

African American

Journalist

abolitionist feminist

Memphis Owes a Debt to

Ida B.

Wells

Now. is the time to honor Ida B. Wells

Ida B. Wells is nationally recognized as an anti-lynching advocate, a champion of civil rights and women's suffrage. But in Memphis, she was still just a black woman who was "run out of town for stirring the Negroes up."

Her life was threatened and her office on Beale Street destroyed for reporting on the brutal Memphis lynching of three men in 1892: Thomas Moss, a good friend who owned the People's Grocery, and his business partners, Will Stewart and Calvin McDowell

Ida B. Wells risked her life to oppose oppression, racism, and violence in America. She deserves to be honored for her heroic stand on injustice that inspired change and challenged American societal ailments.

A place of remembrance for Ms. Wells great work would fulfill our moral and civil duty to keep her life and work ever a light in our children coming up—not only here, but children from around the world. When visitors walk by the memorial on world-class destination, Beale Street, they will walk by the statue of Ms. Wells, and ask, "What is the meaning of this place?"

And there, the bronze likeness of Ms. Wells in the strength of her youth when she walked the streets of Memphis will stand as a noble testament that she lived, she loved, and she tried to do what was right in the city she called home. The inscription would tell the saga of her life here in Memphis, and the shame we bear as a city in seeking her life.

With the memorial to Ida B. Wells we can say to the world, "No, we did not want Ms. Wells here, and we did not appreciate her life and work, but now is a time of repentance and sorrow for the past. She will never see it, but her descendants in Chicago can finally experience a sense of healing from the deep, historic wound of what was done to Ms. Wells.

A memorial to Ida B. Wells would pay that which we have owed this great woman.

Join us in memorializing, repenting, and healing.

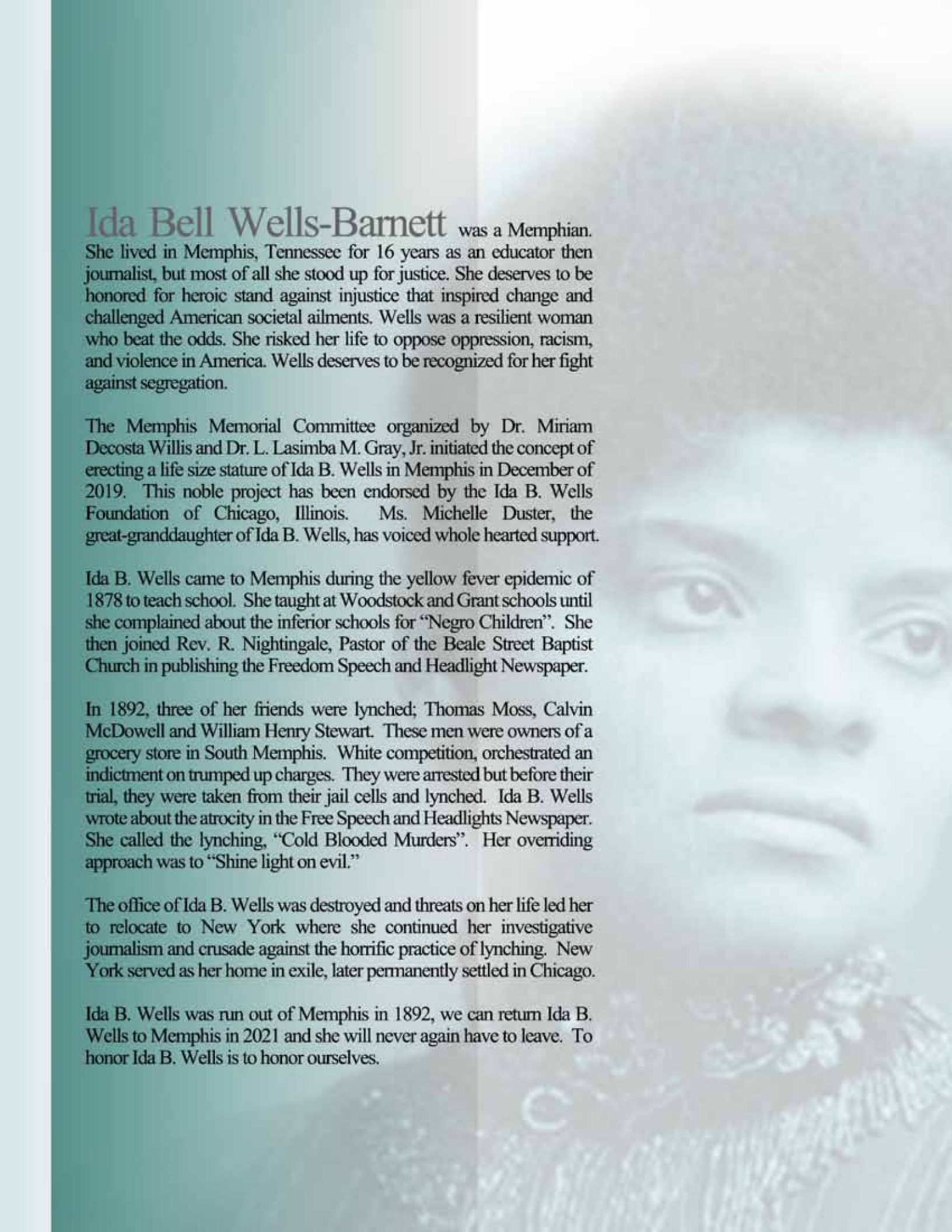
Dr. Miriam Decosta Willis and Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr.



