



**NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office
of Innovation & Performance Analysis**

Lee Harris, Mayor

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11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT PARTNERS WITH YMCA OF MEMPHIS & THE
MID-SOUTH FOR THE RETURN OF THE 901 STUDENT PASSPORT**

***Museums, galleries, and cultural institutions are invited to apply to participate in the
program's signature, 10-week Summer Staycation for local families.***

Shelby County, TN – Today, the Shelby County Mayor's Office of Innovation announces a partnership with YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South for the expansion of the 901 Student Passport program. The program, which was piloted during the COVID-19 pandemic and returned last summer, features a variety of opportunities for local families to experience museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions for free. The expanded 2023 program includes free access to up to ten attractions throughout this year's summer break for any school-age child who is accompanied by a parent.

Non-profit attractions that participate in the 901 Student Passport's 10-week Summer Staycation are offered a grant of \$10,000 or \$20,000, based on the organization's operating budget. To qualify, the attraction must feature experiential learning exhibits that are suitable for children between the ages of 5 and 17 and expand the family's knowledge of the County's civic, social, music, fine arts, or ecological history. Applications are open now through April 28 and participating locations will be announced on Tuesday, May 9. Applications are available at <https://bit.ly/901passportapp>.

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Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “The 901 Student Passport is one of the County’s best investments in our local youth. This partnership with the Y further signals our commitment to provide enriching experiences for families, instill community pride in our youth, and expand access to the rich stories of our local history and culture.”

Danielle Inez, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Innovation: “It’s a tremendous honor to advance Mayor Harris’ vision of connecting youth to the community through the 901 Student Passport. In our first two years, the YMCA partnered with us to help the program reach more than 25,000 families. I’m excited to see them grow this program into the future. I pray that the lessons learned through the 901 Student Passport will inspire and encourage our next generation of leaders.

Brian McLaughlin, Senior Vice President of Operations of YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South: "The Y is excited to play a meaningful role in Mayor Harris' 901 Student Passport. Our committed team is already thinking about creative ways to grow the 901 Student Passport, serve even more families, and continue our cause and purpose to strengthen Communities. We look forward to supporting the local museums that together cultivate curiosity and inspire wonder in youth throughout our area."

Superintendent Toni Williams, Memphis-Shelby County Schools: “Thank you to County Mayor Lee Harris, the leadership of the YMCA, and the museums that open their doors to our students. Memphis-Shelby County Schools is committed to supporting our children, yet the adage ‘it takes a village’ remains true. We must all work together to support our youth and invest in their well-being. The 901 Student Passport is a great demonstration of what it means to have a community that is committed to its children.”

(End of Release)