



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CENTER ASSOCIATION

NAC Symposium 2026

Three days in Memphis on what it takes to build, sustain, and scale youth assessment centers.

DATES

October 19–21, 2026

VENUE

The Westin Memphis Beale Street

PROGRAM

4 plenaries • 10 breakouts • 3 tracks

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CO-HOST



Shelby County Youth & Family Resource Center

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What it takes to build one, and to keep it running.

Three days, one question. Assessment centers are easy to describe and hard to build — and harder still to sustain once the founding energy has gone. This program takes that problem seriously, with the Shelby County Youth & Family Resource Center as a working case study you can walk through, practitioners who have started centers from nothing, and the young people the work exists for in the room rather than on a slide.

Keep this booklet with you. It is the schedule in brief — every session, every room, every presenter. Full descriptions, biographies, and the Memphis guide are on the symposium website.

How the program works

- **Plenaries bring everyone together** in the Mississippi Ballroom. No choice to make.
- **Breakout blocks run concurrently.** Pick one and go — the room is printed with every session, and you are welcome to switch between blocks.
- **Three tracks** run through the breakouts. The coloured label on each session tells you which. You do not need to stay inside one track.
- **Arrival day is optional.** Nothing on Monday is required, including the coach.
- **Lunch is provided on Tuesday.** Wednesday is on your own — there is a walking guide at the back of this booklet.

Where things happen

Cumberland & Buffalo	2 sessions
Mississippi Ballroom	8 sessions
Mississippi Ballroom A	4 sessions
Mississippi Ballroom B	3 sessions
Mississippi Ballroom C	3 sessions
Mississippi Ballroom foyer	2 sessions
Mississippi Ballroom, Tennessee Ballroom, and Cumberland & Buffalo	2 sessions

All rooms are inside The Westin Memphis Beale Street, 170 Lt George W Lee Avenue.
Offsite locations are named with the session.

Three tracks, and one optional Monday.

The three tracks — and what runs in each

Peer to Peer

For Assessment Center staff and leaders to share experiences, address burnout, and learn from one another through practitioner-driven sessions.

Start Before You're Ready: Launching a Youth Assessment Center from Scratch

Tuesday · 1:00–2:30 PM

Leading Beyond Burnout

Wednesday · 1:00–2:15 PM

ACORN: Continuous Quality Improvement for Assessment Centers

Wednesday · 2:45–4:00 PM

The Various Applications of Trauma-Informed Care at Assessment Centers

Wednesday · 2:45–4:00 PM

Policy & Systems Change

Diversion strategies, probation transformation, state reform, and cross-system coordination to advance systemic change.

Probation Transformation Through Community-Led Innovation

Tuesday · 1:00–2:30 PM

Forward Thinking in Juvenile Diversion: Advancing the Role of Assessment Centers in Front-End System Transformation

Tuesday · 1:00–2:30 PM

The Design Challenge: A Framework for Multi-Stakeholder Innovation

Tuesday · 3:00–4:30 PM

Scaling Early Intervention Services for Youth — Part I: The Need and the Opportunity

Wednesday · 1:00–2:15 PM

Scaling Early Intervention Services for Youth — Part II: Lessons Learned from State Systems Reform

Wednesday · 2:45–4:00 PM

Youth & Family Engagement

Centering youth voice, family engagement, and community-centered approaches in Assessment Center design and practice.

Guided Site Tour — Youth Connect & the YFRC

Tuesday · 3:00–4:30 PM

The Design Challenge: A Framework for Multi-Stakeholder Innovation

Tuesday · 3:00–4:30 PM

Partners in Progress: A Conversation with Memphis's Mayor and Police Chief

Wednesday · 9:00–10:00 AM

Reimagining Your Assessment Center WITH Youth

Wednesday · 1:00–2:15 PM

The Various Applications of Trauma-Informed Care at Assessment Centers

Wednesday · 2:45–4:00 PM

BEFORE WE BEGIN — MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, OPTIONAL

3:00–5:00 PM

Visit to the National Civil Rights Museum

Informal welcome for early arrivals

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM — COACH DEPARTS FROM THE WESTIN

5:00 PM

Welcome Reception at Central BBQ Downtown

Heavy appetizers and networking

CENTRAL BBQ, DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS

Optional welcome events for attendees arriving ahead of the program. Nothing here is required.

