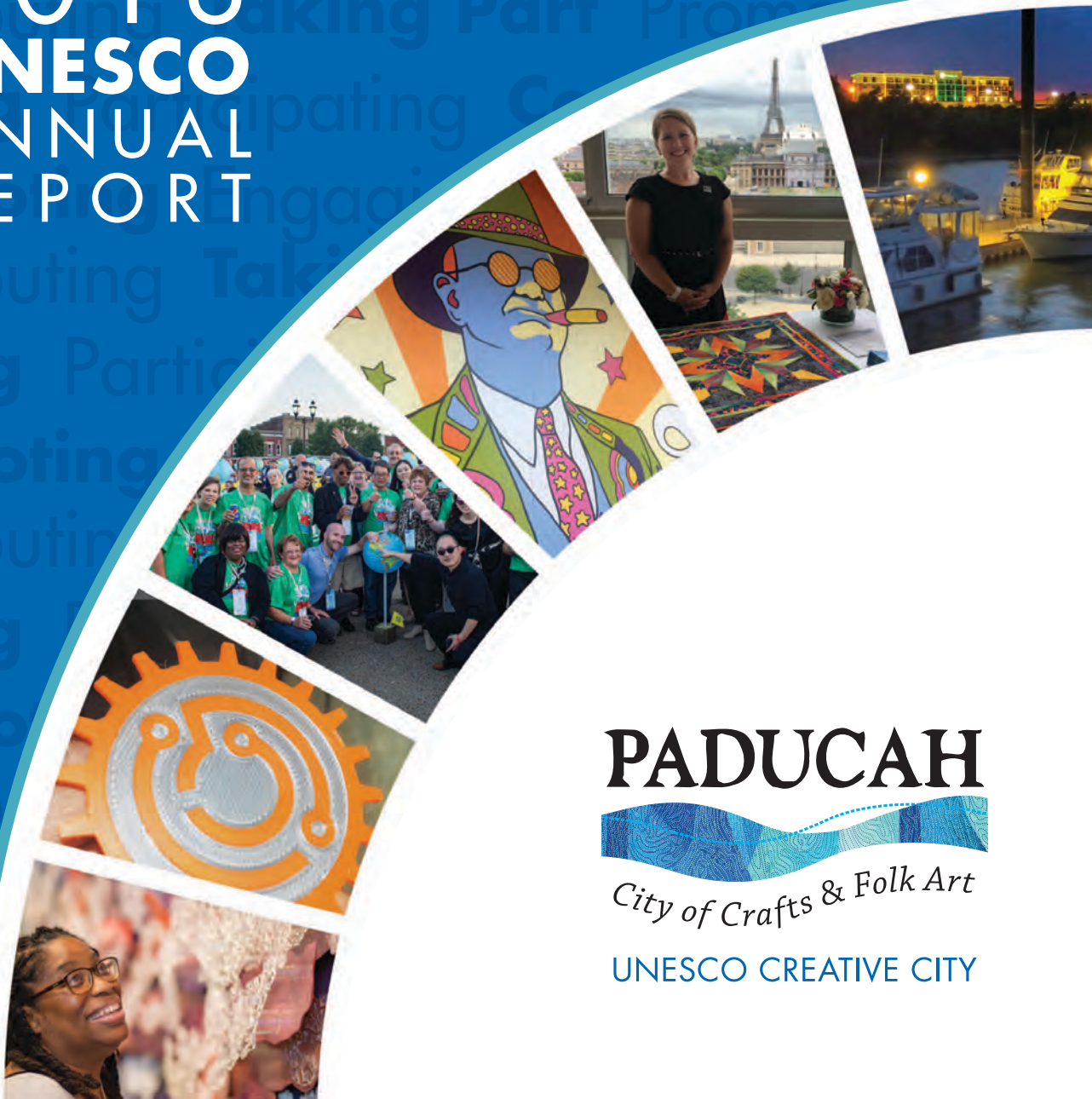


# 2018 UNESCO ANNUAL REPORT



**PADUCAH**



*City of Crafts & Folk Art*

UNESCO CREATIVE CITY



## Greetings from the Creative City of Paducah, a small city with a large personality!

Paducah is a creative community, and sometimes creativity shows up in the most surprising ways.

