

# B.B. KING MUSEUM AMBASSADORS NEWS LETTER

5th Edition  
August 2019

**“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.



## In This Issue

- Goal of the Program
- Orientation
- Touring the Delta
- Graduates 2018-2019
- Community Projects
- Meeting Dates

## Touring the Delta: B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors



From left to right - Alecia Clark, Paris Gooden, Kimberley Young, Abby Chambers, Jeremiah White, Arian Robinson, CorDarius Cole, Kristen Lee, Draylon Long, Miracle Watson, Ny/Asia Hughes

In January, the B.B. King Ambassadors toured the Mississippi Delta on a search for the history of the Mississippi Blues. Eleven (11) Ambassadors visited 20 sites and markers that were a part of the Mississippi Blues Commission's Blues Trail. The Blues Trail markers provided a unique opportunity for the Ambassadors to explore the people and places that impacted the Blues. The Ambassadors received valuable historical information from Mr. Robert Terrell, Director

of Operations for the B.B. King Museum, about world-renowned Club Ebony, located on Hanna Street in Indianola, its famous visitors and past owners.

## Act of Giving Back



The B.B. King Ambassadors participated in a service project for Samaritan's Purse called Operation Christmas Child. According to Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, the collected shoeboxes are delivered to needy children around the world. "Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl to experience the love of God in a tangible way and hear the Gospel," states Graham. The Ambassadors and their parents were excited to participate in this project, and contributed fifteen (15) boxes for the needy children. The boxes were hand-delivered to First Baptist Church in Indianola, a local drop-off site, on Thursday, November 15th by Sherby Hale, the program's coordinator.

## Ambassadors Graduation



The B.B. Bridge Building Youth Leadership Program held its graduation program on Saturday, May 25, 2019, in the Cotton Gin at the Museum. Eleven Ambassadors participated

in graduation. Over 50 parents and guests were in attendance. The graduates offered scripture, prayer, a welcome, program overview, and class poem. The message from former 2014-15 Ambassador, Aysia Jones, was outstanding. Aysia is currently a sophomore at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi. The graduates received certificates and gift bags. Two Ambassadors received a Perfect Attendance Award and two received the Community Service Award. One outstanding student received a \$100 scholarship. After a brief reception, the Ambassadors took their parents on a tour of the museum's exhibits.

## Community Projects



In April, 2019, Ambassadors completed a community service project at Nelson Dotson Park located on Hannah Street. They were greeted by Mayor Steven Rosenthal and his wife, Robin at the park. Mayor Rosenthal informed the Ambassadors about the history of Nelson Dotson and his activism despite having a disability. A total of 12 ambassadors picked up limbs and trash, planted flowers and cut the grass. Even though, the activity was strenuous, the Ambassadors challenged themselves and learned about the importance of giving back to others.



The Ambassadors held their final community service project on Saturday, May 11th, at Delta Missions, Inc. Delta Missions is a faith-based organization, founded by Reverend Herron Wilson, which offers weekly Bible study to youth, adults and senior citizens, and sponsors Vacation Bible School in several communities in the Delta. On Saturday, nine (9) Ambassadors helped nearly 40 kids to create Mother's Day cards. They also painted faces and worked in the kitchen to prepare Saturday's meal.

## 2018-2019 Graduates

Abby Chambers  
Alecia Clark  
CorDarius Cole  
Paris Gooden  
Roselyn Gudino  
Ny'Asia Hughes  
Kirsten Lee  
Draylan Long  
Arian Robinson  
Miracle Watson  
Jakevius White  
Jeremiah White  
Kimberley Young

## Meeting Dates

October 6, 2018 <i>Parent/Student Orientation</i>	March 2, 2019 <i>Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration</i>
October 13, 2018 <i>Drew Day</i>	March 9, 2019 <i>Regular Meeting</i>
October 27, 2018 <i>Meeting Leadership I</i>	March 23, 2019 <i>Regular Meeting</i>
November 3, 2018 <i>Meeting Leadership 2</i>	March 24, 2019 <i>Community Service Oak Grove M.B. Church</i>
November 8, 2018 <i>Community Fashion Show</i>	March 30, 2019 <i>Kite Workshop</i>
December 8, 2018 <i>Meeting Leadership 3</i>	April 13, 2019 <i>Regular Meeting</i>
December 15, 2018 <i>Salvation Army</i>	April 22, 2019 <i>Indianola Aldermen's Meeting</i>
January 5, 2019 <i>Meeting Mayor Steven Rosenthal</i>	April 27, 2019 <i>Community Service Nelson Dotson Park</i>
January 19, 2019 <i>Delta Tour</i>	May 4, 2019 <i>Meeting &amp; Homecoming Festival Kickoff</i>
February 2, 2019 <i>Meeting Reality Fair</i>	May 11, 2019 <i>Community Service Missions, Inc.</i>
February 5-26, 2019 <i>Tune in to Black History</i>	May 25, 2019 <i>Graduation</i>
February 11, 2019 <i>SCCSD School Board Recognition Program</i>	
February 16, 2019 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	



On October 13, 2018, eleven (11) B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors traveled to Drew, Mississippi, to participate in Drew's Annual Drew Day. The Ambassadors organized supplies and materials so that the young and the young-at-heart could paint Lucille guitars and take pictures with the King himself. During the three hours that the Ambassadors were present, more than 35 guitars were painted. It was a fun day for everyone!



