



Cultural Wall Honorees and Bios

July 10, 2014

Section 1- Churches

Shiloh Baptist Church

Founded in 1869, Shiloh Baptist Church is the third oldest African-American church in Columbus and is a descendent of the Second Baptist Church. The church, completed in 1923, is located in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood, which is adjacent to the central businesses of Columbus and Interstate 71. The dominant physical presence of Shiloh Baptist Church shows its importance as a religious and social institution for more than one hundred years in the Mt. Vernon area. – *From Remarkable Ohio Historical Marker*

<http://www.remarkableohio.org/HistoricalMarker.aspx?historicalMarkerId=105926>

St. Dominic Catholic Church

St. Dominic Catholic Church was dedicated Sunday, November 26, 1916. The first record of Black families being registered at St. Dominic is not found until late 1943. With the merger of St. Cyprian's and St. Dominic's parishes on March 25, 1957, the population of Black Catholics began to rise. St. Cyprian Parish was the First Catholic Church to serve the Black community of Columbus and was built in 1912. – *From St. Dominic's Website*

<http://www.stdominic-church.org/12.html>

Rev. James Poindexter

Reverend James Poindexter was both a pioneer citizen of Columbus and a trailblazer on behalf of voting rights, the abolition of slavery and promoting quality education for all children. This began when he came to Columbus in the 1840's, when Columbus was still a very young community. At considerable risk, he courageously worked to help escaped Southern slaves along the now-historic Underground Railway. His deep-rooted faith in God led to his becoming pastor of what is still Columbus' oldest African-American Baptist Church: the Second Baptist Church. When the 15th Amendment allowed citizens the right to vote throughout Ohio in 1870, Poindexter began a political career taking him from being the first African-American elected to the Columbus City Council to his re-election four times to the Columbus Board of Education. He also served on the Board of Directors of Wilberforce University at Xenia, Ohio, one of the pioneer black colleges in the nation. – *From BlackPast.org and Columbus Underground excerpts*

<http://www.blackpast.org/?q=aah/poindexter-james-1819-1907>

<http://www.columbusunderground.com/history-lesson-the-106th-anniversary-of-the-death-of-james-poindexter-dm1>

Second Baptist Church

The Second Baptist Church was founded in 1824 and still serves the community today as the oldest Black Baptist Church in Columbus. Its most noted pastor was the Rev. James Poindexter, who became an articulate and enthusiastic voice against slavery and advocate for civil rights and education within our community. –*From Second Baptist Columbus Website*
<http://secondbaptistcolumbus.com/history.html>

Poindexter Village

Named after Rev. James P. Poindexter of the Second Baptist Church of Columbus, Poindexter Village was the first public housing project to be built in Columbus and one of the first in America. Its opening in 1940 was such a momentous occasion that President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the ceremony. It became home to generations of families in need of affordable housing and developed into a true neighborhood for those families. As noted Columbus-native artist Aminah Robinson put it: “It was the kind of community where hard-working families flourished.” – *From Second Baptist Columbus Website*
<http://secondbaptistcolumbus.com/history.html>

Union Grove Baptist Church

Founded April 29, 1888 in a log cabin on the north side of Mt. Vernon Ave. The original congregation was a Sunday school class that met under a large oak tree at the corner of North Champion Ave. and Granville St. The actual church was constructed in 1898 at 218 North Champion Ave. One of the notable leaders of the church was Rev. Phale Hale who made significant contributions to the local and national civil rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached at its 71st Church Anniversary (1959). – *Excerpt from: Columbus Neighborhoods: A Guide to Landmarks of Franklinton, German Village, King-Lincoln, Olde Town East, Short North & The University District. - By Tom Betti, Ed Lentz & Doreen Uhas Sauer (Page 183)*

Mt. Vernon Ave. AME Church

Founded in 1887 on the corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and 19th St. in Columbus, Ohio as Second African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1906, the church moved to Mt. Vernon Ave. and 21st and changed its name to Mt. Vernon A.M.E. Church. – *Excerpt from: Coming This Far By Faith: History of Selected Black Churches in Columbus by Dr. Rodney S. Wead (Page 15).*

