



The Black Belt Community Foundation

DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

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New BBCF Headquarters To Be Complete January 2024

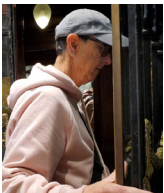
The BBCF is very near to having a long-anticipated dream come true, just in time for the 20th anniversary of the organization. The new headquarters at 410 Church Street in Selma, AL will replace BBCF's current location on Lauderdale Street, and will house staff, including Head Start administration.



The front of the 410 Church Street building includes a large porch area accessible via stairs and a ramp for wheelchair access.

After purchasing the property on Church Street, BBCF continued to work hard towards fulfilling the dream of having a headquarters that not only serviced the staff, but one that was a source of pride for the entire Black Belt community. Though Covid-19 halted plans for renovation for two years, the project got back on track, resulting in a refurbished facility with a "brand new" interior. "Working with contractors to redesign and build out office and meeting

spaces was an arduous task. But we knew the results would mean so much to so many in our community" stated BBCF Chief of Staff, Serena Low, who managed the property's interior rebuild.



Exterior project manager, Susie Manning, inspecting building materials.

After the interior construction was completed, exterior refurbishments began in August 2023. Replacing all of the windows, security doors, cutting down overgrown trees, improving landscaping, building new fences, along with designing and pouring a brand-new sidewalk and parking lot was the primary focus of Susie Manning, the Church Street exterior project manager. "Working with neighbors, contractors, vendors and officials from the city of Selma continues to be rewarding because everyone is vested in the success of BBCF," states Manning.

In addition to the interior and exterior major renovations, the new headquarters is to be equipped with all amenities needed to make the space functional for the needs of the staff, Community Associates, board members, and residents of the Black Belt. "We intend for the new headquarters to serve as a source of pride for our entire community. By incorporating the works of Black Belt and other southern artists, community members will hopefully see themselves and their history reflected in the best light possible when they visit. The headquarters is intended to be a fresh, new and inviting space that will support the work of BBCF while servicing the needs of our community", according to BBCF President, Felecia Lucky.

A formal ribbon-cutting and Open House will be announced to the public in early 2024.



Work is currently being completed on the exterior of the building, including getting the new parking lot ready for paving and building new fences.

"By incorporating the works of Black Belt and other southern artists, community members will hopefully see themselves and their history reflected in the best light possible when they visit." – Felecia Lucky, BBCF President



BBCF board member, Martha Lockett, evaluates art at the Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center in Camden, AL. Artwork made by local Black Belt and other southern artists was hand selected to adorn the walls of the new headquarters.

- MORE SPACE - MORE RESOURCES TO SHARE

The newly renovated building at 410 Church Street has an abundance of private offices, both large and small conference rooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and a special prayer space. These resources can be enjoyed by all BBCF staff as well as Community Associates, board members, and residents of the Black Belt.

240%

The new office space is approximately 240% larger than our previous building!
New building: ~4760 sq ft
Old building: ~1400 sq ft

