

**RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council endorsed the Memphis Riverfront Master Plan as presented by the Riverfront Development Corporation on May 21, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Riverfront Master Plan is designed to create an active, publicly acceptable waterfront experience connecting downtown Memphis to the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Riverfront Development Corporation, its staff, and board of directors has been charged with the management and implementation of this Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Riverfront Master Plan found an appropriate docking facility with public access to the Mississippi River and the water's edge to be one of the most immediate needs of the riverfront from its public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the idea was strongly seconded by the Urban Land Institute during its independent review of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Riverfront Development Corporation, in conjunction with the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Memphis) and the UrbanArt Commission, hosted a first-ever international design competition for a major public/private capital project in Memphis' history; and

WHEREAS, designs for Beale Street Landing were submitted by 170 designers, architects, artists, and other professionals representing 20 countries worldwide and 28 states nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a public exhibition of all 170 submissions was held at the Memphis Cook Convention Center – free and open to the public in May 2003 for all to see and make comment; and

WHEREAS, this public exhibition of the submittals was covered regionally and nationally by the design trade publications and local media, including features in Architecture Record and mentions in the New York Times; and

WHEREAS, a panel of world renowned architects, urban planners and landscape architects – including two Memphians – was assembled to jury the competition, the first major piece of the riverfront master plan to begin implementation; and

WHEREAS, in response to input from the general public and various government agencies, several significant design changes have been made to the project to reduce the project footprint and allow it to better blend in with its surroundings; and

WHEREAS, with an average 57 foot annual fluctuation in water elevation, the riverbank of the Mighty Mississippi is often difficult to reach. The terraced landscape of the Beale Street Landing project and the floating dock allow people access to the river; and

WHEREAS, because the Beale Street Landing project is under design, the former Delta Steamship Company has increased its dockings in Memphis by 40%, to build their market here in anticipation of the new docking facility, adding a strong economic development aspect to the project that benefits the City for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the RDC has engaged the region's federal legislators in meaningful discussions on the importance of the Beale Street Landing project as well as other improvements to the Memphis riverfront; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these and other efforts, the RDC has secured nearly \$10 million from a variety of sources including grant funds from the State of Tennessee, as well as various Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Beale Street Landing project makes it possible to begin work on the Historic Cobblestone Landing by relocating the boating activity, which is the main source of damage to the cobblestones; and

WHEREAS, countless numbers of citizens have requested this kind of project in scores of public meetings, the design community played a significant role in its creation, and the Memphis City Council has approved the Beale Street Landing project on four different occasions; and

WHEREAS, the Beale Street Landing project is an important piece in the revitalization of the City of Memphis and in its attraction of new, highly recruited employees and entrepreneurs; and


WHEREAS, Memphis sits on the third largest river in the world at its widest point and needs a world-class riverfront amenity to match; and

WHEREAS, the Riverfront Development Corporation Board of Directors has deemed it beneficial to the City of Memphis to design and construct the Beale Street Landing project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Riverfront Development Corporation Board of Directors re-affirms its previously stated support and authorizes the staff of the organization to move forward with the design and construction of the Beale Street Landing project as previously approved.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy and document was adopted, approved by the Board of Directors of the Riverfront Development Corporation on

Date: June 13, 2007.


Gregory M. Duckett, Esq.
Chairman, Board of Directors