Program at a glance

ARRIVAL DAY

Monday, October 19

3:00 PM – late

AFTERNOON & EVENING

3:00	Visit to the National Civil Rights Museum NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM
5:00 PM	Welcome Reception at Central BBQ Downtown CENTRAL BBQ, DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS

DAY 1

Tuesday, October 20

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

MORNING PLENARY PROGRAM

7:30	Registration & Breakfast
8:30	Opening Remarks MISS. BALLROOM
8:55	Welcome to Memphis and Shelby County MISS. BALLROOM
9:00	The Journey of the Shelby County YFRC & Youth Connect MISS. BALLROOM
9:30	Stakeholder Panel: Building, Using & Sustaining the YFRC MISS. BALLROOM
10:15	Refreshment Break & Networking
10:45	Neutral Ground: What You Already Have, and Who You Answer To MISS. BALLROOM
11:30 AM	Lunch Provided

BREAKOUT BLOCK 1

1:00	Start Before You're Ready: Launching a Youth Assessment Center from Scratch MISS. BALLROOM A
1:00	Probation Transformation Through Community-Led Innovation MISS. BALLROOM B
1:00	Forward Thinking in Juvenile Diversion: Advancing the Role of Assessment Centers in Front-End System Transformation MISS. BALLROOM C

BREAKOUT BLOCK 2 & SITE TOUR

3:00	Guided Site Tour — Youth Connect & the YFRC SHELBY COUNTY YFRC
3:00	The Design Challenge: A Framework for Multi-Stakeholder Innovation MISS. BALLROOM A

DAY 2

Wednesday, October 21

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

MORNING PROGRAM

7:30	Welcome & Networking Breakfast
8:30	Centers of Excellence Recognition MISS. BALLROOM
9:00	Partners in Progress: A Conversation with Memphis's Mayor and Police Chief MISS. BALLROOM
10:00	Refreshment Break
10:30	Cross-System Partnership Networking MISS. BALLROOM, TENNESSEE BALLROOM, AND CUMBERLAND & BUFFALO
11:30 AM	Lunch on Your Own

BREAKOUT BLOCK 3

1:00	Leading Beyond Burnout MISS. BALLROOM A
1:00	Scaling Early Intervention Services for Youth — Part I: The Need and the Opportunity MISS. BALLROOM B
1:00	Reimagining Your Assessment Center WITH Youth MISS. BALLROOM C

BREAKOUT BLOCK 4

2:45	ACORN: Continuous Quality Improvement for Assessment Centers MISS. BALLROOM A
2:45	The Various Applications of Trauma-Informed Care at Assessment Centers MISS. BALLROOM B
2:45	Scaling Early Intervention Services for Youth — Part II: Lessons Learned from State Systems Reform MISS. BALLROOM C

CLOSING

4:00	Reflection, Key Takeaways & Closing Remarks MISS. BALLROOM
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Rooms are shown for sessions that need them. Where three sessions share a start time they run concurrently — pick one. Full detail on the pages that follow.

