

# SPICE & SOUL

A Taste of African-American Heritage



Shreveport-Bossier, LA  
629 Spring Street, Shreveport, LA 71101  
[www.Shreveport-Bossier.org](http://www.Shreveport-Bossier.org)

# WELCOME!

Africans brought to America to build the fledgling nation had rich cultures and an undying spirit that helped them endure the hardships slavery heaped upon them. Their strong work ethic and spiritual dependence on God for a better life helped guide them from slavery to freedom.

For slaves in Shreveport – the northwest Louisiana city barred from commerce by a 180-mile log jam on the Red River – the toil to build a city was much the same. Once Captain Henry Miller Shreve cleared the river, Shreveport became a major artery of trade for surrounding Southern and Midwestern states. The rich and fertile land made growing cotton and other agricultural products easy and profitable.

However, the Reconstruction Era, which ended in 1877 in Louisiana, started a slow shift towards blacks living out their freedoms.

Proud men and women fought until there was justice for all during the Civil Rights Movement. There were many individuals who paved the way for integration, equal rights, and a share of the economic prosperity being enjoyed in Shreveport-Bossier. Today, their contributions can be seen in local politics, education, sports, civil rights, and all other areas of this diverse community.

The various individuals, landmarks, churches, schools, and structures are living testaments of a resilient, proud people and their achievements.



*This brochure serves as a self-guided driving tour. Most establishments are for external viewing. Significant sites in the downtown Shreveport area are marked with red dots (●) that denote where the sites can be found on the map located in the centerfold of this brochure.*

# SIGNIFICANT SITES

## **ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH**

Oldest African-American Baptist organization in Shreveport. Founded in 1886, the Romanesque Revival-style building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 1057 Texas Ave., Shreveport. Open to the public. Group appointment only. Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (318) 222-7090.



## **BLADE STUDIOS**

Full-service sound recording studio which opened in 2011. Founded by Brady Blade, Jr., drummer, composer, and record producer. Open to the public. 2031 Kings Hwy., Shreveport. (318) 213-0777.

## **BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Second high school for blacks in Caddo Parish, replacing Central Colored High School in 1950. It was the school featured in *Life Magazine* in 1950 as one of the finest schools in the nation. 2104 Milam St., Shreveport. Appointment only. Mon.-Fri. (318) 222-2186.

## **BUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Bossier City Public School, for years known as Butler Elementary School, was opened in July 1927. The first public high school for blacks in Bossier City. A group of citizens under the leadership of the Rev. Will Butler raised funds and donated the property. 541 Detroit St., Bossier City. (318) 549-7050.



## CALANTHEAN TEMPLE

Built in 1923 by the Court of Calanthe, it was the first of its kind in the country built by a black women's organization. The building not only served as the headquarters for District No. 1, but as offices for lawyers, doctors, and various business enterprises. The roof was used for dances, Mardi Gras balls, and other events. In the 1007 to 1009 block of Texas Ave., Shreveport. Not open to the public.



## C.C. ANTOINE'S HOUSE

First black state senator from Caddo Parish (1868-1872), he served as Lt. Governor under Gov. William Pitt Kellogg. As a senator, Antoine was responsible for Shreveport being incorporated as a city in 1871. National Register

of Historic Places. Located on Perrin Street, Shreveport. Not open to the public.

## C.C. ANTOINE'S MEMORIAL PARK

Cesar Carpenter Antoine was an American icon and hero. There is a memorial to honor him at this recreational park named after him.

## COLEMAN COLLEGE

Founded in 1887 by O.L. Coleman in Gibsland, it was the first institution of higher education for African Americans in North Louisiana. The school relocated to Shreveport in 1944 and was located in the Mooretown neighborhood at the current site of Winnfield Funeral Home until its closure in the mid-1950s. Located on Coleman College Street, Shreveport.



## COLEMAN COLLEGE

Gibsland, La  
Founded in 1887 O. L. Coleman, Founder

A Christian Institution for the moral and intellectual development of men and women.

...credited by the State Department of

## **THE COOPER ROAD COMMUNITY**

One of the oldest and largest black communities within the United States, it is named after a white livery stable owner and land developer. The area's name has since been changed to the Martin Luther King area. A statue in honor of Martin L. King, Jr., is at MLK Drive and Blanchard Road in Shreveport.

## **HENRY MCDADE HOUSE**

Henry McDade built this modified dogtrot-style home for his family of eight in 1927. It is one of a few dogtrot houses left in Bossier Parish. It is the first historical marker placed in Bossier Parish dedicated to African-American history. Located on Highway 157 in Bossier City.