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PROPOSED SITE LOCATION:
 Downtown Memphis
 at the corner of
 Beale Street & Fourth Street



Ida Bell Wells-Barnett was a Memphian. She lived in Memphis, Tennessee for 16 years as an educator then journalist, but most of all she stood up for justice. She deserves to be honored for heroic stand against injustice that inspired change and challenged American societal ailments. Wells was a resilient woman who beat the odds. She risked her life to oppose oppression, racism, and violence in America. Wells deserves to be recognized for her fight against segregation.

The Memphis Memorial Committee organized by Dr. Miriam Decosta Willis and Dr. L. Lasimba M. Gray, Jr. initiated the concept of erecting a life size stature of Ida B. Wells in Memphis in December of 2019. This noble project has been endorsed by the Ida B. Wells Foundation of Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Michelle Duster, the great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells, has voiced whole hearted support.

Ida B. Wells came to Memphis during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 to teach school. She taught at Woodstock and Grant schools until she complained about the inferior schools for “Negro Children”. She then joined Rev. R. Nightingale, Pastor of the Beale Street Baptist Church in publishing the Freedom Speech and Headlight Newspaper.

In 1892, three of her friends were lynched; Thomas Moss, Calvin McDowell and William Henry Stewart. These men were owners of a grocery store in South Memphis. White competition, orchestrated an indictment on trumped up charges. They were arrested but before their trial, they were taken from their jail cells and lynched. Ida B. Wells wrote about the atrocity in the Free Speech and Headlights Newspaper. She called the lynching, “Cold Blooded Murders”. Her overriding approach was to “Shine light on evil.”

The office of Ida B. Wells was destroyed and threats on her life led her to relocate to New York where she continued her investigative journalism and crusade against the horrific practice of lynching. New York served as her home in exile, later permanently settled in Chicago.

Ida B. Wells was run out of Memphis in 1892, we can return Ida B. Wells to Memphis in 2021 and she will never again have to leave. To honor Ida B. Wells is to honor ourselves.



Join Us in Honoring Ida B. Wells
To be a partner and support the efforts, please make all
tax-deductible checks payable to:

Neshoba Community Resource Center

Attn: A Memphis Memorial to Ida B. Wells
7715 E Holmes Rd Memphis, TN 38125-3823
901.754.3979

OR ELECTRONIC/ MOBILE DONATIONS

PAY PAL

Search - idabwellstatue@gmail.com to give donation.

VENMO

Search - idabwellstatue@gmail.com to give donation

CASHAPP

\$IdaBWellstatue

Donor Benefits

	\$25,000 +	\$15,000 - \$24,999	\$ 5,000 - \$14,999	\$ 1,000 - \$4,999	
<i>Replica of the Statue/ Bust of Ida B. Wells</i>	●				
<i>Commemorative Plaque</i>	●	●			
<i>Photo or graphic illustration of the statue signed by the sculptor</i>	●	●	●		
<i>Name on plaque at the Ida B. Wells Plaza*</i>	●	●	●	●	
<i>Certificate of Appreciation & Special VIP invitation to the unveiling</i>	●	●	●	●	●

**Size of name to be commensurate with size of gift*