

B.B. KING MUSEUM AMBASSADORS NEWS LETTER

4th Edition
August 2018

**“The beautiful thing
about learning is that
no one can take it
away from you.”**

- B.B. King

B.B. King never stopped his quest for knowledge; he received honorary doctorate degrees from Tougaloo College, Yale University, Berklee College of Music, Rhodes College, Mississippi Valley State University, and Brown University.

Goal of the Program

Launched in 2011, the goal of the Ambassadors program is to provide Delta area youth with the opportunity to become actively involved with the Museum and help carry out its outreach mission. The hope is that through this program the Museum will develop long-term partnerships with local schools, enabling students to participate in a series of training experiences and intern opportunities that will help them develop into lifelong learners, productive citizens and community leaders.



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Orientation:

B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors

The B.B. King's Bridge Building Ambassador Leadership Program began its 7th year on October 14, 2017, with parent orientation. This program is designed to foster understanding, respect and civic engagement among peers by participating in workshop, community services activities, teaming building exercises, meeting with community leaders and leadership development. At the end of the program, the Ambassadors will apply what they learned to implement projects that serve in their own communities. The first



October 28, 2017 - Students getting acquainted during a meet and greet activity in their first session of the Ambassadors program.

session of the program met on Saturday, October 28, 2017. A total of twenty-two students participated in a meet and greet activity to introduce themselves.

Recognizing our Nation's History



On February 17, 2018, the Ambassadors traveled to Jackson, Mississippi, to tour the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, which traces the history of the American Civil Rights Movement

in the United States between 1945 and 1970, particularly in Mississippi. They also visited the home of Medgar Evers, the first NAACP field secretary and prominent civil rights activist and organizer, who was assassinated in this home in 1963. The private home is now a National Historic Landmark turned museum and now restored to look as it did when the Evers family lived there. Sixteen Ambassadors along with Ambassador Coordinator, Tiffany Sibley, were present. The Ambassadors had dinner at the famous Mama Hamil's Restaurant in Madison, Mississippi.

Community Projects



A total of eight B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors participated in Community Bank's 10th Annual Fall Fashion Show Thursday, November 9th, 2017, at 6:00 pm. The Ambassadors showcased items from the B.B. King Museum's gift shop. The following Ambassadors participated; Jaliah Carter, Sylvester Washington, TarDerrius McClinton, Callie Scott, Ja'Ques Robbie, Zaria Tilliman, T'hana Landrum and Angel Howard.



The B.B. King's Bridge Building Ambassadors were among many other volunteers ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas time on Thursday, December 21, 2017. A total of fifteen Ambassadors, along with Tiffany Sibley, Ambassador Coordinator, spent their first day of Christmas break in the cold weather to bring good tidings to some boy or girl this Christmas season. The Ambassadors stood at both doors of the Walmart Department store in Indianola, Mississippi from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

2018-2019 Graduates

Jalilah Carter
 Meghan Curry
 Michael Harris
 Angel Howard
 Derriya Hughes
 Alyssa Jones
 T'hana Landrum
 Makesia Livingston
 TarDerrius McClinton
 Jaleciah Parker
 Ja'Ques Robbie
 Callie Scott
 Kimberly Smith
 Alyssa Simpson
 Zaria Tillman
 Sylvester Washington
 Antiquarius Weeks

Meeting Dates

| | |
|--|---|
| October 14, 2017 <i>Parent/Student Orientation</i> | March 10, 2018 <i>"Let the people Decide" Presentation</i> |
| October 28, 2017 <i>Meeting Leadership 1</i> | March 2018 <i>SCCSD Board Meeting</i> |
| November 9, 2017 <i>Fashion Show</i> | March 2018 <i>Alabama Tour Date</i> |
| November 11, 2017 <i>Meeting Leadership 2</i> | March 2018 <i>Dollar General Tour (Spring Break)</i> |
| November 25, 2017 <i>Meeting Leadership 3</i> | March 24, 2018 <i>Ambassadors (Workshop)</i> |
| December 2017 <i>Town Board Meeting</i> | April 2018 <i>DSU Bologna Performing Art Center</i> |
| January 11-12, 2018 <i>Planting Seeds Volunteering</i> | April 7, 2018 |
| January 6, 2018 <i>Delta Tour Begins</i> | April 21, 2018 |
| January 20, 2018 <i>Arrival of B.B. King Presentation</i> | May 5, 2018 |
| February 10, 2018 <i>Memphis Tour Date</i> | May 19, 2018 |
| February 6-27, 2018 <i>Tune Into Black History</i> | May 26, 2018 <i>Graduation</i> |
| | Ongoing <i>Community Garden Project as needed</i> |



The B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program met on November 27, 2017, at 7:00 pm. at the Indianola City Court Building for the monthly City Council meeting. A total of 13 ambassadors were present, along with Tiffany Sibley. The Ambassadors were introduced and welcomed by Mayor Rosenthal and had an opportunity to hear the Board of Aldermen and Mayor Rosenthal make decisions that will impact the city of Indianola.



