



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Paducah Maintains UNESCO Creative City Commitment Amid U.S. Withdrawal

Paducah, KY, July 22, 2025—Paducah’s designation as a UNESCO Creative City has opened doors to cultural exchange, international recognition, and economic growth through creative tourism, reinforcing our identity as a vibrant hub for creativity. While the United States has announced its withdrawal from UNESCO, our commitment to the values and opportunities that the UNESCO Creative Cities Network represents does not change.

Paducah will continue its active engagement in the global network when possible, sharing our story and learning from other cities that prioritize creativity, heritage, and innovation. We’re especially proud of our ongoing collaboration with fellow U.S. Creative Cities—like Santa Fe, Tucson, Austin, and Iowa City—who also champion creativity as a driver of sustainable development and cultural connection.

Importantly, the effective date of the U.S. withdrawal is 17 months away, meaning nothing will change in the immediate future. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network has allowed American cities to retain their designations in the past, and we remain optimistic about Paducah’s continued participation. As part of a broader U.S. network of Creative Cities, we will continue to demonstrate how cultural collaboration can thrive, even across national boundaries.

This network is about more than just recognition—it amplifies the creative spirit of places like The National Quilt Museum and the Lower Town Arts District, ensuring that our cultural traditions thrive for future generations. These spaces, alongside Paducah’s live performance venues, museums, independent retailers, culinary hotspots, and hands-on creative experiences, offer visitors many ways to connect with our community and engage with the arts on a personal level.

Creative tourism continues to play a vital role in Paducah’s visitor economy. From international textile enthusiasts to curious weekend explorers, our city welcomes a diverse range of travelers drawn to its rich blend of heritage and innovation. Paducah’s designation helps distinguish it as a destination where art is not just observed, but lived.

Regardless of changes at the national level, Paducah will stay the course—proudly representing the United States and showcasing the power of the arts to connect communities around the world. We are hopeful that opportunities for international cooperation will remain open, and we stand ready to support efforts that reinforce America’s role in celebrating and preserving its cultural heritage on the world stage.

Press Contact:

Liz Hammonds
Lead Brand & Public Affairs Strategist
Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau
liz@paducah.travel
128 Broadway • Paducah, KY 42001
1.800.PADUCAH • www.paducah.travel