



# Memphis in Poland Festival

Sopot • Gdańsk • Warszawa • 2017

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DRAFT PRESENTATION

THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION IS SOLELY TO ILLUSTRATE CURRENT AND FUTURE STATUS OF THE MEMPHIS IN SOPOT FESTIVAL. THIS IS A DRAFT OVERVIEW SO IT MAY NOT BE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEMPHIS IN POLAND FESTIVAL.

# MISSION STATEMENT

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The purpose of the Memphis in Poland Festival is to share the music, arts, and culture native to Memphis, with an international audience in the Baltic region's festival capital. The long term aim of the festival will be to solidify partnership between both regions that will flourish for many years to come, providing opportunities for educational and cultural exchanges, facilitating commerce, and promoting tourism.



Sopot



Memphis



Gdańsk

# GENESIS



The idea of the *Memphis in Poland Festival* was born during the 2015 edition of the *Memphis in May International Festival*, which was saluting Poland that year. Throughout the festival, the Polish-American Society of Memphis was hosting a variety of its own events promoting Polish culture.

Former Polish Ambassador to the U.S., Ryszard Schnepf, came up with an idea of the *Memphis in Poland Festival*, when he was visiting Memphis as the guest of honor during the MIM 2015 event. The Polish-American Society of Memphis ([www.pasofmemphis.com](http://www.pasofmemphis.com)) took this idea and became its main implementer.

Since that very moment, the Polish-American Society of Memphis, with support from several partnering organizations, has been working at setting the wheels in motion in effort of turning this great idea into reality.

# LOCATION



## Gdańsk

Located on the Polish Baltic coast, Gdańsk is a charming city, full of color, and rich in history. It is the fourth largest metropolitan area in Poland and the country's principal seaport. Previously known as the origin of the Piast dynasty and crucial part of the Baltic Sea trade route, later in history it has played a major part in World War II, and arguably most notably, it is known as the birthplace of the Solidarity movement.

## Sopot

Sister city to Gdańsk, about a half hour drive away from the Kashubian capital, Sopot is known in the Baltic region as one of the most pristine resort destinations. With some of the most beautiful sandy beaches, exquisite hotels, and diverse culinary scene, it hosts over 1 million visitors during its peak summer season.

## Warsaw

A modern and vibrant metropolis, rich in history, offering a vast array of attractions that satisfy even the most demanding patrons. Since Poland's acceptance into the European Union in 2004, the Capital city has been fast tracked to economic revival emerging from the ashes of communism and regaining its status as the cultural hub of the region for the first time since it has been nicknamed the "Paris of the East".



# EVENT OVERVIEW (PART I)

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*The festival will entertain a series of events, including: musical performances, cultural exhibitions, educational seminars, and a culinary show.*

## **Musical Performances**

There are 5 concerts scheduled throughout the course of the festival showcasing an array of Memphis themed genres, including: rock & roll, blues, and soul. The concerts will feature performances from: the *Memphis Mix*, a group of the University of Memphis musicians led by Dr. Marcin Arendt, the *Rock for Human Rights* group from Los Angeles, led by Wil Seabrook, and the Polish blues group known as the *Blues Night Shift* with its leader Sławek Wierzcholski.

The main event will be taking place on June 17, 2017 in the legendary Forest Opera. Other venues will also include: Teatr Boto, Klub Atelier, and the Concert Shell on the Sopot pier.

## **Cultural Exhibition**

The cultural event will be an exhibition organized by the National Civil Rights Museum in collaboration with the European Solidarity Center in Gdańsk, showcasing laureates of the Freedom Award. The exhibition will have a special spotlight on Lech Wałęsa, who received the award in the year 1999. The President has been invited to the inauguration and will be attending as the honorary guest.

The opening event will also feature a musical performance from the *Memphis Mix* and the *Rock for Human Rights* band leader, Wil Seabrook, as well as a lecture on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement from Dr. Noelle Trent, Director of Interpretation, Collections and Education at NCRM.

# EVENT OVERVIEW (PART II)

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*The festival will entertain a series of events, including: musical performances, cultural exhibitions, educational seminars, and a culinary show.*

## **Educational Seminars**

The educational seminars will comprise of musical master classes led by the Memphis Mix musicians, as well as a series of U.S. National Civil Rights history lectures from Dr. Noelle Trent, the director of Interpretation, Collections and Education at NCRM, and a series of lectures from Wil Seabrook, band leader of the Rock 4 Human Rights group, on 30 basic human rights.

