



ARTS & CULTURE

Robert Church, the Hooks family and Aretha: New museum to showcase South Memphis

By [Jasmine McCraven](#), Daily Memphian

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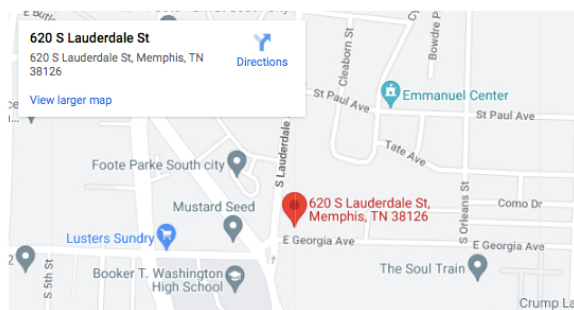


The former MLK Transition Academy/Porter Junior High School on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022. The site is proposed to house the upcoming South City Museum and Culture Center. (Mark Weber/The Daily Memphian)



South Memphis — the part of the city that birthed notable figures including Robert R. Church, the Hooks family, Aretha Franklin and Booker T. Jones — will be home to a new museum telling its story.

The South City Museum and Culture Center is planned for the former Porter Junior High School and MLK Transition Academy site at 620 S. Lauderdale St. Its proposed opening is summer 2024.



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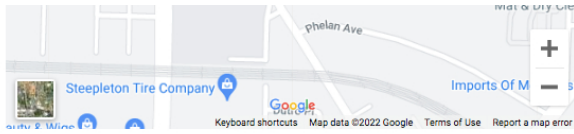
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“Our mission is to create a place to commemorate the past and celebrate the future, showcasing the history of one of Memphis’ oldest African American neighborhoods,” said Archie Willis III, board chair of the new museum.

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The South City Museum and Culture Center is collaborating with the Memphis Museum of Science and History (MoSH) on the project.

Organizers plan for the new entity to celebrate the accomplishments and history of South Memphis and its surrounding communities “through the preservation of artifacts, informative exhibits and commemoration of the residents and organizations that contributed to its history.”



The museum organizers aim to use the new museum to further their goal of recognizing the neighborhood and the contributions of its natives.

“It’s an incredible project that will elevate not just this part of Memphis, but the entire region. Our team can’t wait to get started as we help make this vision come alive for South City and for Memphis,” said Kevin Thompson, executive director of MoSH, said.

TOPICS

MOSH SOUTH MEMPHIS SOUTH CITY MUSEUM AND CULTURE CENTER



Jasmine McCraven

Jasmine McCraven considers herself to be a music enthusiast and believes that she makes the best playlists ever. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State, but couldn’t wait to move back home to Memphis for the best food and culture in Tennessee.

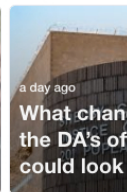
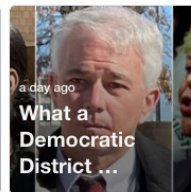
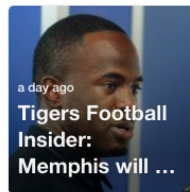
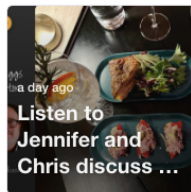
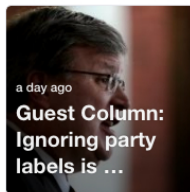
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