The cornerstone of creativity is a willingness to explore new or challenging ideas. The citizens of Paducah recently embraced two difficult conversations, one about race and the other about gender identities, worldwide concerns. This compassionate city had these conversations with dignity and respect.

I attended my first UNESCO Creative Cities Network meeting in Enghien-les-Bains (Media Arts). I enjoyed blogging about the experience and sharing options for participating in the Network, including film festivals, literary contests and opportunities to engage in international arts festivals.

In September 2017, Paducah welcomed the Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art for the first annual meeting of the sub-network and the first UNESCO Creative Cities meeting to be held in the United States. Focused on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, speakers led discussions on topics from tourism to economic development and natural resources.

Paducah has “leaned in” to the Creative City designation, taking flight after five years with UNESCO as our guiding post. New partnerships are key. In 2018, we will travel to San Cristobal de las Casas (Crafts & Folk Art) for “Sabores y Saberes” and host artists from Tel Aviv (Media Arts) and Rome (Film) in a project involving local musicians and actors. I predict more of our citizens will experience the Creative Cities Network with each year!

Paducah’s future is bright as a regional hub of healthcare, river business, advanced manufacturing, and retail—all exploding with creative culture. As with any creative endeavor, new and inspiring adventure is always around the corner. Here, in Paducah, we are embracing what’s ahead with open minds and inspired spirits!

Best Regards,

**Brandi Harless**

Mayor, City of Paducah

# Paducah Creative City in Action

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network recognizes that harnessing and cultivating creativity is essential to the prosperity of any city. Paducah is united with like-minded, forward-thinking Creative Cities focused on building better, stronger cities through creativity, culture and innovation.

The six areas of action featured in this report generate platforms to fully capitalize on creative assets and global collaboration. With culture at heart, Creative Cities are taking action on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda to transform our world by ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all.



**Sharing**  
Experiences,  
Knowledge &  
Best Practices



**Participating**  
in Pilot Projects,  
Partnerships  
& Initiatives



**Contributing**  
to Professional  
and Artistic  
Exchange  
Programs &  
Networks



**Taking Part**  
in Studies,  
Research &  
Evaluations on  
the Experience  
of the Creative  
Cities



**Promoting**  
Policies &  
Measures for  
Sustainable  
Urban  
Development



**Engaging** in  
Communication  
& Awareness-  
Raising  
Activities

# UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art Annual Meeting – Paducah, Kentucky USA



Representatives of Creative Cities from around the globe gathered in Paducah for the 2017 UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art Annual Meeting September 24-27.

Over three days, delegates, expert speakers and special guests discussed best practices for leveraging the power of arts and culture to strengthen community identity and promote strategic development around three themes.

## **Creative Cities & Tourism Opportunities**

*Featured Moderator: Nathan Lump, Editor-In-Chief, Travel + Leisure*

## **Economic Development & Urban Revitalization Using Arts & Culture**

*Featured Moderator: Vendeline von Bredow, Midwest Correspondent,  
The Economist*

## **Education, Institutions & Natural Resources for Sustainable Economic & Cultural Development**

*Featured Moderator: Rafael Ortega, Global Product Line Manager, Nike, Inc.*

**25**  
Expert  
Speakers

For a full Paducah meeting recap, visit [paducah.travel/unescocfa](http://paducah.travel/unescocfa)



**8** Cities of Crafts & Folk Art  
representing **4** continents

**3** U.S. Creative Cities

**3** Candidate Cities

**3** U.S. National Commission  
for UNESCO Members

**20+**  
Paducah  
Cultural  
Venues

**36** Works of Craft & Folk Art  
featured in "Pride of Place" exhibition at  
Paducah School of Art & Design

Focus on

**17** Sustainable  
Development Goals  
of the 2030 Agenda

Events involving  
all **7** Creative  
Fields:

Crafts & Folk Art  
Design  
Film  
Gastronomy  
Literature  
Media Arts  
Music



# About the **UNESCO** Creative Cities Network

## Creativity for sustainable urban development

Launched in 2004, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) aims to foster international cooperation with and between cities committed to investing in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy.

The UCCN is one of UNESCO's key partners in implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

By joining the Network, cities commit to collaborate and develop partnerships with a view to promoting creativity and cultural industries, to share best practices, to strengthen participation in cultural life, and to integrate culture in economic and social development strategies and plans.

