

Journey to Jubilee



Community Impact + Expansion Brief
March 2026

Understanding the Journey to Jubilee Model

Creating a Culture of Voting through Civics & Arts

Journey to Jubilee is more than an annual 3 day/ 2 night field trip—it is an immersive leadership experience designed to connect young people to history, civic responsibility, intergenerational dialogue, and peaceful collective action. Through campus tours at Alabama HBCUs, dynamic youth-centered workshops, and a structured bridge crossing experience, participants will explore what it means to move from awareness to action with discipline, unity, and purpose.



Educate

Creating understanding of civic engagement's importance.



Engage

Mobilizing efforts to curate change through civics and arts and create a culture of Voting.



Empower

Cultivating transformative experiences that create changemakers

At a Glance

Key Program Metrics Overview

Total Participants

A total of **30 participants** were fully engaged throughout the entire weekend program, with an additional **40+ individuals** participating in various events led by our group across the trip—demonstrating strong community interest and sustained commitment to civic engagement and collective action.



Communities Reached

Our efforts successfully engaged **4 distinct historic communities across the state**, fostering connections and enabling participants to engage meaningfully in civic initiatives and local activities that promote positive change.

Huntsville - Birmingham - Montgomery - Selma

2026 Journey To Jubilee

Grand Marshal

Dr. Army Daniel, Jr.

Dr. Army Daniel, Jr. is a civil rights activist from Jackson, Mississippi, known for his close friendship with Medgar Evers, whom he met at Alcorn College. As a student-athlete studying physics and mathematics, he later served as a companion and driver for Evers during his time as the NAACP field secretary.

Dr. Daniel lost his father, Army Daniel Sr., to racial violence. He lost his mother to grief, as she was unable to overcome the death of her husband. He lost his best friend, Medger Evers, to an assassin's bullet.

Still, Dr. Daniel pressed on, led by his faith, tenacity, intelligence, and determination to change our nation so that America's children could live in a country where all had equal opportunity. Dr. Daniel's life is an inspiration. At 98 years young, Dr. Daniel served as this year's Grand Marshal, leading our participants through living history and legacy.



Pictured Above: Dr. Army Daniel, Jr. presenting to our Huntsville youth group in a pre-trip debriefing workshop.

Pictured Below: Dr. Army Daniel, Jr. & U.S. Congressman Shomari Figures preparing to cross the Bridge that Dr. Daniel crossed 61 years ago in 1965 on Bloody Sunday.



Participant Highlight

Morgan Horton, HS Senior, c/o 2026

One of our young participants, Morgan Horton, had the opportunity to exemplify courageous leadership as a youth panelist during the trip. While seated on a panel at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Selma, AL. Morgan, alongside peers from Alabama and Michigan, shared their perspectives with an intergenerational audience, highlighting key issues and concerns of their generation, while offering thoughtful solutions for meaningful change.



Engagement Insights

Key Metrics on Community Involvement

Engagement Hours

During the Journey to Jubilee weekend, participants invested over **25 hours** in direct civic engagement activities, reflecting a strong commitment to community involvement and active participation in the Journey to Jubilee initiative.

Collective Movement

Through strategic collaboration with partner organizations, our civic engagement team successfully secured resources and funding necessary to deliver high-impact programming and provide safe, comfortable accommodations, ensuring a meaningful and accessible experience for all participants.



Collaborative Activism In Action

Pictured Above (L-R): April Fortune, NACEE Youth Coordinator; Cliff Albright, Black Voters Matter Co-Founder; Gloria Hollins, Lift Our Vote Lead Organizer; Dr. Army Daniel, Jr., 98 year old Activist; Le'Sha Barnes, AL NAACP Officer



16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham

Our visit to 16th Street Baptist Church grounded Journey to Jubilee participants in the legacy of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. Participants reflected on sacrifice, resilience, and responsibility—leaving not just informed, but committed to sustained civic action.

Equal Justice Initiative- Legacy Museum, Montgomery

Our visit to the Equal Justice initiative Legacy Museum offered a powerful, immersive look into the history of racial injustice and mass incarceration. Participants engaged deeply with narratives that connected the past to present-day systems, leaving with a heightened awareness and a renewed commitment to justice, equity, and informed civic action.



