuesday, July 26, at 10:00 a.m., Mayor Lee Harris will host a kick-off celebration on Civic Center Plaza and at the Vasco A. Smith, Jr. Administration Building at 160 North Main Street. The event will showcase exhibits from many of the participating institutions and includes passports and gifts for the young people in attendance.

The participating museums and galleries are the **Fire Museum of Memphis**, the **Museum of Science & History** (formerly the Pink Palace Museum), the **National Civil Rights Museum**,



**Memphis Rock ‘n’ Soul Museum, Lichterman Nature Center, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum, and the Metal Museum.** When visiting the museums, students must present their passports to receive a stamp for admission. Each student must be joined by a parent or guardian, who will receive free admission with their ID.

**Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris:** “Our community has been at the epicenter of some of the most pivotal moments in our nation’s history. It is a place where innovators are free to create. We’re the home of the blues and the birthplace of rock ‘n’ roll. Our Civil Rights-era roots inspired the activism we’re known for today. It’s imperative that our youth have access to these stories of resilience, endurance, innovation, and triumph. Through the ‘901 Student Passport,’ we’re making it easy and free for students to visit some of our community’s most important cultural institutions, learn more about this great community, and instill community pride.”

**Danielle Inez, Chief of Staff to Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris:** “It’s a privilege to explore a city, experience its attractions, and learn through exposure. I’m proud to work for an administration that values leveling the playing field in and outside of the classroom. The ‘901 Student Passport’ doesn’t care about a family’s ZIP code or income. Every school-age child in our county will have access and exposure to nine unique learning opportunities because of this program.”

**Elaine Lee Turner, director of Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum:** “We know that at our museum, visitors are exposed to a part of American and local history that won’t be taught in many classrooms. We teach about our country’s dark past and about the people who still found ways to triumph. There are so many worthy museums in our city. I am honored that ours was chosen to be part of the original ‘901 Student Passport’ program and I’m happy that Mayor Harris continues to keep this wonderful program alive.”

(End of Release)