

January 2023

# The THRILL

at B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center

Welcome to *The Thrill*, the monthly newsletter of all things happening at B.B. King Museum & Delta Interpretive Center. Our mission at the Museum is to  
*"Inspire Hope, Creativity and Greatness!"*



## What People Are Saying about the Museum

"Great Job! What a moving and wonderful experience."

- Andra Marsusu / Todos Santos, BCS, Mexico

"I have been touched all through the exhibition!!! Just WOW!"

- Ivain Sabau / Las Palmas, Spain

"Incredible tribute to an incredible icon!"

- Muss Pasca Family / Bay Shore, NY, USA

## 2022 Recap



# Tune in to Black History Month

The B.B. King Museum's Tune Into Black History Series is an annual event where we take time to honor, celebrate, and commemorate African American History and Culture. This event is held every Thursday evening during the month of February; highlighting a different form of art. This past year's series was held virtual, themed, "Past, Present, and Future African American Male Leaders, featuring young and adult men that have and are making strides in their communities. **There were approximately 280 that tuned in virtually.**

## PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE LEADERS

B.B. King Museum's *Tune in to Black History Month Series*

Enjoy VIRTUAL STORIES during the month of February featuring African American men who have shaped and are continuing to improve their communities. All shows are *free* and open to the public.

Hosted at [bbkingmuseum.org](http://bbkingmuseum.org)



**FEBRUARY 3**

PAST -- Featuring Arthur Marble and Richard Williams



**FEBRUARY 10**

PRESENT -- Featuring Sheriff James Haywood



**FEBRUARY 17**

FUTURE -- Featuring Tyren Boyd and A'Davion Bush

**PLUS FEBRUARY 24 --** A PERFORMANCE BY SPECIAL GUESTS  
Each segment will go live every Thursday for the duration of February

**Museum Hours** Tues – Sat, 10 AM - 5 PM • Closed Sunday & Mondays  
400 Second St. • Indianola, MS • T 662-887-9539 • [bbkingmuseum.org](http://bbkingmuseum.org)



### February 3

#### Part One: Commemorating the Past

- Honorable Arthur Marble, the first African American Mayor of Indianola, MS
- Mr. Richard Williams, one out of three first African American MS State Trooper

### February 10

#### Part Two: Acknowledging the Present

- Sheriff James Haywood, first African American sheriff of Sunflower County

### February 17

#### Part Three: Recognizing the Future

- Tyren Boyd, honored junior student of Gentry High School and future entrepreneur
- A'Davion Bush, honored junior student of Gentry High School and future Congressman

### February 24

#### A Celebration of Past, Present, and Future African American Male Leaders

The series concluded with four HBCU's choirs: Mississippi Valley State University of Itta Bena, MS; Alcorn State University of Lorman, MS; Tougaloo College of Tougaloo, MS and Coahoma Community College of Clarksdale, MS

Join us again next month - February 2023 for  
*Tune in to Black History Month*

[View NOW](#)

## B.B. King Museum's Early Learning Literacy Program

The Education Department held its two annual Early Learning Literacy Weeks during the months of March and September. The program is designed to increase community engagement and promote reading literacy through early learners. The B.B. King Museum's program helps young children build the skills they need to become successful readers while laying the foundation for lifelong literacy. **This program is made possible by B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center.**



### Spring: Celebrating with Dr. Seuss

The Education Department of the B.B. King Museum kicked off its Spring program of Early Learning Literacy Week celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 1, 2022 and continued until March 3, 2022. Local Head Start Centers, Pre-K through First Grade were invited to participate in story time and other activities during the week. There was a total of 185 children attended the week's event from the following schools:

*Tender Ages Christian Academy (Greenville, MS)*  
*East Sunflower Elementary (Sunflower, MS)*  
*First United Methodist Church Day School (Indianola, MS)*  
*Pooh Bear Childcare Center (Indianola, MS)*  
*Be Be Kids Childcare Center (Indianola, MS)*  
*Delta Care Hope Foundation After School Program (Indianola, MS)*



### Fall: Remembering Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes

The Fall Early Learning Literacy week themed Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes was kicked off September 27 – 29, 2022. There was total of 123 students that attended the week's event from the following schools:

*Indianola Academy (Indianola, MS)*  
*Tender Ages Christian Academy (Greenville, MS)*  
*First United Methodist Church Day School (Indianola, MS)*  
*Ruleville Central Elementary School (Ruleville, MS)*  
*Pooh Bear Early Learning Development Center (Indianola, MS)*

## First Thursdays

First Thursday is designed to offer live music of different genres from Jazz to Blues to the community free of charge.

