

# Bringing an African American Library to Boggs



Written by Jacqueline Bosby  
My Story with the Queen of Keysville

*“ The idea of having a library in Keysville, Ga. wasn’t new, but having something that represented Boggs was. ”* stated by Jacqueline Bosby.

In 2010, I saw a vision of beauty, as I stepped out of the car onto the property of Boggs with the President of the Board of Directors, Ovita Thornton, I knew I had to have the JPN Black Youth Heritage Expo there. In my heart I knew this was what I had been searching for since the origination of the program in 1994.

.....I met Mayor Gresham at a GCC function in Wadley Ga, in 2010, I remember speaking with Mayor Gresham about a few things that day but she kept going back to the swimming pool and the library being open since Keysville didn't have one. I told her I could see a library and I would make a few calls to see if we could maybe be a branch. She was excited to tell me everything she tried to do while she was Mayor of Keysville., Ga. *her hometown*. But, her excitement and my numerous calls went no where. So I asked the Board of Directors if I could have my program at Boggs and they said yes, so in 2014, I had my first program there. (We had over 700 students attend) Each year the kids would come in and the first thing they would notice was the library so we incorporated a research component into the program to include the library,.

2016, I saw Mayor Gresham at Boggs and she asked me what happened to the library as I told her everything I had been trying she said we have to work harder. So on that day I knew it had to be more than a library, it really needed to be a research and culture center which will allow me to expand my program and bring something great to the entire community.

So March 2017, I presented another proposal to the Boggs Rural Life Center Board to open an African American Research Library & Cultural Center, in honor of a Boggs Academy Aluminaous, Community Activist, GCC Member, Multi Award Winning Recipient, Former Mayor of Keysville, Ga., Historical Icon, and active Board Member until her passing March 2018, of the Boggs Rural Life Center, Inc.. “Mayor Emma Gresham and it was approved.

**February 1st, 2018 we opened our doors to you!**