Tuesday, October 20

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Building the Foundation – Showcasing the Shelby County Model

MORNING PLENARY PROGRAM

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 7:30 am
8:30 am | <div>○</div> Registration & Breakfast
Check in and collect your badge — the desk stays open past 8:30 for late arrivals
CUMBERLAND & BUFFALO |
| 8:30 am
8:55 am | <div>●</div> Opening Remarks
Joshua Campbell · Molli Cook · Karli Keator
Kickoff and welcome from NAC leadership.
MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM |
| 8:55 am
9:00 am | <div>●</div> Welcome to Memphis and Shelby County
Mickell Lowery
A welcome to the city and county hosting the 2026 Symposium.
MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM |
| 9:00 am
9:30 am | <div>●</div> The Journey of the Shelby County YFRC & Youth Connect
How the Shelby County Youth and Family Resource Center (YFRC) and Youth Connect were built and sustained as a cross-sector alternative to justice system involvement — the political will, interagency collaboration, funding structure, and stakeholder relationships that hold the model together.
MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM |
| 9:30 am
10:15 am | <div>●</div> Stakeholder Panel: Building, Using & Sustaining the YFRC
Tim McCuddy · Amy Kalb · Dr. Bernard Williams · Colonel Amstead · Cathy Emerson · Shaneika Smith
Partners from across the system talk about how they actually use the YFRC day to day — what it lets them do that was not possible before, and what it has taken to keep it running.
MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM |
| 10:15 am
10:45 am | <div>○</div> Refreshment Break & Networking
MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM FOYER |
| 10:45 am
11:30 am | <div>●</div> Neutral Ground: What You Already Have, and Who You Answer To
Molli Cook · Karli Keator
A working session on the two things every assessment centre has to get right early. The first is asset mapping: naming what already exists in your community — services, funding, relationships, buildings, goodwill — before deciding what to build, because most centres discover they have more to work with than they thought and...
MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM |
| 11:30 am
1:00 pm | <div>○</div> Lunch Provided
Lunch is provided today
MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM, TENNESSEE BALLROOM, AND CUMBERLAND & BUFFALO |

Tuesday afternoon

1:00 – 4:30 PM

BREAKOUT BLOCK 1 1:00–2:30 PM

1:00–2:30 PM

CHOOSE ONE OF 3

PEER TO PEER

**Start Before You're Ready:
Launching a Youth Assessment
Center from Scratch**Terrence Williams · Derrick Jackson · Lisa Gentz —
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Participants will walk away with a practical understanding of what it takes to move a Youth Assessment Center from concept to implementation in a real-world environment. This session is designed for leaders and practitioners navigating complexity across systems, not just exploring theory.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM A

POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

**Probation Transformation Through
Community-Led Innovation**Dr. Bernard Williams — Juvenile Court of Memphis
& Shelby County

The Alternative Disposition Program (ADP) was designed to prevent youth from deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system. The initiative fosters collaboration among system partners from the Shelby County District Attorney's Office, the Shelby County Public Defender's Office, and the Youth Justice Division.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM B

POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

**Forward Thinking in Juvenile
Diversion: Advancing the Role of
Assessment Centers in Front-End
System Transformation**Brittany Neal · Corey Shrieve — Ohio Department
of Youth Services

This session explores how Resource and Assessment Centers serve as a critical front door to effective juvenile diversion from formal court processing, advancing system transformation through early, developmentally appropriate interventions.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM C

BREAKOUT BLOCK 2 & SITE TOUR 3:00–4:30 PM

3:00–4:30 PM

CHOOSE ONE OF 2

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Guided Site Tour — Youth Connect & the YFRC

Dana, Cordell & the Youth Connect Team — Shelby County YFRC

See the Shelby County Youth and Family Resource Center and Youth Connect in operation, with a panel from the team that runs them day to day. A chance to walk the space, ask working questions, and see how the model described in the morning plenary actually functions.

SHELBY COUNTY YFRC — COACH DEPARTS FROM THE WESTIN

POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE + YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

**The Design Challenge: A Framework for Multi-
Stakeholder Innovation**

Adam Serlin — Independent Variable

In this interactive workshop, participants apply practical human-centered design and innovation tools to strengthen early-stage interventions in their own communities. Rather than jumping directly to designing solutions, the session focuses first on clearly defining the problems participants aim to solve, understanding the perspectives of key stakeholders and end users, and surfacing the assumptions that often go untested...

