

African American Hall of Fame

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African American Hall of Fame Museum

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Mission

To educate through preserving and promoting art, history and artifacts that highlight African American achievements in our community and beyond.

Vision

To educate the community about individuals who have made significant contributions to African American history, culture and society by hosting and sponsoring social and educational events that promote harmony while increasing the awareness of the uniqueness within African American culture. To challenge every person to view the diversity in the world around them as an opportunity to explore the past, embrace the present, and shape the future.



Board of Directors: Bobby Gray, Rosemary McCullough, President, Barry Anderson, Jackie Watkins, Junior Watkins, Chris Weaver, Camille Coates, Howard Johnson

Photo by Kevin Kyle

The African American Hall of Fame Museum serves as a medium to educate the community through collaborative programs with students from Bradley University, the Fine Arts Society of Peoria, Concerned African American Retirees, Proctor Center and the Peoria Riverfront Museum. The AAHEM is a vehicle to maintain and herald the contributions of African Americans and other individuals who demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion through their actions. Students need to know the history of our community and the history of their families in order to expand their vision, to overcome obstacles, and understand that life is not always fair.

COMMITTEE ON RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS

The African American Hall of Fame sponsors special art projects through its C.O.R.A. (Committee On Recognizing Achievements) component. It completed its first statue installation with the Richard Pryor sculpture at State and Washington in Peoria. Additional sculptures are planned, and fundraising for the Jimmy Binkley statue is underway.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The following notables were recently inducted into the AAHEM:

- **Warner Baxter**, chairman, president and CEO of Ameren Corporation, received the William Watkins Jr. Founder's Award for his support of diversity and inclusion at Ameren.
- **Dr. James B. Stafford, Jr.** received the Garrett Humanitarian Award for his lifelong advocacy for families and young people.
- **Patricia Y. Pie**, retired Lt. Colonel, U.S. Air Force, received the Joshua Smith Corporate Diversity Award for distinguished service in the Air Force and as commander of the Presidential

Communications Command at the White House.

- **Alfred J. Hooks** was awarded the Geraldine Mitchell Public Service Award for dedicating countless hours of service to the Peoria area.
- **David P. Bozeman** received the African American Hall of Fame Achievement Award for his executive service at Caterpillar Inc. and Amazon.
- **Ronald A. Givens** received the Sports Leadership Award honoring his racing career as the first African American stock car driver in Peoria and Iowa.
- **Judy "Page" Adkisson** received the Arts & Entertainment Award for a musical career spanning more than 56 years.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The African American Hall of Fame Museum awards scholarships to African American students in Peoria Public Schools and Bloomington/Normal Schools. Scholarships are sponsored by individuals who are committed to award the brightest and the best African American scholars from Peoria and the twin cities.

Upcoming Events

DC Bus Trip

May 18 – 21, 2017

AAHEM is sponsoring a bus trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. The trip includes transportation, lodging, metro pass and entrance to the museum. Contact Ronda Guyton for information at (309) 472-4838.

Red, Black and Green Ball

February 24, 2018

Peoria Riverfront Museum

How to Help

- Volunteers are needed to complete the accession project at Proctor Center by cataloging artifacts, photographs, articles, books and original art pieces. Contact Rosemary McCullough at (309) 360-0990 to join the volunteer team.
- Help us recognize the achievements of local leaders through public art. Contributions should be designated as a C.O.R.A. donation.
- Support an outstanding African American college-bound student in Peoria Public Schools or Bloomington/Normal Schools by contacting Rosemary McCullough at (309) 360-0990.
- Submit your nomination for 2018 inductees into the African American Hall of Fame by picking up an application at Proctor Center. The deadline for nominees is November 1, 2017.
- Make an appointment to record your story or provide your historical perspective by calling (309) 673-2206 or sending an email to aahfmpeoria@yahoo.com.