

# EVENT REPORT

*Let's stay together, Memphis*



Relationship Therapy for the City and its Citizens







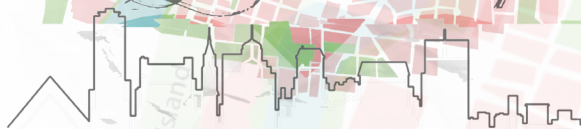
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# Let's stay together, Memphis

## Let's stay together, Memphis



Relationship Therapy for the City and its Citizens

This report provides an overview, analysis, and a summary of findings from the *Let's Stay Together, Memphis* – Relationship Therapy for the City and its Citizens event hosted by the University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC) on March 21, 2015.

The report is designed to complement two corresponding graphic and interactive representations of the event — an “infographic” summary and an interactive digital map — both of which can be found at <http://www.memphis.edu/planning/umdc/index.php>.



## What is the UMDC?

The University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC) is a new joint venture between the Division of City & Regional Planning and the Department of Architecture. The Design Collaborative will be an outreach arm of the University, focused on critical community challenges in urban design and community development. The Design Collaborative developed from a partnership between the University of Memphis and the Memphis Regional Design Center.

Through its interdisciplinary strengths, the Design Collaborative will connect building and site design to community improvement in a comprehensive way, supported by the kind of collaboration that a university setting can facilitate.

## What is Relationship Therapy?

The bottom line is that we're all in a long-term relationship with the city that we live in. The UMDC desires to make the relationship between citizens and the city (as a physical, social, and economic entity) work better! A real relationship is deeper than just the good things. Whether times are good or bad happy or sad... a real relationship requires communication, understanding, and a desire and willingness to work through the difficult issues. As the ‘therapist’ the UMDC wants to help develop projects and plans that will help our city be more responsive to the needs and preferences of its citizens.

To get there, we need to understand the perspectives of the citizens. This ‘therapy’ is not just about the UMDC providing solutions — it's also about asking the right questions - to know what citizens love, what frustrates them, and where they see the relationship going. Answers to these questions contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of Memphis' assets and liabilities and relate to a common comprehensive vision for its future.

## About “Let's Stay Together, Memphis”

To lay the groundwork for setting its agenda, the University of Memphis Design Collaborative hosted a kickoff event on Saturday March 21st at historic Central Station's Hudson Hall in the South Main Arts District of downtown Memphis. This event was open to the public from 11 am to 4 pm. Methods of outreach for the event included email and telephone communication with neighborhood associations and UMDC partner organizations; in-person visits to neighboring businesses around the South Main Arts District; and advertising through print and electronic media including press coverage in the Commercial Appeal, Memphis Flyer, Memphis Daily News, High Ground News, I Love Memphis Blog, on Pandora Radio, a Facebook event page, and through Twitter. Physical event posters and flyers for the event were also distributed throughout several Memphis neighborhoods.



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To create a bigger draw— and to highlight our local assets — participants at the free event were treated to musical entertainment by the Stax Music Academy alumni band and The Passport, a group composed of students and alumni of Visible Music College. Great local food was provided by the Fuel, and Food Geek food trucks.

The itinerary of activities held as a part of the “Let’s Stay Together, Memphis” event followed the “relationship therapy” model throughout its five hour duration with the Design Collaborative acting as the “therapist.” The day started with an open house session from 11 am to 1 pm, during which attendees participated in three linked activities:

- writing “tough love” letters to the city
- interactive community mapping
- responding to “relationship therapy” question boards posted throughout the event space

“Tough love letters” were written using a template designed to help citizens express what they love about Memphis, what has to change (*baby, I can change*), and where they see the relationship going. (The letter template can be found in the appendix.)

Participants were also encouraged to map their responses in geographic space using color coded stickers on an 8’ x 8’ map of the city of Memphis. Green stickers corresponded to things that attendees loved about Memphis; red to things that cause frustration; and yellow to things that they wanted to see in Memphis’ future. On a separate map, participants indicated their

place of residence with a blue sticker to help determine the extent of representation at the event.

Throughout this open house session participants also had an opportunity to circulate throughout the event space and answer seven “relationship therapy” questions posed on boards mounted to the grand columns of Hudson Hall.

The afternoon session of “Let’s Stay Together, Memphis,” lasted from 2-4 pm and focused on facilitated conversations around the “sticky issues” of the city-citizen relationship. The topics of these three roundtable discussions were transportation, public investment, and neighborhood revitalization/placemaking.

In total by the end of the day, 140 people attended the University of Memphis Design Collaborative’s Let’s Stay Together, Memphis. An additional fifty-two people submitted “tough love” letters online, allowing the Collaborative to collect valuable data from a diverse constituency of respondents while restarting the civic conversation in a way that was enjoyable for the public to participate in. These respondents represented neighborhoods from nineteen Memphis zip codes, a statistic which testifies to the outreach effort by the UMDC team to promote the event.

## Summary of Responses from Love Letters and Maps

### Love Letters

The following is a brief summary of the “tough love” letters collected on March 21st and from online submission.

Among other information, the template letter to the city asked citizens to express their thoughts with the following fill-in-the-blank prompts:

- ***“...I think we might still have something. You’ve got some good qualities. There are things I love about you that you need to know. It’s like that poem. How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love...”***





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- *"But, baby, there are some things about you that I just don't understand. I said it before and I'll say it again—I need you to change. Because here's the thing, if you love me, you'll want to change. You'll want to be better for me. Let me tell you what frustrates me about you—what makes me feel unappreciated, disrespected or unloved..."*
- *"At the end of the day, I believe in us. I believe in our future. You know what I see when I think about where we are going to be in ten years? I see..."*

The responses were analyzed by UMDC staff and grouped into categories in order to understand the attributes of the city of Memphis which concerned citizens the most, either positively or negatively. The actual responses for each of these three categories are included (anonymously) in the appendix to this report.

The things that residents **LOVE** about Memphis represent both tangible and intangible resources. The most loved attributes include (in descending order):

- Authenticity/Character
- Music
- Food
- Natural Resources/Public Space Amenities
- An attitude of Civic Aspiration
- Spectator Arts Culture
- Transportation system
- A physical Sense of Place
- Diversity, sports
- Affordability
- Neighborhoods
- Small or Local Businesses
- Architecture

- Healthcare
- Schools/Education System
- Specific Community Organizations
- Participatory Arts Culture

Perhaps most surprising from the responses generated by this survey is that **authenticity and character** ranked number one above all other attributes mentioned by respondents. In a city like Memphis, which has long struggled with an inferiority complex related to economic and social issues, understanding that citizens see the Memphis' ability to persevere in the face of complex problems as a positive quality is very illuminating. Participant comments in this category included:

- "No city matches your vibes!"<sup>1-40</sup>
- "The realness of Memphis"
- "The authenticity of the people. You don't need to be somebody to get an idea off the ground"

Mentioned often was a term made famous by the Memphis Grizzlies — **"grit and grind."** The team's branding efforts around the phrase seem to have struck a chord with residents, and to some extent, embody a common sentiment worthy of further exploration.

The notion of character as a positive quality is further reinforced by the **attitude of civic aspiration** which is tied for fourth place in terms of the number of responses. Overall, the fact that character was cited more frequently than Memphis' well known amenities like the quality of its food and music also speaks to the difference in perspective between residents and visitors whose needs reflect more than immediate desires. Responses in this category reflect a "can do" attitude and future potential.





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- “The way you make me believe I can do anything and that nothing’s beyond my reach. The countless opportunities that you offer me at every phase of my life.”
- “Raw native creative talent ---You should see some of the structures folks with “no training” have made...”
- “The potential of Memphis to be a great city if all people were given the opportunity to reach their full potential”
- “The way you are trying to better yourself. The potential that this city has”

The things that **FRUSTRATE** Memphis residents about their city, again, represent tangible and intangible qualities which often fall into similar or corresponding categories to what they loved about the city. In descending order, the things that frustrate Memphians - that make them feel unappreciated, disrespected or unloved are:

- Political leadership and public investments
- Economy and poverty
- Transportation system
- Race and/or class conflict
- Education/schools system
- Public safety concerns
- A “Defeatist Attitude”
- Blight
- Neighborhoods
- History and Cultural Heritage
- Small businesses
- Healthcare
- Sports

The responses about what frustrates citizens most about their city quantify the problematic perception of Memphis’ civic **governance** as being

controlled by an opaque and monolithic bureaucracy that is unresponsive to the needs of average citizens who don’t possess political influence outside their own vote. This category also includes **public investments**, and responses make clear a concern about the perceived economic strategy of big-ticket development leveraged with public expenditures and multi-year tax abatements.

Also of interest in the “I’m frustrated” list are the transportation system at number three and a “defeatist attitude” at number seven. The **transportation** system appeared in the “love” list as well, for reasons such as relatively low automobile congestion, the vintage trolley system and especially for recent bicycle infrastructure improvements. In contrast, citizens are frustrated with the lack of broad investment in public transit and the quality of sidewalks, among other responses.

The “**defeatist attitude**” of the city provides a contrasting perspective with the emerging “grit and grind” culture, painting a picture that not everyone may have confidence in the ongoing rebirth of the city.

When people were asked to describe where they saw Memphis in ten years, the overwhelming number of respondents believed that the city would be improved from where it stands today. Rather than assign these responses to specific categories, we simply divided them into positive, negative or mixed views of the future. It should be noted that this simplified method slightly





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obscures the fact that many respondents described a positive outlook for the city's future based upon some sort of contingency. Typically, this meant that Memphis would find itself on a better path given our ability to solve "x" (e.g. clean up blight, densify, improve governance, etc.). Overall, using this method, 87 percent of respondents believed the city could be improved in ten years. Only 10 percent believed we would be worse off than today, and 3 percent saw a mixed picture. This positive outlook again reinforces the attitude of civic aspiration that was defined in the "love" responses.

## Maps

An interactive digital map showing the results of this activity is available at <http://www.memphis.edu/planning/umdc/index.php>.

The mapped "love" responses concentrated heavily on Midtown amenities such as Overton Park, Overton Square or the Cooper-Young neighborhood as well as downtown's many tourism features. Respondent's also marked several green stickers at Shelby Farms Park, making clear note of their love of the city's green spaces. The clearest message from the mapped "dislike" responses seem to focus on matters related to automobile travel, congestions and road improvements. These red stickers were most heavily concentrated at points of I-240 road construction, and inside the bypass along Poplar Avenue. The things that people wanted to "see" in Memphis' future followed similar trends to what was described in the other two

categories. These yellow stickers were concentrated downtown, along Poplar Avenue between Midtown and East Memphis, and at Shelby Farms Park. A smattering of yellow stickers were placed in the Frayser, Raleigh, and South Memphis neighborhoods, presumably indicating people's hopes for improvements in those underserved neighborhoods.



## Summary of Relationship Therapy Questions

Participants provided feedback on the "relationship therapy" question boards posted around Hudson Hall during the event. The questions were:

1. "What is the most important area in Memphis to redevelop?"
2. "What is the most important category for us to invest our money in?"
3. "What is the first thing you look for out the airplane window when flying into (or out of) Memphis?"
4. "The City 'Hall Pass': If you could 'cheat' on Memphis with one city, which would it be and why?"
5. "Time Capsule: What would you put in a 100-year time capsule to best represent Memphis? (tangible or intangible)"
6. "If you could save one building in Memphis to last for all eternity, which would it be?"
7. "What is your most dreaded trip in Memphis?"

The appendix contains full detail of the responses written in on the "therapy boards."

### ***"What is the most important area in Memphis to redevelop?"***

Downtown Memphis was ranked first on this list, which isn't terribly surprising given that it is the "face" of our city. Other highly ranked responses provide a window into citizens' present fiscal concerns. The Fairgrounds garnered the second highest response, followed by "low-income/poor neighborhoods."

### ***"What is the most important category for us to invest our money in?"***

Two responses overwhelmingly topped this list: schools/education and transit. Area schools have garnered even greater attention than normal in recent years following the thwarted merger between city and suburban schools. Public transit — one of the topics discussed in the "sticky issues" conversations — emerged as a common and important concern throughout several of the day's activities. A greater discussion of transportation related issues is included in the "sticky issues" conversations which follows this section.



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***“What is the first thing you look for out the airplane window when flying into (or out of) Memphis?”***

The mighty Mississippi River was the focus of people’s gaze as they looked down upon their city from an airplane window. The recently redeveloped Pyramid came in at number three on this list.