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM A

Wednesday, October 21

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Shared Power & Scaling – Partnership, Policy, and Sustaining the Work

MORNING PROGRAM

7:30 am
8:30 am

Welcome & Networking Breakfast

Check in and collect your badge

CUMBERLAND & BUFFALO

8:30 am
9:00 am

Centers of Excellence Recognition

Awards & recognition ceremony

Recognizing assessment centers and jurisdictions whose practice embodies the NAC framework.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM

9:00 am
10:00 am

Partners in Progress: A Conversation with Memphis's Mayor and Police Chief

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Dorcas Young Griffin · Paul Young · Cerelyn "CJ" Davis

City leadership and police leadership rarely sit down together in public to talk about youth diversion. This conversation puts Memphis's Mayor and its Police Chief on the same stage to describe what the partnership behind the Youth & Family Resource Center actually requires of each of them.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM

10:00 am
10:30 am

Refreshment Break

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM FOYER

10:30 am
11:30 am

Cross-System Partnership Networking

Mark Houck · Ronin Davis · Stephen Phillipi · Lisa Varon

Facilitated, sector-based conversations designed to build concrete partnerships rather than exchange business cards. Tables are organized by sector, each with a facilitator, and oriented around a shared question: what would it take to work together differently on the youth we both see?

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM, TENNESSEE BALLROOM, AND CUMBERLAND & BUFFALO

11:30 am
1:00 pm

Lunch on Your Own

Nearby restaurants — see the Memphis guide below

Wednesday afternoon

1:00 – 4:30 PM

BREAKOUT BLOCK 3 1:00–2:15 PM

1:00–2:15 PM CHOOSE ONE OF 3

PEER TO PEER

Leading Beyond Burnout

Meredith Velasquez — Juvenile Assessment Center, Centennial, Colorado

Assessment Centers operate at the intersection of crisis response, clinical complexity, systems collaboration, and community accountability. Leaders in these environments carry both operational and emotional weight — often without structured support for sustainability.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM A

POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

Scaling Early Intervention Services for Youth — Part I: The Need and the Opportunity

Josh Weber — CSG Justice Center

Youth-serving systems across the country are navigating increasingly complex challenges, including rising concerns around youth violence, behavioral health needs, substance use, and school disengagement. These challenges are compounded by limited resources, staffing shortages, fragmented service delivery, and a lack of coordination across systems.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM B

YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Reimagining Your Assessment Center WITH Youth

Mahal Burr — BRIDGES USA

Participants will learn about the youth voice ladder — a tool for measuring authentic youth engagement — and reflect on where youth voice currently sits within their own local assessment center.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM C

BREAKOUT BLOCK 4 2:45–4:00 PM

2:45–4:00 PM CHOOSE ONE OF 3

PEER TO PEER

ACORN: Continuous Quality Improvement for Assessment Centers

Jeff Kretschmar — Case Western Reserve University

A working session on the Assessment Center Outcome Reporting Network (ACORN) — what it does, how the system and dashboard function, and how to use it to run genuine continuous quality improvement rather than just reporting.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM A

PEER TO PEER + YOUTH & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Various Applications of Trauma-Informed Care at Assessment Centers

Lisa Varon · Dr. Meagan Corrado — City of Philadelphia

When Philadelphia began the process of starting an assessment center, the team decided early that creating a genuinely trauma-informed center required a consultant who could ensure its policies, procedures, and design carried those principles throughout. Dr.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM B

POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

Scaling Early Intervention Services for Youth — Part II: Lessons Learned from State Systems Reform

Josh Weber — CSG Justice Center

Building coordinated early intervention systems for youth requires more than strong ideas. It requires sustained leadership, cross-system alignment, and a clear implementation strategy. While many states and localities recognize the importance of early intervention, translating that vision into practice often presents significant challenges — fragmented decision-making, inconsistent resource allocation, competing agency...

