

NEWS FROM THE
South Carolina
African
American
Heritage
Foundation



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Call & Response

www.scaaheritagefound.org

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South Carolina African American Heritage Commission Commemorates its 25th Anniversary

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission held its annual "Preserving our Places in History" awards ceremony on April 4, 2019 at the South Carolina Archives and History Center in Columbia.

"It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 25th year celebration of "Preserving Our Places in History" by the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission" said, Jannie Harriot, Executive Director of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation and Chairperson of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission. "Yearly we take this time to recognize efforts to preserve the legacy of African Americans in South Carolina and encourage others to do the same."

Michael Boulware Moore, President and CEO of the International African American Museum, Charleston, South Carolina was the keynote speaker. An exceptional performance by Claflin University Concert Choir thrilled the audience.



Michael Boulware Moore



Kim Love Quick gave an emotional tribute to her late father and former SCAAHC Chairman Leon Love who passed away in 2016.





Master and Mistress of Ceremony:
Ms. Tre' Taylor and Mr. Wally Amos



Dr. Vivian Ayers was presented the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission's "Preserving Our Places in History" **Herbert A. DeCosta Trailblazer Award** for innovative achievements in preserving and supporting art and cultural diversity. Among her many accomplishments, Ayers became the founding director of the Brainerd Memorial Project in Chester and was instrumental in preserving the memory of the prestigious Brainerd Institute, where she was a member of the last graduating class.

She received national acclaim for her writings. Her book of poetry *Spices of Dawn* was nominated for Pulitzer Prize in 1952, and her 1957 poem *The Hawk* has been honored by NASA for its use of space flight as an allegory of freedom.

Ayers, a Chester native is most widely known as the mother of Phylicia Rashad and Debbie Allen. Rashad pictured above right recited a passage from one of Ayers' poems.



The **Leon A. Love Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented posthumously to Dr. Willie Harriford, Jr., an outstanding historian, archivist, administrator, and mentor who provided opportunities for countless young men and women. Harriford was the first director of the African American Studies Program and a former assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Carolina. Receiving the award on his behalf is Dean Harriford's son, W.L. "Chip" Harriford, center, Dr. Bobby Donaldson, left, and SCAAHC Chairperson Jannie Harriot, right."



Dalton Tresvant,
SCAAFC Board
Member brought
greetings on
behalf of
Congressman
James Clyburn.





Pictured on the left: Williamsburg County historian Cassandra Williams Rush received the 2019 **Individual Award**.

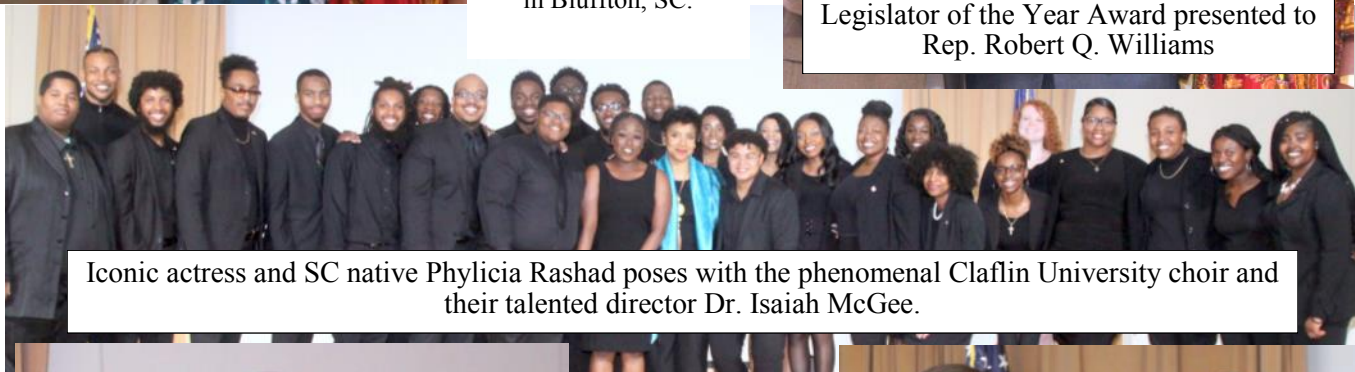
Pictured on the right: **Commissioner of the Year** honor was presented to Dr. Larry Watson professor at SC State University and the University of South Carolina.



SCAAHC chairperson Jannie Harriot and 2019 Commissioner of the Year Dr. Larry Watson present one of three **Preservation Project Awards** to a representative of the Garvin-Garvey House, a fully restored and interpreted Reconstruction-era freedman's cottage in Bluffton, SC.



Legislator of the Year Award presented to Rep. Robert Q. Williams

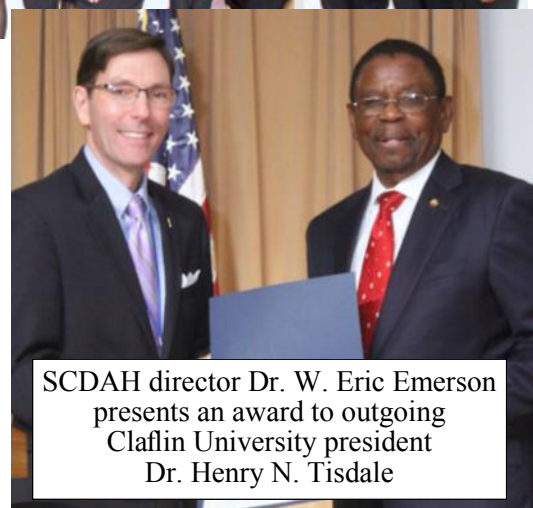


Iconic actress and SC native Phylicia Rashad poses with the phenomenal Claflin University choir and their talented director Dr. Isaiah McGee.