***“The City ‘Hall Pass’: If you could ‘cheat’ on Memphis with one city, which would it be and why?”***

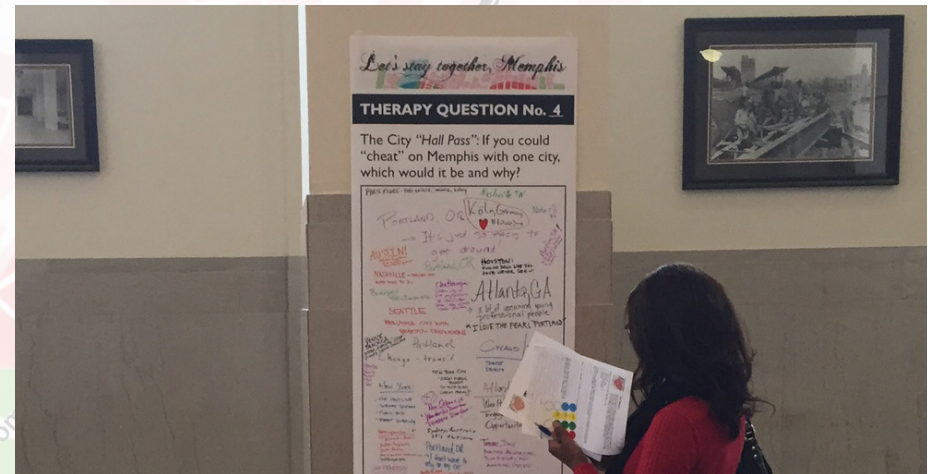
Surprisingly, the top answer to this question was not a big metropolis like New York or a poster child for urban planning like Portland. It’s a place that has a lot of similarities to Memphis in terms of demographic diversity, economic challenges, and cultural authenticity (grit?): New Orleans. In the space provided to respondents for listing reasons why, “wonderful downtown, developed riverfront, streetcar, culture and food,” were mentioned as the things that they most admired about the Crescent City. This response could indicate the greater exposure to this city than those located outside the south which followed on the list.

***“Time Capsule: What would you put in a 100-year time capsule to best represent Memphis? (tangible or intangible)”***

Participants indicated that city’s iconic blues sound; historically created by African-American musicians playing on Beale Street (#2, by the way), belonged in the city’s 100 year time capsule. Second place was in fact a six way tie between Beale Street, the Civil Rights Museum, the “attitude and passion” of the Memphis Grizzlies (the “grit”), STAX, Overton Park and the Memphis Zoo.

***“If you could save one building in Memphis to last for all eternity, which would it be?”***

The first and third responses to this question show an appreciation for Memphis’ architectural history and demonstrate its recent interest in the development practice of adaptive reuse. The Sears Crosstown building; which is in the process of seeing new life as a “vertical-urban village,” came in at number one. Number three is the currently vacant, but still architecturally majestic Sterick Building, which was the tallest building in the South when it opened in 1930. Redevelopment efforts at Sears Crosstown,



the Tennessee Brewery and other long dormant buildings in Memphis have caused residents to see the city’s vacant historic structures through a new light.

***“What is your most dreaded trip in Memphis?”***

As indicated by the mapping activity, Memphians’ most dread trip is along the congested thoroughfare of Poplar Avenue. Similarly congested Union Avenue came in at number two. The city has begun addressing congestion on some of its busiest streets through the creation of bicycle lanes to promote multi-modal transportation options.

## Summary of “Sticky Issues” Conversations

The afternoon session of “Let’s Stay Together, Memphis” focused on facilitated conversations around the “sticky issues” of the city-citizen relationship. The topics of these three roundtable discussions were transportation, public investment, and neighborhood revitalization/placemaking. Participants were divided into three groups and given thirty minutes to complete and discuss an activity related to those topics, after which they would rotate to a different topic. At the end of the activity rotations, findings from each group were presented by facilitators in a collective discussion session that concluded the event.



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## Transportation

The transportation activity asked guests to “travel a mile in another person’s shoes.” Participants were given a hypothetical set of daily trips (getting to work, child care, errands etc.) with specific origins and destinations – and asked to figure out how to make those trips without a car. For example, a trip might start from a home in a Frayser neighborhood and end at a job at warehouse in southeast Memphis with a stop at a daycare along the way. Participants were provided with timetables for each MATA transit route, an overall system map, and encouraged to use smartphones to access trip planning tools like Google Maps in service of completing their objective. Those with a smartphone were also asked to compare the amount of time it took to make their journey by transit versus automobile in order to understand the time difference between these primary modes of travel. Volunteers from the Memphis Bus Riders Union also served as a resource.

Participants, many of whom had never used MATA, came to realize that reliance on public transit in Memphis often means starting your commute two or three hours earlier than when travelling by car – and that some destinations are simply impossible to reach at certain times of day. Through discussion participants saw the transit problem as a combination of inefficient land use (sprawl and a city too geographically large), a lack of density (of potential riders or destinations), and the type of jobs prevalent in our economy (warehouse-based logistics jobs which require large amounts of land and rely on off-peak shift times).

## Public Investment

The second “sticky issue” discussed was public investments. This activity made a parallel analogy between the instruments used in personal finance and in city expenditures for civic improvements. In the same way that individuals either draw directly from their bank account (debit cards, checks, cash) or borrow money (typically using a credit card), a city makes similar choices when it draws from either its operating budget (revenue) or from its CIP budget (debt). The debt is for things that we can’t afford to pay for all at once, but that we think will be worth the investment in the long run.

Participants first engaged in an exercise to determine whether it was possible to understand the city’s “credit card bill.” Using a list provided by

the facilitator of bond-funded projects from the last ten years, the goal was to figure out what these projects were, and where they were occurring. The facilitator asked questions like, “Did you know we spent \$x million on \_\_\_\_\_?” and prompted the group can identify on a map where some of the spending has happened. For example: “Project ST03114, “TRENCHLESS REHAB FY09” was a \$6.3 million expense. What/where is that?” This was a quick discussion as participants quickly found that trying to understand where we’ve spent our money is an exercise in futility. There is no transparency and it’s too complicated.

In the second part of the public investment activity, participants were asked to start with a hypothetical blank slate, and to consider that – as partners in the relationship – they had some money to spare from their monthly income. The facilitator asked, “If we want to invest that money in long-term purchases, how we would prioritize spending? Let’s say we have \$100 to invest. How would you spread it around?” Examples categories were provided, including: schools/education, roads/infrastructure, transit, downtown/tourism, neighborhoods, affordable housing, green space/parks, public safety, job development, or other (fill in the blank). The purpose of this portion of the exercise was to compare what the public saw as priorities for the use of its tax dollars versus what this money is actually going towards. In general, participants funding preferences were revealed as (in descending order):





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- Transit
- Schools/Education
- Job Development
- Neighborhoods

There was also intent in the activity to contrast the way Memphis spends public money with the model of participatory budgeting that has been successfully introduced in several cities in America and many more worldwide. Participatory budgeting allows citizens to directly decide how a portion of the city's budget is spent, thereby making the process as a whole much more democratic.

## Neighborhood Revitalization/Placemaking

The third and final “sticky issue” conversation involved a discussion of neighborhood revitalization and placemaking. To examine these interrelated topics, facilitators split participants into two groups who held simultaneous conversations on separate questions. Group A was asked to consider the following questions: “What neighborhoods or places in Memphis do you think have been “revitalized?” Why? — What are the characteristics of those places?” Meanwhile, Group B was asked a more general question: “What are the characteristics of a ‘healthy neighborhood’?”

The two groups were then merged and the facilitators helped them consider whether the “characteristics of Memphis’ revitalized places” match the “characteristics of healthy neighborhoods” when developed from blank slate. The discussion revealed something of a disconnect. Many of the “revitalized” places were somewhat one-dimensionally revitalized – either by temporary design interventions [tactical urbanism-style placemaking], or by a single building, or by the existence of new retail amenities — but those who answer the question about “healthy neighborhoods” developed a list that was more holistic (including things like good schools, walkability, access to parks or greenspace, etc.).

The discussion led participants to an understanding that if we are thinking comprehensively, that placemaking alone is not revitalization. It is a part (the public space/physical part) of neighborhood revitalization. Follow-up activities might consider the places from the “Memphis revitalized” list

and what it would take to get them all the way to the ideal of a “healthy neighborhood.”

## Emerging Themes from “Let’s Stay Together, Memphis”

Overall, the data collected during the course of “Let’s Stay Together, Memphis” provides some clear themes that would be worth further investigation. True to the focus of the afternoon “sticky issue” conversations, the topics of political leadership, public investments, transportation and neighborhood quality were revealed as being among the most pressing issues among event participants. The spirited discussions that arose in each of the three afternoon roundtables showed that people were ready to engage in serious discussions about these issues which tend to have a ripple effect on even broader issues like the local economy as a whole, and the faith or trust that we have in our institutions.

The topics cited above then represent some of the largest impediments standing in the way to the full realization of hope for Memphis’ future that has been slowly germinating among its populace for some time now. The following clearly emerged as topics to address:

- Improvements in the transparency and response of our civic institutions to the demands of citizens,
- Reorienting the focus of our economic development to enhance neighborhood quality,
- Improvement to transportation options

Finally, it seems from the love letter and question board responses collected at this event, that residents connect with the notion of “grit” as a unique asset of Memphis. But this a term that needs to be unpacked through future dialogue in order to understand its meaning. If, in fact, “grit” reflects some combination of *beauty in imperfection* and *hard work in the face of adversity*, then perhaps it is a indicator of the potential civic ambition that will be required to push a comprehensive vision for Memphis toward reality.



# Appendix

## I. Love Letter Template



Dear Memphis,

We need to talk—about us, about our relationship, about where we're headed. There's so much to love about you—the songs you sing, the way you cook, and those beautiful spring afternoons. But I'm not sure those things are enough. There is so much potential for us, but there are some things we need to address to make this work.

When we started our lives together I was

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Just a kid              | d. Coming back home |
| b. Starting college        | e. Retiring         |
| c. Just starting a new job | f. _____            |

It's been \_\_\_\_ years now. Can you believe it? I know it's hard to remember how we felt about each other at the beginning, but try. There's so much energy and potential and excitement at the start of a relationship. I was immediately attracted to your:

Baby, I never thought I'd say this, but if we can't make this work, I'm really going to miss

We really had something then. And I think we might still have something. You've got some good qualities. There are things I love about you that you need to know. It's like that poem. How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

I love:

1)

2)

3)



But, baby, there are some things about you that I just don't understand. I said it before and I'll say it again—I need you to change. Because here's the thing, if you love me, you'll want to change. You'll want to be better for me. Let me tell you what frustrates me about you—what makes me feel unappreciated, disrespected or unloved:

1)

2)

3)



At the end of the day, I believe in us. I believe in our future. You know what I see when I think about where we are going to be in ten years?

In ten years I want to see:

1)

2)

3)



I know we can do this. I know you can change. Because at the end of the day, it's always been you.

Let's stay together, Memphis.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_



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## II. LOVE

**Authenticity, Character**, Responses: 46

### REASONS:

ONLINE 1 "the authenticity of the city"

ONLINE 18 "Your authenticity"

ONLINE 21 "the genuineness (unlike Atlanta)"

ONLINE 40 "the realness of Memphis"

ONLINE 4 "that you're a giving, caring place. that you're a prideful underdog. That you have more soul than most of the cities on the planet. "

ONLINE 6 "your down-to-earth charm. Your fierce individuality. Your soulful creative streak ".

ONLINE 7 "the way you're so real with us. The way you remain unaffected by the glamour while rewarding the genuine. How you never stop dreaming. How, when it feels dark outside, maybe you'll hide it, but you still yearn for a better tomorrow plan for the future and do what you can to make that happen. "

ONLINE 28 "that you are different from other cities"

N5 "the soul. No city matches your vibes!"

N77 "the small town feel but with big town amenities"

N80 "the changes I've seen over all the years - some good, some bad"

N112 "everything about you!"

N113 "Everything in Memphis"

ONLINE 1 "the authenticity of the people. that you don't need to be somebody to get an idea off the ground"

ONLINE 7 "Your aware of your voice and what you want to do with it."

ONLINE 13 "that we are multi-cultural, multi-ethnic. We are no longer just Black and White. That we are a caring community. People take care of one another. our growing and thriving "brain community" St Jude, BioTech Center, U of M, Teaching Innovations, etc."

ONLINE 15 "The nonprofit sector (generosity of people). The soulful commitment of the people who stay here to make the city better"

ONLINE 18 "Your grit and grind"

ONLINE 19 "Friendly southern people"

ONLINE 43 "the happy and comforting people"

ONLINE 44 "my neighbors"

ONLINE 49 "generous, caring citizens. Our recent ability to save parts of our history for good uses (TN Brewery, Overton Square). The hard-core pride in going against the grain and figuring out what works for US instead of going along with trends."

N5 "The Grit. The committed people. I love that we are the underdog - it attracts attention + is in my opinion an asset."

N7 "Friendliness and caring of Memphians."

N21 "There is a sense of pride from the people of Memphis"

N22 "Grit - authentic"

N37 "The chillness and humble attitude"

N46 "Our big heart"

N72 "people/community. Humanity."

N80 "The memories of the people"

N87 "Great people"

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N96 "The people. The honesty"

N114 "People speak their minds and sing praise and keep on pushing - trying to provide the best things for their kids. Good people in the city want good things to happen"

NO NUMBER1 "Family. Open & friendly community. Large black community".

NONUMBER2 "Smiling faces"

NONUMBER3 "Friendly people"

N79 "The spirit of the people. the artists. the activists. the entrepreneurs."