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM C

CLOSING

4:00pm
4:30pm

● Reflection, Key Takeaways & Closing Remarks

Molli Cook · Karli Keator

The whole group comes back together to reflect on the three days, name key takeaways, celebrate the network's progress, and make concrete commitments to carry home.

MISSISSIPPI BALLROOM

Who you'll hear from

Karli Keator

LMSW, MPH — Executive Director
National Assessment Center Association

Molli Cook

Founder & Consultant
National Assessment Center Association

Dr. Bernard Williams

Chief Probation Officer & Youth Justice Administrator
Juvenile Court of Memphis & Shelby County

Mahal Burr

Senior Director, BRIDGES Youth Action Center
BRIDGES USA

Lisa Varon

Deputy Director, Juvenile Justice Initiatives, Division
of Criminal Justice; NAC Board Vice Chair
City of Philadelphia

Dr. Meagan Corrado

DSW, LCSW — Founder, Storiez Trauma Narratives;
Associate Professor
Storiez Trauma Narratives, LLC & West Chester
University

Josh Weber

Director, Juvenile Justice Program
CSG Justice Center

Jeff Kretschmar

Ph.D. — Research Associate Professor; Managing
Director, Begun Center for Violence Prevention
Research and Education
Case Western Reserve University

Brittany Neal

State Strategic Initiatives Administrator
Ohio Department of Youth Services

Corey Shrieve

Bureau Chief, Community Reinvestment
Ohio Department of Youth Services

Adam Serlin

Founder & Principal
Independent Variable

Meredith Velasquez

LCSW, LAC — Community Assessment Program
Director; NAC Board Member
Juvenile Assessment Center, Centennial, Colorado

Derrick Jackson

Racial Equity Officer
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Lisa Gentz

LCSW — Program Administrator
Washtenaw County Community Mental Health

Mickell Lowery

Shelby County Mayor
Shelby County Government

Paul Young

Mayor of Memphis
City of Memphis

Cerelyn “CJ” Davis

Chief of Police
Memphis Police Department

Tim McCuddy

Moderator, Day 1 Stakeholder Panel

Terrence Williams

Assistant to Administrator
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Amy Kalb

Executive Director
Shelby County Youth & Family Resource Center

Colonel Amstead

Law Enforcement
Shelby County

Cathy Emerson

Braid — Funding Partners, Youth Connect
Braid

Shaneika Smith

Braid — Funding Partners, Youth Connect
Braid

Dorcas Young Griffin

NAC Board Member; Moderator, Day 2 Opening
Plenary
Shelby County Youth & Family Resource Center / Shelby
County Community Services

Joshua Campbell

Assistant Director; NAC Board Chair
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, Office of Juvenile Justice
Services

Mark Houck

Program Officer, Stoneleigh Foundation; NAC Board
Member
Stoneleigh Foundation

Ronin Davis

NAC Board Secretary; Consultant

Stephen Phillipi

Facilitator — Child Welfare table, Cross-System
Partnership Networking

Biographies are on the symposium website. Presenters and sessions are subject to change.

Where to eat

Memphis Tourism Savings Pass — free to use, with discounts at participating restaurants and attractions including Graceland and the Stax Museum. memphistravel.com/savings-pass

UNDER 5 MINUTES — ON BEALE, OUT THE FRONT DOOR

The Pig on Beale \$ L

Casual barbecue — pulled pork, ribs, nachos

The fastest and cheapest of the Beale barbecue options. Counter service.

Dyer's Burgers \$ L

Deep-fried burgers

Cooked in century-old grease, which is genuinely the selling point. Quick, cheap, only-in-Memphis.

King's Palace Café \$\$ L D

Creole and Cajun — gumbo, jambalaya, po'boys

The most relaxed room on Beale and the easiest place to have an actual conversation.

5 TO 10 MINUTES

Peabody Deli & Desserts \$ L

Counter-service sandwiches, salads, pastries

The fastest real lunch in this radius, and you can time it with the 11 AM duck march.

