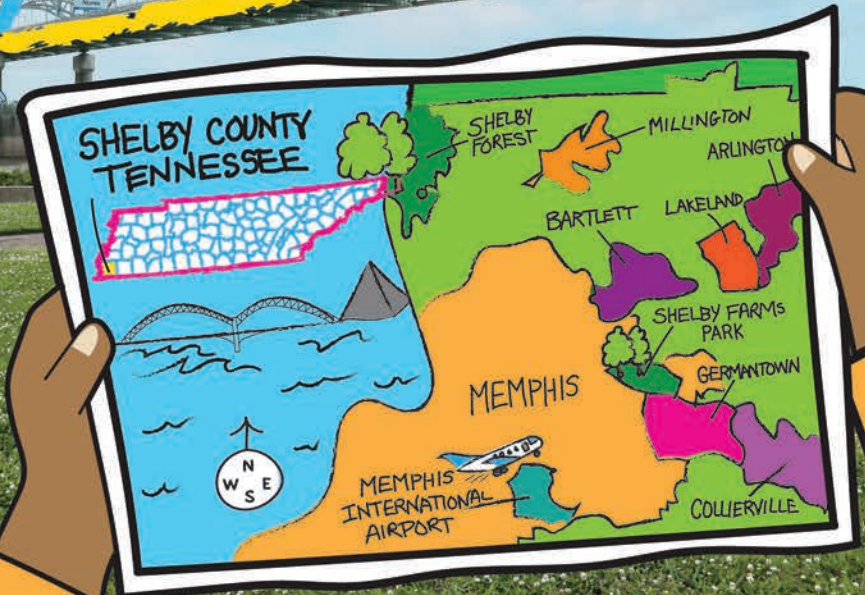


The Shelby County Government Youth and Education Nonprofit Committee presents

Shelby County

A to Z



Edited and Illustrated by
Ashley Foxx Davis and April Foxx

Jamie Harmon, Photographer
with additional photos from community contributors

Dear Shelby County Families,

As leaders of the Youth and Education Committee, we present you and the children in your life with this book as a reading and learning journey across Shelby County.

Sit down with your young learner for a wonderful exploration of Shelby County with our book as your guide. Inside, you'll meet five spirited young adventurers: **Alex, Ben, Carmen, Dee,** and **Erin**. They will be your companions, leading you through the vibrant people and places that make our community special.

From **A to Z** (and a few more), the words paired with each letter came from suggestions all across our community and were carefully chosen to help early readers on their path to sounding out words. We worked with literacy experts to ensure that each term not only aids in learning but also enriches your child's understanding of the place we all call home. You might wonder why some people or places aren't included in the book, and that's in large part because we had to pick just the right words for the letter sounds.

It is our hope that this book will not only provide a foundation for learning, but also inspire you to visit these landmarks together someday. Until then, enjoy the journey of discovery and opportunities for engaging with your young person within these pages.

Warm regards,

Cardell Orrin and Reginald Milton,
on behalf of the Shelby County Government Youth and Education Nonprofit Committee

For all the children in Shelby County. - The Shelby County Government Youth and Education Nonprofit Committee

For every child who wants to learn how to read. - Ashley D.

To the young, and young at heart, who love living in Shelby County, Tennessee. - April F.

To the creative spirit of Memphis. - Jamie H.

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Parents, educators, and students, free resources available at
www.ShelbyCountyAtoZ.com



Hey friends!
Are you ready to learn about Shelby County? Let's learn together about letters, sounds, words, and the world around us! Find us on each page!

Look for the colorful ovals in this book!
They have questions to chat about with your reading buddy. What's your answer? If you need help with the words, just ask!



Alex Ben Carmen Dee Erin

FUN FACT BOX

These rectangles are packed with cool info and should be read with a grown-up! Fun fact boxes will help us learn about all the different people, places, and things in Shelby County. Grab your reading buddy, and let's start this fun learning journey! *Ready, set, let's go!*

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KIFANI
P R E S S
Memphis, Tennessee

A@ Agricenter



You can get a
plant @ the Agricenter.
What are your favorite fruits
or vegetables?



At Agricenter International, you can learn about many fruits, vegetables, and plants! The Agricenter has events all year round like a farmers market, a fall corn maze, and classes that focus on science, technology, and the environment.



Bb Beale Street

Beale Street is in the heart of downtown Memphis and one of the most famous streets in America. You can listen to live music, dine at restaurants, visit a museum, walk along the street, and watch people dance the night away.

You can hear the **b**est **b**lues, soul, and rock 'n' roll. What kind of music do you want to hear on **B**eale Street?



Beale Street Flippers

Cc County

Shelby County is the largest county in Tennessee with a large and diverse population. We are the home of seven cities and towns: Memphis, Millington, Bartlett, Germantown, Lakeland, Arlington, and Collierville.



Can you find
Shelby County on the map? Have
you visited all the Communities
in our Cool County?

Dd Downtown

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, you can visit Downtown Memphis to see the ducks at the Peabody Hotel, visit Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid, and walk down the South Main Arts District. You can also hear the sounds of the trolley horn, jazz music, and cheering at concerts and games.

There is so much to **do** in **Downtown** Memphis. You can see the **ducks**, **dine** out for **dinner**, or ride **down** Main Street on the trolley. What would you **do** during a **day** **Downtown**?



Ee Everybody

GET HYPED

Memphis vs Everybody



Everybody here in Shelby County is extraordinary, including you! What is special about you and your family?