## **HUDDIE "LEADBELLY" LEDBETTER STATUE**

A bronze life-size statue of this legendary blues and folk singer stands pointing towards Ledbetter Heights, a neighborhood named after him. The statue is the work of Shreveport native Jesse Pitts, Jr. It's located at the corner of Texas St. and Marshall St. in downtown Shreveport.



## **JERRY TIM BROOKS GOLF COURSE**

The golf course, formerly known as Lakeside Golf Course, opened for blacks in 1949. The course is a nine-hole city course. The course was renamed for Jerry Tim Brooks, a Caddo Parish School Board member, and former Booker T. Washington and Southern University student. He was inducted into the Southern University Hall of Fame. 2200 Milam St., Shreveport. Open to the public. Mon.-Sat. 7a.m.-8p.m. (318) 673-7782.



## **JOHNNIE COCHRAN FAMILY HOME**

In the 1930s, Hattie B. Cochran, mother of famed attorney Johnnie Cochran, Jr., organized the first after-school programs for children in her home. The 1800-1900 blocks of Milam Street have been named in memory of Hattie B. Cochran. Johnnie Cochran, Sr., once served as a deacon at Little Union Baptist Church. 1933 Milam St., Shreveport.

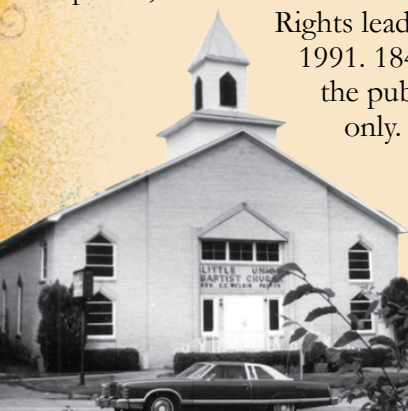


## **J.S. WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME**

Founded on Texas Avenue by J.S. Williams in 1889, it is the oldest existing black business in Shreveport. Being the only black undertaker, by 1927 Williams was reported to be one of the wealthiest blacks in Louisiana. The business later moved to Pierre Avenue. It is the family business of Louisiana Senator Greg Tarver and his brother, Leon Tarver. 1104 Pierre Ave., Shreveport. Open to the public. (318) 221-4491.

## **LITTLE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH**

A leading church in the civil rights struggle. On Sept. 22, 1963, it was the scene of policemen attacking worshippers who were having a memorial service for the four young girls killed in the church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama. It was also visited by Martin L. King, Jr. The NAACP held meetings at the church. The church's pastor, Rev. C.C. McClain was a pioneering Civil Rights leader until his death in 1991. 1846 Milam St. Open to the public. Appointment only. (318) 221-4491.



*Little Union  
Baptist Church*

## MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

It's most noted for being the venue where Elvis Presley got his start on the Louisiana Hayride.

Other great notables who performed there include "The Godfather of Soul"

James Brown, Stevie Wonder, "Soul Sister #1" Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, Smokey Robinson, Johnnie Taylor, Bobby "Blue" Bland, B.B. King, and more. 705 Elvis Presley Ave., Shreveport. (318) 841-4000. **D**



## OAKLAND CEMETERY

Opened in Shreveport in 1847, slaves, Confederate soldiers, and about 16 Shreveport mayors are buried here. Amanda Clark

and son Dickerson Alphonse Smith, Shreveport's first recognized black physician, are also buried here. National Register of Historic Places. Corner of Milam and Elvis Presley Ave., Shreveport. Open to the public. **E**



## OLD CENTRAL COLORED HIGH SCHOOL

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the two-story building, built in 1917, once served as Caddo Parish's first high school and was the first brick school for black students.

After operating as a junior high and elementary school, it is most recently

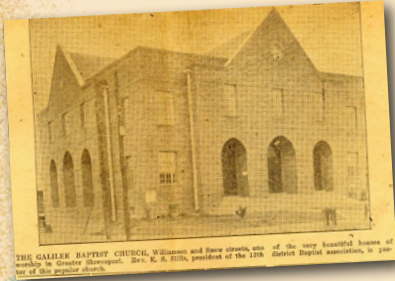
used as a professional development facility for the Caddo Parish School Board. Closed to the public. 1627 Weinstock St., Shreveport.