Huey's Downtown \$\$ L D

Burgers — a Memphis staple since 1970

Reliably quick and casual. The safest choice when everyone in the group wants something different.

Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous \$\$ L D !

Charcoal-broiled dry-rub ribs

The Memphis barbecue institution, down an alley off 2nd. Closed Sunday and Monday; no reservations for small parties, so lunch beats the dinner wait.

The Majestic Grille \$\$ L D V

American bistro in a 1913 silent-movie theater

Full lunch menu, reservations via Resy, and clearly marked vegetarian and gluten-free options. The best all-purpose pick downtown.

Aldo's Pizza Pies \$\$ L D V

Pizza by the pie and the slice, craft beer

Slices make it lunch-viable, a full pie makes it dinner. Several meatless pizzas plus build-your-own.

10 TO 15 MINUTES

Central BBQ (Downtown) \$\$ L

Slow-smoked ribs, pulled pork, smoked wings

Many locals' favourite barbecue, counter service with plenty of seating — the institution that actually fits a lunch break. Two blocks from the Civil Rights Museum, so pair them.

Blues City Cafe \$\$ D

Ribs, catfish, tamales, steaks

A Beale institution with live blues next door. Takes reservations, which is rare on this street.

Itta Bena \$\$\$ D

Upscale Southern, above B.B. King's

Hidden entrance and a quiet, dim room directly above the loudest block in Memphis. Reserve ahead.

Kooky Canuck \$\$ L D

Big burgers and pub food

Large and loud — it can absorb a big group without a reservation.

Capriccio Grill \$\$\$ D

Italian steakhouse inside The Peabody

Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. The most dependable good dinner that needs no planning.

Catherine & Mary's \$\$\$ D !

Tuscan and Sicilian, house-made pasta

Dinner only from 4:30 PM. A genuine non-barbecue splurge close to the hotel; reservations recommended.

Flight Restaurant & Wine Bar \$\$\$ D !

Fine dining built around tasting flights

Dinner only from 4:30 PM and the most-requested nice dinner downtown. Book well ahead; reservations required for six or more.

Belle Tavern \$\$ D !

Whiskey bar with upscale bar food

A hidden alley bar that opens at 4 PM, closed Sunday and Monday. Better for a small group after sessions than a full meal.

Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken \$\$ L D

Spicy-crisp fried chicken

No reservations and it fills up. Go at 11:30 rather than 12:15 if you are on the clock.

The Arcade Restaurant \$-\$\$ L V !

Memphis's oldest café (1919) — all-day breakfast, Southern plates

Open 7 AM–3 PM only, so breakfast or lunch, never dinner. The vegetable plate is any four daily sides.

L quick lunch D dinner V vegetarian options ! check days and hours \$ under \$15 · \$\$ \$15–30 · \$\$\$ \$30+

Things to do

Unusually walkable from Beale Street. If you do one thing, do the National Civil Rights Museum.

21
OCT

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER · DAY 2 EVENING

Grizzlies vs Utah Jazz

The Grizzlies host the Utah Jazz at FedExForum on the evening of Day 2 — five minutes from the hotel, and about two hours after the symposium closes. The obvious way to spend a last evening with the people you have spent three days with.

One night only, and it sells — book before you travel.

5 MIN WALK · TIP-OFF 7:00 PM · TICKETS FROM ~\$25

OPTIONAL SYMPOSIUM VISIT

National Civil Rights Museum

10–12 MIN WALK · 1.5–2 HOURS · ~\$25 ADULT

Built around the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was assassinated, tracing five centuries of history and ending at the preserved balcony and Room 306. The most important thing to do in Memphis.

Closed Tuesdays. The symposium includes an optional visit on Arrival Day — if you are joining it, do not buy separate tickets.

Beale Street

UNDER 5 MIN WALK · 1–3 HOURS · FREE TO WALK

Three blocks of blues clubs, neon, buskers and barbecue, one block from the hotel. Best after dark, when the street closes to cars and every doorway has live music.