Everybody in Shelby County makes our community special. Our county embraces people from all walks of life. We have almost a million residents. Some have lived many generations here. Others have come from all over the world.



Ff Farmers Market



Usually held in the spring, summer, and early fall, farmers markets allow shoppers to buy fresh ingredients directly from local farmers. There are many farmers markets throughout Shelby County from Millington to South Memphis and many fun places in between.



Farmers sell fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and even flowers at a farmers market. What would be your favorite food to find at a farmers market?

G9 Guitar

Gifted musicians have made great music with guitars. What songs would you play on a guitar?

A guitar is a hollow, wooden instrument with six strings and a narrow neck. The strings can be strummed or plucked with your fingers to make beautiful music. Many musicians including B.B. King and Elvis have played the guitar.



Hh Hattiloo

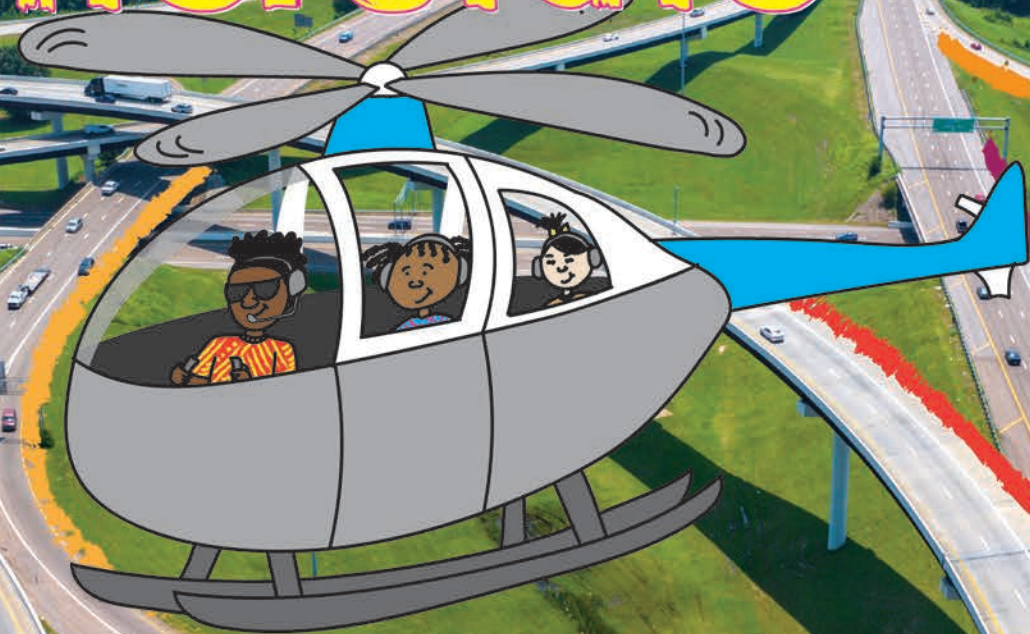
Hattiloo Theatre

Hattiloo has actors, actresses, plays, and songs! Their performances are high-energy. How would you show-off on the Hattiloo stage?



Hattiloo Theatre is the only freestanding Black repertory theater in five surrounding states. It is located in the heart of Midtown in Overton Square. People come from all over to visit the theater to see exciting plays and performances. ("Theater" can be spelled two ways, and both are correct. "Theater" is more popular in America and "Theatre" is more popular in England and also for the names of specific places.)

I i Interstate



Memphis is known by many as the "barbecue capital of the world" and famous restaurants like Cozy Corner, Rendezvous, and Interstate Barbecue serve up thousands of yummy chicken wings, ribs, and pork sandwiches each week. Jim Neely opened the first Interstate Barbecue in 1978 on South Third Street. The restaurant is named after the interstate, a highway that connects different states together, like I-240 or I-55.

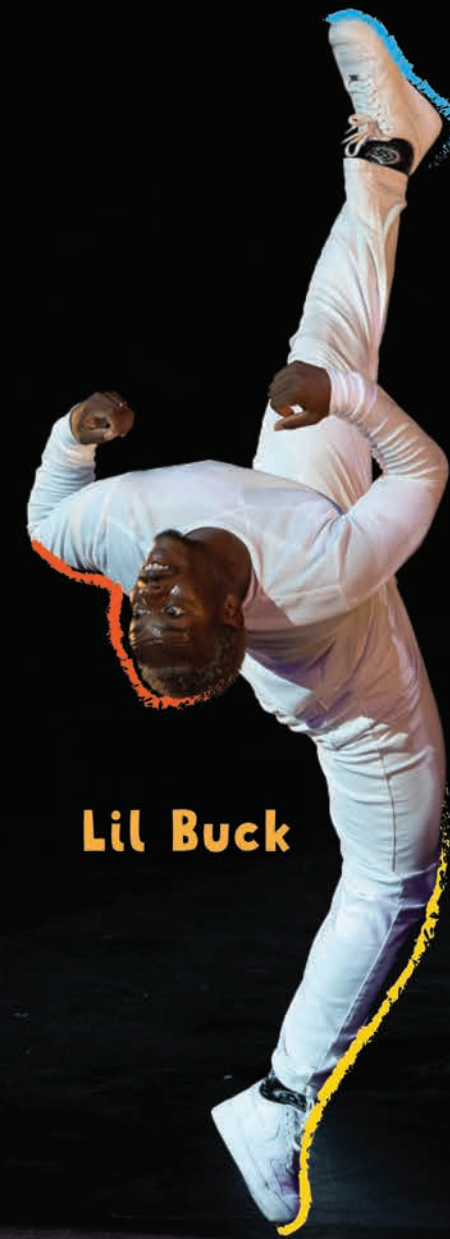


Interstate Barbecue has **i**nteresting things on the menu like barbecue salad and barbecue spaghetti! **I**f you were **i**nvited out for barbecue, what would you like to eat?