### March 3: Live Performance -

**Latin American Blues Artist Jose Ramirez**  
*Sponsor(s) – Margaret Clark and B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
 Attendance: 80

### April 7: Live Performance -

**Mark "Muleman" Massey**  
*Sponsor(s) – B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
 Attendance: 50

### May 5: Live Performance -

**Dr. Alphonso Sanders**  
*Sponsor(s)- Rusty Reed and B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
 Attendance: 30

### June 2: Live Performance -

**Mickey Rogers**  
*Sponsor(s)- The Pitts Family and B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
 Attendance: 6

### July 7: Live Performance -

**Dr. Alphonso Sanders**  
*Sponsor(s)- Margaret Clark and B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
 Attendance: 71



### October 6: Live Performance -

**Big Time Rhythm & Blues Band**  
*Sponsor(s)- B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
 Attendance: 33

### November 3: Live Performance -

**Dr. Alphonso Sanders**  
*Sponsor(s)- B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center*  
 Attendance: 30

### December 1: Live Performance -

**Black Water Trio Band**  
*Sponsor(s)- Guaranty Bank and Trust, The Blue Biscuit, and Mississippi Arts Commission*  
 Attendance: 60



September 1: Live Performance -  
Lil Ray Neal & Brothers; Jessie Robinson; Mickey Rogers; Teeny Tucker; Alphonso Sanders; and a host of musicians  
Sponsor(s)- Gary Lott and B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center  
Attendance: 125



## B.B. King Day

Mississippi Valley State University hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> annual B.B. King Day Symposium on September 1, themed Blues and Civil Rights: The Movement and Music. Panelists guests included Dr. Dina Bennett, Berneta Miles, Johnny B. Thomas, Sterling Plumpp, Charles Mitchell, Hermon Johnson, Jr., and Von Coulter with Dr. Alphonso Sanders being the moderator. Mr. Johnny Thomas, mayor of Glendora, MS and CEO of the Emmett Till Historic Intrepid Center, showed a brief film that depicted personal accounts from Moses Wright, Emmett's great uncle, of the night that he was abducted. Mr. Hermon Johnson, Jr., director of the Taborian Hospital Museum in Mound Bayou, MS, gave a personal account of the history of the town and how Marvin Gaye's Let's Get It On hit song was originally crafted in Mound Bayou. Berneta Miles, and R&B singer/songwriter of international acclaim, along with Professor Sterling Plumpp, born in Clinton, MS a poet and professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, told personal stories relating to "The Power of Freedom Songs and Black Poetry." Dr. Dina Bennett, Director of Collections and Curatorial Affairs at the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, MO addressed the topic, "Link Between Blues, Gospel, and Freedom Songs." The symposium was made possible in part by sponsors MVSU, B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, Margaret W. Clark, Dr. Riley B. King Recording Studio and the Mississippi Blues Foundation.

## Education

### B.B.'s Bridge-Building Ambassador Youth Leadership Program



BB's Bridge Building Ambassador Youth Leadership Program is designed to engage Indianola and Sunflower County Junior and High School students in discovering their

### Art of Living Smart Summer Camp



Sponsored by St. Dominic's, King's Daughters and Sons Circle Number Two, Delta Health Alliance, Raspberry United Methodist Men, and Sunflower-Humphreys

own leadership abilities by exploring history and participating in a variety of learning and leadership development opportunities. The Ambassadors serve forty (40) hours of community service before graduating at the end of their participating year. Class of 2022 held its ceremony in the Barksdale Cotton Gin where 10 young leaders received certificates of completion and 2 certificates of participation. The Class of 2022 – 2023 began its session October 08, 2022 with twelve (13) new future leaders; marking this the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the Ambassadors Leadership program. **The Ambassadors are sponsored by WalMart, Community Foundation of Northwest MS; Maddox Foundation; and Feild Cooperative Association, Inc.**

### *Be Smart:* **Control Your Diabetes**



B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center partnering with **MSU Extension Sunflower County Services, The Sunflower County Diabetics Council and Community Foundation of Northwest MS/Maddox Foundation** offers a free to the public health wellness education program that's held every fourth Thursday of each month from 12:00p – 1:00p in the BBKM Barksdale Cotton Gin. The program is intended to help meet the needs of the community and bring awareness to a disease so many and Mr. King himself suffered from. Health experts give generously of their time and skills in an effort to enhance the overall wellbeing.