N44 "The accepting community which is more concerned with who you are rather than what you look like. The number of grassroots organizers aimed at bettering the city from within"

N23 "People. Hospitality. Community involvement."

N111 "Family atmosphere. Southern charm"

N40 "Distinct cohesive cultures and bridge building successes among these cultures. Increasing (albiet slow) pace of improved respect & relationships"

N42 "The way people help each other out. Non-profits for days"

N54 "the energy of your culture"

ONLINE 7 "The fulfilling culture you express"

N12 "The wide range of culture that make Memphis unique"

ONLINE 45 "the evolution of the city. Your hospitality and charm"

## **Sense of Place (physical), Responses:22**

### **REASONS:**

ONLINE 36 "excellent location"

ONLINE 38 "how good it felt to come home after living away for two years. (I didn't know what I had till it was gone!)"

N2 "It's home and I have not thought of any other place in that way. I don't need a GPS to get anywhere in Memphis. I am a GPS."

N26 "Central location in the nation as a whole."

N35 "The city of Memphis"

N37 "Landscapes - train. Vibes - city vibe, urban hip vibe. Cool landmarks. A lot of potential that's intrinsically built into the city. Memphis has a kinship

N21 "the spirit of Memphis and the south"

N77 "the small town feel but with big town amenities"

N80 "the changes I've seen over all the years - some good, some bad"

N112 "everything about you!"

N113 "Everything in Memphis"

N119 "Simpleness. Beauty. Silence"

N54 "Walking in your streets at night time safely"

ONLINE 20 "how every time I leave the house I see someone I know"

ONLINE 34 "Sense of community"

N9 "tiger pride"

N4 "Your local feeling neighborhoods. Your attitude "

N8 "The atmosphere of the smaller communities that make Memphis up. The creative people that Memphis attracts"

N111 "Family atmosphere. Southern charm"

N27 "That my family lives here"

N31 "The communities"



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ONLINE 45 "the evolution of the city. Your hospitality and charm"

## Diversity, Responses:14

### REASONS:

ONLINE 11 "your diversity"

ONLINE 32 "the way you (Memphis) are now home to Vietnamese, Greeks, African Americans, Chinese, Koreans, Indians, etc....."

N29 "Your diversity - there are so many chances to reach out and love folks of every walk of life."

N96 "The diversity"

N127 "The diversity. Mess"

N116 "Living with so much diversity. So much opportunity here"

N16 "the variety of different people"

N18 "People from around the world who live here. Serving with people who want to make Memphis all that it can be."

N12 "The wide range of people that make Memphis unique"

NO NUMBER1 "Family. Open & friendly community. Large black community".

N40 "Distinct cohesive cultures and bridge building successes among these cultures. Increasing (albiet slow) pace of improved respect & relationships"

N54 "mixing with different races openly"

N78 "LGBT film festival. LGBT Pride Parade on Beale. Indie Memphis "

N50 "Africa in April. Memphis in May"

## Civic Aspiration/Entrepreneurial Spirit/"Can Do" Attitude, Responses: 33

### REASONS:

N1 "the potential of Memphis to be a great city if all people were given the opportunity to reach their full potential"

N34 "The way you are trying to better yourself. The potential that this city has"

N15 "Your willingness to listen, learn, seek growth in a step at a time. Your inner city beauty."

N19 "The way you feed my soul and my spirit while giving me a vast array of natural food as well. the way you make me believe I can do anything and that nothing's beyond my reach. The countless opportunities that you offer me at every phase of my life."

N116 "Living with so much diversity. So much opportunity here"

NONUMBER1 "growth & business opportunities"

N124 "The potential of high density development"

N59 "ideas that are being outspoken if only you can take it seriously and let actions speak more"

ONLINE 7 "You're aware of your voice and what you want to do with it."

ONLINE 9 "Raw native creative talent ---You should see some of the structures folks with "no training" have made....i.e. Halloween Haunted House in Orange Mound"

ONLINE 13 "that we are multi-cultural, multi-ethnic. We are no longer just Black and White. That we are a caring community. People take care of one another. our growing and thriving "brain community" St Jude, BioTech Center, U of M, Teaching Innovations, etc."

ONLINE 49 "generous, caring citizens. Our recent ability to save parts of our history for good uses (TN Brewery, Overton Square). The hard-core pride in going against the grain and figuring out what works for US instead of going along with trends."

# Let's stay together, Memphis

N5 "The Grit. The committed people. I love that we are the underdog - it attracts attention + is in my opinion an asset."

ONLINE 30 "that you don't have to be a bigwig to make big things happen here."

ONLINE 50 "people that step up to solve problems"

ONLINE 45 "the energy of the citizens when they put their mind to something for positive changes"

N4 "Your local feeling neighborhoods. Your attitude"

N15 "your people - they get up and seem itching to change."

N114 "People speak their minds and sing praise and keep on pushing - trying to provide the best things for their kids. Good people in the city want good things to happen"

N23 "People. Hospitality. Community involvement."

N25 "The workers. The mothers, daughters, sisters, brothers, fathers. The freedom fighters. The comrades."

N33 "Local movements like food and gardening"

N29 "As a worship minister in town, I love seeing different types of people come together for a common cause."

N44 "The accepting community which is more concerned with who you are rather than what you look like. The number of grassroots organizers aimed at bettering the city from within"

N52 "Locally driven energy of talented people committing to the city and coming up with creative home-grown solutions to chronic problems"

N58 "The reinvigoration movement"

N77 "The scrappy spirit - try, try and try again"

N79 "The spirit of the people. the artists. the activists. the entrepreneurs."

N93 "The character of the community. We have the opportunity to be leaders in change and take our place among other cities"

N120 "The people who fight for it"

N40 "Distinct cohesive cultures and bridge building successes among these cultures. Increasing (albiet slow) pace of improved respect & relationships"

N42 "The way people help each other out. Non-profits for days"

N54 "the energy of your culture"

## **Spectator Arts Culture**, Responses: 31

### REASONS:

ONLINE 50 "that there is always something fun going on"

N74 "the public spaces. family-friendly activities"

N123 "Your effort to create a fun environment for citizens while using a green thumb"

ONLINE 2 "The summer festivals that you hold every summer"

ONLINE 3 "The endless free events"

ONLINE 5 "Cultural opportunities- arts, theater, music, etc"

ONLINE 11 "All your theaters, the museums, Africa in April"

ONLINE 28 "ALL sort of FESTIVALS"

ONLINE 35 "The cultural amenities, museum etc"

ONLINE 40 "The Door of Hope Writing Group"

ONLINE 42 "Memphis in May"

N2 "CA as a source of info."



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N6 "No other city combines the arts/openings with great food and wine catered parties"

N9 "The whole Memphis art scene. The public library system."

N11 "Arts and entertainment. Arts festivals. Theaters"

N13 "The festivals."

N20 "Indie Memphis film festival."

N23 "Your artistic abilities "

N31 "Memphis in May"

N47 "street art/murals. The Bridge: Memphis Street Paper"

N49 "MemFix. Springtime events. BBQ Fest"

N50 "Africa in April. Memphis in May"

N58 "events like this"

N74 "Free museum days"

N75 "Cooper Young festival. Memphis in May "

N78 "LGBT film festival. LGBT Pride Parade on Beale. Indie Memphis "

N81 "Memphis in May "

N86 "Art scene"

N95 "Africa in April. Memphis in May "

N96 "The arts"

NONUMBER3 "Arts"

**Participatory Arts Culture**, Responses: 2

REASONS:

N8 "The atmosphere of the smaller communities that make Memphis up. The creative people that Memphis attracts"

N20 "The open and non-competitive nature of the artistic community - I am a filmmaker and discovered to my shock that it is insanely easy to make movies here due to the warmth and eagerness of the film community. Being connected to the movers and shakers of Memphis - access."

**Music**, Responses: 40

ONLINE 8

N5

N10

N30

N48

N77

N86

N87

N96

N119

NONUMBER2

REASONS:

ONLINE 18 "Your soul music"

ONLINE 23 "The blues"

ONLINE 28 "your music legacy. ALL sort of FESTIVALS"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE 29 “music and the people who make it”

ONLINE 35 “musical...stage...”

ONLINE 38 “your music -- from the rich history of Stax, Sun and American Sound (to name just a few) to the musicians who carry the Memphis sound around the world today.”

ONLINE 42 “Beale Street Music Fest”

N9 “Blues music when available”

N6 “WKNO FM Radio ( the best NPR station in N. America - I’ve listened to many others).”

N11 “Memphis music seemingly everywhere”

N13 “The festivals.”

N18 “Each night there’s some live music going down”

N31 “Memphis in May”

N37 “Music hot spot”

N46 “The awesome music our city produces”

N47 “Local music scene”

N50 “Memphis in May”

N51 “blues music”

N56 “Will Tucker Band”

N74 “Beale St. Music Festival. Music scene “

N75 “Memphis in May “

N81 “Memphis in May “

N95 “The Music. Memphis in May”

N110 “Living in a city that has great blues music”

N116 “Listening to Joyce Cobb on Sunday mornings”

N127 “Elvis”

NONUMBER1 “Good music”

NONUMBER3 “Blues music”

N33 “The deep history, like M. King & Presley

ONLINE 37 “Memphis musicians!”

**Organizations,** Responses: 2

REASONS:

ONLINE 3 “Leadership Memphis”

N42 “The way people help each other out. Non-profits for days”

**Small and/or Local Businesses,** Responses: 9

REASONS:

ONLINE 25 “retail”

N4 “your small businesses”

N47 “Thrift store shopping”

N83 “local family owned shops

N23 “Your amenities. Your bridges”

N49 “breweries”

N58 “you don’t let many corporate companies scare us out. Cool stores/



# Let's stay together, Memphis

events”

NONUMBER1 “growth & business opportunities”

N47 “Kwik check, bbq”

## **Natural Resource and/or Public Space Amenities, Responses: 33**

### REASONS:

ONLINE 8 “Memphis Trees”

ONLINE 9 “The trees”

ONLINE 30 “Memphis’ giant trees”

ONLINE 34 “Trees and green spaces”

ONLINE 36 “The parks”

ONLINE 42 “The summer”

ONLINE 43 “The weather”

N5 “Water”

N9 “The short winters that are mostly free of ice and snow.”

N11 “Nature. Trees. Nearby lakes and open country.”

N12 “The first days of spring. A beautiful sunset on the Mississippi.”

N15 “Your trees.”

N26 “the weather”

N31 “The parks”

N32 “Water”

N33 “The way the sun sets every single day. All the parks, they are so great”

N37 “Beautiful outdoor landscapes (parks & random patches or wilderness)”

N42 “Pockets of stunning natural beauty”

N50 “Green space, trees, walking trails”

N73 “Spring. Azaleas. Dogwood trees”

N87 “Natural amenities”

N92 “Sunsets on the Mississippi”

N115 “Very large trees on other people’s property”

N120 “The trees”

N121 “The parks. Water from the aquifer”

N122 “The parks - you have a green thumb”

N127 “Spring”

NONUMBER1 “Temperate & warm climate”

NONUMBER2 “The parks. Mild weather”

NONUMBER3 “Parks”

N74 “the public spaces. family-friendly activities”

N119 “Simpleness. Beauty. Silence”

N123 “Your effort to create a fun environment for citizens while using a green thumb”

## **Food, Responses: 40**

ONLINE 2

ONLINE 8

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE 19

N4

N8

N10

N23

N29

N48

N120

NO NUMBER 2

REASONS:

ONLINE 5 "Food!- ethnic, local, and homemade galore"

ONLINE 28 "Your passion for BBQ and great food. ALL sort of FESTIVALS"

ONLINE 29 "barbecue"

ONLINE 42 "Memphis in May"

N6 " Great BBQ - other cities mimic memphis Style ribs/pulled pork."

N7 "Barbeque."

N9 "the Bar B Que"

N11 "Dining. BBQ, Fine dining"

N12 "A good BBQ pulle pork sandwich in my belly."

N13 "BBQ. The festivals."

N18 "delicious local food"

N31 "Memphis in May"

N46 "Our great food"

N47 "Kwik check, bbq"

N49 "BBQ Fest"

N50 "Memphis in May"

N51 "BBQ"

N72 "Bar-b-que"

N75 "Cooper Young festival. Memphis in May "

N81 "Memphis in May "

N86 "Great restaurants"

N87 "Restaurants"

N95 "Memphis in May"

N110 "Soul food"

N125 "coffee shops"

NONUMBER1 "Good food"

N19 "The way you feed my soul and my spirit while giving me a vast array of natural food as well. the way you make me believe I can do anything and that nothing's beyond my reach. The countless opportunities that you offer me at every phase of my life."

