

# Newsletter

1st Edition

July 2015

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**“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.



November 22, 2014 - Robert Terrell, Director of Operations of the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, spoke with the Ambassadors on the history of the blues and general life skills.

## Our Purpose: Ambassadors as Bridge Builders



B.B. King's Bridge-Building Ambassadors are dedicated to celebrating the life and music of B.B. King and fulfilling his wish that education and community outreach be at the heart of our mission. We honor him and his legacy by providing this program designed to offer young people the kind of hope and opportunity that were not available to Riley B. King during his youth. The Museum's

exhibits, films and educational programs promote the rich cultural and musical heritage of the Delta as well as teach visitors about the history of the Delta—everything from social mores, race relations, literature, legends and adversities. The hope is to especially reach those individuals and communities that might not otherwise have access to this type of educational material. While the Museum plans to develop a number of programs, we are counting on B.B. King's Bridge-Building Ambassadors to be a real success story.

## The Art of Kite Flying

On Saturday, March, 28, 2015, the Ambassador class of 2014-15 conducted its first workshop for students aged 8-17. They presented PowerPoint presentations on the history of the kite, how to assemble

a kite, the parts of a kite and kite safety. Students then demonstrated of how to fly the kites. Fifteen young participants from the community attended the workshop.



## Community Projects



On November 15, 2014, the Ambassadors volunteered as part of the Stop Hunger Now project at the Christ United Methodist Church in Indianola, Mississippi. The Ambassadors and other community volunteers exceeded the goal set for packing meals in just hours.



Mayor Steve Rosenthal



Four of B.B.'s Ambassadors, along with Ambassador Coordinator Verna Ransom, volunteered at the Salvation Army Family Center in Greenville, Mississippi, on February 21, 2015. The Ambassadors sorted shoes, clothing, household goods, appliances and other donated items throughout the store. Left to right are Kaitlyn Jones, Verna Ransom, Zaria Phillips, Darius Franklin and Chasity Campbell.

*The Ambassadors were among Indianola residents who attended the City Council meeting on March 23, 2015, where they had an opportunity to see Mayor Steve Rosenthal and the Board of Aldermen at work. Mayor Rosenthal introduced the Ambassadors and applauded them for the many acts of community service they have provided this year.*

## B.B.'s Bridge-Building Ambassadors Class of 2014-2015

1. Chasity Campbell
2. Darius Franklin
3. Christian Hannah
4. Steve Hayes
5. Aysia Jones
6. Kaitlyn Jones
7. Mari Lampkins
8. Zaria Phillips
9. Kadaysia Ross
10. Kiera Wade
11. Lauren Walker
12. Brakita Walker
13. Tormessia Weaver
14. Jatavis Whitley
15. Nakiya Worship

### MEETING DATES

- October 9, 2014  
*Parents' Orientation*
- October 18, 2014  
*Ambassadors' Orientation*
- November 8, 2014
- November 22, 2014
- December 13, 2014
- January 10, 2015
- January 24, 2015
- February 14, 2015
- February 28, 2015
- March 14, 2015
- March 28, 2015
- April 11, 2015
- April 25, 2015
- May 9, 2015
- May 23, 2015  
*Graduation*

### CONTACT US

B.B. KING MUSEUM & DELTA INTERPRETIVE CENTER  
Phone: (662) 887-9539 / Fax: (662) 887-9478

Verna Beamon Ransom, Ambassador Coordinator  
Dion Brown, Executive Director



On February 5, 2015, the Ambassadors assisted the Tune Into Black History program that takes place each Thursday in February. Community churches, schools and organizations participate with live performances. The Ambassadors assisted at the sign-in table in their new purple and white blazers. Shown left to right are Zaria Phillips, Kaitlyn Jones and Chasity Campbell.



Senior Human Resource Director of Dollar General presented the history of the company along with interview tips and encouraging words to a group of Ambassadors on January 24, 2015. This provided participants with details of what is expected of them in a job interview and the process of finding a job.



On December 13, 2014, the Ambassadors toured the Delta for historical sites and Mississippi Blues Trail markers, allowing them to see firsthand what they have learned in class. Shown here in Holly Ridge, Mississippi, at the gravesite of Charley Patton are Brakita Walker, Nakiya Worship, Steve Hayes and Zaria Phillips.



The Ambassadors traveled to Memphis to visit the Civil Rights Museum, the STAX Museum, and the Withers Collection Museum & Gallery. Through the guided tours they were able to see what is expected of them once they graduate from the program.



The Ambassadors participated in the Annual Community Bank Fashion show on November 6th, 2014. The Ambassadors modeled t-shirts, caps, and jewelry from the Museum's gift shop.



The Ambassadors look on at a board meeting of the Sunflower County Consolidated School District on March 3, 2015. They were given an agenda of the proceedings and were introduced by Superintendent Dr. D. Dace and School Board President Edward Thomas.



B.B. King's Bridge-Building Ambassadors traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, in March 2015. There they toured the 16th Street Baptist Church where four little girls were tragically killed from a bombing during the Civil Rights Movement. They also visited the National Civil Rights Institute that depicts the struggle of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s. The Vulcan Park and Museum was another stop for them where they saw the world's largest cast iron statue, weighing 100,000 pounds and standing at 50 feet tall on the top of Red Mountain overlooking the city. Shown front row left to right - Tormessia Weaver, Mari Lampkin, Kiera Wade, Verna Ransom; second row left to right - Steve Hayes, Aysia Jones, Kaitlyn Jones; and back row left to right - Jatavis Whitley, Darius Franklin, Nakiya Worship and Chasity Campbell. This opportunity allowed the Ambassadors to see other programs and museums and to explore highlights of the collections with museum-trained volunteers.

## “The Arrival of B.B. King”

On February 14, 2015, after a presentation from Delta State University Recruiter Chris Gaines, the Ambassadors went back to the books with “The Arrival of B.B.

King” by author Charles Sawyer, which is a biography of B.B. King’s life and study into his musical achievements. The book is required reading for the class.



Three of B.B.’s Bridge-Building Ambassadors toured the Dollar General Distribution Center in Indianola, Mississippi, on June 10, 2015. Keenan Davis, Senior Human Resource Director, gave a brief introduction and a two-hour tour to include each department. Pictured left to right are Darius Franklin, Kia Wade, Lauren Walker and Verna Ransom, Ambassador Coordinator.



## B.B.’s Ambassadors to visit Washington, D.C.

Eight ambassadors along with two chaperones will be traveling to Washington, D.C., July 19-25, 2015, for the “Bringing the Lessons Home: Holocaust Education for the Community” which is a unique educational program that was launched in 1994 by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The course provides solid foundation in policies, procedures, and touring techniques.

*On May 23, 2015, twelve of B.B.’s Bridge-Building Ambassadors received a certificate of completion or participation from the program. The Ambassadors presented the entire program along with a class pledge. Ambassadors received perfect attendance awards, a group challenge, scholarships, and the most community service hours award. Friends were present to witness the wonderful event. Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer for United HealthCare Community Plan of Mississippi, was the keynote speaker.*



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