

Donate to the Emmett Till Interpretive Center



Winners of the 2024 Sickle Cell Walk in Sumner.

ETIC Supports Third Annual Sickle Cell Walk to Raise Local Awareness in Sumner

Venita Halbert, community engagement coordinator for the Emmett Till Interpretive Center (ETIC), assisted in the Breaking the Silence Sickle Cell 5K Walk/Run & Community Health Fair in Sumner on April 20th. This event, sponsored by the Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation, was held at the R.H. Bearden Elementary School, the third annual walk. Evelyn Washington, resident of Sunflower County

and mother to a son with sickle cell anemia, is the major organizer behind the event. The goal is to break the silence around sickle cell disease, which the CDC estimates as affecting 1 out of every 365 Black people. Not everyone knows how to deal with the disease, so the event has aimed to raise awareness and to provide support for people affected by the disease in the community.

People of all ages turned out to support the cause. Two of the top three finishers in the race were in their 80s.

Venita volunteered to help organize the event, and ETIC donated snacks and water for participants. "It was such an honor to be a part of the Breaking the Silence Sickle Cell 5K Walk/Run because we all need to be aware of the challenges that people with sickle cell face in our community, including proper facilities and proper engagement," said Venita. "We hope the event helps provide kids with information to make their experience a little easier and that it lets them know we are in this fight together."

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ETIC Public Engagement Director Accepted to Alluvial Collective's Transatlantic Exchange Program

Benjamin Saulsberry, public engagement and museum education director for the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, has been accepted to participate in the Transatlantic Exchange Program organized by the Alluvial Collective. Entitled "Neglected Stories: Elevating Marginalized Narratives in the U.S. & Germany," the program runs May 24th to June 2nd in Germany and then in the U.S. from September 5th to 15th. The Germany portion of the program will begin in Bad Bevensen and travel to Berlin, whereas the U.S. portion will begin in Jackson, MS and finish in Philadelphia, PA.

Participants will explore their own stories and perspectives; they will also engage in field visits and converse with people whose work focuses on subverting hegemonic narratives, interrogating how neglected stories can be woven into dominant public discourses. The goal of the program is to share stories, build relationships, and reflect on how to lift up marginalized stories.

Twenty participants were selected, with half from the U.S. and half from Germany, all connected to work in communities, non-governmental institutions, and/or memory.

"Being selected to participate in the Alluvial Collective's 'Neglected Stories: Elevating Marginalized Narratives in the U.S. & Germany' is a true honor," Benjamin said. "Working in spaces focused on challenging narratives and lived experiences has shown me the critical importance of creating environments and programs that encourage deep listening and empathy as catalysts for potential change in our global society. My greatest aspiration is to absorb as much knowledge as possible during this exchange and to integrate these practices into my daily life, both professionally and

personally. I am deeply grateful to be a part of this cohort.”



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