Topics and presentations for the year included the importance of knowing your numbers and where they should be; eating clean when dining out; nutrition; self-care; managing diabetes during the extreme hot months; how to be active; medications and diabetes; and testimonial Thursday. Presenters included Kristen Smith, FNP virtually; Mrs. Draughon McPherson, former dietician; Ms. Ann Twiner, MS State University Extension Agent for Sunflower County; Natasha Hawthorne, representative of Indianola Wellness Community Center; Dr. Lakeisha Richardson, virtually; Martha Catlette, Holistic Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Nursing Students from Mississippi Delta Community College Nursing Program; Misty Clark, BBKM Education Director, Mrs. Verna Ransom, BBKM Education Consultant; and

**County Progress, Art of Living Smart** Summer Camp kicked off Monday, June 6th with 60 energetic campers. The camp is an innovative program that builds creativity and addresses community values by incorporating cultural dance, fitness, music, writing, art, and culinary lessons. It also works to strengthen language, reading, writing, social skills and problem-solving ability while encouraging overall healthy lifestyle choices while instructors serves as positive role models for children. The camp also teaches and expands upon the knowledge of the MS Delta history and culture through lessons from exploring the exhibits. The camp was offered four days a week from 8a until 4p for six weeks during the summer. Camp Lucille's theme for 2022 was "Around the World," based on the many places B.B. King himself had traveled and performed.

### **Blues Camp –**

During this year of Art of Living Smart Summer Camp, campers enjoyed a two-day blues workshop learning blues past and blues present and how to play various instruments. On the second day, campers held a show for parents/guardians and community to showcase what they had learned. **Mr. Fernando Jones, founder of Blues Camp International presented the work shop.**



**Engineering Day – Khadijah Ransom, along with co-sponsor Science Festival Accelerator and Raspberry United Methodist Men, held the annual "Engineering Day" with a space theme for the participants of summer camp. The 2022 Engineering Day offered the chance to explore mechanical, civil, and electrical engineering careers as well as corporate career in nursing(medical), business, and trucking. Campers had the opportunity to visit and explore hands on activities from various booths. Vendors included: Gardner Engineering, Kimbrough Transport Inc. and Greenville Delta Regional.**



participants themselves. There was a total of 464 participants to receive and enjoy the very informative seminars.

## Juvenile Be Smart: Control your Diabetes

### Be SMART: Control Your Juvenile



#### MANAGING DIABETES IN OUR YOUTH

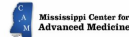
Monday, April 25, 2022 | 6:30 – 7:30 PM  
B.B. King Museum | Indianola, MS

Topic: "Diabetes: What is It?"

Pre-screenings will be conducted by  
Mississippi Center for Advanced Medicine

Please bring pre-evaluation numbers:  
blood pressure, glucose, and A1C, if possible.

For more information, please contact Education Coordinator,  
Misty Clark-Johnson at 662.887.9539.



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The Mississippi Center for Advanced Medicine, The Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi and B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center offered a new spin-off of the Be Smart: Control Your Diabetes program, bringing early awareness and understanding of the diabetes disease to the younger generation; ages 6-22. This program is held each fourth (4th) Monday of the month from 6:00p - 7:00p. Topics covered were "What is It?" which included pre-screenings for participants, checking their A1C and blood pressure. Dr. Jessica Lilly of MCAM discussed what the disease of diabetes was and the effects it had on the body. Dr. Amy Potter answered and discussed various treatments of diabetes in youths. Dr. Morgan Pollard presented on the affects of weight and diabetes. Chief of the Pediatric Metabolic Clinic, Dr. Whitney Herring discussed various physical activities and the outcomes it has on the body when done correctly and in intervals. She also presented a food demo on how to make quick healthy dinners and snacks. Dr. Anna Baldwin, PharmD, help to prepare for the holidays by reinforcing the idea to stay active and eat in moderations. **There were a total of 18 participants that enjoyed meeting and receiving invaluable information.**



## B.B. King Museum AllStars Music Program



The B.B. King AllStars mission is to identify children from grades sixth through twelve who display exceptional or potential musical talent. Participants will focus on musicianship; showmanship, pride of accomplishment, spirit and citizenship. Students train during the school year with accomplished music educators; in person and virtual, and travel during the summer recess as official representatives of the B.B. King Museum. The ensemble performed for Showtime with the B.B. King Museum's AllStars; NOLA Fest; Trendy Indy; Christmas on Deer Creek; Indianola Community Christmas Festival and for the SCCSD Unity Christmas Concert. **The AllStars are sponsored by B.B. King Museum.**