Paducah was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts & Folk Art in November 2013. The Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) facilitates Paducah's Creative City program locally to promote the city's distinctively creative culture and foster partnerships globally.

The Network comprises 180 cities in 72 countries designated in 7 creative fields: Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music.

*"Being a member of the UCCN is the starting point of a long journey to which UNESCO invites all cities wherever they may be, provided they share the vision of working together to stimulate culture and creativity as motors for sustainable urban development."*

—Emmanuelle Robert,  
Project Manager for the UNESCO Creative Cities Network



My Carbon Fingerprint" by Anne Williams, Australia Wide Five





# ● UNESCO Cities of Crafts & Folk Art





# UNESCO Creative Cities Network Members

## CRAFTS & FOLK ART

Al-Ahsa (Saudi Arabia)  
Aswan (Egypt)  
Baguio City (Philippines)  
Bamiyan (Afghanistan)  
Barcelos (Portugal)  
Cairo (Egypt)  
Carrara (Italy)  
Chiang Mai (Thailand)  
Chordeleg (Ecuador)  
Durán (Ecuador)  
Fabriano (Italy)  
Gabrovo (Bulgaria)  
Hangzhou (China)  
Icheon (Rep. of Korea)  
Isfahan (Iran)  
Jacmel (Haiti)  
Jaipur (India)  
Jingdezhen (China)  
João Pessoa (Brazil)  
Kanazawa (Japan)  
Kütahya (Turkey)  
Limoges (France)  
Lubumbashi (Congo)  
Madaba (Jordan)  
Nassau (Bahamas)  
Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)  
Paducah (USA)  
Pekalongan (Indonesia)  
Porto-Novo (Benin)  
San Cristóbal de las Casas (Mexico)  
Santa Fe (USA)  
Sasayama (Japan)  
Sheki (Azerbaijan)  
Sokodé (Togo)  
Suzhou (China)  
Tétouan (Morocco)  
Tunis (Tunisia)

## DESIGN

Bandung (Indonesia)  
Beijing (China)  
Berlin (Germany)  
Bilbao (Spain)  
Brasília (Brazil)  
Budapest (Hungary)  
Buenos Aires (Argentina)  
Cape Town (South Africa)  
Curitiba (Brazil)  
Detroit (USA)  
Dubai (UAE)  
Dundee (UK)  
Greater Geelong (Australia)  
Graz (Austria)  
Helsinki (Finland)  
Istanbul (Turkey)  
Kaunas (Lithuania)  
Kobe (Japan)  
Kolding (Denmark)  
Kortrijk (Belgium)  
Mexico City (Mexico)  
Montreal (Canada)  
Nagoya (Japan)  
Puebla (Mexico)  
Saint-Étienne (France)  
Seoul (Rep. of Korea)  
Shanghai (China)  
Shenzhen (China)  
Singapore  
Turin (Italy)  
Wuhan (China)

## FILM

Bitola (Macedonia)  
Bradford (UK)  
Bristol (UK)  
Busan (Rep. of Korea)  
Galway (Ireland)  
Łódź (Poland)  
Qingdao (China)  
Rome (Italy)  
Santos (Brazil)  
Sofia (Bulgaria)  
Sydney (Australia)  
Terrassa (Spain)  
Yamagata City (Japan)

## GASTRONOMY

Alba (Italy)  
Belém (Brazil)  
Bergen (Norway)  
Buenaventura (Colombia)  
Burgos (Spain)  
Chengdu (China)  
Cochabamba (Bolivia)  
Dénia (Spain)  
Ensenada (Mexico)  
Florianópolis (Brazil)  
Gaziantep (Turkey)  
Hatay Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey)  
Jeonju (Rep. of Korea)  
Macao (China)  
Östersund (Sweden)  
Panama City (Panama)  
Paraty (Brazil)  
Parma (Italy)  
Phuket (Thailand)  
Popayan (Colombia)  
Rasht (Iran)  
San Antonio (USA)  
Shunde (China)  
Tsuruoka (Japan)  
Tucson (USA)  
Zhale (Lebanon)

