



Freedom Quilting Bee
— Legacy —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2022

Alberta Wilcox County Alabama

Alabama State Council on the Arts Awards \$35,000 Facilities Design Grant to the
Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy

The Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy will receive the \$35,000 grant funds on October 1, 2022. The Alabama State Council on the Arts awarded the grant for the design phase of the Adaptive Re-Use project of the Original Freedom Quilting Bee (FQB) located in Alberta AL.

The FQB building was used as the manufacturing operation for the Freedom Quilting Bee Women's Co-operative which was established in 1966 by an entrepreneurial group of Black women during the Civil Rights/Voting Rights movement. The building has both cultural and historical significance. It was from this hamlet in this building that the Alabama quilt economy was launched. The significance of this quilt artistry was recognized by Jackson Pollack and Diana Vreeland amongst many others in the arts and fashion communities of the day. Quilt manufacturing contracts with Bloomingdales and Sears and Roebuck and other major American retailers sustained the operations through the late 1990s.

Having lain dormant since the early 2000s the Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy (The Legacy), its successor organization, will use the \$35,000 design grant award for the beginnings of the restoration of the historic FQB building. The Legacy will honor and celebrate this proud history through the Freedom Quilting Bee Heritage Center. This will again be a place the community learns to quilt and participate in the art of quilting. This cultural center and arts gallery will expose the community and visitors to this art form and provide hands on experience to make quilt art themselves. And provide outreach and instruction in quilting to children in the local schools for field trips to the facility.

In partnership with Brown Studio Architects of Montgomery AL, the preeminent historic preservation firm in the region, The Legacy will develop an adaptive re-use design for the building. Over the life of the entire project, we will plan for the development of the surrounding 13 acres into an enclave for the arts and community events.

The Legacy appreciates and looks forward to an on-going relationship with the Alabama State Council on the Arts. The Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy is a 501c3 organization. Please contact Louise Williams, President, for additional information at LouiseWilliams.FQBLegacy2020@gmail.com or 404-431-0390.

About Alabama State Council on the Arts

The Council on the Arts is the official state agency for the support and development of the arts in Alabama. The Council works to expand and preserve the state's cultural resources by supporting nonprofit arts organizations, schools, colleges, units of local government, and

individual artists. Arts programs, assisted by Council grants, have a track record of enhancing community development, education, cultural tourism, and overall quality of life in all regions of the state. Alabama State Council on the Arts grants are made possible by an annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature and additional funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Learn more at arts.alabama.gov.



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