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

The thirteen Disciples of Christ founded the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church on Easter Sunday, April 22, 1907. The first regular services of worship were actually held in the Jacob Stern Warehouse on Donaldson Street. In 1925, the church changed its name from Mt. Olive Baptist Church to Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. The present church site at 428 East Main St. was purchased in 1929, the year of the Great Depression. This church edifice had originally been known as the Friends' Church. In 1958, under the leadership of Mt. Olivet's eighth pastor, Dr. H. Beecher Hicks Sr., the original church structure was torn down and the present sanctuary and fellowship center were erected. – *From Mt. Olivet Baptist Website*

https://www.mtolivetbaptist-oh.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=23&Itemid=136

St. Paul AME Church

The church was founded in 1823 by Moses Freeman and 13 other members from the Town Street Church, and is the oldest congregation of African descent in Columbus. It was originally located on the east side of Lazelle St. Several buildings were erected to meet the needs of the growing congregation. The present edifice, located at 639 E. Long St., was completed in 1906. St. Paul has several outreach ministries, including the Prison Ministry, Alzheimer Ministry, Karen's House, Community Development Corporation, Health Concerns Committee, St. Paul Tutorial and Enrichment Program (STEP), St. Paul Scholarship Program, St. Paul Drama Ministry, Jam'N Jefferson Park Festival, and Church Without Walls. – *From Remarkable Ohio Historical Marker and St. Paul AME Facebook page*
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Historic-St-Paul-AME-Church-Columbus/226083554072469?sk=info>
<http://www.remarkableohio.org/HistoricalMarker.aspx?historicalMarkerId=897>

Trinity Baptist Church

Trinity Baptist Church opened its doors as the Evergreen Baptist Church on May 5, 1924. The name was later changed to the Trinity Baptist Church. During this time the church moved to 528 St. Clair Ave. and T.C. Phillips assumed the duties as Pastor from November 1924 through January 1927. On October 26, 1930, the congregation assembled in the old building, had devotion, and then marched to a new church location at 461 St. Clair Ave. where the church remains to this day. – *From Trinity Baptist Website.* http://trinity-baptist.com/?page_id=3861

Section 2- Theater

Donald "Don" Day

A prominent labor leader and figure in local theater productions, Donald "Don" Day was born August 1, 1936 in Cleveland, Ohio. Later moving to Columbus, he studied at The Ohio State University. In 1970 he joined the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). He was elected to the Executive Board of the Ohio AFL-CIO in 1974 and in 1978. By 1987 he became the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio AFL-CIO, where he remained until his death. He founded the Columbus Center Stage Theater in 1981, which put on numerous productions in the city. Donald was best known for his collection of black memorabilia and folk-art to which he owned a store known as "Thru the Past Darkly: Black Memorabilia" – The Donald Day Collection. – *The Columbus Post (May 2002) – By Ronald N. Bryant, with contributions from Tillie Day, Deneen Day and Tamela Dixon.*

Toni Smith

Playwright Toni Smith gained renown originally as an author of children's books, later adapting her illustrated book "To Be a Drum" for the Phoenix Children's Theater (later known as CATCO for Kids). Her collaboration with local artist Aminah Robinson on the book led to a Columbus Museum of Art retrospective exhibit, *Symphonic Poem*, which was nominated for an "artistic excellence" award by Greater

Columbus Arts Council. She also wrote the event script for three annual City of Columbus Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebrations that served as the basis for the current annual scriptwriting project by OSU's Center for the Study and Teaching of Writing, Minor in Writing course. – *Bio provided by Toni Smith.*

