



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Paducah Showcases American Heritage This Fall
with Powerful Stories, Quilts, and Traditions**

PADUCAH, KY, September 3, 2025 – This fall, Paducah, Kentucky unfolds a season rich with stories, flavors, and traditions that reflect the heart of America. Exhibits and events across the city invite visitors to discover the artistry of diverse communities, the heritage preserved in heirlooms, and the warmth of gatherings around food and music. Together, these experiences offer many ways to connect with the people and traditions that continue to shape our nation.

Smithsonian’s *Americans* at the River Discovery Center

Now open in downtown Paducah, *Americans*—a nationally touring exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution—unpacks the complex history of Native American imagery and stories in U.S. culture. This free exhibit invites visitors to consider how deeply Native heritage is interwoven with the nation’s identity. [Available through September 27](#), the exhibition provides a rare opportunity to engage with a Smithsonian experience in the heart of Western Kentucky.

***Whiles I Yet Live* at The National Quilt Museum**

The National Quilt Museum presents [Whiles I Yet Live: Matriarchy and Generational Exchange in Gee’s Bend](#), an exhibition celebrating the extraordinary women of Gee’s Bend, Alabama. Through bold, improvisational quilting passed down across generations, these African American artists have shaped the trajectory of modern art while preserving community identity. On view through December 28, the exhibit exemplifies how quilting preserves both memory and connection.

Quilt Documentation Days: Preserving America’s Story

In honor of America250, The National Quilt Museum will host [Quilt Documentation Days](#) September 12-13, inviting the public to document their family heirlooms by contributing to the national Quilt Index. Visitors can bring their quilts for review and recording, ensuring that personal histories become part of the broader American story.

Barbecue on the River: A Celebration of Flavor and Community

Paducah's signature fall festival, [Barbecue on the River](#), returns September 25-27 with dozens of BBQ vendors, live music, and family activities in Paducah's historic downtown. Beyond the flavor and smoke, this beloved tradition supports local charities, exemplifying Paducah's spirit of community and connection.

A Tapestry of Traditions

"Paducah has always been a place where stories meet," said Alyssa Phares, President & CEO of the Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau. "This fall, we're proud to highlight the voices and creative traditions that help tell America's story. From quilts to barbecue, Native heritage to African American artistry, there are so many ways to connect with our culture, past and present."

For more information about fall heritage programming in Paducah and to plan your visit, visit www.paducah.travel.

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High-resolution images and interviews with curators and organizers are available upon request.

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