## OLD GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH

This is the first church Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke at in the Shreveport-Bossier area. The church, pivotal in the fight to integrate Caddo Parish Public Schools, was an important site in the civil rights struggle. Pastor E. Edward Jones



was responsible for the change that eventually integrated the schools. Many members were instrumental in other areas of civil rights struggles.

Located across from City Hall, it was the site of mass rallies. The church has since moved to a new location at 500 Pierre Ave., Shreveport. (318) 221-2629.

## OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL

First black Catholic school organized in 1925. The church still has services today. 1558 Buena Vista, Shreveport. Open to the public. (318) 222-3790.

## PETE HARRIS DRIVE

Named to honor civic and business achievements of Pete Harris. Harris, who died in 1993, was one of the partners in the old Freeman & Harris Café, which was renamed Pete Harris Café. The restaurant was a popular social center for generations. Harris was the first black to be appointed to the board of directors for a Shreveport bank. Pete Harris Café closed in 2006.

# HISTORIC SITE

## Old Galilee Baptist Church

The Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, founded 1877, was located here from 1917 to 1975. In 1958 and 1962 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke here, effectively initiating the Civil Rights movement in Shreveport. Strategies which led to Caddo school desegregation also were mapped out here. Included in National Register of Historic Places, 1984.



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT

Opened in 1967, this two-year institution of higher learning is part of the Southern University system, the nation's only historically black university system. It presently operates three locations in Shreveport: 3050 Martin Luther King Dr., downtown at 610 Texas St., and the Aerospace Technology Center at the downtown airport. (318) 670-6000. **G**



## STAR CEMETERY

Oldest black, city-owned cemetery. Some of Shreveport's earliest black pioneers and ex-slaves are buried here. 2300 Texas Ave., Shreveport.

## SHREVEPORT SUN

It is the oldest weekly newspaper in Louisiana for African Americans. First published Nov. 6, 1920, on Texas Avenue, the publication holds memberships to the Louisiana Press Association and Amalgamated Publishers, Inc. It is located at 2224 Jewella Ave., Shreveport. Not open to the public. (318) 631-6222.

## CENTRAL COLORED HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS DIPLOMAS TO 134



## TEXAS AVENUE

This was the center of black business and social life from the 1900s-1950s. Black businesses flourished in the 800-1100 blocks of "The Avenue." Star Theater, YMCA, Henrietta's Beauty School, and Universal Oil & Gas (the only black oil company at this time) were some of the businesses located on Texas Avenue in downtown Shreveport.



# SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE

## **WILBERT ANDERSON**

The first black deputy sheriff in Bossier Parish, hired Feb. 1, 1968 under late Sheriff Willie Waggoner. Also served as the first black licensed bail bondsman and retired as the first black detective in the Bossier Sheriff Department.

## **ALBERT BELLE**

This Huntington High School graduate is the former hard-hitting home run specialist for the Cleveland Indians baseball club.

## **ANNIE M. BELTON**

She was a member of the modeling troupe “Les Fashions” along with civil rights icons Mamie Love Wallace and Bernice Smith. The group regularly sponsored fashion shows to raise funds for area causes. In addition to being one of Shreveport’s earliest and most successful African-American professional models, Belton was Shreveport’s first Head Start teacher.



## **FRANK BRADLEY**

A Benton, Louisiana native, he pitched six seasons in the American Negro Leagues with the Kansas City Monarchs from 1937-43. His baseball career started locally as a member of the Shreveport Tigers.



## **ANNE BREWSTER**

An NAACP civil rights worker and co-owner of a Shreveport beauty shop, died in 1964 in her Allendale home in what looked like a suicide. A memorial has been set up at Little Union Baptist Church where she was a choir member.

## **JERRY TIM BROOKS**

He was the first black to play on the Querbes Golf Course in 1964. His first iron was a broken five-iron that a white man had broken and given to him. He fixed it up with a stick and played in the streets and vacant fields. His golf career consisted of 603 amateur golf tournament victories. He was inducted into the Southern University Hall of Fame.

## **WILLIE BURTON**

The first black from Shreveport to be named three separate times as president of the Caddo Parish School Board. Also served as president of the Louisiana School Board Association and was the author of four books.



## **JOHNNIE L. COCHRAN**

Shreveport native who was one of the most sought-after defense lawyers in the country. Known as the lead defense attorney for football great O.J. Simpson in perhaps the most captivating murder trial in U.S. history.