Chiquita Mullins Lee

Playwright and performer Chiquita Mullins Lee grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and lives in Columbus, Ohio, where she works as Arts Learning Programs Coordinator for the Ohio Arts Council. Previously, she was Ohio's Poetry Out Loud project coordinator, as well as a teaching artist for the Ohio Arts Council's Artist-in-Residence program. She has taught creative writing in schools throughout Ohio, at the Thurber House and through the Wexner Center for the Arts. She won individual artist fellowships from the Greater Columbus Arts Council in fiction and playwriting and from the Ohio Arts Council in fiction and non-fiction. Her poetry and non-fiction have been published in national anthologies. Her critically-acclaimed one-man play, *Pierce to the Soul*, received its world premiere at CATCO, Columbus' premier professional theater company, in 2010. She wrote and performs in *Faces of Grace*, a solo piece about women from the Bible, and *To Hear Ruby Sing*, a stage presentation based on the biography of operatic soprano Ruby Elzy. Chiquita co-wrote and performs in 12, a three-woman show about girls on the threshold of womanhood, and *Myrlie, Coretta and Betty: Mothers of the Civil Rights Movement*, in which she plays Coretta Scott King. She was the 2007 Ohio Arts Council summer writer-in-residence at the Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, Massachusetts. – *From APortableTheatre.com*
<http://www.aportabletheatre.com/chiquita-mullins-lee-about-the-playwright/>

Noble Nkosi

The telling of stories through generations is a theme that runs through much of Noble Nkosi's work as an actor, playwright and storyteller. *The Master's Drummer*, which tells a story of conflict resolved by traditional values through acting, music and dance, is an example of his notable work in theater and dance. The combination of colorful dialogue, fiery drumming and highly animated dancing is a hallmark of his work. – *From GrapeVineColumbus.com*
<http://www.grapevinecolumbus.com/index.php?id=4019>

Empress Theater

The first major building to be constructed and owned by African Americans in Columbus, the Empress Theater was built in the 1920's for \$50,000 dollars. Neighborhood entrepreneurs J. Ernest Williams and Al Jackson built the Empress. Jackson was responsible for the construction of several buildings on Long Street after moving to Columbus during the Great Migration from the South and building his fortune through the coal/heating business. It was a state-of-the-art theater and attracted some of the best theatrical productions and motion pictures of the day. – *Soul of a City by Beth Jax.*
<http://people.ehe.osu.edu/bgordon/files/2012/06/Beth-Jax.pdf>.

Black Nativity

Described as "the Black community's Christmas gift to the world," the popular musical Black Nativity is offered each year across the country. In Columbus, the Nia

Performing Arts Theatre Company, Inc. has presented the award-winning musical drama by playwright Langston Hughes for over a decade. The portrayal of the birth of Jesus is set in both an African village and a present-day church and stars an all-black cast. Traditional Christmas carols are sung in gospel style, with a few songs created specifically for the show. The show was first performed as an off-Broadway production in New York on December 11, 1961, and was one of the first plays written by an African-American to be staged there. – *Excerpts from Examiner.com, theOtherPaper.com, Wikipedia.org.*
<http://www.examiner.com/article/black-nativity-is-back>
http://events.theotherpaper.com/columbus_oh/events/show/294428905-black-nativity
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Nativity

Mary Emma Washington

Mary E. Washington was an actress in *Carmen Jones* and appeared on the Loretta Young TV show in the 1950's. – *Digital-Collections.ColumbusLibrary.org.*
<http://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/ohio/id/5270/rec/1>

Jifunza Theater Company

Jifunza is a non-profit theater company whose mission is “to promote professional theater for youth and adults that reflects the diversity of the African Diaspora to enrich the quality of life in the Community by developing educational and cultural programs, along with partnerships that are community based in the performing arts.” – *JifunzaTheaterCompany.org*, <http://www.jifunzatheatercompany.org/About-Us.html>

King Arts Complex

Through a multidisciplinary approach, The King Arts Complex offers performing, cultural and educational programs that provide high artistic merit, varied and diverse experiences, and which increase and disseminate knowledge regarding the vast and significant contributions of African-Americans to the culture and history of America and the world. Opened in March, 1987, after a \$2.7 million renovation of the Pythian Theater, The King Arts Complex is located on the near East side of Columbus, Ohio, in one of the oldest areas of African-American life in the city. With an additional \$1.8 million renovation, Phase II opened in October 1989 creating a 60,000 square foot facility. Serving as a major anchor for development in the King-Lincoln District, The King Arts Complex is an oasis for cultural and educational activities as well as a community facility for special events. – *KingArtsComplex.com*
<http://kingartscomplex.com/about-us>