## Art Exhibitions

### Gentry High School Art Reception

Monday, February 14, 2022. | 5:00p -7:00p

Gentry High School's art students along with instructor Dawn Whitefield held a reception to display

different mediums of art they created in the B.B. King Museum Barksdale Cotton Gin. Students' art stayed on display for the remainder of February for community and visitors to enjoy the abundance of talent and hard work of the Delta's youths. **There were approximately 150 in attendance at opening night.**

### Delta Artists Association

**Friday, March 4, 2022 | 5:00p-7:00p**

The Delta Artists Association held a reception showcasing their art work and talents. There were **approximately 60** to come out to enjoy the extraordinary talents of the Delta on opening night.

### MDCC Art Reception

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022 | 6:00p**

Mississippi Delta Community College Art Club hosted a reception displaying their artwork created in and out of class during the semester. Students art work stayed on display in the Barksdale Cotton Gin for the remainder of April. **There were approximately 30 in attendance on opening night.**

## Outreach Programs



**B.B. KING MUSEUM & THE CITY OF INDIANOLA PRESENT**

## CANVAS & CONVERSATIONS

**B.B. King Museum  
Every 1st Tuesday beginning August 2, 2022  
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

Senior citizens join us for paint days.  
Light refreshments will be served.

400 Second Street, Indianola, MS | 662-887-9539 | [bbkingmuseum.org](http://bbkingmuseum.org)



### Canvas & Conversations

Partnering with the City of Indianola, Canvas and Conversations is designed to provide a social gathering where senior citizens can engage in fun and creative painting lessons while in a relaxed atmosphere and catching up with friends or networking and meeting new people. Painting proves to be a mood enhancer and improve general well-being. Painting also forces people to use both sides of their brain simultaneously. This helps creativity and increases cognitive function. Learning a new skill increases brain activity without struggle. Canvas and Conversations is offered each first Tuesday of the month from 1:00p until 2:30p. Since starting in August of 2022, there has been an overall attendance of 85.



### Community Events:

- B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center hosted the **NAACP Sunflower County Branch #5333** Salute to Black History on February 12th. The keynote speaker, Judge Carol White-Richardson, spoke on the theme "There is power at the ballot box to change communities." There were approximately 48 in attendance.
- November 27th, **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive** hosted worship night for the youths along with Pastor Michael Davis, director of youth ministries of Indianola's First United Methodist Church. There were 35 in attendance.

## Meetings

- February 2nd, **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** accommodated **Community Bank** in hosting a seminar for the Delta farmers in examining the outlook for farm labor in the years ahead and how agricultural workforce developments might affect future challenges and opportunities related to agricultural production.
- April 20th, the **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** hosted **Duke Energy** in the Barksdale Cotton Gin. Duke Energy brought key staff members who provided information and updates on the solar farm project. There were 30 in attendance.
- The **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** hosted an open forum in the Barksdale Cotton Gin on August 10th where the community was invited to come out and share their thoughts in a guided conversation with **Arthur Alley team**, a Mississippi-based consultant group and Sarah Story, executive director of **Mississippi Arts Commission**. The feedback will be used for the new strategic plan.
- September 8th, **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** extended the use of the Barksdale Cotton Gin to the **Mississippi Heritage Trust, Indianola Freedom House Steering Committee** and the **Mississippi Delta National Heritage** for a community discussion on the future of the Indianola Freedom House, which provided a safe haven for Civil Rights workers during Freedom Summer of 1964. There were 20 in attendance for this discussion.
- November 10th, **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** joined **Indianola's Police Chief Ronald Sampson** in presenting an informative strategic town hall meeting in the Barksdale Cotton Gin where how to engage the community and preventive methods for crime were main topics of discussion. There were a total of 25 present for the meeting.
- December 5th, the community was invited to attend a community visioning session hosted by the **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** in the Barksdale Cotton Gin to give input that would help shape the vision for Indianola's downtown area. This program was supported by a grant from the **W. K. Kellogg Foundation** and conducted by the **Indianola Chamber Main Street**.
- December 7th, the community was invited back the **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** to attend the final Community Presentation that gave general observations and recommendations feedback from the Downtown Roadmap Team; individuals with expertise in a wide range of downtown revitalization experiences.

**Interpretive Center** along with **The Indianola Chamber Main Street** hosted a meet and greet event for the community to officially meet and get acquainted with the newly elected mayor and board of aldermen. There were approximately 45 in attendance.

