



The Black Belt Community Foundation

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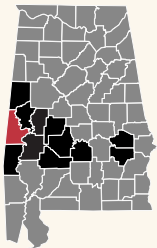
The Black Belt Bulletin

ISSUE 38 | JULY 1, 2024 | UNITING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC



SPOTLIGHT ON - SUMTER COUNTY -

Sumter County is located in west-central Alabama, on the Mississippi state line, and is one of the 12 Black Belt counties serviced by BBCF. Livingston serves as the county seat.



SUMTER CO. HAS
A TOTAL AREA OF
913
SQUARE MILES



Sumter County was originally home to Mississippian natives and later descendants, the Choctaw Nation. The Choctaw ceded the land to the U.S. government in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830. The earliest settlers came to the county from Mobile, Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia and Tennessee. The county's name is in honor of General Thomas Sumter of S.C.



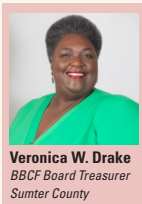
SUMTER CO. HAS
A POPULATION OF
12.2K

Sumter County demographics include approximately 73% Black, 24% White, 2% Asian, 1% Latino and the remaining Native American and Pacific Islander. The two municipalities are Livingston and York along with other population centers Emelle, Epes, Cuba, Geiger and Gainsville.

Sumter County is renowned for its wealth of sportsmen activities (hunting, fishing), rolling prairies and coastal plains, the Tombigbee River and oak and shortleaf pine forests. Cattle farming and the lumber industry are prolific. Employment centers around education, healthcare, retail, manufacturing, arts, entertainment and recreation.

Sumter County is home to the University of West Alabama and other places of interest include the Alamuchee Covered Bridge, Fort Tombeche, Coleman Center for the Arts, and DMC Center Court Restaurant.

The Black Belt Community Foundation actively engages with and supports the citizens of Sumter County through community and arts grants, among other programs. Those living in Sumter County can access the resources of the BBCF or donate to the organization through one of your local Community Associates.



Veronica W. Drake
BBCF Board Treasurer
Sumter County

Sources: encyclopediainalabama.org (6/5/23); sumter.com

BBCF SUMTER CO. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATES:

Dorothy Bell, Lovie Burrell-Parks, Marcus Campbell, Debra Clark, Veronica Drake, Tina Jones, Cordelia Turner, Lillian Wideman

BBCF SUMTER CO. 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS:

(ARTS GRANTS & COMMUNITY GRANTS)

- Coleman Center for the Arts
- Daughter of Sarah
- Divine Girls Coalition
- Gainesville Health & Wellness Center of Alabama
- Gainsville Youth Outreach Project
- Health and Wellness Education Center
- Panola Outreach
- West Alabama Coalition Community Development Corporation, Inc.
- Whitfield Improvement Committee
- Young Men Building for the Future

Levitt AMP Selma Music Series Returns for 2nd Year

This summer and fall, Selma will again make Dallas County the hub for outdoor music and entertainment in Alabama. For the second consecutive year, the Selma Amphitheater is hosting the Levitt AMP Selma Music Series. The concert series began June 8 and will run every 2nd and 4th Saturday through October 26. All concerts are free to the public!



Levitt AMP Selma is a local collaborative, seeded with money from the Mortimer and Mimi Levitt Foundation, which co-funds 43 concert series throughout the United States. The bi-weekly concerts are hosted locally by Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Selma, the Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF), the City of Selma, and the Selma Chamber of Commerce.

"Music is the next best connector of people besides food", states Lydia Chatmon, TRHT Director and Levitt concert series organizer. According to Chatmon, "the Levitt AMP series supports bringing people together by promoting diverse music, that also reflects the community". The diversity of the Levitt AMP Selma concerts is evidenced by the line-up. From renowned national performers to local singers, the series promotes a powerful variety of music. The concert series boasts musicians from around the south, presenting southern soul, country, jazz and many other genres of music.



TRHT Selma Director, Lydia Chatmon, center, pictured here with additional event coordinators and volunteers.



Asher HaVon performs onstage in Selma - his first public concert since winning NBC's The Voice, season 25.

The Selma series kicked off June 8 with the dynamic 11-piece band, Element XI, featuring Lady K (former American Idol contestant). The second concert was undoubtedly the "hottest ticket in America", as Selma welcomed native son Asher HaVon, the current winner of NBC's The Voice, season 25. Asher wowed the capacity crowd with his explosive vocals and dazzling wardrobe. The musically eclectic concert lineup did not disappoint as the audience was treated to contemporary country by Mark Taylor and his band, the soulful sounds of Timeria "Tee-Tee" Baker, special guest Alyssa Crosby, and DJ Barack providing popular tunes throughout the night.

"BBCF is again thrilled to co-host this concert series along with our supportive partners from the city, the chamber and THRT. These are not just concerts, they are family festivals with live music, dancing, children's activities, and food trucks with enough variety to satisfy everyone," stated Felecia Lucky, President of BBCF.

Lydia Chatmon proclaimed "our goal is to become a reputable location providing such great entertainment that Selma can compete to be awarded with a Levitt AMP Pavilion, which will sustain support for future concerts." Chatmon went on to thank local sponsors whose donations enhanced the quality of the entire experience.

For the full concert lineup, please visit: blackbeltfound.org/trht or follow Levitt AMP Selma on social media: facebook.com/LevittAMPSelma -and - instagram.com/levittampselma.

The Levitt AMP Selma Music Series is supported in part by the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation, which partners with changemakers and nonprofits across the country to activate underused outdoor spaces, creating welcoming and inclusive destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together, fosters belonging, and invigorates community life. www.levitt.org



Collage of photos from past Levitt AMP Selma concerts: (L to R) A view of the crowd and Selma Amphitheater; Mark Taylor interacting with the crowd while singing; attendees laughing and dancing during a concert; first year Levitt AMP Selma performer singing onstage; and a young girl getting her face painted during a Levitt AMP Selma concert.