On Saturday, December 15th, eleven (11) excited Ambassadors rang the bell at the Wal-Mart in Indianola for the Salvation Army to help needy families in the area. The Ambassadors wore Santa hats and reindeer ears as they sang songs and encouraged the shoppers to contribute to this worthwhile organization and to ensure that families in the Delta would have a bright and happy Christmas Day!



On Sunday, March 24, 2019, Oak Grove M.B. Church in Inverness, held its annual Usher Day Program. Ten Ambassadors, dressed in uniform, were an integral part of a church service, where they served as ushers to welcome members and guests into the sanctuary. The Ambassadors collected benevolent and tithe offerings, distributed church bulletins and fans, and helped ensure a smooth service.



On Saturday, November 3rd, the B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors held its second regular meeting. The 2018-2019 class of Ambassadors had ten members to attend the meeting. The Ambassadors received information about their leadership style and received valuable feedback about the differences in leadership styles from Mr. Victor Smith, Sr., who is a designer, tester and inspector for Gardener Engineering. Mr. Smith has volunteered for the program on occasion.



Eleven (11) Ambassadors met on Saturday, February 2, 2019, for its monthly meeting. During this meeting, Mr. Thad Fairley, with Hope Credit Union, conducted a mini reality fair. The Ambassadors were given a job, with a monthly salary to purchase housing, utilities, transportation and insurance, cell phone plans, clothing and other "adult" expenses. Using this activity, the students learned about the importance of budgeting and saving for emergencies for the future.



The Ambassadors completed a community workshop about kite flying at the AT&T Learning Center on Saturday, March 30, 2019. Eleven Ambassadors and 16 children and adults enjoyed the excitement of kite flying. Ambassadors in five (5) groups presented on the following topics: history of the kite, parts of the kite, how to put a kite together, safety of a kite, and how to fly a kite.



In November, seven (7) Ambassadors met the author of *The Arrival of B.B. King*, Mr. Charles Sawyer. The Ambassadors, many of whom had never met a published author, were overjoyed to be meeting the person who wrote the book that they were reading for the leadership program. Mr. Sawyer took photos with the Ambassadors and autographed copies of his book. Mrs. Ransom said, "The 2018-2019 Ambassadors were the first group to meet Mr. Sawyer. What a privilege!"



The Ambassadors met on Saturday, March 2, 2019, to participate in the Storytime with Dr. Seuss. A total of eight Ambassadors were present and helped the children to enjoy the following activities: face painting, pinning the egg on the plate, creating a Cat in the Hat using paper plates, Tic Tac toe, coloring, bean bag toss and horseshoes. The Ambassadors and the children in attendance also enjoyed a reading of *Green Eggs and Ham*.



The Ambassadors attended the Indianola's City Council Meeting on Monday, April 22, 2019. A total of six Ambassadors attended the meeting. The Ambassadors were recognized by Mayor Steve Rosenthal. The Ambassadors listened attentively to city leaders as they engaged in conducting business for the city of Indianola.

## Contact Us

B.B. King Museum &  
Delta Interpretive Center  
Phone: (662) 887-9539  
www.bbkingmuseum.org

Sherby Hale  
*Ambassador Coordinator*  
LaKindra Ivory  
*Education Coordinator*  
Verna Ransom  
*Education Director*  
Malika Polk-Lee  
*Executive Director*



### Ambassadors Reunion

Coming Spring 2020

*Ambassadors are invited to attend a celebration of current successes with music, food and more!*

**Past members and parents, please join our Ambassadors Alumni Facebook page:**

[facebook.com/groups/BBsAmbassadorsAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BBsAmbassadorsAlumni)

# TRAVEL: Dallas, Drew & the Delta



**DALLAS, TX** - On July 15-18, 2019, the Ambassadors traveled to Dallas for their end of the year field trip. This trip allowed them to continue their educational museum experience by visiting other sites in Dallas. The students visited the Sixth Floor Museum and Dealy Plaza, The Perot Museum of Nature and Science, The Dallas World Aquarium, George W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum, Reunion Tower and AT&T Stadium, "Home of the Dallas Cowboys."



## Where are they now?

To date, 118 students have graduated from the program. The 2019-2020 class will begin recruiting September 2019. See your school counselors or stop by the museum for an application (must be in the 9th-12th grade).

### Jaylen Brown (2016)

Mississippi Delta  
Community College  
Major: Physical Therapy

### Carledia Jones (2016)

Mississippi University for Women  
Major: General Studies

### Cristian Young (2016)

Jackson State University  
Major: Math

### Essence Baggett (2016)

Mississippi Valley State University  
Major: Biology  
Summer: Bridge & STEM Program

### Shaniana Cartlidge (2016)

Mississippi Delta  
Community College  
Major: Bio-Pre Med  
Summer: Enrichment Star  
Future: Mississippi State  
University

### Yasmine Brown (2016)

University of Mississippi  
ASB Liberal Arts Senator (Apr 2019)

### Kaitlyn Thomas (2016)

Jackson State University  
Major: Elementary Education  
Awards: 2nd place Educators  
Rising State Conference  
(2018-2019)

### Alan Blake Jr. (2014)

Mississippi State University  
President of the NAACP  
Collegiate Chapter

4 >>>



*B.B.'s Bridge-Building Ambassador Youth Leadership Program is sponsored by the Feild-Cooperative Association, Inc., Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, Walmart #347 Community Grant, and the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center.*

