



**DOWNTOWN
MEMPHIS
COMMISSION**



Handy Park Design Challenge: Call for Entries

The Downtown Memphis Commission (DMC) and Beale Street Management, in partnership with the Beale Street Merchants Association and the City of Memphis, are excited to announce the Handy Park Design Challenge.

This design competition is an opportunity for architects and designers to help Downtown think about how best to transform Handy Park from an underutilized public space back into a vibrant community asset. Similar to the remarkable transformation seen at Levitt Shell in Overton Park, the DMC believes that Handy Park can be made into a first-class concert venue, public space, and Downtown amenity for our entire community.

Participating in the Handy Park Design challenge is an opportunity to help shape the direction of an important civic asset and contribute to the ongoing resurgence of Downtown Memphis and Beale Street.

Project Goals:

- Elevate Handy Park as an important destination along Beale Street and within Downtown.
- Identify high-impact physical improvements to Handy Park that honor and recognize its important history and place in our community.
- Reimagine Handy Park as a well-utilized community gathering place and center of activity.
- Invest in a realistic project that can be implemented within a maximum \$250,000 construction budget.

Key Considerations:

1. Any new design for Handy Park should be cognizant of its important history and significance without our community.
2. The reimagined Handy Park should be multi-functional, flexible, and allow a variety of activities.
3. Any renovations or changes to the site need to be attractive to concert promoters and others who might use the park for special events.
4. Whether or not to include fixed seating is an important consideration. Each design team should balance the need to provide some fixed seating with a desire for the park-space

to be flexible and adaptable for multiple types of uses and accommodate a wide range of activities.

5. Each design should offer solutions for providing shade in summer.
6. Handy Park should be concession-friendly and be designed to allow for ample sponsorship opportunities.
7. Restrooms, either permanent or temporary, need to be included on the site.
8. Each design proposal should take a stance on whether or not Handy Park should retain the existing perimeter fence or similar types of security measures. Note that all recommendations are subject to the results of the Crowd Control Study currently in progress.

Prizes:

While the overall intent of the Handy Park Design Challenge is to identify an architect or firm to design the park renovations, an important secondary goal is to encourage bold thinking and new ideas about the future of this important civic asset. To that end, the following prizes will be awarded as a result of this design challenge:

First Prize:	\$5,000
Second Prize:	\$3,000
Third Prize:	\$1,000
Best Student Project:	\$1,000

Eligibility:

This design competition is open to all architects, intern architects, architecture students, and urban designers. Participants may enter as individuals or as teams.

It should be noted that selecting a Design Challenge winner does not obligate the City of Memphis to ultimately undertake the Handy Park Renovation Project or to hire the winning architect or team. The ultimate decision to complete the renovation project will be based on a variety of factors, including the availability of resources. However, in the event that the Handy Park Renovation Project is able to move forward, the DMC will work in good faith to negotiate with the winning architect or team for further design services, as needed.

Timeline:

Design Challenge Issued	March 6, 2018
Proposals Due	April 27, 2018
Winner Selected	May 25, 2018
Handy Park Improvements Completed	Target Date - March 2019

Selection Process:

A jury consisting of Downtown stakeholders, Beale Street Merchants, and members of the Beale Street Task Force will review and evaluate the proposals.

All proposals will be considered by the jury in their digital form in order to determine 5 or more finalists. Finalists will have their boards professionally printed and displayed at a public input meeting to be held in May at Handy Park.

Evaluation Criteria:

The jury will evaluate projects based on the response to the project goals and key considerations listed in this summary. The project sponsors are open to considering a wide range of design responses, from a bold reimagining of the space to more limited, strategic interventions. It is up to each designer or team to decide what approach to take in order to meet the project goals and key objectives.

Required Submission Materials:

Submit entry boards in digital format through the DMC website at DowntownMemphis.com. Each team is required to submit no more than two (2) ARCH-D size board (24inx36in) in the form of a PDF file(s). One file may be submitted for each board, with each file to be under 10MB in size. The board may be oriented landscape or portrait.

The content of each board is left open to the designer or team to decide what best communicates its concepts and solutions to the jury. Each project must also include a 300-word (max) explanation of the project somewhere on the board. Possible board content may include – but is not limited to, site plan, sections, elevations, rendered perspectives, diagrams, and images of physical models.

Keep in mind that the boards should be legible and understandable to a wide audience.

Anonymity:

The anonymity of ALL entries must be carefully preserved by the entrants. There shall be no names, logos, or identifying marks on the presentation boards. Any entry that does not maintain anonymity will be disqualified.

Questions:

Contact Jon Shivers, Director of Beale Street, jshivers@bealestreet.com or 901-526-0115

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY 4 PM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

[Submission link here.](#)