Preservation Project Award
Champion Pearson Funeral Home

Not pictured: Holly Springs Colored School in Belton, SC., a **Preservation Project Award** winner.



SCDAH director Dr. W. Eric Emerson presents an award to outgoing Claflin University president Dr. Henry N. Tisdale





SCAAHC recognized two organizations in the Group or Organization category. The **Group Award** was presented to the City of Hartsville's African American Cemetery Committee.

Historic Charleston was recognized for its work on the W. Gresham Meggett Equalization School Project. The school was built on James Island under South Carolina's equalization program in an effort to keep African American and white students in separate public schools. During the research, the materials and memories provided by many of the alumni helped shape its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.



The South Carolina General Assembly presented honorary resolutions to each of the SCAAHC's charter members. Pictured alongside our current chairperson Jannie Harriot, left, and Victoria Smalls, far right, are two recipients, Elizabeth Alston, the first chairperson of the SCAAHC, and Vanessa Turner-Maybank.





Charles Randolph Wright

Internationally renowned playwright and director Charles Randolph-Wright was the keynote speaker at the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) 25th Anniversary Gala on April 5, 2019 at the SC Archives and History Center in Columbia. Charles Randolph-Wright, a native of York, South Carolina, recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Duke University for a lifetime of extraordinary achievements. Wright has directed episodes of the series GREENLEAF for Oprah Winfrey's network. He co-wrote and directed the world premiere of the musical BORN FOR THIS with gospel icon Bebe Winans.

Hopkins native, John Lakin who has been hailed as a prolific songwriter, praise and worship leader and psalmist performed at the gala. Lakin has been a consistent, yet underlying name in the Gospel industry for over 20 years. His songs have been recorded by national Gospel recording artists including Ricky Dillard, Bruce Parham and others. His original song "God is Great" also made it into the Top 10 on the Billboard Gospel Charts.

The gala celebrated SCAAHC's 25 years of success, which range from supporting the installation of more than 300 official South Carolina historical markers to a series of teacher's guides that incorporate African American history into the curriculum of grades K-12 and creating the Green Book of South Carolina, an online travel guide to more than 300 heritage sites. Former South Carolina Senator Maggie Wallace Glover served as mistress of ceremonies. Special presentations to original members of the SCAAHC were bestowed.



Pictured left: gospel artist, John Lakin.
Pictured right: l-r: former Senator Maggie Glover and
SCAAHC Chairperson Jannie Harriot.





Charter members of the SCAAHC received were presented with honorary resolutions from the South Carolina General Assembly. Pictured left to right: Dr. Rickey Hill, Alada Shinault Small, Bhakti Larry Hough, Elaine Nichols, Dr. Cornelius St. Mark, Joseph McGill (Terry James accepted the award on his behalf), and Dr. Karry Guillory (Strauss Moore-Shiple accepted the award on his behalf).



Three of our longest serving members received the **Order of the Palmetto**, the highest civilian honor awarded by the Governor of South Carolina given to those who make contributions of statewide significance. Joined by SCDAH director Dr. W. Eric Emerson, far left, and Representative Lonnie Hosey, far right, are recipients Michael Allen, Dr. Barbara Jenkins, and Jannie Harriot.





Highlights from our
25th Anniversary
Luncheon and Gala.



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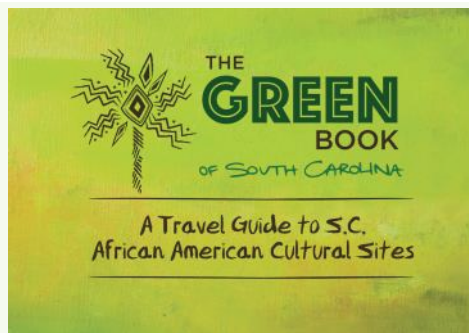


SCAAHC Receives Verner Award



To recognize outstanding achievement and contributions to the arts in South Carolina, the South Carolina Arts Commission annually presents the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts, the state's highest honor in this field. These awards honor South Carolina arts organizations, patrons, artists, members of the business community, and government entities who maximize their roles as innovators, supporters, and advocates of the arts.

In 1980, the Verner Awards took on a special significance with their designation as the official "Governor's Awards for the Arts." The symbol of the awards is a hand-crafted bronze statue, designed by Columbia-based artist Jean McWhorter, and presented to each recipient. A diverse committee, appointed by the S.C. Arts Commission Board and made up of members of the South Carolina community at large, reviews all nominations and makes recommendations to the Board for final approval.



Are you looking for a unique cultural experience for an upcoming family reunion or vacation to SC?

Are you interested in learning more about SC's rich African American history and culture?

Visit our new website!

The Green Book of South Carolina @ <https://greenbookofsc.com/>

We are currently revising the website to include expanded historical narratives, a historic Green Book tour, and a section for educators!

Join the conversation on social media:

@SCAAHC1993 (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)

@GreenBookofSC (Facebook & Twitter)

Visit us at:

www.scaaheritagefound.org/