From the Frontlines to the Future: Courage is Contagious

Courageous 8 Art Exhibit & Live Storytelling Discussion Featuring Leaders Who Are Shaping History



Dr. Army Daniel, Jr.
Foot Soldier & Civil Rights Advocate



Sheyann Webb Christberg
Author & Civil Rights Advocate



Althelstein Johnson
Retired Educator & Civil Rights Advocate



Dr. Keith Parker
Professor & Civil Rights Advocate



Facilitated By
Jessica Fortune Barker
Community Organizer & Courageous 8 Exhibit Curator

Friday, March 6, 2026, 5:30 PM

**Alabama State University
Dunn-Oliver Acadome Banquet Hall**

Dinner will be served with reservation

[Courageous8.eventbrite.com](https://courageous8.eventbrite.com)

Register for entry

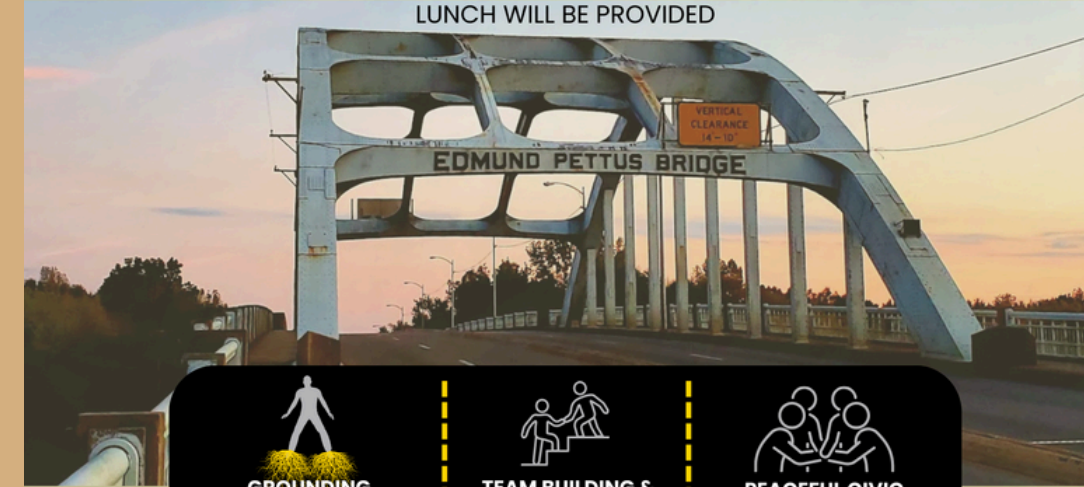


Bridge Builders Youth Organizer Workshop

Our Bridge Builders Youth Organizer workshop at Selma University created a space for intentional dialogue, *LEADER*ship development, and collectivism rooted in the historic significance of Selma. Participants explored how to bridge divides, strengthen community voice, and lead with purpose- leaving equipped to build connections that drive lasting civic and social impact.

BRIDGE BUILDERS: YOUTH ORGANIZER WORKSHOP

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED



GROUNDING WITH INTENTIONALITY

TEAM BUILDING & COLLECTIVE ORGANIZING

PEACEFUL CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026
12:00 – 2:00 PM, CT**

**SELMA UNIVERSITY
CAFETERIA**

1501 BOYNTONS ST, SELMA, AL 36701

PURPOSE

This interactive workshop equips youth with foundational leadership and community-organizing skills while cultivating mindfulness, unity, and peaceful civic engagement. Participants will learn how to align their voices, values, and actions to organize themselves into a coordinated, respectful demonstration that reflects discipline, clarity, and purpose.

Scan the QR code or Register for free at:
BridgeBuilders.eventbrite.com



Adrian D. Hargrove
Regional Director
Boys & Girls Clubs, North AL



Dynasty Chapman
Founder
Wounds to Wisdom



Joseph Barker
Veteran & CEO
Barker & Barker Enterprises



Gloria Hollins
Campaign Strategist & Owner
Manifest Virtual Solutions



Dr. Ce'vin Barnes
Principal Consultant
7BARNES Solutions



Jessica Fortune Barker
Visionary & Lead Organizer
Lift Our Vote

From the Front Lines to the Future Panel Discussion & Courageous 8 Art Exhibit

At Alabama State University, the "From the Front Lines to the Future" panel and Courageous 8 art exhibit created a powerful bridge between activism, legacy, and forward vision. Participants engaged with voices of experience and leadership, while the exhibit honored resilience and sacrifice. This educational engagement reinforced that the work of change is both inherited and evolving and requires bold intentional participation from the next generation.



Selma Bridge Crossing Demonstration with Youth, Dignitaries & Activists

Crossing the Selma Bridge in an organized youth demonstration was a powerful full circle moment- honoring the legacy of Bloody Sunday, while embodying the next generation of leadership. Engaging with dignitaries and seasoned activist deepened the experience, connecting past sacrifice to present responsibility and reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing civic progress.