Philip Michael Thomas

Philip Michael Thomas (born May 26, 1949) is a Columbus native and notable actor. His famous role is that of detective Ricardo Tubbs on the hit 1980s TV series *Miami Vice*. Other notable roles were in *Coonskin* (1975) and opposite Irene Cara in the 1976 film *Sparkle*. After his success in *Miami Vice*, Thomas appeared in numerous made-for-TV movies. He served as a spokesperson for cell phone entertainment company Nextones, and supplied the voice for the character Lance Vance on the video games *Grand Theft Auto* and *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City Stories*. Despite worldwide stardom as an actor of both stage and screen, music is Thomas' biggest passion. He wrote his first song at the age of 11 and has since

written, composed, and sung everything from Gospel to R&B to pop standards to rock. One long-time friend recently referred to the musical side of Thomas as "an undiscovered diamond." – *Philip Michael Thomas Wikipedia and IMDB page*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Michael_Thomas

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0859365/bio>

Harold "Hal" Williams

Moving to LA from his native Ohio in 1968, Harold "Hal" Williams originally worked for the California Youth Authority while trying to break into show business. That break came with his first TV guest role in a 1970 episode of *That Girl*. Williams had a recurring role on *Sanford and Son* as Officer "Smitty" Smith. He later earned the role Sgt. L.C. Ross from *Private Benjamin*, a role he reprised in the 1981-83 CBS sitcom version of the film. He costarred with Marla Gibbs in the on-stage version of 227 in Los Angeles and again later on the NBC series 227 in 1985. Williams established a scholarship fund for minority students studying TV communications in memory of his son Mark, who died in a camping accident in 1977. – *TVGuide.com*

<http://www.tvguide.com/celebrities/hal-williams/bio/152925>

Bernard "Bernie" Casey

Known primarily as an actor, Bernard Terry "Bernie" Casey (born June 8, 1939) initially had a career as an interscholastic, intercollegiate and professional football player. After graduating from Columbus' East High School, Casey went on to become a record-breaking track and field athlete at Bowling Green State University, earning a reputation as one of the nation's best high-hurdlers. He earned All-America recognition and a trip to the finals at the 1960 United States Olympic Trials. He went on to play for the National Football League's San Francisco 49ers (1961-1966) and Los Angeles Rams (1967-1968). Retiring from football, Casey turned to acting in the early 1970s. He has been steadily employed in theatrical films ever since, playing supporting roles in such films as *Boxcar Bertha* (1972), *Cleopatra Jones* (1976), *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* (1989), and all three *Revenge of the Nerds* epics (as "U.N. Jefferson"). Also a talented artist, Casey has both a B.A. and a M.A. in Fine Arts from Bowling Green State University and is today Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the internationally recognized Savannah College of Art and Design. – *Bernie Casey Wikipedia page*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernie_Casey

NIA Performing Arts Theatre Company

Nia Performing Arts Theatre Company, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio is a non-profit organization committed to the development of outreach programs that target youth through the utilization of theater and arts to educate and inspire them. Additionally, Nia provides opportunities for all ages to become involved in theater. Nia Performing Arts has presented *Black Nativity* for over a decade. *Black Nativity*, the award-winning musical drama written by playwright Langston Hughes, is a national tradition. The diverse cast has ranged from 2 months to 87 years young. – *NIA Performing Arts Facebook page*.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nia-Performing-Arts-Theatre-Company-of-Columbus-Ohio/168884974110?id=168884974110&sk=info>

