

B.B. KING MUSEUM AMBASSADORS NEWS LETTER

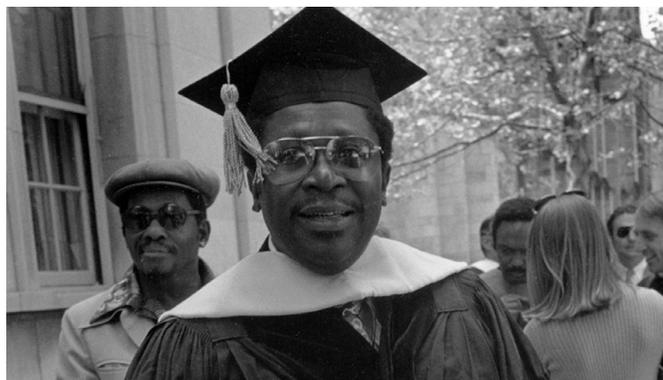
9th Edition
August 2023

**“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



Back In Session

On Saturday, October 8th, the 12th class of the B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassador Youth Leadership Program held its first meeting for the 2022-2023 program year. The day began with a getting-acquainted activity in which each participant designed and presented Facebook posters to introduce themselves and their plans as an Ambassador. Ambassador Coordinator Khalilah Ransom presented on expectations, requirements, and planned lessons and workshops. The new class also received a tour and met with staff members.



What is Leadership?

The Ambassadors' meeting on Saturday, October 29th, consisted of a presentation from the Ambassador Coordinator on Part I of "Effective Leadership." Ambassadors completed an assessment to determine their leadership style, and to learn what each style means in-depth. Before closing, the Ambassadors were informed of their first community service project, Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child and given shoeboxes for preparation.



View Testimonials
from Ambassadors



On Saturday, November 12th, Ambassadors began their meeting with a team-building group competition activity where they were given a 48-piece puzzle to complete in three minutes, in an effort to build communication and collaboration skills. Once finished, the Ambassadors greeted and listened attentively to Dr. Tyrone Jackson, President of MS Delta Community College of Moorhead, MS, about the essentials of effective and great leadership. After a brief question and answer session, the Ambassadors completed their lessons and started packing shoeboxes with gifts for the upcoming service project.



Ambassadors Complete the Leadership Program

The B.B.'s Bridge Building Youth Leadership Program held its graduation program on Saturday, May 20th, in the AT&T Learning Center, concluding its 12th year in service. A total of 7 (seven) Ambassadors received certificates of completion

while 5 (five) Ambassadors received certificates of participation. The speaker was former Ambassador, Class of 2010-2011, Christye James. Zakariya Hall received an award for the most community service hours earned. Tristan Thomas received the award for outstanding leadership and was named 2022-2023 Ambassador of the Year. After the ceremony, the Ambassadors took their parents on a tour of the museum's galleries and exhibits.

Community Projects

Operation Christmas Child Service Project

On Wednesday, November 16th, the Ambassadors joined Ambassador Coordinator, Khalilah Ransom, in delivering packed shoeboxes with gifts to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child drop off location, First Baptist Church in Indianola, MS. Ambassadors and parents contributed (38) thirty-eight boxes for needy children.



Go Green on Earth Day!

The B. B. King Ambassadors collaborated with the City of Indianola's Recreation and Parks Director Carolyn O'Neal, and local interest group Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the Sunflower Pearls, in bringing the community together to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 22nd. The Ambassadors and interest group conducted a cleanup at the B.B. King Park. They also planted pollinating flowers around the park's sign and trees to beautify the community and help stimulate Mother Nature. Earth Day is the most widely observed secular holiday in the world – a day to encourage protecting our planet's resources and to raise awareness for environmental concerns.

2022-2023 Graduates

- Janiya Beckworth
- Tyzon Bennett
- Kaci Bush
- Zakariya Hall
- Jaydin Tillman
- Tristan Thomas
- Tyler Young

Ambassador Participants:

- Randilynn Brownlee
- Amayia Cobbs
- Khalaysia Davis
- Erin Kirkham
- Zyniya Murphy

Ambassadors of the Month

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

Tristan Thomas - November 2022

Randilynn Brownlee - December 2022

Jaydin Tillman - January 2023

Tyzon Bennett - February 2023

Zakariya Hall - March 2023

Ambassador of the Year - Tristan Thomas



During the first half of the meeting on Saturday, December 10th, Ambassadors completed individual project presentations, group presentations and team competitions. Afterwards, the Ambassadors assisted The Links, Inc. with a wreath decorating project and dissemination as a part of their community service. The guest speaker for this meeting was Dr. Adrian Brown, who presented on the essentials of entrepreneurship and leadership.



The Ambassadors completed scavenger hunts to become more familiar with the information and exhibits for *Sense of Place*, *The Early Years*, *Club Ebony* and *Memphis* galleries on Saturday, January 28th. Ambassadors received and started on *Let the People Decide* by Todd Moye.



