

FedEx Logistics seeks design approval for Downtown HQ

By [Michelle Corbet](#) Updated: May 30, 2019 2:34 PM CT | Published: May 30, 2019 12:11 PM CT

The redesign of the former Gibson Guitar Factory into FedEx Logistics' planned Downtown Memphis headquarters is up for review.

The design of FedEx and New York-based Somera Road Inc.'s adaptive reuse project is subject to approval by the Downtown Memphis Commission's Design Review Board after receiving a 20-year payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) incentive earlier this year.

The plan is to turn the industrial space, presently oriented toward the FedExForum at B.B. King Boulevard, into a building that is mindful of all four elevations.

The existing corner plaza across from FedExForum will be enhanced with landscaping walls, planters, broad stairs and an accessible ramp.

The windowless façade at the corner of MLK Boulevard and B.B. King will be transformed into a new employee entrance with a new canopy, signage and additional human-scale features, according to plans the Design Review Board will consider.



The design of FedEx Logistics' plans to transform the vacant Gibson Guitar Factory into its new Downtown Memphis headquarters is up for review. (Jim Weber/Daily Memphian)

The elevations with concentrated brick will be broken up with self-tinting windows to bring more natural light into the lobbies and private offices.

The lighted tower entrance, at the corner of Second Street and Lt. George W. Lee Avenue, will be activated with retail space at the street level, with plans to sublease to a fitness center.

The 25,000-square-foot roof deck will be improved to include both indoor and outdoor meeting and work areas with an enclosed sky lounge and covered deck.

Landscaping, exterior lighting and signage will be submitted to the Design Review Board in a separate application for approval.

Memphis-based Looney Ricks Kiss is the project architect.

The design will be considered by the board Wednesday, June 5, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Downtown Memphis Commission board room, 114 N. Main St.

Also on the agenda:

PGK Properties is seeking design approval of the first phase of a linear public park on an old rail spur, known as the Ravine, to enhance the emerging Edge District neighborhood surrounding its redevelopment of the former Wonder Bread plant.