Crossroads Cultural Arts Center

Timothy E. Lampkin
Community Development Officer
Southern Bancorp Community Partners
timothy.lampkin@southernpartners.org
Souther Bancorp Community Partners

(SBCP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and certified community development financial institution (CDFI) with a mission to transform rural communities.

Invest. Empower. Transform
Clarksdale, MS

- Mississippi Delta – Poorest Region in the United States
- Clarksdale is located in Coahoma County
- Home of the Blues
Coahoma County Strategic Community Plan

Your Plan, Our Future!
Community Engagement
600+ residents create a detailed community strategic plan
The Beginning
Inclusive Art Education  Civil Rights History  Indigenous Folk Art
Proposed Activities

• Juried Art Festival in MLK Park
• Educational Traveling Trunks
• Art Gallery
• Multi-Generational Programming
• Visiting Artist Series
• Civil Rights Reading Room
Clarksdale Reviltization, Inc. (Non-Profit)

City of Clarksdale (Government)

Coahoma County Board of Supervisors (Government)

Southern Bancorp Community Partners (CDFI)

Coahoma Community College (HBCU)
Building Selection

Former Cotton Storage Building

Downtown Clarksdale

7,000 Square Ft

3,000 Square Ft Warehouse Attached

Competitive Advantage

The development of CCAC satisfies an identified gap in Coahoma County's cultural opportunities. The competitive analysis consists of an inventory of existing programs that CCAC will supplement because there are no direct competitors in Coahoma County. Ongoing public and private programs in the area include:

- Pottery making classes given privately that are cost prohibitive for most residents;
- Visual arts education offered in public schools do not address Delta indigenous culture and have limited resources to introduce advanced techniques;
- Art education is not offered at all schools in Coahoma County;
- Coahoma Community College offers art classes only for adults enrolled at the college;
- Griot teaches computer graphics, instrumental and vocal music and several art disciplines to a limited number of at risk youth; and
- Delta Blues Museum offers music lessons three days per week.

Most of the arts instruction available in Coahoma County is provided to individuals by private instructors, which is cost prohibitive for the majority of residents. CCAC will be able to offer alternatives by attracting larger classes and using volunteers and donations to reduce costs. Reduced or sliding scale class fees and scholarships will be supported by special event fundraising specifically for art class scholarships.

Unlike the other programs, CCAC will be able to offer a multi-time slot schedule of classes and workshops tailored to both adults and children. With dedicated instructional and studio space as well as a gallery and gift shop with art supplies, CCAC is poised to use its high profile location to great advantage, attracting broad participation from residents and visitors. Highly qualified multicultural professional staff and volunteers will be recruited from Clarksdale's arts community.

CCAC will embody the full perspective of the African American experience in the Delta. It will fill a void and simultaneously complement other local museums and educational programs.
Crossroads Cultural Arts Center

Juke Joint Stage
Crossroads Cultural Arts Center

CCAC will be a multidisciplinary facility dedicated to the preservation and celebration of artistic expression evolving from the experiences of Delta residents and their creative use of available resources. CCAC is intended to help instill pride in the communities from which these expressions originated while helping other cultural groups gain a better understanding of the Delta experience. CCAC will accomplish this by teaching both modern techniques, such as digital photography, and traditional techniques, such as painting, pottery, and fiber arts. Its classes and displays will link the artworks to the origins of art forms and their relationship with life in the Delta. CCAC’s arts focus will preserve the meanings and practices of the traditional art forms while encouraging their creative evolution. CCAC will be a place for sharing the artworks from various disciplines with residents and tourists. Artworks will be shared through: permanent and revolving exhibits of African American Delta artists; an annual juried art festival held in nearby Martin Luther King Park; and traveling trunks for schools that portray the legacy of the art forms brought over by African Americans and their evolution in the Delta. Individual artistic expression as well as collaborative community-based artwork will be incorporated into classes and workshops to celebrate the rich history and culture of the Delta. Traveling trunks for arts instruction relevant to Delta history will be developed for use in local school districts. CCAC will establish partnerships with regional school districts to share the wealth of knowledge. Historic materials documenting the lives of African Americans in the Delta will be collected and displayed in a reading room designed for individual study and reflection for groups of students or tourists. Delta-based arts forms will also be showcased at CCAC. Music, small-stage theater, and spoken word performances can be shared from CCAC’s stage. Culinary art classes can be offered from CCAC’s two kitchens. Local artists and cultural experts will contribute to the operation of CCAC. A loft apartment will be maintained on the second floor. This space may be used for visiting or resident artists. A gift shop and an information counter will be installed on the first floor.
Crossroads Cultural Arts Center

• Purchased Building

• Recruited Board Members for the Independent Non-Profit Board

• Established New Partnerships with Two After School Programs

• Identified Additional Funding for Programming/Staff

• Exploring innovative concepts such as 3D Printing
Crossroads Cultural Arts Center