The B.B. King Bridge Building Ambassador Youth Leadership Program held its annual Kite Workshop on Saturday, April 15th. April is National Kite Month, which is a celebration to introduce people to the joys of flying kites, its artistry, history and educational use. The Ambassadors presented topics such as the kite's history, parts of a kite, kite assembly and kite safety.



On Saturday, December 17th, Ambassadors received valuable information from Mrs. Verna Ransom, BBKM's Board Member and Education Consultant, on the role of an Ambassador and how to become a dynamic and noteworthy B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassador. Mrs. Ransom also discussed the significance of learning the history of B.B. King and the museum, public speaking skills and assuming leadership roles. After an engaging presentation, the Ambassadors completed PowerPoint presentations on *The Arrival of B.B. King*.



Saturday, February 4th, the Ambassadors completed gallery scavenger hunts for *WDIA* and *On the Road*. Afterwards, Ms. Kara Dulaney, Co-Director of Maddox Nonprofit and Volunteer Resource HUB, a program of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, presented on *The Essentials of Volunteerism and Community Service*. The Ambassadors were very attentive.



On Saturday, November 19th, Ambassadors met for their fourth meeting, where they created and presented their leadership coats of arms. Each Ambassador drew a picture representation of four essential items they valued in leadership. Ambassadors also read and completed review questions for assigned chapters in *The Arrival of B.B. King* by Charles Sawyer.



During the Saturday, January 7th, meeting, the B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership participants received and reviewed the museum's docent script. The Ambassadors were allowed time to do a walk-through to become familiar with the eight galleries and script. The Ambassadors were afforded the opportunity to survey the grounds and progress of renovations to historic Club Ebony. Ambassadors concluded the meeting with completing presenting group presentations on the *Arrival of B.B. King*.



Saturday, February 11th, representatives from Planters Bank conducted a financial literacy workshop for the B.B. King Ambassador Leadership Program. Planters Bank representatives Latoya Robinson and Yolanda Price explained the importance of establishing a good credit score and being financially responsible. The pair also discussed topics such as setting financial goals, budgeting, saving and investing, and managing debt.



On Saturday, May 13th, the B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program of 2022-2023 held its final workshop/meeting of the year. During the meeting, Ambassadors completed essays, self-evaluations, program evaluations, and prepared for graduation.

Contact Us

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

Khalilah Ransom
Ambassador Coordinator
Misty Clark
Education Director
Verna Ransom
Education Consultant
Malika Polk-Lee
Executive Director

TRAVEL: Alabama, Memphis Georgia

Meeting Dates

October 8, 2022	February 11, 2023
October 29, 2022	March 4, 2023
November 12, 2022	March 25, 2023
November 19, 2022	April 1, 2023
December 10, 2022	April 15, 2023
December 17, 2022	April 22, 2023
January 7, 2023	April 29, 2023
January 28, 2023	May 13, 2023
February 4, 2023	



↑ Ambassadors visited the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN, on Saturday, March 25th. Ambassadors learned through multi-sensory, multi-media innovations, artifacts and structures historical milestones and how to interpret them in a way that could be applied to today's challenges.

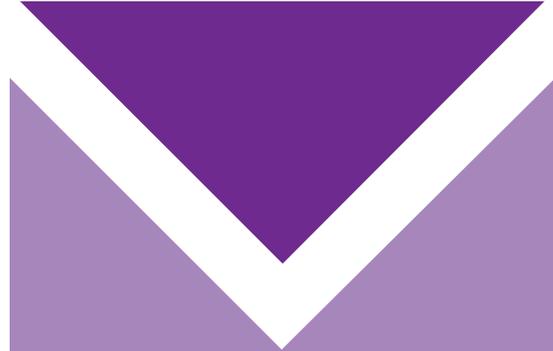


↑ The Ambassadors toured the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, MS, on Saturday, April 29th. The Ambassadors were greeted by former and youngest Freedom Rider, Mr. Hezekiah Watkins, who gave in depth accounts about his experiences during the Jim Crow and Civil Rights Era.



↖ June 16th-18th, the B.B.'s Bridge Ambassadors Youth Leadership graduates traveled to Alabama and Georgia. Stops included Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL; National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta, GA. The trip and experiences allowed the Ambassadors to continue their educational museum connection and understanding.

Ambassadors participated in a community service project cleaning up Indian Bayou, located behind Indianola's downtown businesses, on Saturday, March 4th. Afterwards, they traveled the Delta area exploring Mississippi Blues Trail markers, which tell stories of bluesmen and women, how the places they lived and the times in which they existed, and continue to exist, influenced their music. The Ambassadors made stops in Indianola, Holly Ridge, Leland, Shaw, Ruleville, Merigold, Mound Bayou, Winstonville, Shelby, Cleveland and Boyle, MS. Ambassadors continued their Delta Tour exploration on Saturday, April 1. Stops included Moorhead, Berclair, Itta Bena, Emmett Till Center in Glendora, Money and Greenwood, MS.



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 FOUNDATION**
of Northwest Mississippi



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 FOUNDATION**

B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program is sponsored by the Feild-Cooperative Association, Inc., Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, Walmart, The Maddox Foundation and the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center.