The B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors volunteered February, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th for Tune Into Black History Series. This annual event occurs in February to commemorate Black History Month. Local schools, churches and groups were asked to perform in one of the category: music, dance, poetry and panel discussion. The ambassadors served as ushers during the event. A total of 13 ambassadors were in attendance.



On March 24, 2018, the Ambassadors presented their first workshop on "How to Fly a Kite." Each group was assigned a part and presented it to over 45 local community children with topics like the history of a kite, kite safety and how to put the kite together. After the presentation, the children were allowed to go outside to fly their kite.



Fifteen B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors toured the Delta on January 6, 2018. Their journey began in Indianola and ended in Sunflower, Mississippi. They saw the corner and marker where B. B. King himself stood during his early career, burial site of Charley Patton in Holly Ridge, the famous Christmas Street in Cleveland and Greasy Street in Ruleville, Mississippi, Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Garden and in Sunflower, Mississippi, and the birthplace of Willie Clayton.



On March 20, 2018, 15 Ambassadors traveled to Ruleville Middle School to the monthly Sunflower County Consolidated School District board meeting. The Ambassadors heard firsthand the day-to-day operation of each school, dockets approved and data presentation of test scores, as well as see the different leadership style each board meeting exhibit. This information was used later for discussion in the next scheduled Ambassadors meeting.



On March 25, 2018, 12 Ambassadors attended "Usher Day" at Oak Grove M.B. Church. The Ambassadors carried out the duties of an usher, while Oak Grove's Usher were honored on this day.



The B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors met on January 20, 2018. Thaddeus Fairley of Hope Credit Union presented on financial literacy. They learned firsthand how to save and manage money by creating a budget, tracking their spending and other financial literacy skills that would help them manage effectively for a lifetime financial security, as well as bring more families into the financial mainstream.



The B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors were volunteers during the Museum's "Planting the Seed to Read" Program. This seven week family literacy program allowed families to develop crucial literacy skills and a love for reading and promote language development importance and families reading together. The Ambassadors volunteered to serve meals and assist in the classroom as needed. A total of 16 ambassadors participated during the 2 month period.



The B.B. King Museum congratulated B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors who completed 2017-2018 leadership program on May 25, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the Barksdale Cotton Gin. Seventeen Ambassadors received certificates of completion and other awards. To date 105 ambassadors have completed this program.

Contact Us

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On January 17, 2018, the Ambassadors traveled to the FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tennessee, to see a Grizzlies game. They had an opportunity to get autographs from the Grizzlies cheerleaders and posed with one of them.



On July 5-8, 2018, the Ambassadors traveled to Dallas, Texas, for their end of the year field trip. They had a private tour of the AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, where they learned about the architectural structure of the stadium, which is also one of Texas' most-visited historic sites. They also visited the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza which chronicles the life, death and legacy of President John F. Kennedy, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, Reunion Tower where they could see a 360-view of the city of Dallas, the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and Dallas World Aquarium.

To date, 105 students have graduated from the program. The 2018-2019 class will begin recruiting September 2018. See your school counselors or stop by the museum for an application (must be in the 9th-12th grade).

Where are they now?

Allison Simpson (2012)
Alcorn University 2017
Graduate: Mississippi College
Major: Medical Science

Demarcus Gillespie (2012)
Senior at Southern University

Porshe Chambers (2012)
Delta State University

Shanice Mitchell (2012)
Coahoma Community College
2015 / St. Dominic, Jackson, MS

Tyler Murry (2012)
Southern University
Masters: Business Administration

Ashley Coleman (2013)
Southern University 2017
Major: Health Policy & Admin

Dantarius Collier (2013)
MS Delta Community College 2018
Medical Assistant at Capps

Devin Shannon (2013)
Jackson State University

Michelle Steadman (2013)
Delta State University 2017
MS Valley State University
Masters: Social Work

Terradeshia Dixon (2013)
Tougaloo 2017 / Major: Sociology

Terrence Ransom (2013)
Hinds Community College 2018
Delta State University 2018 /
Major: Physical Education

Ebonie Baker (2014)
Democratic Party in Missouri

Ole Miss / Major: English Lit.

Erianna Ball (2014)
Delta State University / Major:
Biology/Pre-Physical Therapy

Mari Lampkin (2014)
MS Delta Community College
Major: Marketing

Aysia Jones (2015)
MS Delta Community College
Spring 2018 / Tougaloo Fall
2018, Major: Biology

Lauren Walker (2015)
MS Delta Community College:
Summer 2018 / Alcorn State
University Fall 2018 / Major:
Biology



*B.B.'s Bridge-Building
Ambassador Youth Leadership
Program is sponsored by the
Field-Cooperative Association, Inc.
and the B.B. King Museum and
Delta Interpretive Center.*