## MEDIA ARTS

Austin (USA)  
Braga (Portugal)  
Changsha (China)  
Dakar (Senegal)  
Enghien-les-Bains (France)  
Guadalajara (Mexico)  
Gwangju (Rep. of Korea)  
Košice (Slovakia)  
Linz (Austria)  
Lyon (France)  
Sapporo (Japan)  
Tel Aviv-Yafo (Israel)  
Toronto (Canada)  
York (UK)

## LITERATURE

Baghdad (Iraq)  
Barcelona (Spain)  
Bucheon (Rep. of Korea)  
Dublin (Ireland)  
Dunedin (New Zealand)  
Durban (South Africa)  
Edinburgh (UK)  
Granada (Spain)

Heidelberg (Germany)  
Iowa City (USA)  
Krakow (Poland)  
Lillehammer (Norway)  
Ljubljana (Slovenia)  
Lviv (Ukraine)  
Manchester (UK)  
Melbourne (Australia)  
Milan (Italy)  
Montevideo (Uruguay)  
Norwich (UK)  
Nottingham (UK)  
Óbidos (Portugal)  
Prague (Czech Republic)  
Québec City (Canada)  
Reykjavik (Iceland)  
Seattle (USA)  
Tartu (Estonia)  
Ulyanovsk (Russia)  
Utrecht (Netherlands)

## MUSIC

Adelaide (Australia)  
Almaty (Kazakhstan)  
Amarante (Portugal)  
Auckland (New Zealand)  
Bogota (Colombia)  
Bologna (Italy)  
Brazzaville (Congo)  
Brno (Czechia)  
Chennai (India)  
Daegu (Rep. of Korea)  
Frutillar (Chile)  
Ghent (Belgium)  
Glasgow (UK)  
Hamamatsu (Japan)  
Hanover (Germany)  
Idanha-a-Nova (Portugal)  
Kansas City (USA)  
Katowice (Poland)  
Kingston (Jamaica)  
Kinshasa (Congo)  
Liverpool (UK)  
Mannheim (Germany)  
Medellín (Colombia)  
Morelia (Mexico)  
Norrköping (Sweden)  
Pesaro (Italy)  
Praia (Cabo Verde)  
Salvador (Brazil)  
Seville (Spain)  
Tongyeong (Rep. of Korea)  
Varanasi (India)

# Sharing

Experiences,  
Knowledge &  
Best Practices



## **Xlth Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network - Enghien-les-Bains, France**

With the participation of 250 attendees from approximately 100 Creative Cities, the meeting marked the adoption of a new Strategic Framework for the Network laying out strategic objectives and future actions. The Mayors of the Network, including City of Paducah Mayor Brandi Harless, adopted a Declaration calling on Creative Cities to further integrate culture into their policies and facilitate cooperation based on creativity and innovation.

## **U.S. Creative Cities Event at UNESCO Headquarters – Paris, France**

Ahead of the meeting in Enghien-les-Bains, Paducah united with fellow U.S. Creative Cities for a celebration of American cultural creativity at the UNESCO headquarters. Representatives from Austin (Media Arts), Detroit (Design), Iowa City (Literature), Paducah (Crafts & Folk Art), Santa Fe (Crafts & Folk Art) and Tucson (Gastronomy) participated in a showcase event, engaging UNESCO officials, Ambassadors and media to maximize the visibility of the Network and the U.S. cities' commitment.

## **UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art Annual Meeting – Paducah, USA**

Paducah hosted the first formally-designated meeting of the Crafts & Folk Art sub-network in September 2017, detailed on pages 2-3 of this publication. Thematic plenary sessions with national and international expert speakers, Creative Field workshops led by Dr. Maurizio Carta and hands-on study tours culminated with the signing of the Paducah Declaration, an actionable roadmap for a future built on creativity.

## **U.S. National Commission for UNESCO & Creative City Connections**

Mary Hammond, Paducah CVB Executive Director, continues to serve on the 100-member Commission representing Paducah and the UCCN. She participated in the commission's December 2017 annual meeting. All inquiries from U.S. cities interested in becoming a Candidate City are referred to Hammond.



