



The Black Belt Community Foundation

DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

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BBCF Honors Sunset of Partnership with Alabama State Council on the Arts

After a 17-year relationship with the Black Belt Community Foundation, the Alabama State Council on the Arts has ended this prolific era that provided a wealth of artistic resources to the people of the Black Belt.



Arts Council member Dr. Tina Naremore Jones, Sheryl Threadgill of BAMA Kids, & BBCF President Felecia Lucky at a reception in Selma.

Since 2006, the BBCF has been a grantee of the Council on the Arts, allowing them to directly nurture the development of the arts in the 12 Black Belt counties in their service area. According to BBCF president Felecia Lucky, "the BBCF has been the primary outreach arm, serving as a cultural cornerstone for the people of the Black Belt. The resources from the State Council

on the Arts allowed BBCF to facilitate immeasurable impact on the citizens of the Black Belt in support of maintaining their rich and diverse artistic heritage. The people will miss the access to the arts this productive partnership provided over the years."

The Black Belt Arts Initiative (established in 2006) was the result of the partnership between BBCF, the Youth & Cultural Committee, the Black Belt Action Commission, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. The BBAI provided opportunities for citizens in the Black Belt region to be exposed to and participate in the arts through collaborations with local schools and community-based organizations. With a focus on efficient and effective stewardship, the BBAI helped these organizations flourish.

During its' 17-year tenure, over \$2 million was awarded through BBAI Arts Grants to support various arts activities across BBCF's twelve-county service area. BBCF Community Engagement Officer Erica Williams states, "We are grateful for the relationships forged because of the support of the Alabama Council on the Arts. The citizens of the Black Belt have benefitted greatly, especially the children. The arts open doors through cultural self-expression and artistic exposure, in a way nothing else can. A community without organized arts cannot reach its full potential."

BBCF is a very necessary part of building and sustaining the arts ecosystem in Alabama's Black Belt and will continue its dedication to supporting the arts by seeking local, national, corporate and foundation donor dollars. If you would like to support the arts in the Black Belt region, please consider making a donation today, visit: bit.ly/bbcf-donate and be sure to designate 'BBCF Arts Program' as the purpose for your donation.

\$2M
INVESTED IN ARTS
IN THE BLACK BELT

677
ARTS GRANTS
AWARDED SINCE 2006

- ART IMPACTING LIVES -

Over the past 17 years, the Black Belt Arts Initiative has granted funds to a variety of organizations, allowing them to bring quality arts events, festivals and educational opportunities to residents of the Black Belt. The photos below show a fraction of the impact made on thousands of children and adults throughout the Black Belt Region.