N33 "Local movements like food and gardening"

N6 "No other city combines the arts/openings with great food and wine catered parties"

**Neighborhoods, Responses: 9**

REASONS:



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ONLINE 35 "the beauty of many residential areas"

N53 "multiple neighborhoods with stuff to do"

N57 "neighborhood development"

N111 "Different areas of town"

N115 "Low-budget performing spaces & performances"

N125 "Neighborhoods that in larger cities would seem like absolute gems and could not exist in a smaller place"

N4 "Your local feeling neighborhoods. Your attitude"

N8 "The atmosphere of the smaller communities that make Memphis up. The creative people that Memphis attracts"

N31 "The communities"

## **Architecture, Responses: 6**

### **REASONS:**

ONLINE 9 "The amazingly diverse architecture"

N29 "Classic architecture"

N87 "Great architecture"

NONUMBER1 "Beautiful homes"

NONUMBER3 "Historic character (w/mix of modern)"

## **Healthcare, Responses: 3**

### **REASONS:**

ONLINE 25 "medical"

N11 "great healthcare"

ONLINE 13 "that we are multi-cultural, multi-ethnic. We are no longer just Black and White. That we are a caring community. People take care of one another. our growing and thriving "brain community" St Jude, BioTech Center, U of M, Teaching Innovations, etc."

## **Education, Responses: 4**

### **REASONS:**

N4 "Your universities."

N37 "Universities."

N58 "the colleges & their art"

NONUMBER3 "Higher educational opportunities"

## **History and Cultural Heritage, Responses: 15**

### **REASONS:**

ONLINE 7 "The fulfilling culture you express"

N12 "The wide range of culture that make Memphis unique"

N23 "Your culture. Your history"

N30 "Your rich culture"

N33 "The deep history, like M. King & Presley"

N37 "Deep history"

N53 "Culture"

N54 "the energy of your culture"

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N72 "Culture - all of it"

N80 "The memories of the places"

N85 "History"

N95 "the history"

N96 "The history"

N119 "History "

NO NUMBER 3 "The Culture. Heritage."

## **Sport, Responses: 14**

### REASONS:

ONLINE 14 "Redbirds and Grizzlies games"

ONLINE 20 "the Grizzlies and Tigers and how they bring the city together"

ONLINE 22 "Tiger and Grizzlies basketball"

ONLINE 27 "The Grizz"

ONLINE 38 "the way we come together to support our Tigers and Grizzlies."

N4 "your sports teams (embrace them) - at all levels"

N9 "The Grizzlies."

N11 "Tiger and Grizz basketball"

N33 "Memphis Grizzlies and all their winning games"

N50 "Grizzlies"

N78 "Memphis Grizzlies"

N92 "Watching the Grizzlies"

N110 "Memphis Grizzlies"

NONUMBER2 "Basketball games"

## **Transportation, responses: 23**

### REASONS:

ONLINE 11 "The trolley"

ONLINE 17 "My short commute."

ONLINE 21 "The lack of notable traffic"

ONLINE 27 "The lack of traffic"

ONLINE 43 "ease of the city life (traffic, always 25 minute travel from 1 location to another)"

ONLINE 52 "The ease to get around by car"

N3 "The energy and excitement right now, esp. bike ped stuff"

N11 "Trolleys. Transportation hub. easy air transport, train "City of New Orleans" to New Orleans"

N15 "Your avenues."

N20 "No commute."

N32 "The trolleys"

N33 "All the bike lanes, they are so great"

N35 "The MATA Bus. The trolley train. The bike lanes"

N45 "Tree-lined streets"

N50 "walking trails"

N51 "bike lanes"



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N53 "bike lanes"

N56 "MATA stuff"

N57 "Bike lanes"

N74 "Biking trail"

N87 "Lack of traffic congestion"

NONUMBER2 "Bike trails"

ONLINE 26 "It is awesome to get outside with my friends and family and see a good portion of the city on foot."

## **Affordability, Responses: 11**

### **REASONS:**

ONLINE 5 "Affordable housing market"

ONLINE 12 "saving \$"

ONLINE 14 "the low cost of living"

ONLINE 32 "One of the top prizes in the US!!"

ONLINE 34 "Convenience and proximity to everything"

ONLINE 44 "reasonable to live in"

N3 "Lots of opportunity to be outside and get around."

N20 "The ease of living. Affordable housing."

N87 "Affordability"

N110 "Affordable rent"

NONUMBER1 "Low cost of living"

## **Job, Responses: 1**

### **REASONS:**

ONLINE 44 "My Job"

## **III. WHAT FRUSTRATES ME...**

## **Defeatist Attitude, Negative Self-Image, Citizen Apathy, Responses: 23**

### **REASONS:**

ONLINE3 "The way you look so old and tired"

ONLINE7 "When you bait and switch a positive with a negative. Just because a negative occurs doesn't wipe out the positive reform or change the occurs. I'm tired of noisome criticism for the sake of negativity."

ONLINE52 "Litter, tires, worn our infrastructure, boarded up buildings - the Detroit look - no code enforcement. Tired old arguments and disputes that are 40 years old. Lack of capital to make things happen (jobs and education must come first)"

ONLINE32 "We need to relish and appreciate our unique style and beauty!"

N2 "it is well known that this city suffers from a giant inferiority complex. I sought to get a "wear Memphis" initiative started, and a birthday celebration on the city's birthday (May 22nd). No results."

N21 "I feel like Memphis has gotten complacent and has let Nashville surpass Memphis as Tennessee's flagship city"

N32 "community engagement isn't powerful - it's like you're unaware of yourself, like you don't know what you want to be. Quote Ugly Mug, "like the Seattle of the South," let's not compare ourselves to another city, let's be the best Memphis we can be."

# Let's stay together, Memphis

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NONUMBER2 "sprawl. hanging onto nostalgia instead of charting a new course for a more sustainable future"

N79 "low civic self esteem (defeatists)"

N125 "lack of vision. lack of ambition to be a greater city"

N57 "Not all sustainable efforts are marketed"

ONLINE6 "Voter apathy"

ONLINE33 "Lack of a good feeling about the great diverse culture we have here"

ONLINE38 "Emotionally, we have many longstanding wounds to heal. So many people talking, so few people listening. You have perpetually low self-esteem, and I don't know how to fix that. People from all over the world think Memphis is great. When will you recognize how awesome you already are?"

ONLINE40 "the refusal to recognize how wonderful Memphis is"

ONLINE45 "Your citizens talk badly about you behind your back"

N81 "Lack of people that want to stay in Memphis"

N95 "Lack of pride in community. mindset of some always focusing on the negative"

ONLINE19 "Local news media exploiting house fires and blacks killing blacks"

ONLINE35 "The overblown, excessive hour by hour coverage of crimes which are so often domestic and lack of stories which can help restore our illusive civic pride. Restore our lost pride"

## Race and/or Class Conflict, Responses: 41

### REASONS:

ONLINE3 "Your lame racism"

ONLINE4 "Racial divisiveness"

ONLINE8 "Racism."

ONLINE9 "Lies, Trying to be "pleasant and nice" we fail to be HONEST!!! Not necessarily corrupt. It's like Memphians "can't handle the truth!. Racism - Born of fear and "group think" which was nurtured and is maintained by the Crump regime. Religious Dogma and the lack of compassion shown in every day kindness & love"

ONLINE12 "Being a minority - white - and seeing how corrupt every single black pol is. Your insane fascination with church. what a bunch of frauds you are. The uneducated, illiterate, obese, diabetic, babies making babies, handout taking mentality of this hole."

ONLINE15 "That Memphians remain segregated in church, neighborhood and social circles"

ONLINE22 "Racism"

ONLINE24 "Racial relations"

ONLINE27 "Constant race wars... Still"

ONLINE29 "why we can't get along like we do at Grizzlies games"

ONLINE30 "Broken windows policing and other racist, reactionary policies that perpetuate and deepen the socio-economic divide... a lack of social



# Let's stay together, Memphis

justice.”

ONLINE31 “The all-consuming obsession with race”

ONLINE39 “Racial strife”

ONLINE50 “suburbs vs. city mentality. residents’ negative attitudes”

N2 “Very few Memphis residents give a hoot about the overall city.”

N5 “Lack of respect or caring for our children + their children. Disrespect of suburban citizens toward downtown core.”

N10 “the thought process of some of the people that think I’m racist because I’m white”

N12 “The entitlement that people have.”

N23 “your lack of integration between different communities”

N26 “race relations - polarization of city. them vs. us mentality”

N58 “Let’s connect with a true city mentality. Groups working separately towards betterment is inefficient”

N74 “Segregation”

N75 “The poor race relations”

N87 “Race relations”

N112 “all the walls between the people. we need more love, better attitudes”

N113 “the disconnect between some whites and minorities. the disconnect with some of the citizens here and the world. how politically unaware we are”

N114 “folks at a loss of what to do to improve their situations/ neighborhood/city. no feeling that we can come together across cultural/ fiscal boundaries. folks need to see progress - need ideas - knowledge - know that nothing ventured, nothing gained”

N115 “segregated communities”

N116 “people don’t seem to care about getting together”

N121 “thoughtless opinions. racial friction “

NONUMBER2 “segregation”

ONLINE13 “Too many people in Churches on Sunday who will not confront the needs of the poor. I refuse to accept a negative attitude about Memphis.”

ONLINE39 “White flight”

N111 “lack of diversity”

ONLINE35 “ The seeming animosity between Memphis government and the leadership of the suburbs...we are “Memphians”. The incessant bickering in city and county government....often black vs. white which creates the illusion that the general population is equally divided. We are NOT.”

ONLINE37 “Being accosted by street people EVERYWHERE... At the gas station, grocery store, walking my dog and in my own driveway!!!”

N6 “endless spiral of poverty. The high property taxes shouldered by “the haves.” If we had an educated, working minority, there would be a greater tax base & Memphis could really thrive.”

ONLINE28 “Inner city school segregation”

N6 “ the gulf between the Blacks & whites, the have’s & have nots;”

N42 “At times people seem all too willing to disregard the impoverished populations. They (impoverished populations) are not obstacles to our success they are the tools by which to make it happen”

ONLINE18 “There are too few black people eating at nice restaurants, and too many working in the kitchens. There are too many people whose hearts are in the suburbs along with their purses (taxes). There are too many churches but too few places for homeless and mentally ill people to get help (ironic)”

# Let's stay together, Memphis

## **Blight**, Responses: 20

ONLINE3 "The way you look so old and tired"

ONLINE19 "Litter"

ONLINE25 "dirt and trash"

ONLINE28 "Trash! please pick it up! You were once the most pretty city in America you know how it feels to be nice and neat. Empty lots"

ONLINE52 "Litter, tires, worn out infrastructure, boarded up buildings - the Detroit look - no code enforcement. Tired old arguments and disputes that are 40 years old. Lack of capital to make things happen (jobs and education must come first)"

N9 "Trash everywhere, we need to learn to pick up after ourselves and clean up our debris - the city looks messy. Recycling could be greatly improved."

N15 "large amounts of trash in your streets."

N22 "trash. vacancy. sprawl"

N35 "litter"

N57 "No recycling bins downtown"

N4 "you are messy in many places. Use your opportunity to focus on the ones who need it. invest more time and money to clean up the areas that need it. More landmark developments such as Sears Crosstown, Overton Square + even Beal Street Landing"

N45 "Auto-dominated landscape"

N48 "Urban Sprawl"

N60 "Blight, litter, trash"

N87 "sprawl"

N8 "The blight that has been present in some neighborhoods seems ignored or forgotten."

N11 "blighted areas - drive from Lamar to Crump & down to the bridge to Arkansas"

N57 "Areas that suffer when positive development happens but the surrounding areas gentrify. The blighted low income areas of town seem to be forgotten"

N115 "blighted neighborhoods"

NONUMBER3 "the general maintenance and "look" of many areas - many areas seem undeveloped and ignored. vacant lands and houses"

ONLINE15 "Poverty/blight-there is so much=unstable property values in many neighborhoods"

## **Public Investments, Political Leadership**, Responses: 97

### REASONS:

ONLINE4 "Civic leaders who don't make decisions with the long view in mind."

ONLINE6 "Focusing on the city's reputation as being dangerous"

ONLINE11 "That we cannot work with our elected officials to have at minimum have a toll on all bridges leading into Memphis"

ONLINE14 "Lack of progress on any government-led initiative and the disgusting corruption in City Hall (hell, drunk council people, fist fights, etc)"

ONLINE22 "Ineffective, unqualified and/or corrupt leadership"

ONLINE26 "An overhaul is needed and the community/business leaders need to be directed on how to get involved. It will take the entire city to make the big changes that are needed! The Politics. Disgraceful is the best term. There are several failing politicians that continue to hold seats. They are not creating the change Memphis needs. If you aren't on board to make



# Let's stay together, Memphis

Memphis the best place for everyone, then you need to be replaced"

ONLINE29 "fighting at governmental meetings"

ONLINE30 "Mindsets and government institutions still stuck in the 20th century and preventing a progressive culture from really thriving. A city with as much blight as Memphis needs new life and new energy."

ONLINE31 "Elected officials who kowtow to corporate interests and ignore their constituents' wishes.!"

ONLINE34 "Slow/unresponsive government"

ONLINE35 "The seeming animosity between Memphis government and the leadership of the suburbs...we are "Memphians". The incessant bickering in city and county government....often black vs. white which creates the illusion that the general population is equally divided. We are NOT."

