



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service
Birmingham (AL) Chapter

SERVING THE GREATER BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SINCE 1956



The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1946. The membership consists of 12,000 professional women of color in 276 chapters located in 42 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The organization was founded in Philadelphia, PA, on November 9, 1946, from a group of women known as the Philadelphia Club to focus on civic, cultural, and educational endeavors.

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter, Alabama's first chapter, began with a core group of eight social and civic-minded women: **Hattie Calloway, Columbia Clayborne, Madeline Davis, Mayo Forniss, Minnie**

Gardner Gaston, Theodora Shores, Bernice Sterling and Essie Taggart. Southern Area Director, **Georgia Schank**, installed the charter members of the Birmingham Chapter on February 4, 1956.

The Birmingham Chapter continues to be a leading organization in the community in the areas of service and philanthropy. Our membership consists of women who are highly regarded in the community and serve the organization through projects and initiatives around its five facets:

**SERVICES TO YOUTH
NATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES
INTERNATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES
THE ARTS
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Each year members of the Birmingham Chapter provide a wide array of local, national and international service projects and broad-scale program initiatives. The Birmingham Chapter partners with other organizations and our combined efforts have resulted in programs and activities that have greatly benefited the community.

RECENT AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 2017 – 1st Place – Southern Area, Integrated Program for JAMS (Joining Artists and Music in the Schools) program
- 2015 – Third Place, Southern Area Program Display for JAMS (Joining Artists and Music in the Schools) program
- 2014 – National First Place Award, International Trends & Services program, *Linking With Liberia*
- 2014 - National Best Practice Award for our *JAMS* (Joining Artists and Music in the Schools) program
- 2013 - First Place - Southern Area, The Arts Facet for *JAMS* program
- 2013 - Second Place - National Trends and Services Facet for the *Teens Guide to Dollars and Sense* program
- 2012 - National Best Practices Award, *Childhood Obesity Awareness and Prevention* Program
- 2011 - First Place, Southern Area, Display for *Kiss the Cook: The Link to a Healthy Life*
- 2011 - Honorable Mention, Southern Area, *Healthy Life Choices - Avoiding Obesity* Program



A.H. Parker High School Robotics Team competed at Electrathon Alabama by Alabama Power at Barber Motorsports Park.



PARTNERS

The Birmingham Museum of Art
Alabama Organ Center
Miles College
Susan G. Komen for the Cure
UAB Alys Stephens Center
Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Future

Birmingham Public Library
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Inglenook K-8 School
AH Parker High School
Ramsay High School
John Herbert Phillips Academy

Oxmoor Valley Elementary School
Maranathan Academy
UAB Center for Urban Education
The Alabama Symphony Orchestra
The Alabama Council of the Arts
WBHM National Public Radio

HIGHLIGHTS

- Joining Artists and Music in the Schools (JAMS) was created as a model program focused on re-energizing music programs at the middle school level. The mission was to stimulate interest in extra-curricular activities, nurture natural musical talents, and prepare students to transition into high school band programs. The signature pilot program has had a five-year run and has captured many success stories.
- Launched the Link Tank program for students at Maranathan Academy. This yearlong classroom program focused on the dynamics of starting a business, and developing and marketing a product, were taught. At the program's finale, students stepped into the Link Tank to pitch their entrepreneurial ideas to a panel of judges.
- Junior United Nations of Alabama (JUNA), a program for middle school students, increases their knowledge of how the United Nations works while exposing them to cultures from around the world. JUNA helps students identify issues affecting countries and helps them to formulate solutions. The Birmingham Chapter assists the students with costumes, resolution writing, and presentations and helps them to interact with students from other countries.
- Participants of the Birmingham Chapter's "ArtWorks – Encouraging Professions in the Visual Arts" program have made great strides in advancing their careers and their work products have been well received in the art world and the community at large. Additional opportunities for these young artists, including art classes and career advancement workshops are ongoing.
- Established STEM initiatives at three local middle and high schools and established three (3) National Society of Black Engineers Junior (NSBE, Jr.) chapters. Established a Robotics Team for high school students as a fun and interactive way to introduce engineering and software programming and ignite their interest in STEM related education and careers. Professionals provide students with STEM career presentations.
- Provided free blood pressure screening, blood pressure referrals and information on healthy eating to the residents of the Smithfield Community during the month of February in conjunction with Heart Awareness Month.
- Chapter members who are dental professionals provided dental screenings from the Colgate Dental Van at local elementary schools.



THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

Birmingham (AL) Chapter
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The Birmingham Chapter is a member of The Links Foundation, Incorporated, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated embodies the highest principles of friendship and service. Those ideals are transferred to its positive community impact of improving lives in the community