*"The UCCN tackles our societies' challenges and builds more people-centered cities. Being a Creative City is not a trend, it is a reality. It is the way to foster sustainable urban development, in economic, social and environmental terms. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we need the powerful tools that are culture and creativity."*

—Francesco Bandarin,  
UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture





# Participating

in Pilot Projects,  
Partnerships  
& Initiatives



## **Paducah Public Schools Innovation Hub/Sprocket Makerspace**

The Paducah Independent School System secured a \$3.8 million Work Ready Grant that is laying the foundation for the development of a \$16 million Regional Innovation Hub. Once established, this state-of-the-art technology center will reimagine the way we learn, create and innovate for the new world of work in the 21st century with a highly-skilled, tech-savvy workforce. The user-centric makerspace is being developed as a partnership between Paducah's centers of secondary and higher education, businesses, and Paducah Economic Development and is designed to motivate community members and students to think creatively as they exchange knowledge, experiences and ideas.

## **TenneSwim and "Message in a Bottle" Promote River Conservation through the River Discovery Center**

German professor Andreas Fath embarked on a 34-day, 652-mile aquatic journey, swimming the entire Tennessee River to raise awareness about the importance of water quality and collect data for comparison to the Rhine River. This most extensive, interdisciplinary water quality survey to have ever taken place on the Tennessee River is also supported by U.S. partner organizations including The Nature Conservancy. River Discovery Center also promoted river sustainability by hosting "Message in a Bottle," an exhibition of found objects from America's rivers, collected through Living Lands and Waters conservation efforts.

## **Pat & Jim Brockenborough Rotary Health Park Development**

The first phase was completed of an outdoor health park to promote healthy living and creative play. Made possible through public-private partnership with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, the phase includes the addition of a 1/3-mile walking trail, fitness area, grassy lawn, lighting, landscaping, water fountains and expansion of the Community Garden. The Paducah Rotary Club committed to lead a new phase adding workout equipment. The health park is City-owned and located in the Historic Fountain Avenue Neighborhood, targeted for strategic neighborhood revitalization following successful efforts in the Lower Town Arts District.



*"Water pollution is not only a result of the industrial use of water but also a result of unconscious consumer behavior. TenneSwim and the outcome will make people aware of their influence. Small changes in their behavior will have a big, positive effect on water quality."*

—Dr. Andreas Fath,  
Furtwangen University, Germany

# Contributing

to Professional and  
Artistic Exchange  
Programs &  
Networks



## **Paducah Film featured in Small World Film Festival**

Paducah submitted *Where the Spirit Flows*, a short film produced during the October 2016 Mountain Workshops, to the Bradford, United Kingdom (Film) Small World Film Festival. The international festival garnered more than 50 entries from Creative Cities around the world from which a People's Panel selected the Paducah film as a runner up. The film block was later exhibited at the Santos Coffee Festival in Santos, Brazil (Film) and the International Antalya Film Festival in Antalya, Turkey.

## **Iowa City Author & UNESCO Ambassador Visits Paducah**

Paducah hosted Christopher Merrill, poet and author of *Self-Portrait with Dogwood*, during the Dogwood Trail Celebration, honoring the beautiful native Dogwood trees. Merrill, director of the International Creative Writing Program at the University of Iowa in Iowa City (Literature), spoke at the McCracken County Public Library and to creative writing students at West Kentucky Community & Technical College and Paducah Tilghman High School.

## **ESPOL University Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art Web Presence**

In collaboration with Duran, Ecuador (Crafts & Folk Art), Paducah contributed to the population of a database to launch a webpage featuring artisan, tourism and culture information from each of the cities in the sub-network. Paducah coordinated initial artisan information through Paducah School of Art & Design and its pool of instructors representing diverse media.

## **"Sabores y Saberes" Artisan and Gastronomic Festival**

San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico (Crafts & Folk Art) invited Paducah to participate in a new festival that contemplates transversality between gastronomy and crafts and folk art in February 2018. The event aims to promote local gastronomic and artisanal expressions and global connections in the UCCN through cultural exchange and international collaboration. A delegation of artists, educators and local leaders from Paducah will share authentic culture at the event through gastronomic tastings, expo-fair and music performance.

## **Punctuation marks in a sentence of Eternity**

First performed in Israel in 2017, *Eternity* is a unique program involving film, music, dance and spoken word with a score composed by Paducah artist, Paul Lorenz. The production will come to Kentucky in April 2018 with the intention of strengthening ties and contacts in intellectual and artistic circles in both Paducah and Israel. Paducah will welcome Ynin Shillo of Tel Aviv, Israel (Media Arts), and Francesca Fini of Rome, Italy (Film), for a cooperative presentation with local talent at Maiden Alley Cinema.





