

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As another eventful quarter concludes, I am expressing deep gratitude to the members, sponsors, and supporters of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Your support and engagement continue to have a powerful impact on the delivery of our mission to serve, uplift, and empower our community.

### Gala Success on August 18

We are thrilled to report that our recent fundraising gala, Phantom, was a fantastic event that brought together members, donors, and community leaders. The evening was filled with inspiring stories, heartfelt connections, and a shared commitment to our mission. We extend our deepest appreciation to all who attended and supported this event. Your generosity ensures we can continue our impactful work.

### Voter Registration Initiative Thriving

We are pleased to announce that our voter registration initiative is going exceptionally well. With your support, we have been able to engage and mobilize community members, students, and others who have felt disenfranchised, thereby empowering them to

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## NATIONAL TRENDS AND SERVICES



### MAKING AN IMPACT: BIRMINGHAM (AL) CHAPTER PUSH VOTER REGISTRATION

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated recently partnered with Black Votes Matter to provide voter education and registration information to students at Lawson State Community College. The event was part of the national observance of Voter Registration Impact Day on September 17, 2024.

At the event, students participated in an interactive session about the importance of voting. Eligible citizens also were able to register to vote. Additionally, the students were encouraged to develop a plan of action for voting in all elections. The students also experienced a surprise visit and discussion with "foot soldiers" in Alabama whose front-line efforts during the civil rights movement impacted voting and other freedoms in the south.

Hosted by the National Trends and Services Facet, the program was presented as part of Link Up the Vote, a national initiative of The Links, Incorporated that focuses on four key topics: voter identification, voter registration, voter information, and voter activation.

*Note: The Links, Incorporated is a non-partisan organization that does not endorse or publicly support political candidates.*

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# Planning in Paradise:

## A Memorable Retreat for the Birmingham (AL) Chapter

The Planning in Paradise retreat, hosted by the Membership Committee and Program Committees, was a wonderful and informative event that left members inspired and recharged. Held at Samford University, the retreat offered a perfect blend of education, relaxation, and fun.

Thoughtful decorations, lush greenery, and calming, tropical-inspired accents helped create a setting that modelled paradise. According to organizers, the venue was the ideal backdrop for meaningful discussions and engaging workshops designed to foster both professional growth and personal development.

Throughout the retreat, attendees were treated to informative sessions, interactive team-building activities, and networking opportunities. Participants walked away with valuable insights about collaborative programming and goal setting while also strengthening relationships.

In addition to the educational content, the retreat balanced learning with fun. Planned breaks included dancing, casual games, and themed social activities that encouraged camaraderie and relaxation.

The Planning in Paradise retreat was a resounding success, offering something for everyone—education, connection, and a taste of tropical bliss in the Magic City. As a result, participants reported feeling refreshed, rejuvenated, and ready to implement new initiatives to serve the community.

The Birmingham (AL) Chapter is guided by five transformational facets through which programs and activities are offered. They are Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services.



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exercise their right to vote. Led by Links members, this crucial effort fosters civic engagement and strengthens our democracy. We encourage everyone to continue spreading the word and inspiring others to participate in the election process.

### Addressing Food Insecurity

Our Chapter's umbrella project, which focuses on hunger, is making significant strides in addressing food insecurity within our local community. We are providing essential resources for families through collaborative efforts with local organizations and volunteers. The positive feedback and impact we have witnessed thus far reaffirms our commitment to this vital cause. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those who face food challenges.

### Heart Health and Cancer Awareness Initiatives

In addition to our voter registration and food security efforts, heart health and cancer awareness remain at the forefront of our initiatives. We have organized various workshops and community outreach programs to educate individuals about these critical health issues. By prioritizing prevention and awareness, we are helping create a healthier community.

### Looking Ahead

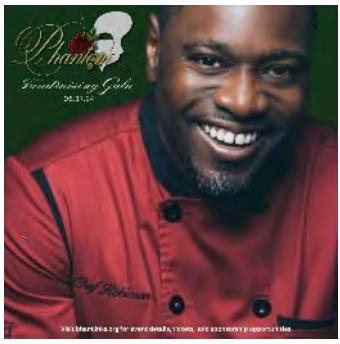
As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission and the communities we serve. Your support is invaluable, and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can continue to make a lasting impact and uplift those around us.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

Warm regards,  
Cheryl Anderson Kidd J.D., M.B.A.  
President  
Birmingham (AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.









