

B.B. KING MUSEUM AMBASSADORS NEWS LETTER

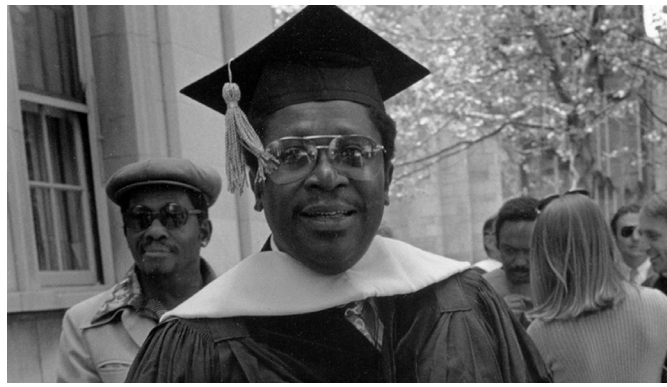
6th Edition
August 2020

**“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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Celebrating Culture: B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors

On October 5, 2019, the Ambassadors' and Parents' Orientation meeting kicked off with greetings from Ms. Hale. They were later provided with the program description, museum's mission, vision statement, and discussed the tentative calendar of event as well as the program requirements and criteria for Ambassador of the Month.



On Sunday, February 9, 2020, twelve ambassadors attended the Black History Program at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in Indianola. It was a new experience for the Ambassadors who have attended Baptist churches for much of their lives. The Ambassadors participated in the services and enjoyed learning about Indianola's history from Sunflower County Board Supervisor, Mr. Riley Rice. The Ambassadors were recognized by Mrs. Nevonna Hayes, who had invited the Ambassadors to the program. Father Peter Phong asked Ms. Hale to give an overview of the Ambassador program.



On March 3, 2020, the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Ambassador classes attended the live performance of Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* at the Brindley Theater in Indianola, Mississippi. The play was directed by Mary Ruth Brindley and Leanne Silverblatt. Ms. Hale, the Ambassadors' Coordinator, played the part of Helen Robinson in the play.



2019-2020 Graduates

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Colee Anthony | Arlesia Gilson |
| Reagan Anthony | Jimarius Harris |
| Tyren Boyd | Curtiso Jennings |
| A'Davion Bush | Amiya King |
| Ta'Mariana Clark | Hayden Myrick |
| Jayden Cochran | Jaliyah Owens |
| Veronica Cole | Johnathan White |
| Veronique Cole | |

COVID Statement

Beginning March 16th, the state of Mississippi and most of the United States was under shelter-in-place orders because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this, the activities for the B.B. King Ambassadors were shut down for the remainder of the year.

Ambassadors of the Month

The Ambassadors were given the opportunity to be chosen Ambassador of the Month based on approved criteria. The following met the criteria and were presented a certificate and had their pictures placed in the Enterprise-Tocsin.

Jayden Cochran – November 2019
Ta' Mariana Clark – December 2019
Arlesia Gilson – January 2020
Tyren Boyd – February 2020

Community Projects



On December 14, 2019, at the Wal-Mart in Indianola, ten warm-hearted B.B. King Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program participants rang the bells for the Salvation Army. The ambassadors dressed in reindeer antlers and Santa hats, sang Christmas songs, danced and wished all who entered a "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays." One ambassador was complimented on his friendly personality; while another utilized his vast array of friends and family to ask them to contribute to the Salvation Army. According to Suzzette Bogan, Divisional Service Extension Director, the Ambassadors raised a total of \$570.48.



On November 19, 2019, the B.B. King Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program participated in another community service project. The project was for Samaritan's Purse 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 the project, and contributed 38 boxes for needy children, an increase from the 15 boxes completed in 2018. The boxes were hand-delivered to First Baptist Church in Indianola.



On Saturday, September 28, 2019, the B.B. King Bridge-Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program participated in the Annual Bayou Festival in Indianola. The Ambassadors helped the young and the young-at-heart paint miniature Lucille guitars. The creativity of participants was outstanding.



On December 4, 2019, the Ambassadors participated in Indianola's Christmas Parade. Delta South Motors donated trucks for the Ambassadors to ride during the parade. The Ambassadors, dressed in reindeer antlers, Santa hats, and glowing bracelets and necklaces, sang and waved their way up and down the parade route. The Ambassadors threw candy, and when that ran out, one generous Ambassador even gave his personal money to the children, while others gave their glowing bracelets and necklaces. A great time was had by one and all.



On February 15, 2020, representatives from Hope Credit Union's Moorhead branch and the Regional Manager, Mr. Rauls spoke about the importance of saving money, budgeting, and staying away from payday lenders. He also explained credit scores, and how to write checks and deposit slips. Hope Credit Union was impressed with the group and were happy to have presented to such an engaging and knowledgeable group.



October 19, 2019, was the official first meeting day for the Ambassadors. They began by completing a "Do Now" assignment where they had to write the museum's mission and vision, and present a poster to creatively describe their personality, career goals and plans as an Ambassador. They created group rules, completed a group powerpoint on *The Arrival of B.B. King*, and completed other house-keeping duties.



On January 11, 2020, the Ambassadors listened to a presentation from Representative Otis Anthony. To begin his presentation, Rep. Anthony gave his history as a public servant, and showed that everything has a season and any Ambassador should never quit or give up on their dreams. He also encouraged the Ambassadors to take advantage of the Ambassador's program because the program would help them when completing college applications. Rep. Anthony distributed handouts pertaining to the three branches of government and the bill-passing process.



During the month of February, the Ambassadors volunteered for the museum's Annual *Tune In to Black History Series*, which was presented each Thursday night in February. The Ambassadors helped to welcome guests to the events and were able to receive community service hours.



On November 7, 2019, the B.B. King Ambassadors participated in the 12th Annual Community Bank Fashion Show. The theme was "Winter Wonderland and Indianola residents were encouraged to "Shop Indianola First." Businesses such as Abrahams, Lavender Lane and Young Ideas were a part of the event.



On January 25, 2020, the Ambassadors had the privilege of having Mayor Rosenthal give a brief overview of government, and described how the city's laws could not contradict state or federal laws. Mayor Rosenthal encouraged the Ambassadors to come together to make changes in the city. This was echoed by Mrs. Rosenthal who encouraged the Ambassadors to create a new project, or join one of hers to help beautify and give something back to the Indianola community.



On March 7, 2020, during one of the monthly meetings, the Ambassadors completed a gallery assignment to determine what the gallery information pertained to. The Introduction, Sense of Place and the Early Years' gallery information were at the top of the Ambassadors' knowledge base.

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

TRAVEL: Drew & Jackson



On October 12, 2019, the Ambassadors volunteered for Drew Day held in downtown Drew, Mississippi. Over 50 pictorial guitars were painted and displayed for those who enjoyed the festivities of Drew Day. The Ambassadors excitedly engaged and walked into the crowd, inviting visitors to stop at their tent to enjoy a coloring experience.



On January 18, 2020, the Ambassadors visited the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson. The museum contains eight galleries that focus on 1945-1976 when Mississippi was ground zero for the National Civil Rights Movement. The galleries encircle a central space called "This Little Light of Mine." Due to the large amount of information located in the museum, the Ambassadors were divided into three groups and were given three galleries to review.



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.