*"Cultural exchanges can inspire new creative work, broaden the horizons of artists and audiences alike, and encourage all of us to become citizens of the world. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network is not only a vehicle for trading information and ideas, best practices, and sparking connections, but also the most hopeful expression of the human potential to make profoundly positive changes."*

—Christopher Merrill,  
International Creative Writing Program



# Taking Part

in Studies, Research  
& Evaluations on the  
Experience of the  
Creative Cities



## **Americans for the Arts: Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 (AEP5)**

Americans for the Arts Vice President of Public Policy & Research, Randy Cohen, presented new economic impact data at the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce Power in Partnership salute to arts and culture. Paducah was one of 300 U.S. communities to participate in *AEP5*, a comprehensive nationwide research effort to demonstrate the value of the nonprofit arts and culture industry as an economic driver and cornerstone of creative tourism. The research illustrated total economic impact of spending by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and their audiences to be \$27.5 million, contributing to a \$166.3 billion national industry.

## **ArtPlace America: Community Development Investment Learning Exchange**

Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership traveled to western Kentucky to discover, learn and consider how arts and cultural strategies can address community priorities. Tours and community conversations highlighted creative strategies rooted in tradition and innovation including the City of Paducah Artist Relocation Program, Hotel Metropolitan and Paducah School of Art & Design.

## **National Association of Counties Webinar – Building Arts-Driven Community & Economic Development Solutions For Your County**

Paducah/McCracken County was spotlighted among counties that are improving local economies and building thriving communities by leveraging creativity and arts and culture assets. Mayor Harless and Laura Oswald, Paducah CVB, discussed creative solutions to local challenges and the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as an outlet for promoting and strengthening successful creative placemaking efforts.

## **Rural Arts & Culture Summit – United We Stand, Divided We Fall: Kentucky Rural Urban Exchange**

Local cultural leaders highlighted the Kentucky Rural Urban Exchange as a creative solution to rural challenges at the biennial gathering of rural arts and culture leaders at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The panel examined the statewide program with origins in Paducah as a case study for building more collaborative and connected communities across the arts, agriculture, community health and small business.

## **Blue Zones Project Presentation & Community Assessment**

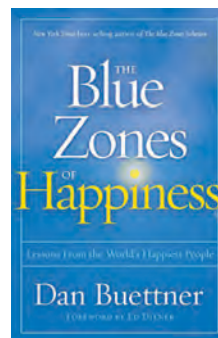
Paducah welcomed Healthways Blue Zones leaders to hold focus groups to determine Paducah's potential for becoming the first designated "Blue Zone" in Kentucky. Using secrets discovered in the original Blue Zones, rare longevity hotspots around the world, this community-wide approach to well-being is a proven model for transforming health of populations.





*"This study demonstrates that the arts are an economic and employment powerhouse both locally and across the nation. A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive and helps local communities become stronger and healthier places to live. Leaders who care about community and economic vitality can feel good about choosing to invest in the arts. Nationally as well as locally, the arts mean business."*

—Robert Lynch,  
Americans for the Arts





# Promoting

Policies &  
Measures for  
Sustainable Urban  
Development



## **Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Creative Placemaking Initiative**

Paducah hosted one of the DRA's pilot Delta Creative Placemaking Initiative (DCPI) workshops, a training to deeply inform elected leaders on how the Delta region can be strengthened and improve quality of life by building upon the arts and cultural economy. Market House Theatre's Next Stage initiative was selected as one of 16 community projects in the Delta region to receive DCPI grant seed investment.

## **Paducah Riverfront Redevelopment Project**

Ongoing development of Paducah's Historic Downtown was enhanced by the opening of the City of Paducah Transient Boat Dock and the Holiday Inn Paducah Riverfront, adjacent to the Paducah McCracken County Convention & Expo Center. These new cultural assets draw upon the river as the city's lifeblood and strengthen cultural tourism and convention opportunities in the city's urban core.