Jj Jookin

Originating in Memphis, jookin is a style of dance that combines bounces and fast steps with fluid glides, slides, and spins. Jookin began in the late '80s and most dancers jook to hip-hop songs.

Can you *jump*
and *jiggle* your feet?
Jookin is a dance you can
enjoy when you hear some
hip-hop *jams*.

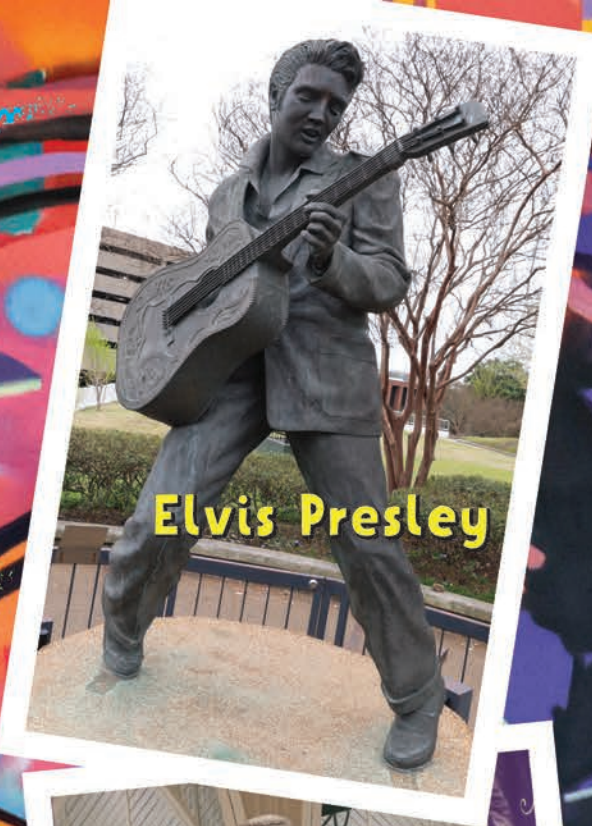


Lil Buck

KK Kings

Memphis is home to three "kings": Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the leader of the civil rights movement; B.B. King, known as the "King of the Blues"; and Elvis, famed musician who is known as the "King of Rock & Roll."

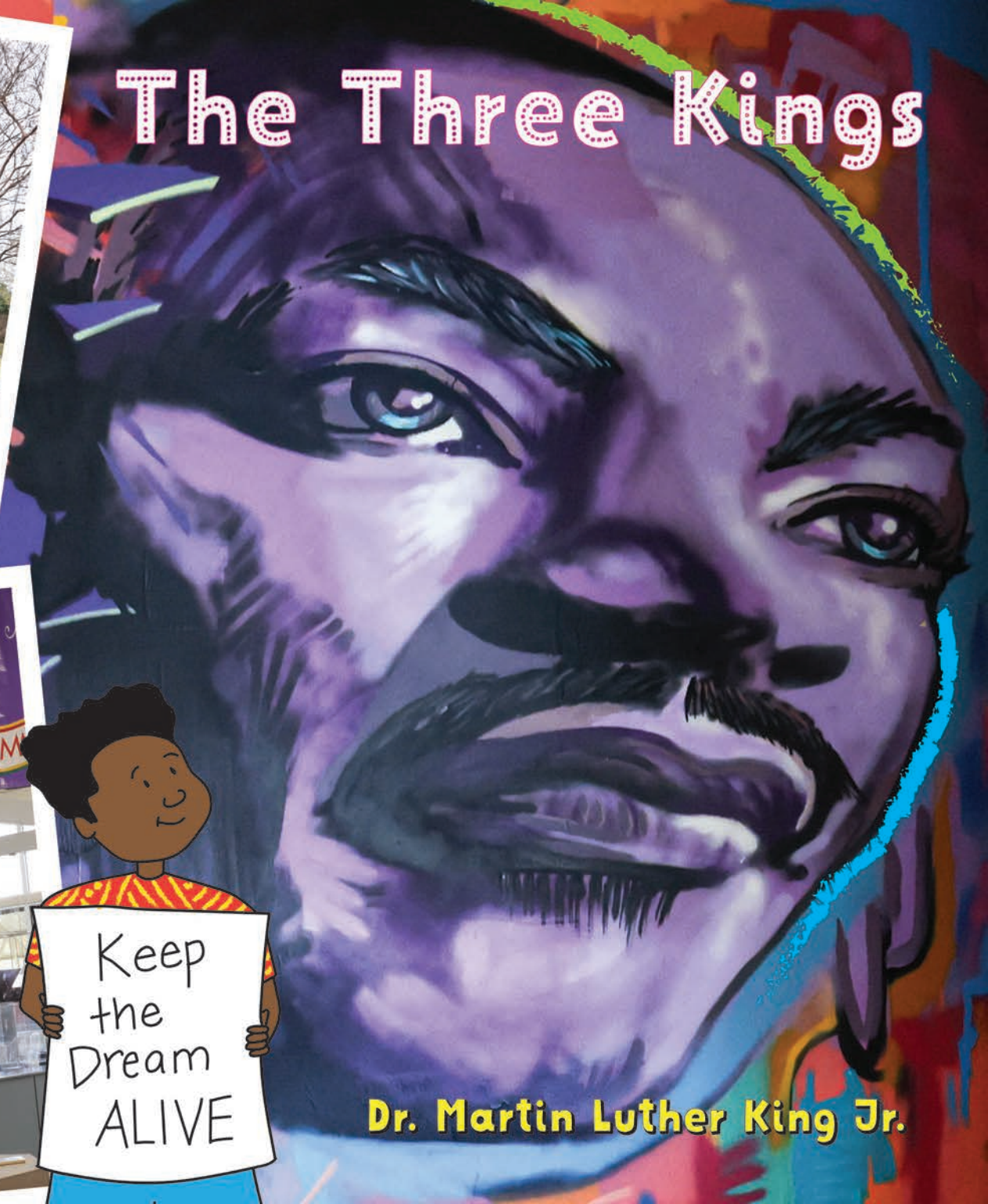
Have you ever heard about these three **k**ings? You can learn more about their work in Memphis. These **k**ings have given back to Shelby County in their own **k**ind of way.



