



JUNIOR LEAGUE BIRMINGHAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BIRMINGHAM AWARDS \$1.16 MILLION TO TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS IN BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – August 12, 2024 – [The Junior League of Birmingham](#) (JLB) has awarded \$1.16 million in grants to nine transformational projects in Birmingham through the JLB Beeson Community Fund. The fund was established in 2001 thanks to a gift from the Lucille Beeson Residuary Trust, allowing the League to expand its charitable reach and make a greater impact in the Birmingham community.

JLB has awarded more than \$6 million through the Beeson Community Fund since its inception to area non-profit organizations in support of projects stimulating systemic change aligned to the JLB mission. During the 2024 grant cycle, JLB’s Beeson Community Fund Committee received and thoroughly reviewed nearly 100 applications before selecting nine exceptional beneficiaries.

“Since 2001, JLB has committed to expanding its reach in Birmingham and surrounding communities through grants to exceptional projects made possible by the generous gift of Lucille Beeson,” said JLB Past President and Beeson Community Fund Chair Martina Winston. “We are proud to provide substantial investment in nine impressive projects aligned with JLB’s vision of Building Partnerships for a Better Birmingham.”

The projects selected to receive 2024 JLB Beeson Community Fund grants include:

- **16th Street Baptist Church Preservation and Expansion Project**
- **Junior Achievement of Alabama McWane Economic Education Center**
- **Freshwater Land Trust Civil Rights Urban Trail of the Red Rock Trail System**
- **Children’s Aid Society of Alabama Independent Living Support Services Program**
- **Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens Culinary Corridor**
- **Empower Community Schools of Alabama Campus Expansion Plan**
- **Oasis Counseling for Women & Children Specialized Mental Health Care for Children & Adolescents Program**

- **JLB Nature Playground at the Birmingham Zoo**
- **Jefferson State Community College Women in Welding Program**

"Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) is extremely honored that The Junior League of Birmingham Beeson Community Fund Committee chose the Red Rock Trail System's Civil Rights Trail as one of the project recipients of its spring grant cycle," said Freshwater Land Trust Executive Director Rusha Smith. "This funding will help FLT, the City of Birmingham, and numerous other partners build 3.16 miles of urban trails and complete streets in and around the Civil Rights Monument, transforming the Civil Rights District and neighboring Smithfield community over the next several years into destinations that support commercial revitalization and promote business development, while attracting new residents to the area."

JLB looks forward to announcing plans for the 2024-25 Beeson Community Fund grant cycle soon. For more information, please visit jlbonline.com/beeson-fund.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE AT THIS LINK:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GNcE5mzTRZUnORqspLx4JDBrCu2eQLs4?usp=drive_link

Photo Captions/Credits:

[Rendering of the Freshwater Land Trust Civil Rights Urban Trail at 6th Avenue North (courtesy FLT)]

[Past JLB Presidents June Clark and Martina Winston with JA Ambassador Morgan Rooks at the Junior Achievement of Alabama 2024 Spirit of Free Enterprise Luncheon (courtesy JLB)]

ABOUT THE JLB BEESON COMMUNITY FUND

The Junior League of Birmingham Beeson Community Fund was established to provide a vehicle through which the JLB could provide larger grants that are not accompanied by volunteer support and result in systemic change in the community served by the JLB. The fund is open to all 501(c)(3) organizations within the geographical community served by the JLB that further the mission and stated areas of impact of the JLB or promote systemic change within the community.

For media inquiries, contact Katherine Thompson at 205.879.9861 or kthompson@jlbonline.com

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BIRMINGHAM

The Junior League of Birmingham (JLB) is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration and training. As one of the largest volunteer service organizations in Alabama, the nearly 2,000 members of the JLB boast more than 40,000 volunteer hours annually across 28 community projects and also provide \$1M in direct funding to the greater Birmingham community. The JLB celebrated its centennial in 2022, commemorating 100 years of service, leadership, partnerships and impact. The JLB has been a positive force for change in Jefferson and Shelby counties for over 100 years. Last year, the JLB gave more than \$400,000 in direct contributions to the local community, and JLB members volunteered 40,000 hours, equaling

labor worth \$1.6 million for the Greater Birmingham community. The JLB is the ninth largest League in the world, and its members come from 29 different municipalities across Jefferson and Shelby counties.

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