## **National Trust for Historic Preservation Leadership Forum Case Study: The Coke Plant**

The revitalization of a landmark Coca-Cola bottling plant was featured in the case study, Federal Historic Tax Credit Achieves Record Increase in Use and Impacts in 2016. The Coke Plant now encompasses seven small business including a new Mellow Mushroom that features the work of more than 20 local visual artists. The historic redevelopment project led by entrepreneurs Ed and Meagan Musselman also earned recognition by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Office.

## **Artists Boot Camp: Transforming from Hobbyist to Entrepreneur**

Paducah Main Street partnered with the Murray State Small Business Development Center and Paducah Economic Development to help artists develop business plans and learn how to effectively market their work. This free workshop engaged artists and creatives of all ages in strengthening the vitality of the local creative economy.



*“Paducah is the ‘poster child’ micropolitan city poised for an urban-rural future. Micropolitan cities like Paducah have a leading role in addressing the rural-urban dialectic in our culture. Arts and culture bring about a quality of place.”*

—Chuck Fluharty,  
Rural Policy Research Institute

# Engaging

in Communication  
& Awareness-  
Raising Activities



## **Local Awareness Collaboration with *Paducah Life Magazine***

The Paducah CVB collaborated with *Paducah Life Magazine* to illustrate the significance of creative culture and designation as a UNESCO Creative City. A series of 2-page profiles in the magazine were crafted to educate and empower local influencers, stakeholders and elected leaders to understand the benefits of life in a Creative City, engage in cultural life and leverage the UNESCO network.

## **Travel South International & International Travel Promotion**

A Paducah delegation met with approximately 40 international tour operators and travel agents from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, South Africa and the United Kingdom at the Travel South International marketplace. The Paducah CVB launched an enhanced city page through Brand USA's multi-language [visittheusa.com](http://visittheusa.com), hosted international Kentucky Tourism representatives from Germany and France and prepared to welcome more foreign individual travelers (FITs).

## **Telling Paducah's Story through Public Relations**

Paducah's creative culture was profiled in outlets including *Ouest France*, *The Economist* and *Architectural Digest* throughout 2017. Ongoing efforts to garner media coverage included media missions to Birmingham, Alabama; Washington, D.C. and New York, New York to meet with writers and editors and raise awareness of Paducah's role as a Creative City and the global reach of the UCCN.

## **Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce Community Advocacy**

Paducah leaders traveled to state and national capitol cities to advocate meet with elected officials and national cultural leaders including the Executive Director of the U.S. Commission for UNESCO, Americans for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and Brand USA. The Paducah Chamber was recognized as the National Chamber of the Year, in part for the leadership of successful governmental advocacy efforts.

## **UNESCO Creative Cities Crafts & Folk Art Book Publication**

Paducah collaborated with cluster leaders in Fabriano, Italy to produce a book of articles and images representing the members of the Crafts & Folk Art sub-network. The book is designed to allow for the addition of content as new cities join. The sub-network also collaborated on a media arts installation during the UCCN Xlth Annual Meeting in Enghien-les-Bains, France (Media Arts) and the "Pride of Place" exhibition during the sub-network meeting in Paducah.





*“Creative Vibe Helps Paducah Thrive,  
Drawing Tourists to Crafty Kentucky Town”*  
—Chicago Tribune

*“10 Charming American Towns That Aren’t  
Famous Yet (But Will Be Soon)”*  
—Travel + Leisure

*“America’s Most Artistic Towns”*  
—Expedia Viewfinder

*“15 Most Beautiful Main Streets in America”*  
—Architectural Digest

*“Southern Towns with Real Character”*  
—USA Today Go Escape



# Paducah Creative City

2017 Year  
In Review

## CRAFTS & FOLK ART

Paducah welcomed more than 16,000 attendees for the inaugural **Fall AQS QuiltWeek – Paducah**, a complement to the renowned **Spring AQS QuiltWeek**. Quilt International Quilt Contest winners hailed from the U.S., Canada, Japan, Germany, Spain, Brazil and South Korea with Best of Show selected by public vote.



**Ephemera Paducah** hosted the sold out StencilGirl & Friends: An Art Journal Affair featuring a weekend retreat of intensive art journaling workshops with top StencilGirl designers and instructors.