Elvis Presley

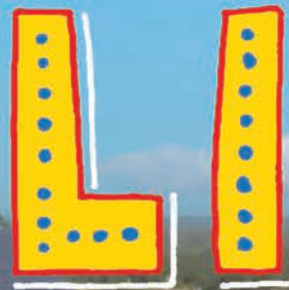


B.B. King



The Three Kings

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Le Bonheur

Children's Hospital

The main campus of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital is located in the Memphis Medical District. Known as one of the country's best children's hospitals, Le Bonheur has expert doctors, nurses and staff who work in the hospital, clinics and the community to help keep kids healthy and well.

Have you ever been to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital? If you were a doctor at Le Bonheur, how would you make children feel better?



Mm Memphis

There are so many amazing things that you can do in Memphis! You can go to Memphis in May or watch the Memphis Grizzlies play. What do you love about Memphis?

Memphis is the largest city in Shelby County. It is home to over 625,000 people, including you. When you think of Memphis, you might think of the Memphis Grizzlies, Memphis in May, or all the wonderful people and places that you see.



Nn

National Civil Rights Museum

Lorraine
MOTEL

I HAVE
A
DREAM
MLK

Plan a trip to the
National Civil Rights Museum!
You can learn why people should
be nice to one another. How
can you be nice to all
your friends?

The National Civil Rights Museum is located in the historic Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. You can learn about the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, the role that Shelby County played in this rich history, and how you can help fight for justice.



Office

There are a lot of offices in Shelby County! From doctors and dentists to FedEx and more, there are many office jobs to explore! Do you want to work in an office when you grow up? What would you do in an office?

An office is a room, a set of rooms, or a building where businesses are located. FedEx and International Paper have big offices where they ship products around the world. Veterinarians, dentists and doctors have smaller offices where they provide care for people.

PP Poplar



Poplar Avenue is a well-known street that runs over 30-miles across Shelby County with many poplar trees on each side. Whether you are wanting to visit Overton Park, the Memphis Botanic Garden, or Collierville's Town Square Park, Poplar Avenue can take you there.

Poplar Avenue is a very busy street! No matter if you are going to a shop or park, you will pass plenty of places along the way. Can you name a place that is on Poplar Avenue?

Q q Queens

These queens are quite lovely. They were great as singers and leaders here and around the world. Who is a queen that you know?



Aretha Franklin



Memphis Queen, Carla Thomas; Stax Records, 1969. Photograph by Bob Stone. Courtesy Stax Records



Shelby County has many queens: Aretha Franklin, the "Queen of Soul"; Carla Thomas, the "Queen of Memphis Soul"; and the Memphis Queen Riverboat. Aretha was known for her soulful hits like "Respect" and "Chain of Fools." Carla is known for such hits as "B-A-B-Y" and "Gee Whiz." You can ride the Memphis Queen Riverboat along the Mississippi River and view the Memphis scenery.

Rr River

Mississippi River

Row, row, row
your boat along the Mississippi
and Wolf Rivers! What do you
think is living in these
rapid rivers?



Wolf River

Shelby County is home to the Mississippi and Wolf Rivers. The Mississippi River is one of the longest and busiest rivers in the world. The Wolf River rises in north Mississippi and flows northwest through Shelby County to join the Mississippi River.



\$\$ Soul Food

Shelby County has some of the best Soul food! You can sit down at your favorite restaurant and enjoy some Savory Soul food. What is your favorite Soul food dish?



Soul food is traditional African-American southern food. Shelby County is home to some of the best soul food restaurants including Alcenia's, Peggy's Heavenly Home Cooking, and The Four Way.

Tt Tigers of M



Tigers are **t**ough!
Whether at a University of Memphis game or at the zoo, you can see **t**igers everywhere in Shelby County. When and where was the last **t**ime you saw a **t**iger?

A tiger is the largest living cat species. The Memphis Zoo has beautiful tigers that you can see. The Memphis Tigers from the University of Memphis are a well-known football and basketball team. You can find their tiger statues all around the county.