ONLINE36 "Political BS"

ONLINE39 "Politics of city council"

ONLINE50 "some of the politicians"

N2 "A person like R. Lipscomb can take over the Pyramid like it is his own personal property."

N9 "The Riverfront Development Commission - get rid of it - haven't we wasted enough money with The overstuffed bastards?"

N11 "Politics. Politicians who only want to selfishly divide or go and hide in "walled" suburbs."

N19 "you look like you are listening but your actions are not congruent with someone who is listening. your actions don't reflect a desire to change"

N27 "lack of involvement from the majority of its citizens"

N40 "revise city/county policies to facilitate the above items (improve infrastructure, to stabilize property values & allow new investments)"

N45 "Lack of "city building" in leadership"

N46 "Some of our elected officials seem to forget that they are here to represent us in what we want. Their mission should not be for them and their cronies to feed at the public trough."

N47 "politics and political attitudes, corruption"

N52 "unresponsive government"

N53 "More govt. transparency"

N60 "Robert Lipscomb generally"

N72 "City government - get your shit together. County government - get your shit together"

N73 "We need some real leaders - we sit on the status quo for too long"

N78 "Robert Lipscomb runs the city. Some of the city council members are hostile to LGBT citizens Leaders are scared to be cutting edge"

N82 "The mayor and his council"

N85 "top-down decision making"

N86 "Apathetic self-serving leadership. ineffective leadership"

N93 "Unwillingness to work with local businesses and communities to change and become forward thinking"

N111 "politics"

N116 "leaders seem complacent and focused so narrowly rather than helping all citizens"

N120 "big bad ideas continually pushed as game changers (world class game changers. Feedback and real input ignored from citizens in favor of crappy, interested, ideas from wealthy)"

N121 "lack of transparency and honesty. short sighted decisions. poor government decisions and investments"

N125 "lack of vision. lack of ambition to be a greater city"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

NONUMBER2 “opaque governance”

ONLINE21 “The lack of foresight. The resistance to change”

ONLINE40 “being governed/overruled by the state legislature”

ONLINE43 “police bureaucracy is more important than education. lacking the proper use of modern day technology in business, government, and leisure.”

N4 “you are messy in many places. Use your opportunity to focus on the ones who need it. invest more time and money to clean up the areas that need it. More landmark developments such as Sears Crosstown, Overton Square + even Beal Street Landing”

N5 “Please address urban sprawl - it is something that all are aware + a lot of talk about but never any action. Let's make urban sprawl share the costs and it more attractive to build in areas with current infrastructure through more incentives.”

N21 “I feel like Memphis has gotten complacent and has let Nashville surpass Memphis as Tennessee's flagship city”

N25 “the way you let any old snake oil salesman come in and sell you a shiny object. The endless pursuit of attracting the “creative class”

N26 “relationship between city and suburb”

N52 “The individuals, churches, CDCs, etc. that are investing themselves in the city need support - from law enforcement, codes, council”

N22 “trash. vacancy. sprawl”

N57 “No recycling bins downtown”

ONLINE52 “Litter, tires, worn our infrastructure, boarded up buildings - the Detroit look - no code enforcement. Tired old arguments and disputes that are 40 years old. Lack of capital to make things happen (jobs and education must come first)”

N9 “Trash everywhere, we need to learn to pick up after ourselves and clean

up our debris - the city looks messy. Recycling could be greatly improved.”

N45 “Auto-dominated landscape”

N48 “Urban Sprawl”

NONUMBER2 “sprawl. hanging onto nostalgia instead of charting a new course for a more sustainable future”

N85 “reliance on outside consultants & planners. Under-appreciation of the local creativities and local input - the ones whose ideas are organic to this city and help make it unique vs. the best practice outsiders”

N119 “you only share your beauty with a fraction of the citizens. you are a metro city but lack a lot of metro characteristics to most of the people who live in you”

N125 “not dense enough. constant bandwagon hopping in terms of talking up areas but very little actual development & complete ignorance to the parts that really need it”

N127 “suburban. spread out. no planning”

N87 “sprawl”

N5 “Lack of ability to live up to our financial commitments, Poor financial health of city.”

N7 “High rate of poverty, low wages. Why not a living wage law?”

N20 “ we need competitive tax incentives to attract film productions and their crews and their millions of \$ - stop giving jobs to Louisiana and GA”

N30 “your continued efforts to fund or waive taxes on big corporations that drain funding from other important services”

N40 “find economical ways to improve infrastructure (Water, drainage, power, gas) to stabilize property values & allow new investments”

N42 “spending \$150 million on Bass Pro Shoppes while citizens go hungry”

N44 “questionable choices in regards to appropriation of funds”



# Let's stay together, Memphis

N50 "the poor/underprivileged are being more displaced and moved further away from resources and social services. Memphis is still very poor"

N53 "Too much money spent on business tax incentives"

N57 "Not all sustainable efforts are marketed"

N82 "All the PILOTS - with low wages and no strings attached; I think you have a problem and cannot stop"

N83 "FedEx & other corporations do not pay taxes. government does not pay living wage. Poor families living in neighborhoods without access to grocery stores"

N110 "Homeless population is rising and still not adequate resources for them to tap into"

N121 "poor government decisions and investments"

N125 "constant investment in areas that add little to the city as a unit"

ONLINE49 "crime (poverty and education, make no mistake, all 3 are intertwined)."

ONLINE15 "The privatization of public education through charters and over city schools"

N7 "Better schools and investment, especially in economically deprived areas."

N74 "Lack of investment in public schools"

ONLINE11 "That our transit authority will not allow you to connect in areas of the city. Why is so hard for us to get a rail system that can take you from downtown to Collierville"

N1 "Dedicated funding for MATA. We need better public transportation"

N5 "Lack of comprehensive planning."

N56 "lack of MATA bus service to Shelby Farms. No sidewalks for MATA users. Lack of respect for transit users by reducing funding "

N1 "The way you refuse to give the most talented person a chance to prosper and grow. The best plans and the people who submit them are not supported. Non-profits have to be rich in order to get funded."

N93 "The lack of living options for young professionals who want to live near downtown"

N45 "Not enough people living nearby. Provincial attitudes by developers"

N34 "lack of a true live-work communities"

N30 "your lack of access for people with disabilities"

N31 "the lack of support you have for the people who do live here and not just come to pay a visit"

N19 " how you always ask me how I feel and what I need but your actions don't reflect any concern or regard for what I have shared over and over again are my concerns"

N96 "the provincial outlook"

N111 "lack of community events that focus on the true needs of citizens"

ONLINE21 "The narrow viewpoints"

N11 "Lack of support for the arts."

N78 "Not enough public art"

N58 "Art is great, craft is great - but these are not sustainable"

n85"your unwillingness to pay emerging local creatives for their work and ideas while having no problem paying big fees to the outside "professional consultants"

**Economy and Poverty,** Responses: 67

REASONS:

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE1 "the money spent on meaningless development like the pyramid"

ONLINE7 "How the economic force in the city flows out of it. Far too much of the value earned by Memphis doesn't stay in Memphis to better itself."

ONLINE8 "Poverty"

ONLINE13 "We must as a collective address, and act upon poverty. We have not fully reconciled the effects of poverty"

ONLINE15 "Poverty/blight-there is so much=unstable property values in many neighborhoods"

ONLINE22 "Poverty"

ONLINE24 "Income inequality. Disinvestment in inner city "

ONLINE32 " We need to work together to change our 27% of our people living below the poverty line"

ONLINE35 "The paychecks for lots of people living in suburbs are written in Memphis."

ONLINE36 "poverty"

ONLINE37 "Being accosted by street people EVERYWHERE... At the gas station, grocery store, walking my dog and in my own driveway!!!"

ONLINE40 "viewing the poor as problems rather than as assets"

ONLINE49 "poverty (crime and education, make no mistake, all 3 are intertwined)."

N1 "Memphis has a huge poverty population which is exploited and ignored. We need affordable housing, more funding for Head Start"

N3 "Poor conditions of commercial property, esp. vacant ones in the urban core. (property) owners feel no accountability."

N5 "Lack of ability to live up to our financial commitments, Poor financial health of city."

N6 "endless spiral of poverty. The high property taxes shouldered by "the haves." If we had an educated, working minority, there would be a greater tax base & Memphis could really thrive."

N7 "High rate of poverty, low wages. Why not a living wage law?"

N20 " we need competitive tax incentives to attract film productions and their crews and their millions of \$ - stop giving jobs to Louisiana and GA"

N30 "your continued efforts to fund or waive taxes on big corporations that drain funding from other important services"

N40 "find economical ways to improve infrastructure (Water, drainage, power, gas) to stabilize property values & allow new investments"

N42 "spending \$150 million on Bass Pro Shoppes while citizens go hungry"

N44 "questionable choices in regards to appropriation of funds"

N50 "the poor/underprivileged are being more displaced and moved further away from resources and social services. Memphis is still very poor"

N53 "Too much money spent on business tax incentives"

N57 "Not all sustainable efforts are marketed "

N59 "More factories to be added to boost not only this city but America at large economy. Housing taxes without any good reason. the current resources should be well managed and the corruption to and regardless of who is in the office"

N72 "The poverty is crushing. Pay attention to shoring up our property tax base"

N81 "Poverty that surrounds every neighborhood"

N82 "All the PILOTS - with low wages and no strings attached; I think you have a problem and cannot stop"

N83 "FedEx & other corporations do not pay taxes. government does not pay living wage. Poor families living in neighborhoods without access to grocery stores"



# Let's stay together, Memphis

N110 "Homeless population is rising and still not adequate resources for them to tap into"

N111 "poverty that no one cares about"

N114 "the gap between have/have not. many families need 2 jobs or more to make ends meet."

N115 "income disparity/class divisions"

N121 "poor government decisions and investments"

N125 "constant investment in areas that add little to the city as a unit"

NONUMBER2 "poverty"

N73 "We need good public transportation so people could get to good jobs - if we had more jobs at various levels"

ONLINE18 "There are too few black people eating at nice restaurants, and too many working in the kitchens. There are too many people whose hearts are in the suburbs along with their purses (taxes). There are too many churches but too few places for homeless and mentally ill people to get help (ironic)"

ONLINE23 "The poor power grid. Mammas having to yell at, hit, and yank their kids around the grocery store."

N6 "the gulf between the Blacks & whites, the have's & have nots;"

N7 "More assistance for the hungry, homeless, sick."

N29 "the insufficiency of change in helping the homeless demographic - there are a lot of pan handlers"

N42 "At times people seem all too willing to disregard the impoverished populations. They (impoverished populations) are not obstacles to our success they are the tools by which to make it happen"

N50 "too many economically disadvantaged folks"

N57 "Lost youth - not sure how to unpack that"

ONLINE25 "blight / empty buildings"

ONLINE28 "Dilapidated structures "

N25 "Empty buildings - Verizon Building"

N45 "unlovable retail buildings"

N74 "Zombie houses"

NONUMBER3 "vacant lands and houses"

N58 "Art is great, craft is great - but these are not sustainable"

N6 "need more job opportunities & new companies willing to locate to Memphis and train workers or offer apprenticeships;"

N35 "we need to find a way to keep jobs here"

N50 "City of Memphis employees becoming part of the "working poor". More jobs are locating in the suburbs with limited access to public transportation"

N56 "Not caring for city of Memphis employees by reducing their salaries"

N75 "The lack of job opportunities for young professionals"

n85 "your unwillingness to pay emerging local creatives for their work and ideas while having no problem paying big fees to the outside "professional consultants"

N92 "Few opportunities for business professionals"

N95 "Unemployment"

N110 "Low wages/salaries. Non-attempt to keep young professionals here in the city"

N111 "lack of career advancement"

ONLINE43 "Warehouse occupation city "

# Let's stay together, Memphis

## **Neighborhoods**, Responses: 16

### REASONS:

ONLINE28 "neglected neighborhoods"

N8 "The blight that has been present in some neighborhoods seems ignored or forgotten."

N11 "blighted areas - drive from Lamar to Crump & down to the bridge to Arkansas"

N18 "There are a lot of neighborhoods lacking parks and public gathering areas (Areas served by Applying Farms precinct, The Beltline neighborhood, etc.). Many neighborhoods seem to be isolated from one another (people tend to spend most of their time in one area of town)."

N40 "public visible areas in previously under-served neighborhoods. Allow/encourage each neighborhood to reflect its individual built character (scale, rhythm, culture)"

N57 "Areas that suffer when positive development happens but the surrounding areas gentrify. The blighted low income areas of town seem to be forgotten"

N58 "Focus Memphis - link the areas - how are Midtown, Crosstown & Broad, etc. going to connect and avoid "trend" and be sustainable"

N59 "The recreation areas for the future of the next generation"

N60 "Core city neighborhoods"

N83 "Poor families living in neighborhoods without access to grocery stores"

N93 "new developments locating at the edge - do whatever it takes to keep and attract people and businesses inside the city limits - if the core falls, we all do"

N94 "public investment in neighborhoods"

N115 "blighted neighborhoods"

N124 "the continuance of development on the urban fringe"

NONUMBER3 "the general maintenance and "look" of many areas - many areas seem undeveloped and ignored. vacant lands and houses"

ONLINE15 "Poverty/blight-there is so much=unstable property values in many neighborhoods"

## **Public Safety**, Responses 31

### REASONS:

ONLINE2 "CRIME!!! I can't jog on the streets no more without feeling unsafe."

