

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
1113 Kirkwood Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

Metropolitan Historical Commission
April 21, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center
700 President Ronald Reagan Way

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|-------|--|----------------------|
| I. | Call to Order, Roll Call, and Welcome | Linda Wynn, Chair |
| II. | Approval of March Minutes | Linda Wynn |
| III. | Public Comment | Linda Wynn |
| | The MHC holds a designated public comment period at each meeting. Members of the public in attendance may provide comments to the Board or its Committees during this designated time. Anyone wishing to speak about an agenda item will be allotted two (2) minutes to make comments. | |
| IV. | Historical Markers | Jessica Fitzpatrick |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Black Bottom (Metro funded)2. Dr. Lloyd C. Elam (privately funded)3. Tom Tichenor (privately funded) | |
| V. | Updated Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places | Scarlett Miles |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District (Additional Documentation) | |
| VI. | Report of Findings: Calhoun Cemetery Geophysical Survey | Natalie Robbins, PSM |
| | Program Manager, Vanderbilt Institute for Spatial Research (VISR) | |
| VII. | Director's Report | Tim Walker |
| VIII. | Historic Zoning Report | Robin Zeigler |
| IX. | Other Business | |
| X. | Announcements | |
| XI. | Adjourn | |

Metropolitan Historical Commission
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Historical Markers, April 2025

Title: Black Bottom

Location: Korean Vets Blvd and 4th Ave S

Funding: Metro

Named for the mud that frequently flooded and darkened the streets, the Black Bottom neighborhood was home to a diverse mix of African American and immigrant communities throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was often portrayed as an area of vice with brothels, gambling dens and saloons. During the Jim Crow era, many white residents left the area for the new streetcar suburbs, leaving African American residents in tenements such as Freedman Flats.

460 characters and spaces

Black Bottom was an African American cultural center with institutions such as Mercy Hospital, Pearl School and St. Paul A.M.E. Church. Anthropologist and author Zora Neale Hurston lived here briefly with her brother, Dr. Hezekiah Robert "Bob" Hurston, a 1913 Walden University (now Meharry) graduate. In 1934 she described Black Bottom as "tough" and claimed its juke joints inspired the Black Bottom dance. In the 1950s, urban renewal destroyed most of the neighborhood.

472 characters and spaces

Title: Dr. Lloyd C. Elam (1928-2008)

Location: 2000 Albion St. (Elam Mental Health Center at Meharry)

Funding: private (Meharry Medical College)

Dr. Lloyd C. Elam served from 1961-1968 in various academic leadership roles before being named president in 1968, Meharry's sixth and second African American president. During his tenure, Elam led the expansion of both programs and facilities including a graduate school offering the Ph.D., a new hospital and buildings for the schools of medicine and dentistry. Dr. Elam supervised Meharry's growth until 1981.

412 characters and spaces

{photo with caption}

The board of trustees named Dr. Elam as college chancellor in 1981. The board then named him distinguished professor of psychiatry in 1982. In 1995 he retired to serve as a volunteer faculty member. Meharry Medical College established the Lloyd C. Elam Mental Health Center in his honor.

Title: Thomas Hager Tichenor (1938-1988)

Location: 615 Church St.

Funding: private (Nashville Public Library Foundation)

Tom Tichenor began his career in the puppetry arts as a 15-year-old student at Hume-Fogg High School when he began volunteering at Nashville's public library and staged a production of "Puss in Boots." He created puppets and original stories from the Broadway stage to the studios of NBC. Tichenor gained national renown for his skill and attention to detail. After retiring in 1988, he donated more than 450 puppets for continued use by the library's Wishing Chair Productions.

478 characters and spaces