



THE HOLIDAYS, INCORPORATED

Birmingham Chapter

Holiday Katrina Ross McClendon, President

April 7, 2026

Greetings Holidays:

On behalf of the Birmingham Chapter of The Holidays, Incorporated, I am delighted to extend a warm invitation to you to join us in the Birmingham Metropolitan Area, Alabama, for our **55th Annual Concourse of The Holidays, Incorporated**. Our theme this year is **"Marveling in the Magic City."** We sincerely hope that you will attend and depart with a deeper understanding of why this theme perfectly represents our event and the Birmingham Metropolitan Area.

Birmingham Metropolitan Area has played a pivotal role in significant moments throughout American history. Both the city and the state of Alabama are closely linked to the origins and progress of the civil rights movement. The Civil Rights Institute is a museum and research center showcasing the history of the struggle for civil rights in America.

Birmingham's growth as an industrial powerhouse was fueled by its abundant natural resources, including coal, iron, ore, and limestone. The city's steel industry boomed in the 20th century. Vulcan Park and Museum pay homage to Birmingham's roots as an iron and steel town, while the statue of Vulcan watches over the city from atop Red Mountain.

Today, UAB Hospital is Birmingham's largest employer. According to the 2025-2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital rankings, UAB Hospital is the number one hospital in Alabama and the Birmingham metro area.

Birmingham is also home to many notable individuals, including Condoleezza Rice, Willie Mays, Angela Davis, Eddie Kendricks, and Ruben Studdard. Bessemer is the home of Actor Andre Holland (Salem) and Houston Texan head coach, DeMeco Ryans. Legendary singer Eddie Levert hails from Bessemer, Alabama and Diana Ross spent some of her childhood in Bessemer, Alabama. Most notable of all, Bessemer is home to our charter member, Lydia Lewis Alexander.

With Chair, Holiday Denise Blue Poe and Co-chairs, Holidays Agnes Chappell, Margie Curry, Claudia Williams and Dorothy Wilson at the helm, we are dedicated to making this Concourse an unforgettable experience. We invite you to join us in the **Magic City** from **September 3-6, 2026**. Hosting the 55th Concourse fills us with anticipation, and we can't wait to welcome each of you!

Sincerely,
Katrina Ross McClendon
President of Birmingham Chapter