UU Underground Railroad



The Underground Railroad was a network of routes used to help enslaved African-Americans escape to freedom. The Slave Haven Museum, an old house on the Underground Railroad, is a place to learn about the way many courageous people escaped slavery.

Have you heard of the **U**nderground Railroad? It helped African-Americans run away from the **U**njust laws of slavery. The Slave Haven Museum was an old house on the **U**nderground Railroad.



Vv Victorian Village

If you **v**isit
Victorian **V**illage you can
view big homes. Have you seen
the big houses in **V**ictorian
Village? What do you think
is inside?



Near the Medical District, Victorian Village has many beautiful houses. The homes in Victorian Village were built over 100 years ago between the 1840s-1890s. It includes historic houses like the Woodruff-Fontaine House, The Massey House, and The Mallory-Neely House.

WW Walk



Walking is fun!
Do you like to **W**alk by the **W**ater,
like the **W**olf River? Or do you like
to **W**alk and **W**atch the animals
at a park or on your
street?

Did you know there are two songs about walking in Memphis? "Walking the Dog" is a song written and performed by Rufus Thomas in 1963. Another singer, Marc Cohn was inspired to write "Walking in Memphis" after a 1985 visit to the city. You can walk along the riverfront, parks, or museums like the Memphis Botanic Garden or the Lichterman Nature Center. Lichterman has over 65 acres of forest, meadow, and lake for you to enjoy along your walk!

XX Stax Museum

At the StaX Museum, you can eXpress yourself, hear a saX, and have fun to the maX! You can learn about the eXciting music history of StaX Records. What's your favorite music to listen to?



The Stax Museum is the world's only museum that has preserved the legacy of Stax Records. It is a fun and educational place to learn about American soul music and songs that were created here in Shelby County.



Stax Records - Where soul music was invented. Courtesy Stax Museum.

Yy Young Avenue

Young Avenue is part of the Cooper-Young neighborhood in Midtown Memphis. There are many shops with cool objects for sale and restaurants with food from a variety of cultures.

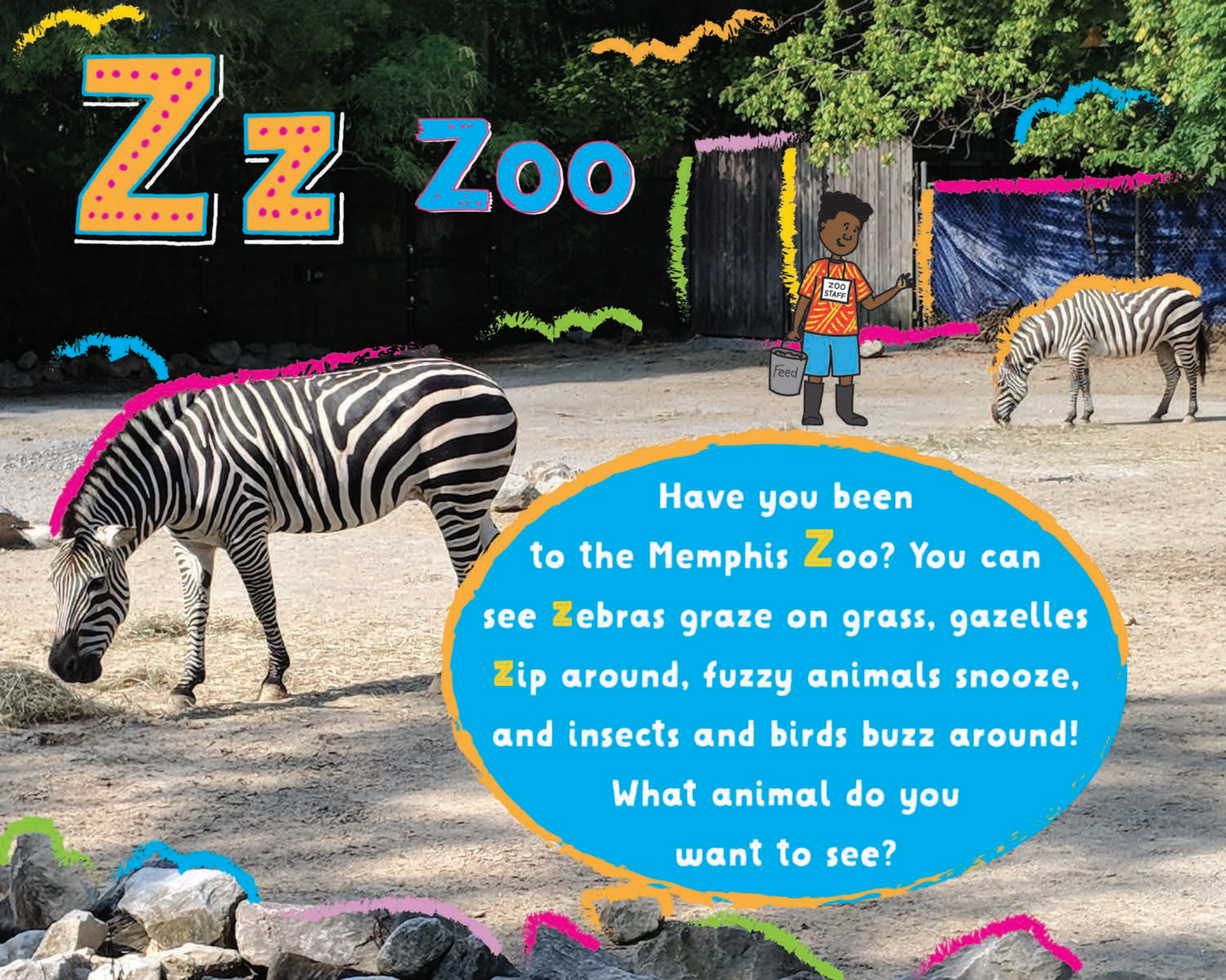


COOPER-YOUNG
GALLERY + GIFT SHOP
WELCOME
WE'RE SO HAPPY
YOU'RE HERE!
COME ON IN!
WWW.COOPERYOUNG.GALLERY



You can eat yummy food, see pretty yards, and have fun on Young Avenue in Memphis! If you had a business on Young Avenue, what kind of things would you sell?