Section 3- Music

Lincoln Theatre

First opened in 1928 and later saved from demolition, the restored Lincoln Theatre is a landmark in African-American and jazz history. Through the decades up to the 1960's, people came to the Lincoln for the latest films, vaudeville, and her signature specialty—jazz. The King-Lincoln District had a national reputation as a major jazz center, with the second-floor Ogden Club (later renamed the Lincoln Ballroom) becoming one of the most popular venues in the country for live jazz. Since downtown hotels of the day served "whites only," travelling African-American musicians and performers were housed in King-Lincoln area hotels and wound up performing at the Lincoln. Gracing the theater's stage were such jazz legends such as Count Basie, James Brown, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Etta James, and Columbus native Nancy Wilson. A \$13.5 million renovation of the theater, funded by a public-private partnership, allowed it to reopen as a multi-use, state-of-the-art performing arts and education center. It is also home to ten resident Columbus arts organizations. The restored theater continues to help revitalize the King-Lincoln District by creating a bustling, year-round hub for performances, rehearsals, and classes in the performing arts, as well as a wide variety of community events such as film festivals, meetings, and receptions. – *LincolnTheatreColumbus.com*
<http://www.lincoltheatreColumbus.com/history.html>

Theodore "Ted" Turner

Dr. Theodore H. "Ted" Turner was a true giant of Ohio's music scene. Born and raised in Steubenville, Ohio, Turner embraced the music of the "Big Band Era" of the 1930's and came to Ohio State University in 1945 to become the first African-American student to perform with both the OSU Concert Band and Symphonic Orchestra. While here in Columbus, he was offered a job as both a trumpet player and arranger for Ear Hood's big band at the Valley Dale Ballroom. This rising music star became the band director at East High School, producing a long list of local jazz artists such as Lee Savory and Bobby Alston during his tenure from 1959 through 1965. Turner went on to get his Doctorate in Education and rose to become an assistant superintendent of the Columbus City Schools. But always, he remained a fiercely creative jazz artist, even doing arrangements for such national jazz artists as "Doc" Severinsen and assembling the African Brass Ensemble to present a classical side of his musical talents. Dr. Turner passed in March of 2006.
– *MayorArnett.Blogspot.com*
<http://mayorarnett.blogspot.com/2010/08/dr-theodore-ted-turner.html>

Nancy Wilson

Ms. Wilson was born in Chillicothe, Ohio and, by age 15, was working in television in Columbus. After six years of singing throughout Ohio and the Midwest, she moved to New York City, acknowledging that it was a risky career move. "I was fully prepared to go back home and be a big fish in a small pond . . . if it wasn't done right, I didn't want to do it," she said. Of course, she went on to become a powerhouse singer for Capitol Records, outselling the likes of Frank Sinatra and her early influence, Nat King Cole. In 1964, she won her first Grammy Award for, "How Glad I Am" and went on to win two other Grammys and an Emmy for her own NBC show, The Nancy Wilson Show. Wilson was a major figure in the civil rights marches of the 1960s, and

in 2005 she was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. Among her many other accomplishments is a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, but Wilson says one of her favorite moments was getting a Chillicothe street named after her. "The Hollywood Star didn't even touch it," she said. – *JazzColumbus.com*
<http://www.jazzcolumbus.com/legendary-jazz-singer-nancy-wilson-to-perform-last-show-in-athens/>

Hank Marr

Born January 30, 1927, Hank Marr grew his musical "chops" in a part of Columbus known then as Flytown. He'd sneak off to a neighbor's home, where he would practice on their piano, playing chords he would pick up from listening to music on the radio. "My stepmother could never find me," recalls Hank. "She eventually asked my dad to buy a piano, and at great sacrifice, he did. Hank often jammed with friend and noted jazz artist Ronnie Kirk (later known as Rahsaan Roland Kirk) in a nearby garage. His career expanded through the sixties and seventies, working as TV star George Kirby's musical director, touring coast to coast and making numerous television appearances. Of more importance, however, is his devotion and dedication to music education. For the past twelve years, Hank has taught at Ohio State University and is now an associate professor in the Jazz studies program. "I'm back teaching here in the classrooms where I matriculated," reminisces Hank "and it is indeed fascinating." On August 12, 1990, the city of Columbus honored Hank with Marvelous Hank Marr Day. More recently, Hank was given the Continuing Legacy Award at the first Columbus Music Awards Ceremony. – *HankMarr.com*
<http://www.hankmarr.com/biography.asp> (no longer online)

Rahsaan Roland Kirk

Blind at an early age as a result of poor medical treatment, