

## PADUCAH, KENTUCKY – FACT SHEET

**POPULATION** 25,048 in Paducah; 65,565 in McCracken County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012)

**LOCATION** Halfway between the metropolitan areas of St. Louis, Missouri and Nashville, Tennessee.

**FOUR RIVERS REGION** Located at the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers, the Paducah region is often referred to as the Four Rivers Region because of its proximity to the Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland and Mississippi Rivers. Kentucky has more inland miles of waterways than any other state in the union, except Alaska.

**HISTORY** Founded in 1827 by William Clark of Lewis & Clark Fame, Paducah attributes its origins and prosperity to its strategic location at the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. The town has survived tremendous challenges including the Battle of Paducah during the Civil War and the disastrous 1937 flood. Paducah's rich heritage is reflected in impressive 19th century architecture and a number of museums and historic markers, more than any other city in Kentucky. Twenty blocks of the city's Historic Downtown have been placed on the National Register for Historic Places.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM** Direct tourism expenditures in McCracken County totalled \$211,653,072 in 2014, an increase of 3.8% from 2013.

**AIRPORT** Barkley Regional Airport offers non-stop United Express service to Chicago O'Hare daily

**GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS** More than 2,000 guest rooms at nearly 30 well-known hotels and motels and a number of historic lodging options in Historic Downtown and the LowerTown Arts District.

**THE CARSON CENTER** State-of-the-art 1800-seat performing arts venue plays host to Broadway musicals, traveling productions, well-known entertainers and Orchestra in Residence, Paducah Symphony Orchestra.

**LOWERTOWN ARTS DISTRICT** Paducah's oldest residential neighborhood, listed on the National Register for Historic Places, is home to relocated artists who moved to the arts district as a result of the City's nationally acclaimed Artist Relocation Program.

**PADUCAH SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN** PSAD promotes excellence through diverse visual education in photography, drawing, painting, 2D graphic design, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, metals and 3D design. The ever-expanding campus in the LowerTown Arts District features world-class facilities, a Master Artist Workshop Series, exhibits and lectures by nationally renowned artists.

**"WALL TO WALL" MURALS** Named the most popular attraction in Kentucky by TripAdvisor in 2014, Portraits from Paducah's Past present a public art experience available at all hours. More than 50 life-sized panoramic murals and interpretive panels highlight Paducah's rich heritage along the riverfront as depicted by renowned artist Robert Dafford and the Dafford Murals Team.

**LOCAL FLAVOR** Paducah's culinary scene is creative and diverse, from nearly a dozen locally-owned restaurants housed in Historic Downtown's stunning 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings to the craft brewers, vintners and distillers that add spirited local flavor to Paducah's palate.

**PADUCAH CITY HALL** Designed by internationally famous architect, Edward Durrell Stone, Paducah City Hall is a sister building to the United States Embassy Building in New Delhi, India. Stone's other architectural commissions include the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

**UNESCO CREATIVE CITY OF CRAFTS & FOLK ART** In November 2013, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated Paducah, Kentucky, the world's seventh City of Crafts and Folk Art. Paducah joins United States cities Iowa City, Iowa and Santa Fe, New Mexico in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, currently 41 appointed member cities in seven creative industry fields. This exclusive designation recognizes Paducah's longstanding tradition in the fine craft of quilting. Home of the National Quilt Museum and known as **Quilt City USA**<sup>®</sup>, Paducah connects cultures through creativity.

**AMERICAN QUILTER'S SOCIETY** The founding of AQS in Paducah by quilt visionaries Bill and Meredith Schroeder and hosting the original AQS Quilt Show & Contest in 1984 was the foundation for the city's evolution as a mecca for quilters around the globe. Headquartered in Paducah, AQS has more than 55,000 members representing every state and 80 countries. AQS QuiltWeek – Paducah continues to draw more than 30,000 domestic and international quilters to celebrate quilting in Paducah each April.

**NATIONAL QUILT MUSEUM** Celebrating 25 years in 2016! The largest quilt and fiber art museum in the world highlights the vigorous rebirth of quilting that began in the 1970s. Expanding the vision and advancing the art, the Museum seeks to educate, promote and honor today's quilter and the contemporary quilt experience through contemporary quilts and ever-changing thematic exhibitions that celebrate the talent and diversity of the global quilting community.

## AWARD WINNING PADUCAH

*The historic city of Paducah continues to gain recognition as a cultural destination and a community with an excellent quality of life.*

*Saturday Evening Post* profiles Paducah as one of 8 mid-size American cities that revitalized their riverfronts. (2015)

*Niche.com* ranked Paducah first among Kentucky towns (less than 100,000 population) for millennials. (2015)

*National Geographic Traveler* 50 lists Paducah fifth among the World's 50 Smartest Cities. (2014)

TripAdvisor's most popular attraction in Kentucky is noted Paducah "Wall to Wall" Floodwall Murals as listed in *Parade* magazine. (2014)

*USA Today* places the National Quilt Museum at the top of its list of 10 best places to see amazing quilts. (2014)

*Fodor's* picks Paducah, Kentucky as one of America's best main streets for the *Huffington Post*. (2014)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designates Paducah the world's seventh City of Crafts and Folk Art making the City a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. (2013)

*CNN Travel* selects Paducah as one of America's best small town comebacks. (2013)

Kentucky Arts Council designates Paducah one of five Certified Cultural Districts in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. (2012)

Paint Quality Institute selects Paducah for exceptional merit in the Prettiest Painted Places in America competition. (2012)

National Trust for Historic Preservation names Paducah one of its Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Fans vote Paducah Fan Favorite. (2011)

*Yahoo! Travel* and *CNBC* note Paducah as one of nine Time Warp Towns, out-of-time discoveries that make for road trip gold. (2011)

National Trust for Historic Preservation names Paducah one of five Most Romantic Main Streets in America. (2011)

*Where to Retire* magazine selects Paducah as one of 8 top retirement towns. (2011)

American Chamber of Commerce Executives Association awards Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce with the prestigious Chamber of the Year Award. (2011)

Aspen Institute College Excellence Program selects West Kentucky Community & Technical College as one of the nation's best community colleges. (2011-2014)

National Trust for Historic Preservation awards Paducah Renaissance Alliance one of five Great American Main Street Awards (GAMSA) winners. (2010)

Destination Marketing Association International awards Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau accreditation through its Destination Marketing Accreditation Program. (2008)

United States Congress grants the Museum of the American Quilter's Society "National" designation making it the National Quilt Museum of the United States. (2008)

Paducah's Artist Relocation Program receives numerous awards including National Planning Award/Special Community Initiative from the American Planning Association, Special Merit Award for Outstanding Planning from the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association, Governor's Award in the Arts, James C. Howland Awards for Urban Enrichment Recognition Award.

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