## **THE MAGIC CITY TO HOST 2025 SOUTHERN AREA CONFERENCE OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED**

Birmingham, Alabama will host the 48<sup>th</sup> Southern Area Conference of The Links, Incorporated, June 4-8, 2025. The conference will be attended by Links members representing 84 chapters from seven southern states and The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

According to the Southern Area Director Vanessa Falls, the Area conference was previously in Birmingham in 2015. "I am excited to once again showcase the rich historical legacy of the Magic City with visitors from throughout our Area, while also highlighting our progress as a community," Falls said.

Members of the Birmingham (AL) Chapter have been appointed to leadership roles to support the development and execution of the conference, including the individuals listed below.

Kim Hitchens, Conference Co-Chair  
Andrea Montgomery, Conference Financial Secretary  
Monique Witherspoon, Protocol and Courtesies Chair  
Debra Nelson, Arrangements Chair  
Patrice Adams, Hospitality Co-chair  
Cathy Floyd, Flowers and Décor Co-chair  
Mia Cowan, Emergency Services Co-chair  
Martha Sims, Vendor Co-chair  
Marsha Morgan, Digital Souvenir Co-chair  
Erika Hartman, Rituals Co-chair  
Beverly Anderson, Program Luncheon Co-Chair  
Crystal Maxena, Club Links Co-Chair

Birmingham (AL) Chapter President Cheryl Kidd serves with Kim Hitchens on the Conference Steering Committee, along with members from the Tri-County (AL) and Magic City (AL) Chapters of The Links, Incorporated.

# APPLAUSE



Congratulations to Birmingham (AL) Chapter member **Amber A. Grant** on her selection into the prestigious Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute (SHLI) of The Links, Incorporated, a leadership development program for women.



Congratulations to Birmingham (AL) Chapter member **LeNá Powe McDonald** on her selection to the 2024-25 Class of Leadership Birmingham.

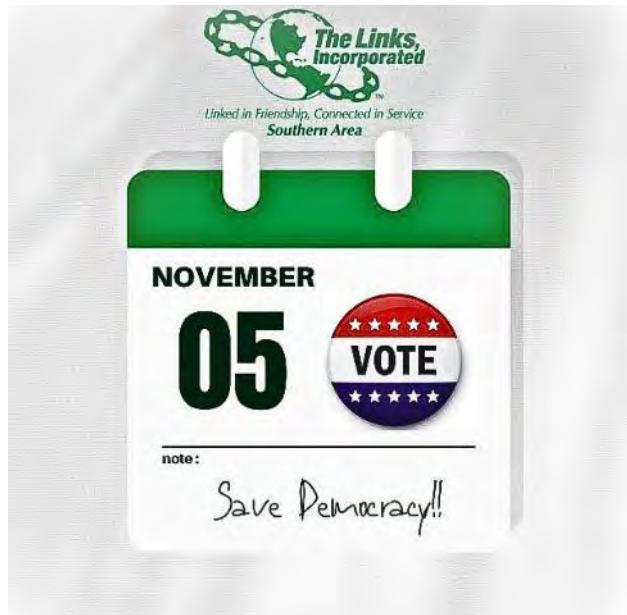


Congratulations to **Shia Hendricks**, recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Museum of Art. Also, Shia recently represented the Sister Cities Program as part of a 15-member cultural and economic delegation to the country of Wales. The reciprocal visit recognized the international Friendship Pact signed between the country of Wales and the city of Birmingham during the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary observation of the tragic bombing of 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church. As part of the observance in 2023, the Birmingham (AL) Chapter commissioned a song that was unveiled at the anniversary event. Elias Hendricks, Byron Thomas, and Welsh composer Christian Phillip arranged the song.



Congratulations to **Marsha Morgan** on being named a 2024-2025 Association of Black Foundation Executive (ABFE) Fellow. For 18 years, ABFE has focused on designing programs and cultivating bold, representative, and Inclusive leaders in the philanthropic sector.



**FIGHT LIKE A LINK TOOLKIT**

**SAVE-THE-DATE**  
**48<sup>th</sup> Southern Area Conference**  
**June 4-8, 2025**  
**Birmingham, Alabama**

**We need your content!**

Information to be considered for inclusion in our Chapter's newsletter include your facet activities and photos, upcoming events, and awards and recognitions of members. Please send items to Carnetta Davis at [cdavis9616@gmail.com](mailto:cdavis9616@gmail.com)

**BHAM LINKS GAZETTE**

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