



Daniel Foundation of Alabama Awards \$90,000 to
Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy for Historic Building
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The Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy (Legacy) is pleased to announce an award of \$90,000 from the Daniel Foundation of Alabama. The funds are for the ongoing effort of the Freedom Quilting Bee Historic Building Revitalization and Restoration.

The award was made under the 2023 Arts, Culture and Community Assets category and is allocated for three years at \$30,000 per year. The Legacy will use the funds as a starting point to rehabilitate and reroof deteriorated space originally used as the daycare center for worker's children.

The old daycare center will be designed by Brown Studio Architecture to become a dedicated space that will support community-requested programs on topics like tax and contract assistance and artists rights. It will also provide for arts-related programs such as quilting workshops for quilt enthusiasts and opportunities to share a local meal and conversation with the quilters or a visiting speaker. A community resource center with free wi-fi and computer access for residents and tourists will be incorporated into the space design, as well.

The Freedom Quilting Bee is a 4200 square foot building constructed in 1969. It housed the quilt manufacturing operations of the Black women's quilting co-operative which ushered in the mass production and marketing of quilts made by the women of Gee's Bend and Alberta In Wilcox County. For almost 40 years the Freedom Quilting Bee manufacturing operations had contracts with US retailers like Sears and Bloomingdales, to name a few. The building is in need of upgrades to all systems and elimination of water intrusion, as well as prevention of ongoing deterioration.

We are heartened to have the Daniel Foundation of Alabama as a partner in the work and vision the Legacy has for advancing opportunities for our local population and advancing tourism within and for the communities of Alberta and Gee's Bend.

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