**The National Quilt Museum** spotlighted diverse quilting techniques and quilt artists through exhibitions including “Neighborhoods Coming Together: Quilts Around Oakland” during Black History Month and “Quilts of the Lakota,” a transposition of Native American heritage of painted buffalo robes to traditional star quilts.

**Paducah School of Art & Design** added fiber and printmaking studio facilities and programming and hosted complementary exhibitions, “Made in Europe” and “Australia Wide Five” contemporary fiber art and PSAD’s inaugural “National Printmaking Invitational.”

**Yeiser Art Center** hosted a second fiber show entitled “Liminal Identities,” a joint presentation by Pakistan-born Sarah Ahmad and Palau-born Jerry Phillips carrying forward the artists’ inquiries in the formation of identity through transcultural experiences.

## DESIGN

The **Quilt City USA® Murals Project** debuted premier panel, “Corona II: Solar Eclipse” by quiltmaker Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry and muralist Char Downs. The project seeks to feature public art reproductions of historically-significant quilts painted by local artists.

**A Paducah Renaissance: The Lower Town Story**, documented the successful City of Paducah Artist Relocation Program that transformed Paducah’s oldest residential neighborhood into the Lower Town Arts District with a short film produced by Socially Present and sponsored by Paducah Bank.

## FILM

**Cinema Systers Film Festival** became established as the first festival for lesbian filmmakers to showcase their art in the United States with films from Australia, Brazil, Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the U.S.

**The Rotunda Project** premiered at Maiden Alley Cinema and the River’s Edge International Film Festival. The feature-length documentary follows Paducah band, Fairseas, and twelve other local musicians through the collaborative development and recording process of five original songs inside the Rotunda of the Coke Plant.

**Kentucky Film Office** visited Paducah to meet with local filmmakers and leaders to promote statewide film incentives and opportunities.

## GASTRONOMY

**Pipers Tea & Coffee's** annual 12 Days of Pipers Hot Chocolate spotlighted ingredients representative of 12 countries around the world, including Israel, South Africa, France and Mexico.

**Purple Toad Winery** received Best in Kentucky Winery honors along with eight gold medals at the 2017 Kentucky Commonwealth Commercial Wine Competition.

**Paducah Beer Werks** was awarded a bronze medal at the 2017 Dublin Craft Beer Cup for the Dark Knowledge 2.0 barrel aged Porter.

**The City of Paducah Food Truck Ordinance** allowed mobile food vehicles to operate in Paducah creating new opportunity for culinary businesses.

## LITERATURE

West Kentucky Community & Technical College's **One Book Read** featured *Little Princes* by Conor Grennan. The project's goal of encouraging literacy and cultural awareness expanded through the UCCN and the engagement of the English-speaking book club through the Mayor's office of Icheon, South Korea (Crafts & Folk Art).

**McCracken County Public Library** launched "Shorts & Stouts," a new short story discussion series at **Dry Ground Brewing Company**.

## MEDIA ARTS

**Kentucky Educational Television Media Arts Training Day** focused on elementary educators on developing quality media arts programs with the use of technology for creation and distribution.

The **Master Artist Workshop Series at Paducah School of Art & Design** incorporated media arts with the presentation of DIY Ceramic 3D Printers led by Bryan Czibesz.

**McCracken County Public Library** promoted computer science and computational thinking among youth through new programming made possible by an American Library Association/Google Ready to Code grant.

## MUSIC

Paducah observed **International Jazz Day** with the presentation of the Langston Hughes Project at the **Clemens Fine Arts Center**.

**Oxford American Kentucky Music Issue** featured Paducah musicians as part of the incredible culture of musical heritage across the Commonwealth.

**The Carson Center** hosted a wide range of performing artists including the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker, international Irish phenomenon, Riverdance, and illuminate, a production fusing wireless technology and dance.







United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Designated  
UNESCO Creative City  
in 2013

**Paducah CVB Staff:**

Mary Hammond, *Executive Director*

Fowler Black, *Sales Director*

Laura Oswald, *Director of Marketing*

Lynda Peters-Jones, *Director of Convention Sales*

**2017 Paducah CVB Board:**

Glen Anderson, *Chair*

Jay Page, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Kelm Burchard

Linda Curtis

Deborah Edmonds

Beverly McKinley

Vick Patel

1-800-PADUCAH

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