

B.B. KING MUSEUM AMBASSADORS NEWS LETTER

10th Edition
August 2024

**“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



Ambassadors Meeting: Back In Session

On Saturday, October 7th, the B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassador Youth Leadership Program kicked off its 2023-2024 new class year with a BANG. Ambassadors started the morning by participating in a community service project in Moorhead, MS in conjunction with Delta Advantage Center by assisting with food distribution to local residents. Ambassadors then returned to the museum for orientation and their first official meeting. After, they again volunteered at the annual NOLA Fest in Indianola by assisting attendees of the festival by completing a museum survey.



What is Leadership?

The Ambassadors' meeting on Saturday, October 21st consisted of a presentation from the Ambassador Coordinator on the upcoming community service projects Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child and Part I of "Effective Leadership and Leadership Styles." Ambassadors completed an assessment to determine their leadership style and to learn more in depth what each style means. Guest speakers for this meeting were Walmart Supercenter of Indianola Assistant Manager, Valeria Nance, and Pearlie Simpson, Walmart People Lead, who presented "The Essentials of Effective Leadership."



View Testimonials
from Ambassadors

Community Projects



Saturday, November 4th, Ambassadors volunteered at Delta Mission Ministry assisting in classrooms, supervising and participating in outdoor recreation, preparing and serving lunch to the local underserved youth, and being mentors to many.

Operation Christmas Child Service Project

November 13th -16th, the Ambassadors joined Ambassador Coordinator Khalilah Ransom in packing and delivering shoeboxes with gifts to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child drop off location, First Baptist Church in Indianola, MS. Ambassadors and parents contributed (40) forty boxes for needy children.



Graduation



The B.B.'s Bridge Building Youth Leadership Program held its Graduation Program on Saturday, May 18th in the AT&T Learning Center, concluding its 13th year in service. A total of 16 (sixteen) Ambassadors received certificates of completion. The speaker was former Ambassador and Class of 2022-2023 Graduate, Tristan Thomas. Kyran Galvin and Madison White received the award for outstanding leadership and Madisyn Thomas was named 2023-2024 Ambassador of the Year. After the ceremony, the Ambassadors took parents on a tour of the museum's galleries and exhibits.

2023-2024 Graduates

- E'Miya Allen Ziom Jones
- Semaj Attaway Jakara Kemp
- Jordyn Beaman Quentin McClinton
- Nakylia Cannon Valencia McKinney
- Ke'Aja Childs Destiny Sherriod
- Khaliyah Freeman Madisyn Thomas
- Kyran Galvin Kelsie White
- Ja'Kenzly Jones Madison White

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*.

Madisyn Thomas – October 2023

Madisyn White – December 2023

Ke'Aja Childs - January 2024

Kyran Galvin – February 2024

Kelsie White – March 2024

Ambassador of the Year – Madisyn Thomas



Saturday, November 11th, Representative Rev. Otis Anthony and wife, Mrs. Porchia Anthony, of Sunflower County Election Commission for District II, presented on the elements of government and the voting process in Mississippi.



On Saturday, December 2nd, Ambassadors met for a morning of creating and presenting 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 *Let the People Decide* by J.Todd Moye.



During the last meeting for the first half of the program on Saturday, December 16th, Ambassadors completed chapter assignments from *Let the People Decide* by J.Todd Moye. Progress reports were also issued before enjoying holiday fun.



Welcoming in the New Year and the second half of the program on Saturday, January 13th, Ambassadors completed museum's scavenger hunts, MLK project and an activity on recapping *Let the People Decide* by J.Todd Moye.



At the Saturday, January 20th meeting, the B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership participants received prudent information from Mr. Mario and Mrs. Cassie Watkins, proprietors of SNAP Fitness and Elite Eats in Indianola, about the importance of leadership skills in entrepreneurship.



Ambassadors attended a financial literacy meeting presented by Planters Bank and Trust representatives, (r) Natase Curtis, Manager and (l) Latoya Robinson, Assistant Vice President; on Saturday, February 3rd.



Honoring and celebrating Black History Month, on Saturday, February 17th, Ambassadors completed and presented Black History Vision Boards along with completing a final scavenger hunt of the exhibits *Artist to Icon* and *Power and Presence*.



Tuesday, April 23rd, Ambassadors had the privilege of sitting in on Sunflower County Consolidated School District's Board Meeting. The Ambassadors observed behind the scenes of the type of leadership it takes to run a school district.



On Saturday, May 13th, the B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program of 2023-2024 held its final workshop/meeting of the year. During the meeting, Ambassadors completed essays, self-evaluations, program evaluations, and prepared for graduation.

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TRAVEL: Ambassadors Visit Jackson, Memphis & More



Sunday, March 3rd, Ambassadors traveled to Jackson, MS, to visit and tour the Two Mississippi Museums: Museum of MS History and MS Civil Rights Museum. The Ambassadors were met and given a personal tour from the former and youngest Freedom Rider, Mr. Hezekiah Walker.



Friday, April 19th, the Ambassadors traveled to Memphis, TN, to the Orpheum Theater to experience Mozart's *Don Giovanni* presented by University of Memphis Opera. This trip was sponsored by Mississippi (MS) Delta Chapter of the LINKS, Incorporated.

Delta Blues Tour: Saturday, March 23rd, Ambassadors along with Education Director Misty Clark-Johnson, traveled the Delta area exploring Blues and Civil Rights Markers. The Mississippi Blues Trail Markers tell stories through words and images of bluesmen and women and how the places where 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.



June 16th through 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 and the 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 connections and understanding.

Meeting Dates

October 7, 2023	February 17, 2024
October 21, 2023	March 3, 2024
November 4, 2023	March 23, 2024
November 11, 2023	April 6, 2024
December 2, 2023	April 19, 2024
December 16, 2023	April 23, 2024
January 20, 2024	May 11, 2024
February 3, 2024	



B.B.'s Bridge Building Ambassadors Youth Leadership Program is sponsored by Delta Regional Foundation, Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, Feild-Cooperative Association, Inc., the Mississippi (MS) Delta Chapter of the LINKS, and the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center.

