

THE THRILL

News from the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center

From the Director, Malika Polk-Lee

What a year we had – inspiring hope, creativity and greatness!

The year 2023 brought lots of excitement at the Museum. Along with the rest of the world we were happy to see tourists return, host events, and continue our educational programs.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- We served 693 children from pre-K to 12th grade in our FREE education programs
- We had 599 student exhibit tours from 29 schools all over the U.S.
- We held eight FREE music events for the community
- 404 people were served in our FREE Health Programs
- 214 people attended our FREE community outreach programs
- Our facilities were freely shared with community partners for eleven events

We can't wait to welcome the community back, and we are THRILLED to start 2024!

2023 marked the 15th anniversary of the Museum with an attendance of 23,243!



We reopened Historic Club Ebony after a complete renovation. It was an exciting three-day event hosting musical guests including Mr. Sipp, Ray Neal & Brothers, Tony Coleman, Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks! Visitors enjoyed seeing the interpretive displays that showed the breadth of national talent that had played there in its heyday.



Students from St. Aloysius School visited the exhibits in the Museum and learned about B.B. King, the man, and the history of the Mississippi Delta and its segregation era in which King was raised. Many other school groups visited the Museum during the year.



Young children and students come to the **Early Learning Literacy Weeks** at the Museum during March (Celebrating with Dr. Seuss) and September (Reading Mother Goose.)



First Thursdays

This free monthly program is designed to offer live music of different genres from jazz to blues. A total of 495 persons attended these events in 2023.



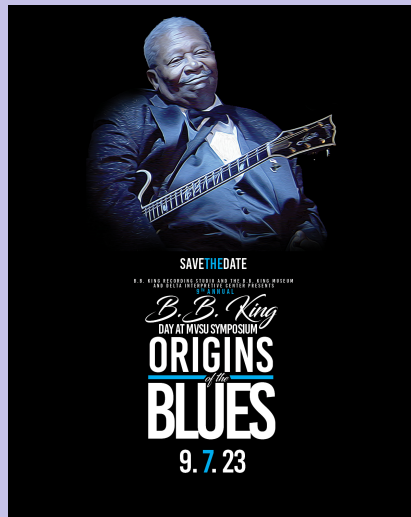
In the month of February we have a more dedicated focus to weekly programs that highlight different areas of **Black history** and its contributions. These have ranged from arts programs of dance, poetry, painting exhibits, to readings and seminars.



Our **Art of Living Smart Summer Camp** is held each year to introduce campers to varied types of music and art as well as healthy living habits. This groups gathered around the bronze sculpture of B.B. King that sits outside the Memorial Plaza where he is laid to rest.



One of the Museum's health initiatives is **Be Smart: Control Your Diabetes**. Monthly programs focus on topics such as eating well, foot care, preventing and managing the disease and how to find helpful resources. There were a total of 397 participants in 2023.



The Museum is a sponsor of the annual **B.B. King Day Symposium** at Mississippi Valley State University in nearby Itta Bena. This year's event on September 7th celebrated the "Origins of the Blues."



The B.B. King Allstars performed for Club Ebony's soft opening, the NOLA Fest, Christmas on Deer Creek in Leland, and for a Christmas concert presented by the Eighth Episcopal District of the AME Church in Greenwood, Mississippi.



B.B.'s Bridge-Building Ambassador Youth Leadership Program was busy learning from elected officials, civic leaders and others about service to the community and beyond. They also served as Museum docents.



B.B. KING MUSEUM AND DELTA INTERPRETIVE CENTER
AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRESENT

Music and Movement The Medgar & Myrlie Evers Story

Friday, August 25, 2023 | 6 PM

Historic Club Ebony | 404 Hanna Avenue, Indianola

Live Music + Cocktail Hour begins at 5 PM (Cash Bar)

Light refreshments will be served



One of many events throughout the year, this program was held at Historic Club Ebony and featured the **Medgar and Myrlie Evers Story**.

We are grateful to our sponsors for all their support:



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