



The Black Belt Community Foundation

DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

ISSUE 33 | APRIL 22, 2024 | GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION



SPOTLIGHT ON — LOWNDES COUNTY —

Lowndes County is located in the central part of Alabama and is one of the 12 Black Belt counties serviced by the BBCF. Hayneville serves as the county seat.



LOWNDES CO. HAS
A TOTAL AREA OF
714
SQUARE MILES



Lowndes County is home to picturesque rolling prairies and plains with abundant forests of pine and oak. The Alabama River, with its 144 species of fish, meanders throughout the county, allowing sportsmen to enhance the economic landscape of the area. Annual events include the Calico Fort Arts and Crafts Fair and The Okra Festival.



LOWNDES CO. HAS
A POPULATION OF
9.8K

Demographically, the county is 73% Black, and 25% White. Lowndes County was the site of the Battle of Econochaca (Holy Ground), where Red Stick Creeks were defeated by the American Militia in 1813. Subsequent legislation allowed for the legal founding of Lowndesboro by planter settlers. Thirty of their antebellum structures, built by enslaved people, still exist today as historical landmarks.

Lowndes County entered the consciousness of America during the civil rights movement. With an active history of lynchings (16, including Elmore Bolling) in the 20th century, "Bloody Lowndes" was the home of the "Black Panther" political symbol (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) Lowndes County Freedom Organization), 22 miles of the Selma to Montgomery march for voting rights and "Tent City" – the 2-year demonstration home of citizens evicted for voter activity.

The Black Belt Community Foundation is active in Lowndes County through the disbursement of arts and community grants along with other civic projects. Those living in Lowndes County can access the resources of the BBCF or donate to the organization through one of your local Community Associates.



Patricia M. Farrior
BBCF Board Member
Lowndes County

BBCF LOWNDES CO. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATES:
Dale Braxton, Rutha Davis-Bonner, Shirley McCall

BBCF LOWNDES CO. 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS:
(ARTS GRANTS & COMMUNITY GRANTS)

- Burkville Volunteer Fire Dept.
- R.E.A.C.H. (Rural Enrichment Assessing Community Hands)
- Hayneville/Lowndes County Public Library

Sources: census.gov; encyclopediaofalabama.org; uaced.u.edu

20th Anniversary & Grand Opening - May 1, 2024*

The Black Belt Community Foundation welcomes the community to celebrate our 20th Anniversary at the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the new headquarters building, located at 410 Church Street, Selma, AL, on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**

The festivities will begin with a processional from the old headquarters (609 Lauderdale) led by the Selma High School Marching Band, directed by Daniel Walker. BBCF President Felecia Lucky, board members, and staff will lead the community to the new headquarters at 410 Church Street (two blocks). Upon arrival at 410 Church Street there will be a formal program and ribbon cutting ceremony led by the BBCF board and civic leaders.

In honor of the community, a "Block Party" will follow, turning Church Street into a festival of fun. Stop by to claim your swag bag, enjoy free food and drinks, play games, win raffle prizes, and listen to the entertainment provided by Selma native, DJ Barack. Kids of all ages can jump in bounce houses and take a turn hitting the piñata and collecting the prizes & candy when it bursts! Guided tours of the new facility will begin at noon. Guests are advised to arrive early (starting at 10am) and check-in at the registration table!

*This event marks the beginning of our yearlong 20th anniversary celebration! BBCF will host or sponsor events throughout the 12 black belt counties we serve during the 2024-2025 year. Check the BBCF website and social media channels for up-to-date information on BBCF 20th anniversary celebrations near you!



WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 | 11AM TO 2PM | 410 CHURCH STREET, SELMA, AL

This event is free and open to the public but we ask that you register if you plan to attend. Registration will ensure your swag bag, food voucher, and raffle ticket. To register now, scan the QR code or visit: blackbeltfound.org/blockparty.



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER NOW >>