ONLINE3 "Your crime"

ONLINE5 "Violent crime. Fear of your own back yard is a stress no one should have to experience!"

ONLINE17 "People breaking into my home and disrespecting my castle. And showing up in, what I thought was a good neighborhood, with guns at my home at night. Police not caring about the armed robbery I was caught in at my local Kroger. Said no blood on the ground means it's petty crime in Memphis! He pointed a gun at me and the other patrons. And this is petty crime in Memphis. C'mon!"

ONLINE20 "Feeling unsafe in certain areas downtown. High crime"

ONLINE25 "crime"

ONLINE27 "Crime"

ONLINE28 "One of the first things I noticed when I first got here was 'Where is all the people?' Then I got the walking and realized how bad your sidewalks are and how it just didn't feel safe to walk out there. What is up with all those crime rankings, Really'"



# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE29 "crime"

ONLINE33 "Crime"

ONLINE36 "The crime"

ONLINE37 "Crime, crime and more crime!!! The gangstas & thugs gotta GO!!! Being accosted by street people EVERYWHERE... At the gas station, grocery store, walking my dog and in my own driveway!!! Not feeling safe in my own home and neighborhood... The break ins are a constant concern"

ONLINE42 "Crime - I never feel safe and I live in a decent part of town"

ONLINE44 "the crime especially by teenagers"

ONLINE49 "crime (poverty and education, make no mistake, all 3 are intertwined)."

N3 "I have been burglarized more times than I care to admit - a ridiculous #."

N6 "Endless spiral of gangs, crime rate"

N10 "the high crime rate. How unsafe you are."

N13 "The violence. I don't go outside by myself at night hardly ever because there's a very good chance I'll get raped or murdered."

N27 "crime is increasing but very few are saying anything"

N30 "your lack of securing safe environments throughout the city for your citizens"

N34 "the lack of security in impoverished communities"

N35 "crime"

N48 "Crime"

N82 "And then there's your abusive side with police killings roughly once a month"

N110 "Crime"

N111" crime"

N114 "transportation and safety are BIG issues. police the police"

N121 "crime"

N123 "it's not safe"

**Food**, Responses: 5

REASONS:

ONLINE28 "food islands"

ONLINE30 "No decent food delivery options. WTF?"

N20 "A Trader Joes in Midtown"

N47 "food deserts"

N83 "Poor families living in neighborhoods without access to grocery stores"

**Education**, Responses: 37

REASONS:

ONLINE1 "the schools are broken. I hate that there is just a handful of good options"

ONLINE4 "Schools that can't improve quick enough and not enough quality pre-k education"

ONLINE6 "lack of parental involvement in many schools"

ONLINE7 "How you appear unable to correct your educational misfortunes. Be more open to radical reforms, value freeform education, and ignore the national obsession with teaching towards the tests."

ONLINE8 "Poor quality of public education"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE15 "The privatization of public education through charters and over city schools"

ONLINE17 "The sad, dysfunctional state of education. It wearies me to my bones and beyond."

ONLINE20 "Bad Memphis city public schools"

ONLINE23 "The poor public school system, and I don't even have kids"

ONLINE26 "Public Education."

ONLINE28 "Inner city school segregation"

ONLINE36 "the lack of education"

ONLINE42 "Horrible school systems - not everyone can afford private school, but everyone deserves a decent education"

ONLINE45 "Your school system needs some major work"

ONLINE49 "public education (crime and poverty, make no mistake, all 3 are intertwined). Public education, public education, public education."

N1 "We need schools (K-12)".

N6 "Endless spiral of school dropouts"

N7 "Better schools and investment, especially in economically deprived areas."

N11 "K-12 public education"

N20 "more money on charter schools and education - without this, what's the point?"

N27 "our schools are failing"

N35 "the city of Memphis is divided in school areas"

N50 "Too many young folks who can't read, no diploma/GED, no skills, unprepared for college"

N57 "K-12 Venues"

N73 "We must have quality schools for all children - we have a long way to go"

N74 "Lack of investment in public schools"

N81 "School district tension"

N82 "the charter schools and R. Brad and Relay - It's too much!"

N83 "lack of funding for decent and fair public education"

N111 "direction of education"

N113 "the education situation"

N114 "the schools are not close to being adequate"

NONUMBER1 "the public school system needs a lot of work"

N96 "the provincial outlook"

ONLINE21 "The narrow viewpoints"

N47 "Lack of LGBT resources/sexual education. African American support/resources & youth programs"

ONLINE9 "Lies, Trying to be "pleasant and nice" we fail to be HONEST!!! Not necessarily corrupt. It's like Memphians "can't handle the truth!. Racism - Born of fear and "group think" which was nurtured and is maintained by the Crump regime. Religious Dogma and the lack of compassion shown in every day kindness & love"

**Transportation**, Responses: 54

REASONS:

ONLINE1 "lack of public transportation. I can't get where I need to go unless I drive"



# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE2 "You POOR transit. It makes it hard for me to hop on the bus and get you your favorite beer down the streets. Your damaged streets. My car is always having issues due to the potholes everywhere."

ONLINE5 "I'm trapped without a car! Lack of bus routes, an I'll-run-you-over attitude towards pedestrians- this is not going to work."

ONLINE11 "That our transit authority will not allow you to connect in areas of the city. Why is so hard for us to get a rail system that can take you from downtown to Collierville"

ONLINE14 "Litter, potholes, crappy roads and bombed-out sidewalks - people need to take more pride in their city"

ONLINE28 "One of the first things I noticed when I first got here was 'Where is all the people?' Then I got the walking and realized how bad your sidewalks are and how it just didn't feel safe to walk out there."

ONLINE32 "We need the Trolleys back and running"

ONLINE34 "Poor infrastructure. All things to do with MATA and MATA plus"

ONLINE38 "We've made pedestrian/bike-friendly strides, but your sidewalks and streets still need some work."

ONLINE42 "Traffic & awful drivers -> four right turns & a stop sign do not make a valid driver's license qualification test!!!"

ONLINE44 "people who see my signal wanting to change lanes and they don't let me in, they speed instead"

ONLINE45 "Your Public transit system is an embarrassment"

N1 "Dedicated funding for MATA. We need better public transportation"

N4 "your roads are not walkable. You need a transportation rail connecting downtown to the suburbs. better sustainability."

N5 "Lack of comprehensive planning."

N7 "Bad traffic. Better public transportation system that covers the city, the poor and rich."

N9 "We are flat enough to become a great city for bicycling and walking trails - it's happening but the pace needs to be accelerated and promoted"

N11 "Infrastructure. Terrible sidewalks, lack of rail transportation between nearby cities, over built speed bumps, lack of thinking about automobiles in planning - current bike lane rage - Riverside Drive, Danny Thomas & Union entrance"

N12 "The terrible state of the roads and highways."

N15 "Your transportation issues. your lack of quality roads. broken sidewalks."

N16 "maintenance of roads"

N18 "Public transportation is lacking - especially when you get out of Downtown & Midtown."

N20 "Affordable airfare"

N25 "the inadequate public transit. The stupid trolleys. The "Roo" (barf)"

N30 "your lack of functional public transportation. Your lack of appropriate connectivity throughout the city"

N32 "transportation"

N34 "lack of public transportation"

N35 "sidewalks"

N40 "improve streets, sidewalks,"

N45 "Unwalkable commercial areas. Broken sidewalks/narrow sidewalks. Too wide streets"

N47 "Stopping the trolleys"

N48 "Traffic."

N49 "Bike lanes - no good for biking downtown"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

N51 "Cars do not know how to share the road with cyclists"

N53 "More bike/ped infrastructure"

N56 "lack of MATA bus service to Shelby Farms. No sidewalks for MATA users. Lack of respect for transit users by reducing funding"

N58 "Public Transportation!"

N73 "We need good public transportation so people could get to good jobs - if we had more jobs at various levels"

N74 "Inadequate public transportation. safe bike/pedestrian commuter routes"

N75 "Public transportation is unreliable for the thousands that need to rely on it"

N79 "Public transportation for all"

N81 "Skinny driving lanes"

N87 "poor transit"

N90 "your roads"

N92 "outdated and unreliable transportation system"

N110 "poor transit system. no trolley"

N114 "transportation and safety are BIG issues"

N122 "not walkable"

N123 "it's not walkable"

N125 "lack of real public transit"

N127 "no walking spaces. no sidewalks"

NONUMBER2 "worst drivers in the country. inefficient transit"

NONUMBER3 "many streets are not pedestrian friendly"

ONLINE28 "One of the first things I noticed when I first got here was 'Where is all the people?' Then I got the walking and realized how bad your sidewalks are and how it just didn't feel safe to walk out there. What is up with all those crime rankings, Really"

**Nature**, Responses: 5

REASONS:

ONLINE 27 "Spread out nature- must drive everywhere"

N12 "The lack of mountains and hills."

N78 "Not enough parks"

N90 "your ice in the winter"

ONLINE14 "Lack of outdoor activities - do something with the Riverfront that will engage people"

**History and Cultural Heritage**, Responses: 6

REASONS:

N5 "Lack of respect for conservation - particularly adaptive reuse, historic structures + the river"

N11 "Developers clear cutting & not renovating historic buildings, but destroying them."

N20 "I'm liking the new direction I'm seeing in historic preservation but I want to see more."

N29 "there are so many really awesome old buildings yet they remain unused for the most part"

N87 "lack of respect for historic buildings"



# Let's stay together, Memphis

## Healthcare, Responses: 2

### REASONS:

ONLINE5 "Health is at the bottom of everyone's to do list- employers, schools, families, churches-- you might say you're prioritizing, but what are you DOING to make it better?"

N47 "STD rates"

## Small Businesses, Responses: 3

### REASONS:

N59 "small business to be helped in the future (long-term)"

N83 "taxes on local owned family businesses"

N127 "no cafes"

## Music

Responses: 1

### REASONS:

N49 "lack of variety in music and venues"

## Sports

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: 1

### REASONS:

"when Grizzlies lose against teams they should possibly beat"

## Affordability, Responses: 5

### REASONS:

N16 "the lack of community development."

N30 "your lack of affordable, accessible & integrated housing"

N35 "lack of quality affordable housing"

N45 "too few housing choices that are for a range of lifestyles (except downtown)"

N47 "Housing options for the homeless"

## IV. "I SEE": POSITIVE, NEGATIVE OR MIXED OUTLOOK

## Positive, Responses: 267

### REASONS:

ONLINE4 "A city that can grow without losing its character"

ONLINE7 "You remaining true to your roots while earning respect amongst your national peers."

ONLINE14 "Less litter"

ONLINE19 "Deannexation of Cordova and Southwind/Wyndyke. Focus on urban blight and development"

ONLINE27 "Growing entertainment districts"

ONLINE28 "The cleanest city of America"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE29 "More beautiful"

ONLINE30 "More vitality in the urban center. A city with a progressive outlook and a willingness to tackle its social issues with a holistic approach... I hope!"

ONLINE33 "If we do change we can become something unique and great"

ONLINE36 "A better city. Better quality of life. More opportunities"

ONLINE39 "Better than ever. Less urban blight"

ONLINE40 "the city having passed a turning point. Memphis moving into being a major city. the city successfully selling its story to the country"

ONLINE44 "Cleaner"

ONLINE49 "Forward progress. National attention"

ONLINE50 "A thriving city core"

N3 "more density in the core"

N4 "A city that embraces its local nature. A vibrant city for sure. I know you will be healthier, sustainable, and will continue to grit and grind."

N5 "One of the most diverse cities in the nation. A great place to raise children in a truly mixed environment so they can better face the challenges of the world. I see Memphis as a hot destination for tourism, living, education + a soulful feeling that can only be found here."

N6 "Community gardens replacing urban blight, abandoned lots. This would not only brighten neighborhoods - it would instill pride... help urban renewal. It would also teach "healthy" eating - from seedlings to the plate. Get away from fatty fast-food culture, and in the end help reduce health care costs."

N9 "A denser city that will create the need for an effective urban transit system."

N19 "That we could become a place for families to thrive and grow spiritually, economically and socially. We could indeed become the home

to those seeking a place to invest their time, talents, and treasure from all around the world. The word HUB would take on a whole new meaning if you were to act on the ideas, concerns and new innovations that have been shared with you, me and many others."

