



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Pyramid Tribute Bricks Offered to Buyers
Before Move to University of Memphis Campus**

Individuals who purchased commemorative bricks nearly 20 years ago for the front plaza of The Pyramid will be able to reclaim their bricks on June 1 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and on June 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the downtown pyramid site.

The opportunity is being made possible by the City of Memphis and MIFA, the nonprofit social service agency who received revenue from the brick sales in 1991 to support its programs. The 12,539 bricks have been removed in preparation for the upcoming redesign of the former arena's entrance as part of the Pyramid Redevelopment Project.

Bricks not claimed at the Saturday event will be relocated to the University of Memphis campus surrounding the Ramesses II statue, which was moved from the Pyramid to the university's main north entrance in April.

"We are pleased to offer two options for the saved bricks," said City Housing and Community Development Director Robert Lipscomb. "Ultimately, they will find an appropriate home whether in the hands of their original buyers or on grounds of the university."

“The bricks are a symbol of the steadfast support of this community and of our neighbors who have received essential services from MIFA,” explained Sally Jones Heinz, MIFA’s executive director. “Since the bricks were placed at the pyramid entrance, we have helped more than one million vulnerable Memphians in times of crisis. And, two decades later, many who purchased bricks are still active MIFA donors.”

MIFA, founded in 1968, operates nine programs including Meals on Wheels; emergency assistance for individuals and families in crisis with rent, mortgage and utility payments; transportation for low-income elderly to medical appointments, senior centers and other critical errands; shelter, transitional housing and rapid re-housing assistance for homeless families and college readiness for teens.

“The university is pleased to work with the City of Memphis and MIFA on this project,” said Linda Bonnin, Interim Vice President of Communications for University of Memphis. “Ramesses has a beautiful new home here, and we welcome the opportunity to preserve the legacies of those who wish to have their bricks remain in close proximity to this new icon on our campus.”

Individuals wishing to claim their brick should bring some form of identification that connects them with the name or message inscribed on the brick. Certificates issued at the time of purchase will also be accepted as identification.

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