Zz Zoo



Have you been
to the Memphis Zoo? You can
see Zebras graze on grass, gazelles
Zip around, fuzzy animals snooze,
and insects and birds buzz around!

What animal do you
want to see?



At the Memphis Zoo, you can learn about a
variety of animals from around the world.
This zoo has over three-thousand animals
for you and your family to see.



Aa Acres



Letters can make many sounds.
Sometimes letters can make two sounds. Sometimes you can put letters together to make new sounds.

Let's take a look at the
long vowels **A, E, I, O, and U**
and the digraphs **Ch, Sh, Th, and Wh.**

Let's see where they show up in Shelby County!

An **a**cre is a
lot of land! Shelby
County has many **a**cre**s**.
What would you do on
an **a**cre?

Shelby County is the largest county in Tennessee with many acres of land. An acre can be any shape and is a little smaller than a football field. There are over 502,000 acres of land in Shelby County.

Ee Eat Local



Some of the best restaurants in Shelby County are owned locally. In every neighborhood -- no matter if it's for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert -- Shelby County restaurant owners have a variety of options for you and your family to eat local.



Yum! You can
eat peas, greens, or
even sweet treats at the
eateries in North Memphis,
South Memphis, East Memphis,
Germantown, and Cordova!
Do you have a favorite
place to eat in your
neighborhood?

Ii Ida B. Wells

Have you read the ideas from legendary writer **I**da B. Wells? She shed light on civil rights and that is why we honor her today.

1862-1878

1878-1892

1893-1931

1987-2021

Ida B. Wells was born nearby in Holly Springs, MS. She was a prominent journalist, activist, researcher, and educator who lived and made an impact in Memphis, Tennessee.

Overton Park

Go to Overton Park and soak up some sun! You will be overjoyed at this local park. What is your favorite thing to do when you go to the park?

Overton Park is located within the heart of Midtown Memphis. It is a place where you, your family, and your friends can play, exercise, and explore. The park has two fun playgrounds, a big dog park, and an Old Growth Forest with towering trees and winding trails to encounter.