N21 "Potential & Growth"

N22 "A unified vision"

N23 "A culturally diverse environment full of parks and civic squares where different people can gather"

N27 "Improved quality of life. A place people would want to live rather than living here by default"

N29 "Influx of teachers, scientists, specialists, and doctors to revitalize the city"

N31 "Potential growth"

N32 "A lot of progression. More dense"

N35 "A clean city"

N42 "A revitalized city. Revitalization coming from within"

N44 "a better, more unified city"

N56 "Listed as the "Best Place to Live""

N57 "We will become a regenerative city. more urban infill projects reclaiming our tax base"

N59 "A beautiful city well kept, managed and taken care of. A very desirable place to live"

N82 "Less sprawl and lower/flat city taxes or check points on I-40/55 at the city limits charging pay roll tolls to the folks using our infrastructure and living in the burbs"

N87 "Dense urban core"



# Let's stay together, Memphis

N90 "A city of hope and development"

N94 "A robust city of choice. Central location"

N95 "Being a clean city again. A place where everyone in America wants to be"

N113 "New buildings"

N114 "Nationally recognized as a place with character, grit, swag - a place with its own sound and look"

N115 "Higher standard of living"

N120 "Lots of smaller projects converging into a large movement against monolithic visions & destruction from big players"

N123 "there will be less pollution"

N127 "A place that expresses a clear identity"

NONUMBER1 "Tremendous urban development & infrastructure growth"

NONUMBER4 "Redevelopment in the city limits. More worldly influence & outreach. The systematic remediation of nearly all the urban blight"

ONLINE22 "Rebuilt neighborhoods"

ONLINE43 "An investment in community life, which will put the pride back in neighborhoods built around their schools"

N3 "Residential and the services residents need like grocery, dry cleaners, restaurant, cafes"

N6 "Sites throughout all of Memphis with integrated housing complexes... with low income people, young professionals, families, retirees... each site would have a daycare so single parents & young families can work without child care problems or latch key kids. These sites would have a "village" feel. We all know "it takes a village" to bring up a child. Retirees would feel part of the community, not cast offs. An opportunity to bridge races, rich & poor."

N18 "Revitalization of areas around what had been some of the largest

vacant buildings in the city. Communities and neighborhoods learning to be less isolated but retaining their identities."

N22 "Strong neighborhoods"

N23 "Our neighborhoods with less care changed into better living conditions"

ONLINE6 "formerly disinvested neighborhoods in bloom"

N50 "Our great neighborhoods capitalizing from their unique amenities/ qualities, offering residents entrepreneurial opportunities and creating interesting places for folk to visit & spend money. More racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods"

N60 "Revitalized neighborhoods"

N87 "walkable, bikeable neighborhoods"

N92 "revitalized neighborhoods in the inner city, like Orange Mound, North Memphis & Downtown"

N116 "More beauty - in the neighborhoods & streets"

N121 "Healthy neighborhoods connected to each other"

NONUMBER2 "Revitalized neighborhoods"

NONUMBER3 "A more unified, holistic neighborhood that incorporates more modes of travel and the pedestrian"

ONLINE9 "Positive - More truly enlightened civic and business leaders across races & cultures"

ONLINE18 "The county/city governments thriving AS ONE. United."

ONLINE28 "Honest government and proud constituency of their community getting things done"

ONLINE43 "a mayor, cultured and well-traveled with vision and insight under 45."

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE44 “better managers in this city”

N2 “(hope to see) honest, open and effective city government”

N30 “A future where the city government’s priority is its citizens. A future where people feel safe and are able to truly trust the people that represent them”

N42 “A strong leader to show the way”

N45 “More enlightened leadership”

N46 “Our citizens have got to step up and speak up loudly and force our elected officials to work for us and make positive changes and choices for the quality of living in our city.”

N53 “Better government/elected officials”

N56 “Unity among city and county govts”

N78 “New leaders”

N82 “An overhauled city govt and MPD that is run by the residents of Memphis”

N111 “single government”

N116 “Leaders that lead positively - focused on serving the people & providing opportunity for all of their citizens”

N121 “the city reflecting/respecting the priorities of its citizens”

ONLINE22 “More and more money flowing out of the suburbs and back to the city center.”

ONLINE26 “More companies will move in to Memphis and that will bring opportunity.”

ONLINE27 “Increasing home values”

ONLINE34 “Huge economic development. A tourist Mecca.”

ONLINE38 “Us investing in things that will attract and retain young talent. tourism continuing to grow -- from Bass Pro Shops, the Mississippi River cruise lines, the Graceland campus expansion ... and much more to come.”

ONLINE43 “housing market is suitable so middle class families can bounce back from the market prohibiting them from selling or increasing property values.”

N1 “In ten years I hope to see more economic development for small businesses in area neighborhoods as well as big businesses.”

N7 “A city which the income gap between rich and poor is decreased”

N52 “Projects like Crosstown, Broad Av. Overton Square acting as an anchor/ catalyst for further investment”

N54 “A touristic city, safe and beautiful like your sister (New Orleans)”

N59 “A city with so much potential in every industry”

N72 “It will take longer than that - lower property rate”

N75 “More businesses moving to Memphis and employing more young professionals. Better shopping”

N82 “Less sprawl and lower/flat city taxes or check points on I-40/55 at the city limits charging pay roll tolls to the folks using our infrastructure and living in the burbs”

N95 “more positive economic impact”

N96 “manufacturing”

N111 “stronger local economy”

N113 “More money”

N116 “More manufacturing”

ONLINE5 “Continued effective community-led initiatives for reduction in violence and exposure to violence”



# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE11 "a safer city"

ONLINE29 "less crime"

ONLINE37 "Safely enjoying my home and neighborhood"

N11 "Far better stupid gangs and hood violence"

N27 "A safer city"

N30 "A future where all people have a safe place to live in"

N54 "A touristic city, safe and beautiful like your sister (New Orleans)"

N6 "Community gardens replacing urban blight, abandoned lots. This would not only brighten neighborhoods - it would instill pride... help urban renewal. It would also teach "healthy" eating - from seedlings to the plate. Get away from fatty fast-food culture, and in the end help reduce health care costs. More "green machine" roving busses bringing produce into poor areas without produce stores. More chef/working lessons like "the Church Health Center" has started, so people know how to prepare healthy meals on a budget. Apprenticeships offered in high schools so kids can learn a skill - make a living."

N20 "Trader Joes in Midtown"

N26 "Eradication of food deserts"

N92 "no food deserts"

ONLINE1 "a better, neighborhood based school system that doesn't segregate based on scores"

ONLINE8 "better public education"

ONLINE11 "better school system"

ONLINE13 "a mecca for the fields of Education"

ONLINE18 "The education system"

ONLINE22 "quality school system"

ONLINE27 "An up and coming city for college grads"

ONLINE28 "Schools are going to be inclusive and of the best quality"

ONLINE32 "A better educated public and therefore work force."

ONLINE43 "an investment in community life, which will put the pride back in neighborhoods built around their schools"

ONLINE45 "Better schools"

N7 "An improved Educational System in which a high percent graduate high school, obtain good training for higher paying jobs."

N11 "Far better K-12 public education"

N27 "Better education system"

N29 "Improvement of the quality of education centers. City schools getting more attention"

N48 "Wealth/education gaps closing"

N95 "quality education - communities involved in educating"

N111 "better public schools. More diverse communities & schools"

N115 "Higher education levels. Greater availability of education to all communities"

N116 "Better education - realistic education"

ONLINE5 "Emphasis on transit options"

ONLINE6 "more connectedness between the suburbs and the city center"

ONLINE15 "Thriving poplar corridor"

ONLINE25 "More greenways"

ONLINE26 "The addition of more bike lanes, trails, etc. will encourage people of all socio-economic levels to join in on the fun and get outdoors and move!"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE45 “a better public transit system”

ONLINE52 “Could have clean streets. Could have walking and bike trails, connectivity, more mixed use projects”

N3 “Thriving major corridors that are currently distressed - Crump/Lamar for example”

N4 “A city that partners with those in the suburbs to have better connections.”

N6 “More transit, maybe weekly shuttles, taking the poor to produce/grocery stores and farmers markets. “

N7 “More trails and Greenways that enable better physical fitness and enjoyment of nature.”

N9 “A vast system of Greenline across the city. Some rails to trails conversions, some using power lines. All these connect to our parks. A denser city that will create the need for an effective urban transit system.”

N18 “More connectivity with bike trails and routes”

N20 “Trolley line extended into midtown & Cooper Young. More flights to major US cities and abroad”

N25 “Redevelop the North End Terminal. Develop an 24-hour bus service that prioritizes low-income communities of color.”

N30 “A future with a well-funded & structured transportation system”

N31 “Better transportation”

N32 “A more fluid walkable city”

N34 “A truly walkable city - one that provides a full-service trolley system to residents both downtown and midtown”

N56 “More funding for public transportation”

N57 “More bike lane, parks and events supporting healthy activities”

N78 “More greenlines & more solar power”

N82 “Paved roads with sidewalks and working busses (light rail usually doesn't cut it)”

N87 “great transit system”

N92 “reliable transportation”

N94 “no traffic”

N111 “better roads and infrastructure”

N116 “More beauty - in the neighborhoods & streets”

NONUMBER2 “An interconnected bike network. A less car-centric city”

NONUMBER3 “A more unified, holistic neighborhood that incorporates more modes of travel and the pedestrian”

ONLINE3 “hope. perseverance. a future”

ONLINE4 “a unique place where innovative solutions to age-old problems are tried and successes are celebrated”

ONLINE7 “community reformation. Crosstown, South Beale, South Memphis, Broad Avenue. All are examples where citizens are investing in their area and chasing the dream that they can make a difference in it.”

ONLINE8 “better communication between the races”

ONLINE13 “fewer people in poverty due to work initiatives, collaborative efforts of government and churches. a mecca for the fields of Multiethnic Relations “

ONLINE21 “a more youthful population. more diversity and inclusiveness. less focus on the negativity”

ONLINE24 “population increase because of plentiful water. playing up our strengths”

ONLINE29 “less divided”



# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE30 "More young people moving back to cities in general and breathing new life into places like Crosstown, Memphis Brewery, South Main area, etc. More independent non-profits."

ONLINE32 "Continued welcoming of all people and faiths"

ONLINE35 "A civic acknowledgement of the fact that race relations are much better than often portrayed."

ONLINE38 "us working to communicate more with residents and listen to their ideas for getting better. (This forum is a great start. I hope there are many more.)"

ONLINE45 "Fewer social/class barriers within the city"

ONLINE49 "Civic pride"

N1 "The change in mindset, our greatest possibilities will never happen."

N2 "Plus citizens who are proud of the place where they live"

N5 "Great for the Gen X + Y + their children with all the Greenlines + etc."

N6 "Sites throughout all of Memphis with integrated housing complexes... with low income people, young professionals, families, retirees... each site would have a daycare so single parents & young families can work without child care problems or latch key kids. These sites would have a "village" feel. We all know "it takes a village" to bring up a child. Retirees would feel part of the community, not cast offs. An opportunity to bridge races, rich & poor."

N7 "A more integrated city in which low and high cost housing are combined and less racial and ethnic is evident."

N8 "A beautiful city with lots of small & large communities that coexist in a sustainable way."

N12 "A revival of middle class families staying and supporting midtown and downtown."

N13 "The churches becoming less segregated. Different cultural groups coming together rather than fighting each other."

N16 "Better communities"

N18 "Communities and neighborhoods learning to be less isolated but retaining their identities. Citizens taking greater pride in being from Memphis."

N21 "People moving westward into the city"

N23 "Us being less segregated (whether by race, status or income) and more integrated as a whole community."

N25 "Poor people's revolution. riots. occupation of vacants by the vanguard. equity and racial justice"

N34 "A city full of vibrancy, of community"

N40 "An overall community that has used its absolutely worst problems to turn those problems around"

N44 "The number of socially active Memphians who are aimed at a better city for all is heart-warming"

N50 "More young adults with innovative ideas calling Memphis home. More multicultural city"

N52 "A reverse in the outmigration of the population. Tiny, step-by-step grassroots-led improvements building to critical mass and producing measurable changes"

N75 "Better race relations and more events where all races feel comfortable enjoying spaces together"

N78 "LGBT citizens being more open"

N81 "People that are committed to changing the way people see Memphis"

N94 "beautiful people"

N95 "churches involved in the community"

N96 "a growing arts community"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

N111 "More diverse communities & schools"

N114 "A Memphis whose children are able to stand up and be counted among our most gifted and balanced committed to equity and inclusion"

N115 "Smaller gaps between communities"

N116 "People with a goal of integrity in themselves and their city"

N126 "we will all change the way we do things"

NONUMBER2 "Grassroots community efforts forcing institutional change"

NONUMBER3 "A place that embraces all cultures and welcomes everyone"

ONLINE32 "continued restoration of beautiful historic buildings."

N31 "The history"

N34 "A city that is proud of its heritage and has found a way to retain that heritage"

N121 "Conservation and restoration of a.) rivers, streams, creeks/a greenway circling the city, b.) historic buildings c.) public spaces"

NONUMBER3 "A place that incorporates the history and heritage"

ONLINE5 "Health considered in all policies, and especially seen on an institutional basis."

ONLINE13 "a mecca for the fields of Medicine"

ONLINE26 "happy, healthier people. The addition of more bike lanes, trails, etc. will encourage people of all socio-economic levels to join in on the fun and get outdoors and move!"