- Indianola Chamber Main Street held its annual mixer recognizing and honoring citizens, business owners, educators and students for their exemplary achievements on April 4th in the **BBKM's Barksdale Cotton Gin**.
- The **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** hosted breakfast and exhibit tour for the over 100 attendees of the **Alliance of National Heritage Area** Spring 2022 meeting on April 19th.
- Indianola Chamber Main Street along with **B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** hosted a meet and greet on May 3rd for new Indianola Police Chief Ronald Sampson. Citizens were given the opportunity to ask questions and talk with the new police chief.
- A reception was held on May 27th the **BBKM's Barksdale Cotton Gin** after the **Indianola's Southgate Redevelopment Project** construction and renovation ceremony of breaking ground.
- October 18th, the **B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** held a pastoral luncheon to instruct church leaders and their congregation on the museum's mission, programs and resources offered to the community.

## Professional Development Workshops / Training

- February 1st, **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** hosted **MS Center for Justice's** staff retreat for six of their employees.
- **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** hosted the **Mississippi Department of Archives and History's** one of many regional trainings in the Barksdale Cotton Gin on August 2nd for the **Indianola Historic Preservation Commission**. The training provided technical assistance about distinguishing the National Register of Historic Places from local preservation commissions, antiquity law, and economics of preservation.
- September 17th, the **B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center** hosted **Sunflower County Consolidated School District's Child Nutrition Department** professional development training where attendees completed leadership building activities that focused on food and kitchen safety and compliance. The food service team also toured the museum's exhibits after the



For the latest news and events,  
visit the Museum's [website](#).

## Tour Highlights



The B.B. King Museum offers school tours for schools throughout the state in all grade levels. The tours are designed to be an extension of the classroom, opening students mind through immersive knowledge about the Delta, B.B. King, Civil Rights, and blues history. As a prerequisite of school tours, teachers may visit the B. B. King Museum's website and visit our curriculum that's aligned with Mississippi's common core standards. This curriculum covers several content areas and related themes such as Language Arts, Social Studies, Music, Blues, Geography, English, Writing, and Career Development to name a few.

### **Schools:**

*Simmons Junior/High School, Hollandale, MS*  
*South Delta Elementary School, Rolling Fork, MS*  
*T.R.Sander School, Hollandale, MS*  
*McEvans School, Shaw, MS*  
*Hope Academy, Gulfport, MS*  
*Iowa State University, Ames, IA*  
*Langston University, Langston, OK*  
*Columbus State University, Columbus, GA*  
*Little Saints Learning Center, Winona, MS*  
*Delta Street Academy, Greenwood, MS*  
*Grammy Museum's Afterschool Program, Cleveland, MS*  
*Full Steam Ahead, Greenville, MS*  
*Bridgewater/Taunton College, Somerset, UK*  
*Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead, MS*  
*Thomas E. Edwards High School, Ruleville, MS*  
*Sam Houston State, Huntsville, TX*  
*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*  
*Indiana University, South Bend, IN*  
*Greenville Renaissance, Greenville, MS*  
*Janice Wyatt MSAI CORE, Cleveland, MS*  
*Council of Community Organization, Starkville, MS*  
*Phillips Academy, Andover, MA*

SHCPI/WIOA Program, Indianola, MS  
Mississippi Valley State University Upward Bound I, Itta Bena, MS  
Stewpot Community Service Youth Camp, Jackson, MS  
Philadelphia High School, Philadelphia, MS  
University of Mississippi Honor College, Oxford, MS  
Southwest MS Community College, Summit, MS  
J.Z. George High School, North Carrollton, MS

There were a total of **867** students to tour the Museum's exhibits in 2022.  
**Book your school tour today!**

## From the Director's Desk



**Malika Polk-Lee,**  
*Executive Director*

*B.B. King Museum &  
Delta Interpretive Center*

**Thank you for reviewing another edition of *The Thrill at the B.B. King Museum!***

The year 2022 brought lots of excitement at the Museum. Along with the rest of the world, we were happy to see tourist, host events and restart our programming after the Covid pandemic. We opened all of our regular scheduled programs back up for in person gathering. We also added two new programs; Canvas and Conversation as well as Juvenile Be Smart: Control Your Diabetes Program along with welcoming new partnerships with the City of Indianola and Mississippi Center for Advanced Medicine.

As exciting as 2022 was, we are thrill to start 2023 with anticipation of the re-opening of the Historic Club Ebony in June. We can't wait to welcome the community back. Stay tune for events planned around the reopening via our website, social media, newspaper, e-blast, T.V., and radio announcements.



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The King's Daughters  
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Number 2