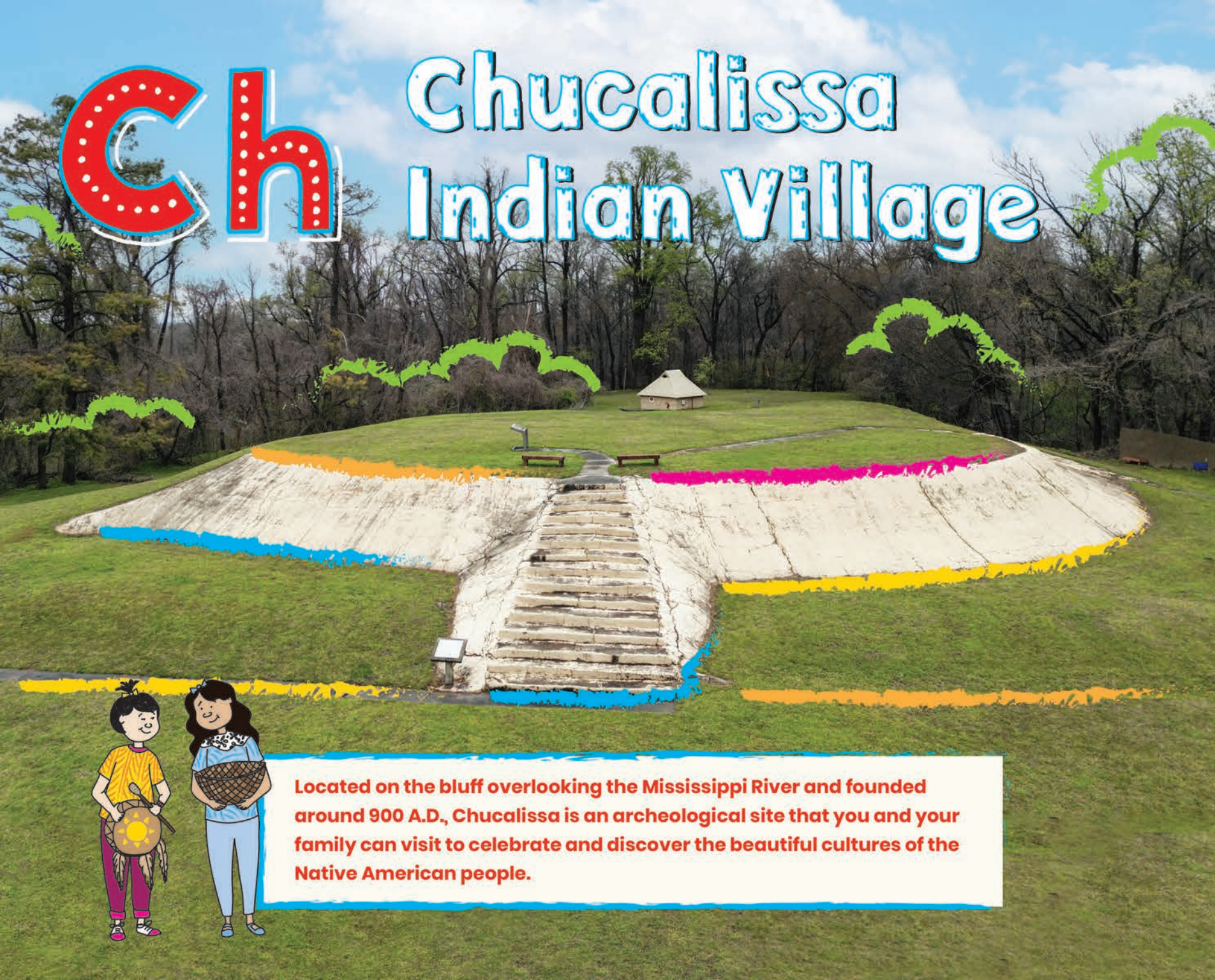
Universities

When you grow up and finish high school, you can attend a Unique University inside or outside of Shelby County. What University would you like to go to? What would you like to be?

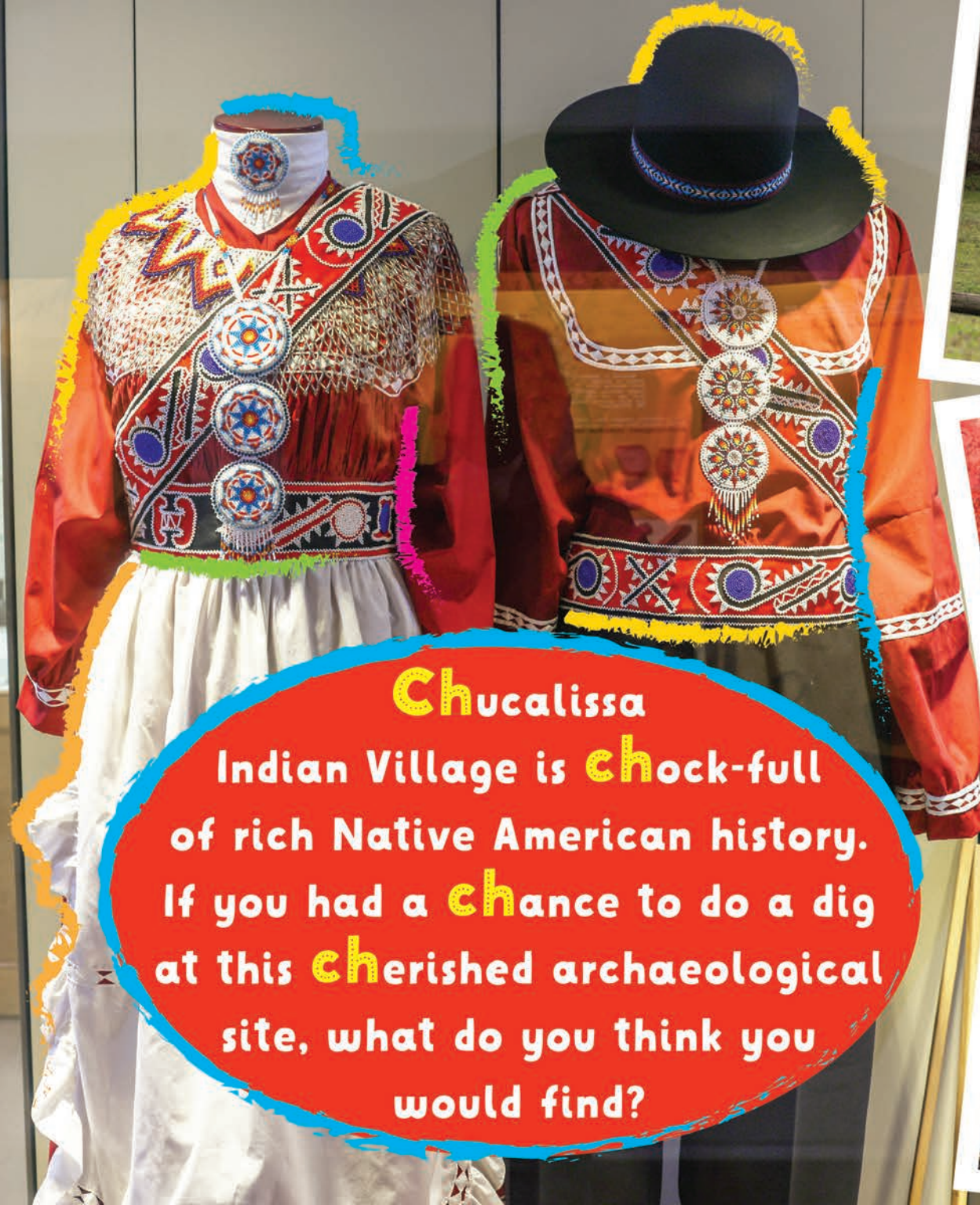
Memphis is home to a number of universities and colleges including the University of Memphis, LeMoyné-Owen College, Christian Brothers University, Rhodes College, Southwest Tennessee Community College, and more. Each university is full of people learning about the world and how to be their best selves.