The musical master classes will be held in Warsaw as part of the River Festival directed by Sebastian Wypych, whereas the lecture series are to be taking place at the European Solidarity Center in Gdańsk and the Museum in Sopot.

## **Culinary Show**

The culinary show, led by chef Edward Nowakowski, will be featuring original Memphis barbecue in Sopot's famous Hipodrom. Assisting chef Nowakowski will be students from the Hospitality and Management Commercial School in Sopot.

Guests will be invited to indulge in true Southern US cuisine, tasting all sorts of delicacies ranging from BBQ ribs to pulled pork.

# Event Timeline

Monday, June 12	Tuesday, June 13	Wednesday, June 14	Thursday, June 15	Friday, June 16	Saturday, June 17	Sunday, June 18	Monday, June 19
Freedom Awards exhibition inauguration at the European Solidarity Center, featuring performance from the Memphis Mix and Rock for Human Rights, as well as a lecture from Dr. Noelle Trent on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement	<p>Dr. Noelle Trent's lecture on the Civil Rights Movement at the Sopot Museum (Part I)</p> <hr/> <p>Performance from the Memphis Mix at the "Concert Shell" in Sopot</p> <hr/> <p>Online chess tournament between Jan Matejka Elementary School and Douglass Elementary School</p>	<p>Dr. Noelle Trent's lecture on the Civil Rights Movement at the Sopot Museum (Part II)</p> <hr/> <p>Performance from the Memphis Mix at BOTO Theater</p> <hr/> <p>Chef Edward Nowakowski's lecture at the Hospitality &amp; Management Commercial School in Sopot</p>	<p>Dr. Noelle Trent's lecture on the Civil Rights Movement at the Sopot Museum (Part III)</p> <hr/> <p>Memphis Mix master classes at Gdańsk University and School of Music</p> <hr/> <p>Performance from Rock 4 Human Rights at the "Concert Shell" in Sopot</p>	<p>Wil Seabrook's, R4HR band leader, lecture on human rights at Sopot museum</p> <hr/> <p>Performance from Rock 4 Human Rights at Club Atelier</p>	<p>Memphis style barbecue at the Sopot Hipodrom (Part I)</p> <hr/> <p>Concert at the Forrest Opera</p>	<p>Memphis style barbecue at the Sopot Hipodrom (Part II)</p>	<p>Musical master classes conducted by the Memphis Mix as part of the River Festival in Warsaw</p>

# STAKEHOLDERS (Part I)

*There are a number of organizations working together to ensure realization of the festival's greatest potential.*

From Memphis, the following cultural and nonprofit organizations are taking part:



Polish-American  
Society of Memphis



Memphis Convention  
& Visitor's Bureau



University of Memphis  
Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music



National Civil  
Rights Museum

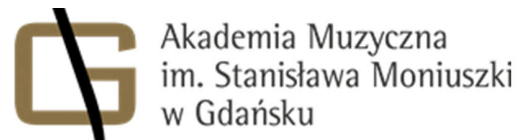
Representing Sopot and Gdańsk, we have the following cultural and nonprofit organizations:



Baltic Artistic Agency



Forest Opera



The Stanislaw Moniuszko  
Academy of Music in Gdańsk



European Solidarity Center



# STAKEHOLDERS (Part II)

*There are a number of organizations working together to ensure realization of the festival's greatest potential.*

Governmental agencies involved in the project:



United States Embassy  
in Warsaw



City of Memphis:  
Mayor's Office



City of Sopot:  
Mayor's Office

Media organizations supporting the festival:



TVN



Portal Trójmiasto



Dziennik Bałtycki



Radio Gdańsk



Twój Blues

# STAKEHOLDERS (Part III)

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*There are a number of organizations working together to ensure realization of the festival's greatest potential.*

Corporate sponsors funding the project:



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International Paper



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PPJ Capital



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Visca Capital



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Eco Services



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Belvedere Management

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Distribution of Proceeds

All of the proceeds from the Memphis in Poland festival will be donated to charity.

## Chess Tournament

In addition to the main events, throughout the course of the festival two local schools from Sopot and Memphis will be engaging in a online chess tournament.

The two schools participating in the challenge will be Jan Matejka Elementary School from Sopot and Douglass Elementary School representing Memphis.



# Festival Committee

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Jacek Dutkiewicz – President

Paweł Jankowski – Vice President

Marcin Arendt – Director of Programming

Rebecca Arendt – Director of Creative Services

Halina Dutkiewicz – Director of Events

Zbigniew Włodarczyk – Director of Operations

# CONTACT INFO

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