N48 "Wealth/education gaps closing"

N57 "More bike lane, parks and events supporting healthy activities"

N111 "more healthy activities"

ONLINE6 "more public art, less blight"

N7 "Greater involvement for support of the Arts and Music of MEM (especially for the wonderful Sym. Orch. which is presently struggling for survival)."

N11 "Major art & film & music festivals."

N20 "An equivalent of the City Museum"

N32 "More cultured"

N53 "Better civic culture"

N78 "More public art"

N85 "Memphis being a soulful, emerging-artist hub of creativity, artistic innovation, entrepreneurial"

N86 "Vibrant arts scene"

N95 "music and art festivals"

N127 "Culture hub"

ONLINE4 "a place that is known as a great incubator for small, local business"

ONLINE13 a thriving business culture"

ONLINE20 "even more local restaurants"

ONLINE30 "More independent small businesses."

N1 "In ten years I hope to see more economic development for small businesses in area neighborhoods as well as big businesses."

N3 "More small businesses"

N26 "More businesses"

N116 "more business"

ONLINE18 "the music industry booming once again."



# Let's stay together, Memphis

N10 "A big boom in music"

N11 "Music and concert scene. Major music festivals."

N12 "A thriving music scene."

N114 "A place that does not need to apologize for its blues - confident in its skin"

ONLINE20 "NBA champions three times over"

N15 "An NBA championship trophy."

ONLINE24 "continual affordability"

N30 "A city without physical and attitudinal barriers for people with disabilities"

N94 "low cost of housing"

N94 "great water"

ONLINE25 "More parks"

ONLINE38 "Such as the greenline and other greenspaces."

N7 "More trails and Greenways that enable better physical fitness and enjoyment of nature."

N94 "great water"

ONLINE7 "A more diverse set of industries employing higher level experience and investing back into the city."

ONLINE8 "More jobs"

ONLINE11 "More employment"

ONLINE13 "Fewer people in poverty due to work initiatives, collaborative efforts of government and churches."

ONLINE34 "Incredible job opportunities"

ONLINE44 "More higher paying jobs"

ONLINE50 "more industry/jobs"

N11 "More & better jobs"

N16 "More jobs"

N31 "More jobs for our future (the children of tomorrow)"

N35 "Programs for summer youth employment"

N50 "More high paying jobs in medical industry"

N75 "More businesses moving to Memphis and employing more young professionals."

N82 "Economic development with thousands of new Living Wage jobs instead of the low wage and endless bad deal PILOTS"

N96 "financially more jobs. Technology based careers"

## Negative , Responses: 31

### REASONS:

ONLINE35 "Unfortunately...more of the same.....unless leadership achieves some unity and media ceases to "emphasize the negative""

N1 "Also, we need more cultural amenities."

N74 "Continued poverty and segregation"

ONLINE33 "So many young people, including mine, leaving Memphis. If we don't change crime will increase, population will decrease, businesses will move out"

ONLINE25 "gentrification"

ONLINE9 "Negative - Greater schism (social & economic) between the haves and the have nots. Gentrification of inner-city core"

# Let's stay together, Memphis

ONLINE14 "maybe the trolley actually running again?? paved roads and sidewalks you can actually walk on"

N72 "it will take longer than that - need density, better schools, lower property rate"

N74 "Development of public school system into uneven charter schools"

ONLINE17 "Declining education due to infighting, which will lead to more crime."

ONLINE23 "I want to say better schools but I don't really believe it. I'm really skeptical of charter schools."

ONLINE42 "Nothing changing, crime getting worse"

N10 "A rise in crime"

ONLINE33 "If we don't change crime will increase, population will decrease, businesses will move out"

ONLINE17 "Declining education due to infighting, which will lead to more crime."

ONLINE2 "more and more crime!"

N74 "Continued poverty and segregation."

ONLINE50 " still too much poverty"

ONLINE33 "If we don't change crime will increase, population will decrease, businesses will move out"

ONLINE9 "Negative - Greater schism(social & economic) between the haves and the have nots,"

ONLINE15 "Continued flight from the city of middle class-declining tax base"

ONLINE17 "Increasing Poverty as no politicians local, state, or federal seem to really care about the yawning income divide."

ONLINE31 "A bankrupt city whose elected officials will never "get it."

ONLINE 35 "Unfortunately...more of the same.....unless leadership achieves some unity and media ceases to "emphasize the negative"

ONLINE17 "Increasing Poverty as no politicians local, state, or federal seem to really care about the yawning income divide."

N124 "most neighborhoods treated as medieval peasantry living outside of the castle, marketplace and moat (Poplar corridor) where a disproportional emphasis of planning and development is currently focused"

N74 "Nice "tourist" neighborhoods with lack of investment in many historic neighborhoods"

ONLINE15 "Continued decline of former suburbs now annexed"

N125 "Basic improvements slight improvements for core and only token improvements to the rest"

ONLINE31 "Like Detroit is today"

ONLINE2 "Detroit! A corrupt city with young people that can not realize their potential!"

**Mixed**, Responses: 9

REASONS:

N9 "Maybe not in 10 years, but 20 to 30, we can become a very large city because we have plenty of high quality water - we need to be careful NOT to squander it as people will migrate here because of the water."

ONLINE26 "More division if nothing changes. happy, healthier people. The addition of more bike lanes, trails, etc. will encourage people of all socio-economic levels to join in on the fun and get outdoors and move!"

ONLINE26 "If we can't fix the education gap which leads to an employment gap, then the gap will just get wider. a vibrant city with a lot of choices if we do improve education."

N110 "Detroit if things don't change. A city of choice. Unafraid of change"



# Let's stay together, Memphis

N72 "It will take longer than that - need density"

ONLINE52 "Probably very little change. More mixed use projects"

N46 "Our citizens have got to step up and speak up loudly and force our elected officials to work for us and make positive changes and choices for the quality of living in our city."

ONLINE26 "Everyone will need to learn that you have to work for your next job and that you may have to start at the bottom to move up."

N26 "More corporations"

Mississippi River

Danny Thomas Boulevard

I-40

Poplar Ave

Union Ave

## V. THERAPY BOARD RESPONSES

1. Most important area in Memphis to redevelop?	
Downtown	
Fairgrounds	
Medical District	
Riverfront	
Airport Corridor	
Graceland	
Pinch District	
Other	
Low-income Poor Neighborhood	
Midtown	
Frayser/Whitehaven	
Soulsville, USA	
French Fort	
Orange Mound	
Alcy-Ball	
South Memphis	

2. What is the most important investment category?	
Schools/Education	 
Transit	
Affordable Housing	
Neighborhoods	
Downtown	
Roads/Infrastructure	
Parks	
Other	

most important investment category, cont.	
Blight	
Access	
Living Wage Jobs	
Parent Education	
Diversity Education	
Pot holes	
High Tech Jobs	
Food	
Public Housing	
Health	
Fun	

3. First thing you look for out the airplane window?	
Mississippi River	
Memphis/Downtown Skyline	
The Pyramid	
Neighborhoods/My Neighborhood	
Green Trees/Greenspace	
Memphis Zoo	
My House	
Overton Park	
Sprawl/Suburbs	
the M Bridge	
The Parkway System	
Fed Ex	
Coliseum	
Shelby Farms Greenline	
Sears Crosstown'	
MATA Transportation	



# Let's stay together, Memphis

First thing you look for out the airplane window, cont.	
Rhodes	I
The IP Building	I
Midtown	I

4. City "Hall Pass."		Reasons why:
New Orleans, LA	IIII II	wonderful downtown developed riverfront, streetcar, culture, food
Portland, OR	IIII	its just so easy to get around, I don't want to rely on my car, counter culture, bike friendly, outdoors adventures
Atlanta, GA	IIII	many up and coming young professionals, Family, parks, food, jobs, many HBCUs, wealth creation focused, engaged young professionals, opportunities for growth
Austin, TX	IIII	more bars per capita, walkable, green; music, art, universities; fresh spring pools; music & film scene, bike traffic, more swimming areas; live music capitol & great public/free events;
New York, NY	III	transit, density, vigorous performing arts (and I don't mean the expensive stuff, either), great public transit, so much to do, great parks, the high line, subway system, public bus, streetscape
Washington, D.C.	III	transit-public, youth programs, safe parks, much better education, intellectual people, engagement, activities, green, jobs, events
Ashville, NC	II	cool southern city
Chattanooga, TN	II	southern city with great play/relationship with indoor/outdoor space, very walkable/bikeable downtown
Chicago, IL	II	transit, density
Nashville, TN	II	career opportunity, activities, proximity to home, advancement, thriving city with tons to do
Paris, France	II	food, culture, romance, history, enough said
Pittsburgh, PA	II	close knit community, beautiful skyline, unique "accent", the neighborhoods, the food & bar culture, great architecture, vibrancy & its history, pride
Baltimore, MD	I	nice riverfront areas, casino
Boston, MA	I	great transit, lots of culture and history, job opportunity, a college town
Budapest	I	public transportation

# Let's stay together, Memphis

City "Hall Pass," cont.		
Catania, Italy		
Denver, CO		enough said
Fayetteville, AR		
Hong Kong		making long term investments
Houston, TX		full of soul like you have never seen
Koln, Germany		<3 #kolscheidung
Philly		Redding Terminal, MRT, center city, walkability
San Francisco, CA		food, so many outdoor activities, public transportation, family friendly
Santa Fe, NM		highlighting appreciation of cultures, walk/run/bike paths, downtown, food markets & restaurants
Seattle, WA		beautiful city with beautiful destinations I-40
St. Louis, MO		the city museum
Sydney, Australia		it's awesome
Torino, Italy		Beautiful architecture, rich history, amazing gelato
Venice Beach, CA		ocean, diversity, "village", friendly, health conscious



# Let's stay together, Memphis

5. 100 year Time capsule	
the blues	IIII
Beale Street	II
Civil Rights Museum	II
Memphis Grizzlies (grind attitude)(passion)	II
Overton Park	II
STAX	II
the zoo	II
89 Crown Victoria LTD	
A trolley wheel (to remind them to get it working)	
all the music of Memphis	
Aria Memphis music Recording Academy	
BBQ Sauce (ferments well)	
Blues Harmonica	
Central BBQ	
City Council and Mayor Wharton (assuming they could not be unfrozen)	
Crosstown Concourse	
Elvis ?	
Gibson Giutar	
inequality :(	
Justin Timberlake	
Levitt Shell	
Lucile - B.B.	
Martin Luther King Jr.	
MCS - education, great rule's, discipline, love, compassion, helper's, togetherness of family, teaching of children	
Memphis Bridge	
Memphis Hospitality (and smile)	
Memphis Soul Music	

100 year Time capsule, cont	
Memphis Water	
Mississippi River	
Musical history	
Payne's BBQ	
Public Transit	
Rufus Thomas	
Silky's Bucket of roses	
the African-American culture	
TN Brewery Untapped	
WDIA	
Wiseacre & Propcellar	

6. One building for all eternity	
Sears Crosstown	IIII II
The Orpheum	IIII
Civil Rights Museum	IIII
Sterick Building	II
Beale Street	II
100 N. Main	
201 Poplar - because it's where I work	
20th Century Fox Building	
Ben Hooks Library on Poplar	
Church - The Mississippi Blvd.	
Ernestine & Hazel's	
Fed Ex Forum	
Lincoln-American Tower	
Melanie's Soul Food	
Memphis Slim House	

# Let's stay together, Memphis

One building for all eternity, cont.	
MHA's Senior Housing Towers (clean them up, free them of most germs and help them stay healthy)	
Ms. Girlee's Soul Food	
North End Terminal	
STAX Museum	
The Exchange Building	
The Pyramid	
Tops Bar-B-Que (on Summer Ave. near National St)	
U of M Law School	
U.S. Marine Hospital	
Vance Avenue Foote Homes	

7. Most dreaded trip		commentary
Poplar	IIII II II	- lanes too small < THIS! < AMEN!; long trip on Poplar; Poplar @5; Anywhere on Poplar; riding down Poplar to Germantown; with 55 mph drivers; >Agreed; #50 Poplar Bus;
Union	IIII I	- Anywhere on Union; walking down Union; anytime I have to turn left off of Union;
Lamar	IIII	- Down Lamar to the Nike facility, ech.
Anywhere East of Highland Ave.	IIII	
Germantown Pkwy	III	- at rush hour
Sam Cooper	III	- @5; Sam Cooper/I-40 at 5;
MATA Transit's Bus	II	- #50 Poplar Bus
Airways towards the airport	II	- unkept, deteriorating & blight ridden
Highway 61 - from 240 to the state line	II	- Blues Trail :(
Madison - railroad/trolley tracks. on a bike	II	- in the rain it's deadly
Anything that requires 385		
Beale Street		Going to Beale Street for 'fun'
Hollywood		



# Let's stay together, Memphis

most dreaded trip, cont.		
One way streets Downtown		
Sidewalk Infrastructure		Anywhere I have to get to using the broken sidewalks or sidewalks without curbcuts (issue throughout the city)
Summer Ave.		
West Memphis		
Winchester Road		- so sad to see so many empty buildings

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HYDE FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