Ch Chucalissa Indian Village



Located on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and founded around 900 A.D., Chucalissa is an archeological site that you and your family can visit to celebrate and discover the beautiful cultures of the Native American people.



Chucalissa Indian Village is chock-full of rich Native American history. If you had a chance to do a dig at this cherished archaeological site, what do you think you would find?



Sh Shelby

Shelby County is the largest county in Tennessee. You and your family can **share** many memories. Where is your favorite place to go in **Shelby County**?

Shelby Farms Park



Shelby is the name of our beautiful county. Named after a Revolutionary War hero Isaac Shelby, the 625 square miles of wilderness had just over 300 people living here in the early 1800s. Today, Shelby County has grown to 784 square miles with a population of almost 900,000.

Th Theater

You can see a **thrilling** play at **the** many **theaters** in Shelby County. If you were making a play for **the theater**, what would your play be about?

A theater (remember, it can be spelled theater or theatre) is where you go to see plays, musicals, concerts, and performances. There are many theaters in Shelby County including Hattiloo Theatre, Orpheum Theatre, Evergreen Theatre, and Playhouse on the Square.



Wh Whitehaven

Have you

ever been to **Whitehaven**?

Whitehaven has lots of wonderful things to do and see. **When** you come to **Whitehaven**, **what** would you like to do?



Whitehaven is the largest neighborhood in South Memphis. It's a majority African-American, middle-class neighborhood with many businesses, community organizations, parks, and tourist attractions. Graceland, a busy tourist destination, is located in Whitehaven.



Lee Harris is the Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee, one of the largest counties in the South, with nearly one million residents.

Dear Family,

Thank you for reading this book together and exploring the many wonderful people, places, and things that make Shelby County a great community. I hope you enjoyed reading about the county and seeing the beautiful illustrations. I also hope you were reminded of places you've already seen and are motivated to go visit a new place someday soon.

Keep reading and exploring and I hope to see you soon!

All the best,
Mayor Lee Harris

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the individuals and nonprofits who helped bring this book to life with their time, effort, talent, and support!

Cardell Orrin

Stand for Children

Nell K. Duke

Stand for Children

Natalia Powers

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April Foxx

Kifani Press

Jamie Harmon

Amurica Photo Creator

and all Shelby County Government Youth and Education Nonprofit Committee members

The committee would also like to recognize the following businesses, organizations, and landmarks:

- Africa in April
- Agricenter International
- Alcenia's Restaurant
- Asian Night Market
- Beale Street
- Beale Street Flippers
- BlueCross Healthy Place at David Carnes Park
- Christian Brothers University
- Chucalissa Museum
- Cooper-Young Festival
- Cooper-Young Gallery and Gift Shop
- Cooper-Young Trestle (by Jill Turman)
- Crosstown Concourse
- Downtown Memphis Commission
- Epicenter Memphis
- Hattiloo Theatre
- Ida B. Wells Plaza
- Jim Neely's Interstate Bar-B-Que
- Kaye's Pints and Scoops
- Latin Fest 901 (by Cazateatro)
- Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
- LeMoyné-Owen College
- Lichterman Nature Center
- Literacy Mid-South
- Martin Music
- Memphis Grizzlies
- Memphis Parks
- Memphis Redbirds
- Memphis River Parks
- Memphis Riverboats
- Memphis-Shelby County Schools
- Memphis Zoo
- Mud Island Park
- National Civil Rights Museum
- New Ballet Ensemble & School
- Orpheum Theatre Group
- Overton Park
- Porter-Leath
- Shelby Farms Park
- Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum
- South Memphis Farmers Market
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital®
- Stax Museum of American Soul Music
- Teach For America Memphis
- The Four Way Soul Food Restaurant
- University of Memphis
- Victorian Village
- Vietnamese American Community in West Tennessee
- Welcome to Whitehaven Mural (by Ahmad George and Lawrence Matthews III)
- Wolf River Conservancy
- Young Avenue Deli

Additional Art and Photo Recognition

Background artwork for letters from committee and mayor – "Amidst" painting – Angela Sampson; Copyright page – "Sound of Memphis" mural – Damon Lamar Reed; E – **Everybody** – Memphis Grizzlies, Cazateatro – producer of Latin Fest 901, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital® – St. Jude Memphis Marathon® Weekend; I – **Interstate** – Jim Neely's Interstate Bar-B-Que (food); J – **Jookin** – NutRemix™ performers from New Ballet Ensemble & School; K – **Kings** – Martin Luther King Jr. mural in the TFA Memphis office at Crosstown Concourse – Jamond Bullock (AlivePaint); N – **National Civil Rights Museum** – Shutterstock/f1photo (sign); X – **Stax Museum** – Stax Museum of American Soul Music (marquee and The Bar-Kays exhibit); Y – **Young Avenue** – Young Avenue Deli; Z – **Zoo** – April Foxx (zebras, lions and giraffes); O – **Overton Park** – Overton Park Bike Gateway; U – **Universities** – Christian Brothers University and LeMoyné-Owen College; Th – **Theatre** – Orpheum Theatre Group

Shelby County
☆☆☆ **A to Z** ☆☆☆
celebrates the largest county
in Tennessee using colorful
photography and illustrations.
This book walks through the
alphabet and highlights
sites in the county.

Great for
pre-kindergarten
to first grade
students! Shelby
County A to Z can
be read aloud or
read together.

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