## **JOE DELANEY**

The Kansas City Chiefs drafted him, and in his first season he ran for more than 1,000 yards and was selected to play in the Pro Bowl. On June 29, 1983, he lost his life while attempting to save the lives of three drowning children. In July 1983, this Haughton native was awarded the Presidential Citizen Medal for making the ultimate sacrifice.

# DOWNTOWN SHREVEPORT MAP

Map of downtown Shreveport for self-guided driving tour.

- A** Festival Plaza - Let the Good Times Roll Festival and Shreveport Labor Day Southern Soul Blues Festival
- B** Huddie “Leadbelly” Ledbetter Statue
- C** Multicultural Center of the South



SHREVEPORT



- D** Municipal Auditorium - African-American Parade
- E** Oakland Cemetery
- F** “Once in a Millennium Moon” Mural
- G** Southern University at Shreveport and Southern University Museum of Art





### **CEDRIC B. GLOVER**

First African-American mayor of Shreveport, he was elected in November 2006 and then to a second term in November 2010. He was the youngest individual ever elected to the Shreveport City Council in 1990. In 1995, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives.

### **T.J. HAWKINS**

Thought to be Shreveport's first African-American mail carrier, Hawkins was a prominent civic leader. He was a Mason, a trustee of the Antioch Baptist Church, and an advocate for improvements for the Cooper Road community.



### **GARY "BIG HANDS" JOHNSON**

Former Grambling State University football star played for the San Diego Chargers and was voted Super Bowl MVP. Johnson, who grew up in Bossier City, is listed in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

### **HUDDIE "LEADBELLY" LEDBETTER**

Reared in Mooringsport, Ledbetter was a legendary blues and folk singer who played a 12-string guitar along Fannin Street. A bronze statue of him was dedicated in 1993. Known for such songs as "Goodnight Irene," "The Midnight Special," and "Rock Island Line."





### **JUDI ANN MASON**

Television producer Norman Lear discovered this scriptwriter while she attended Grambling State University. A native of Bossier City, she wrote for several television shows including *Different Strokes*, *A Different World*, and *I'll Fly Away*, and movies including *Sister Act II*.



### **COURTLAND T. MILLOY, SR.**

He was one of Booker T. Washington High School's original faculty members upon its 1950 opening. As owner of Milloy's Photo-Graphics, Inc., he and wife Blanche Milloy were responsible for photographing many of the city's most historic events and people.

### **CHARLOTTE MITCHELL**

She was the first black supervisor named to serve in the Bossier Parish School System. She had a local public school named after her. Today, that historical school at 1518 Cox St. in Bossier City serves as an alternative educational center.

### **RILEY STEWART**

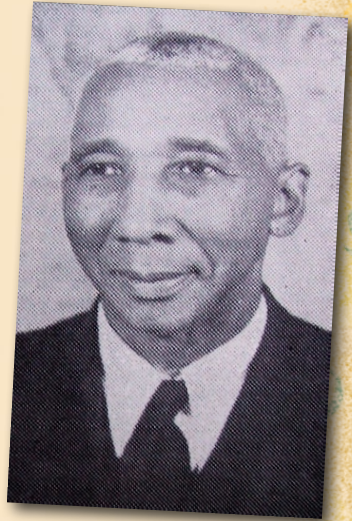
Legendary football coach at Charlotte Mitchell High School and former assistant principal at Airline High School, he once starred as a pitcher in the Negro Baseball League.

## **ODESSA S. STRICKLAND**

From Minden and Shreveport, he was one of the founders of Universal Oil, Gas and Mining Company, Inc., in 1930 and served as secretary/general manager of the company for many years. He was credited with the invention of the electrometer, which could locate, trace, and define the meter and bounds of oil and gas fields.

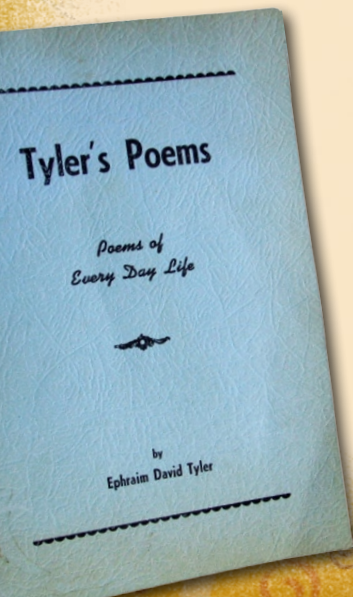
## **EPHRAIM DAVID TYLER**

Referred to as the “Rustic Poet” and “Shreveport’s Poet Laureate.” He was born in 1884. He wrote about his experiences, racial problems and personal views throughout his life. His poetry is read by thousands of black and white Americans.