Votercade to Jubilee escorted by Black Voters Matter

The Votercade to Jubilee, a voter centric caravan from Montgomery to Selma- paid homage to the legacy of the Freedom Riders Movement. The Votercade, led by Black Voters Matter's Mother Bus, transformed the road into a moving call to action uniting participants in purpose, reflection, and civic commitment.



Pictured Above (L-R): Dr. Cevin Barnes, Activist, Samuel Parker, NACEE Youth Organizer, Dr. Martin Luther King, III, Activist & Son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Army Daniel, Jr., 98 year old Activist. Bobby Pierce, NAACP Activist in background

Measured Outcomes

Demonstrating Civic Engagement Success

Increased Awareness

100% of participants surveyed reported a significant increase in their awareness of local civic issues, showcasing the effectiveness of our engagement strategies to enhance community understanding and involvement.

IMPACT



Commitment to Action

An impressive **100% of participants surveyed** expressed their commitment to taking civic action post-program, reflecting the program's success in transforming awareness into tangible community engagement and initiatives.

\$12,004

Total Program Investment

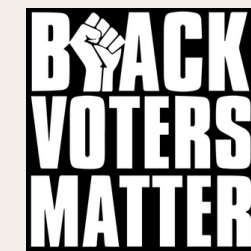
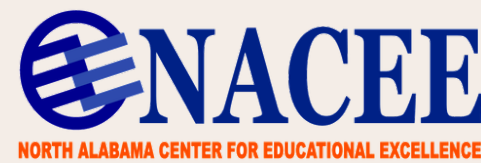
The total program investment was \$12,004, covering lodging, transportation, meals, and workshop materials for 30 participants.

\$11,870

Funds Raised

A total of \$10,870 was raised to offset program expenses. This impact was further strengthened by \$1,000 in in-kind contributions, reflecting strong community investment in youth engagement and civic learning.

AL Association for the Arts, Inc. extends special recognition to the Whittington and Barker families for their generous contributions, alongside the valued support of our organizational and corporate partners listed on this page.



Participant Testimonial

“This experience was both inspiring and affirming. It reinforced the importance of continuing the work and ensuring future generations understand the significance of this history and their role in shaping the future”.

— Le’Sha Barnes

Pictured Right (L-R): Le’Sha Barnes & Martin Luther King, III



Why Our Program is Effective



Education

Empowering individuals through **knowledge and skill-building** opportunities.



Community Voice

Elevating local insights to foster **leadership and empowerment**.



Engagement Pathways

Providing **sustained opportunities** for active participation and impact.

Key Learnings from Our Journey



Ongoing Engagement

Participants seek **deeper connections** in civic activities.



Education & Activation

Combining learning with practical action enhances outcomes.



Structured Pathways

Clear pathways encourage **sustained civic involvement** and leadership growth.

What's Next



Journey To Jubilee 2027

Expansion Opportunities

Participant feedback highlights an opportunity to strengthen event logistics and communication by enhancing schedule coordination, improving timeliness of transitions, and providing clear, real-time updates during programming. By implementing more structured run-of-show management and proactive communication protocols, we can elevate the overall participant experience and ensure each moment feels intentional, engaging, and well-guided.

Annual Participants

Our goal is in addition to AL Association for the Arts' group of 10 youth, to include 4 additional youth groups of 10-20 youth each, to increase program reach to **50- 90 youth participants** annually through this initiative, enhancing our community impact and creating pathways for sustained leadership development and civic involvement across diverse generations and regions.

Support
What's Next



Journey To
Jubilee 2027

Scan To Donate



You may also give online at
alaforarts.org

\$25,000

2027 Journey To Jubilee Fundraising Goal

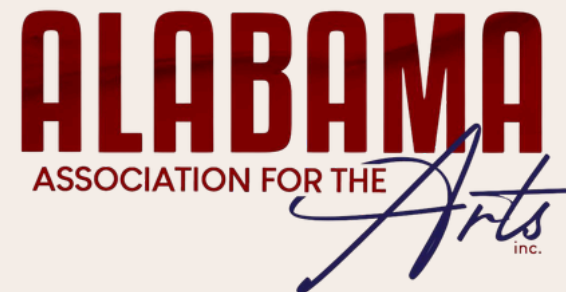
Support 50 youth in participating in next year's Journey to Jubilee. Scan the QR code to make your tax-deductible contribution today. To ensure your full gift directly supports this youth-centered experience, select "Other" and enter \$0 to bypass platform fees.

Thank You

Your support is vital for empowering our community and driving change. Whether you have donated time, talent, or treasure, your contribution is significant in helping us Curate Change through Civics & Arts.

President

Jessica Fortune Barker



Phone: 256-701-4182

Board Email: Executive@Alaforarts.org

Website: alaforarts.org

Direct Email: BarkerForBetter@gmail.com