Individual clubs may charge a cover.

Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum

2–3 MIN WALK · ABOUT 1–1.5 HOURS · ~\$16 ADULT

A Smithsonian-developed history of Memphis music, from rural field hollers through Sun and Stax, with a self-guided audio tour. The closest museum to the hotel by a wide margin — it is in the FedExForum plaza.

Open daily 10 AM–5 PM.

The Peabody Duck March

5–7 MIN WALK · 15 MINUTES · FREE TO WATCH

Five mallards ride the elevator down to the lobby fountain each morning and back up each afternoon, on a red carpet, to a Sousa march. Absurd, brief, and genuinely charming.

11 AM and 5 PM daily — arrive 30 minutes early, the lobby packs out.

Blues Hall of Fame Museum

ABOUT 10 MIN WALK · 1–1.5 HOURS · ~\$15 ADULT

Ten galleries of Blues Foundation inductees with listening stations, guitars, costumes and rare album art. Much deeper on the music than Rock 'n' Soul, and rarely crowded.

Closed Sunday and Monday. Open Tue–Sat 10 AM–5 PM.

Tom Lee Park & the riverfront

ABOUT 12 MIN WALK · 30–90 MINUTES · FREE

A rebuilt 30-acre riverfront park with sculpture, open lawns and big Mississippi sunsets, connected to a five-mile river trail. The best free hour downtown and an easy walk after sessions.

There is active construction along parts of the riverfront.

Old Dominick Distillery

ABOUT 10 MIN WALK · ABOUT 1 HOUR · ~\$15 TOUR & TASTING

A revived pre-Prohibition Memphis whiskey brand with a working downtown distillery, a tour and a tasting.

Book ahead through their site.

Orpheum Theatre

ABOUT 8 MIN WALK · 2–3 HOURS · VARIES BY SHOW

A restored 1928 movie palace hosting Broadway tours, concerts and comedy. Worth checking the calendar for an evening that beats another night on Beale.

Mud Island River Walk

ABOUT 20 MIN WALK · ABOUT 1 HOUR · PARK IS FREE

An island park whose centerpiece is a half-mile scale model of the lower Mississippi you can walk end to end, plus the 50-foot MEMPHIS sign and the marina.

The former river museum and monorail no longer appear among the park's attractions — go for the River Walk and the views.

Sun Studio

1.4 MI — TAKE A RIDE · ABOUT 1.5 HOURS · ~\$20 ADULT

The room where Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison and B.B. King recorded, with a guide walking you across the original studio floor. Short, funny, and worth it even if you are not an Elvis person.

Tours hourly 10:30 AM–4:30 PM, no reservations. Avoid the 12:30 and 1:30 crush.

Stax Museum of American Soul Music

3 MI — CAR OR RIDESHARE · 1.5–2 HOURS PLUS TRAVEL · ~\$20 ADULT

Built on the original Stax Records site — Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Booker T. & the M.G.'s, and Hayes's gold-trimmed Cadillac. Many people rate it above Rock 'n' Soul.

Closed Mondays. Last admission 4 PM. Discounted with the Memphis Tourism savings pass.

Graceland

9 MI — NOT WALKABLE · 3–4 HOURS WITH TRAVEL · ~\$85 MANSION TOUR

Elvis's mansion plus a large complex of car, costume and airplane exhibits across the street. A half-day commitment rather than a side trip.

A cheaper exhibits-only ticket does not include the mansion. Discounted with the Memphis Tourism savings pass.

Opening hours and closed days are noted with each entry. Admission prices are approximate and worth checking before you go.



The National Assessment Center Association

NAC exists so that no community has to invent the assessment center model from scratch. We connect the people doing this work, hold the standards it is measured against, and make what one center learns available to every other.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

CO-HOST



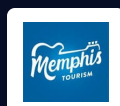
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