## **OLLIE TYLER**

Ollie Tyler was the first African-American woman to hold the office of Superintendent of Caddo Parish schools. She held this position from 2003-2007.



*Book of Poetry by  
Ephraim David Tyler*



# FESTIVALS & EVENTS

## **AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARADE**

Annual parade held the first weekend of February promotes black history and community pride. The parade begins at the Municipal Auditorium in Shreveport and features bands and floats. **D**

## **SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN'S COOKING CLASSIC**

This event is known for its fabulous cuisine and rich variety of personalities and chefs. Amateur and professional chefs compete for prizes. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit Southern University's scholarship program. It's held each June.

## **KREWE OF HARAMBEE**

Formed in 2000, Harambee is Shreveport's first African-American krewe. Its mission is to encourage the participation of minorities in the Mardi Gras traditions. The krewe annually hosts a ball and MLK parade. [www.KreweofHarambee.tripod.com](http://www.KreweofHarambee.tripod.com)

## **KREWE OF SOBEK**

Nonprofit charitable and social organization founded in 2003. The krewe is dedicated to sharing the Mardi Gras experience with the inner-city. Each year, the krewe holds a parade and ball. [www.KreweofSobek.org](http://www.KreweofSobek.org)

## **LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL FESTIVAL**

African-American culture is celebrated with music, food, and art during this three-day event, which coincides with the Juneteenth celebration.

Festival Plaza, Shreveport.  
[www.RhoOmega.com](http://www.RhoOmega.com) **A**

*Krewe of Harambee*





# ARTS & CULTURE

## MULTICULTURAL CENTER OF THE SOUTH

This center is a celebration of differences! The museum explores the history and heritage of the residents of Shreveport, Bossier City, and international cultures. The center endeavors to promote understanding and appreciation of all ethnicities and 17 cultures represented in the South. 520 Spring St., Shreveport.



Open Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
\$3 adults, \$2 seniors and students.  
Children under 3 free. (318) 424-1380. **C**

## “ONCE IN A MILLENNIUM MOON” MEGA MURAL

Nation’s largest public arts mural, covering 25,000 square feet. A unique time capsule capturing the people of Shreveport in vivid color. AT&T building at Cotton St. & Marshall St. in downtown Shreveport. (318) 673-6500. **F**

## PAMOJA ART SOCIETY

Collective of artists who came together in 1974 to nurture, create, and promote art by African-American artists in the Shreveport-Bossier area. Open to the public. 3806 Linwood Ave., Shreveport. (318) 638-8739. [www.PamojaArtSociety.org](http://www.PamojaArtSociety.org).

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART

Collection of more than 300 pieces of African and African-American art. Open Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 610 Texas St., Shreveport. (318) 670-9631. **G**


## **STEPHEN'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM**

African-American historical documents, art, and memorabilia. 2810 Lindholm Ave., Shreveport. Admission \$2, 12 and under free. (318) 635-2147.

## **THEATRE OF PERFORMING ARTS (African-American Theatre)**

Established in 1975, Theatre of the Performing Arts of Shreveport is a nonprofit whose mission is to foster the culture, arts, and history of African-Americans; to offer multi-disciplined arts programs for children, youth, and adults. [www.tpaarts.org](http://www.tpaarts.org).

## **SHREVEPORT LABOR DAY SOUTHERN SOUL BLUES FESTIVAL**

The Sunday before Labor Day, national and local soul blues artists meet at Festival Plaza for the annual festival beginning at 4 p.m. until 11 p.m. 

## **SOUL BOWL**

Annual Shreveport football game between high school rivals, the Green Oaks Giants and the Booker T. Washington Tigers. Occurs each fall in Shreveport.



*"Once in a Millennium Moon"  
Mega Mural*

# OTHER SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE

**Cora Allen** - Shreveport native and visionary. Developer of the Calanthean Temple.

**Juanita Baranco** - Shreveport native and co-owner of the city's largest auto dealership.

**James Bell** - The first black to be appointed/elected to the Haughton City Council.



*Cora Allen*

**Rev. Harry Blake** - Pastor and secretary of the National Baptist Convention.

**Jeff Darby** - The first black president of the Bossier Parish School Board.

**William Hines** - The first black police officer in Shreveport.

**Rev. Edward E. Jones** - Pastor and former president of the National Baptist Convention.

**Dea. G. L. Pearrie** - Louisiana native and influential in desegregating the Shreveport Trade School in 1960.

**Charles Philyaw** - Shreveport native and former NFL defensive end for the Oakland Raiders. Philyaw was a member of the Raiders Super Bowl championship team of 1976-77.

**Vassie Richardson** - The first black woman president of the Bossier Parish School Board.

**Bobby J. Rusley** - Former Harlem Globetrotter and North Louisiana award-winning basketball coach.

**Richard Williams** - Shreveport native and father of the famous tennis greats, Venus and Serena Williams.



# FAMOUS ATHLETES

## WRESTLING

Mid-South Wrestling - C.J. "King Cobra" James.

## TRACK & FIELD

Olympian Silver & Bronze Medalist - Hollis Conway.

## NFL PLAYERS

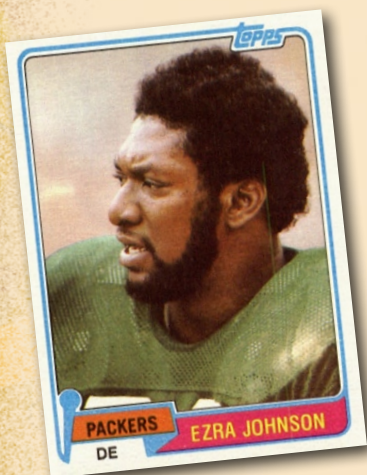
Myron Baker, Ezra Johnson, Patrick Dennis, Larry Anderson, Liffort Hobley, Wendell Davis, Troy Edwards, Kenny Davidson, Morris Claiborne.

## NBA PLAYERS

Randy White, Kenneth Simpson, Larry Robinson, Robert Parish, Stromile Swift.

## CFL PLAYER

Lorenza Baker, Jr.



*Ezra Johnson*



*Robert Parish*

# ENTERTAINERS & ARTISTS

**Teresa Blake** - Hollywood actress

**Rose Brown** - Writer/  
author of children's books

**Akasha "Gloria" Hull** -  
Writer, lecturer, professor  
of women's studies

**Phyllis Kidd** - Writer/  
author

**Eddie "Coot" Lewis** -  
Drummer with big band  
leaders such as  
Cab Calloway and  
Benny Goodman



*Akasha "Gloria" Hull*

**Jesse Pitts** - Sculptor and artist

**Nita Whitaker** - First African-American "Miss  
Louisiana" and was in the movie *The Bodyguard*

**David Whitehead** - Writer/author

**Chuckie Williams** - Artist



*Nita Whitaker*


# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Shreveport-Bossier African-American Chamber of Commerce  
1315 Milam St., Shreveport. (318) 220-9098.

Minority Business Council of Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, 400 Edwards, Shreveport. (318) 677-2500.

Minority Supplier Institute  
631 Milam St., Suite 105, Shreveport. (318) 652-1155.

# EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Southern University at Shreveport  
3050 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. and  
610 Texas St., Shreveport. (318) 670-6000. 

Grambling State University  
403 Main St., Grambling, LA (318) 674-3300.





For more information contact:  
**Shreveport-Bossier Convention  
& Tourist Bureau**  
629 Spring Street  
Shreveport, LA 71101

888-458-4748 or 318-222-9391  
[www.shreveport-bossier.org](http://www.shreveport-bossier.org)  
[info@sbctb.org](mailto:info@sbctb.org)



[twitter.com/sbctb](https://twitter.com/sbctb)  
[facebook.com/LouisianasOtherSide](https://facebook.com/LouisianasOtherSide)  
[youtube.com/sbctb11](https://youtube.com/sbctb11)  
[flickr.com/photos/shreveportbossier](https://flickr.com/photos/shreveportbossier)

Research Credit:

“The Blacker the Berry: A Black History of Shreveport”

A bibliography written by Willie Burton about African American heritage and history in Shreveport, LA. Published in 2002.

Black Ethnic Archives Southern University at Shreveport

Established in 1992. The mission of the archives is to collect, preserve, and make available to researchers materials that document the history of African Americans in Northwest Louisiana.

Open to the public. 3050 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. (318) 670-9482.

LSU-Shreveport Archives & Special Collections

Noel Memorial Library is located on the Louisiana State University Shreveport campus at One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115.

Mike Rosebery

Photographer of the Calanthean Temple photos.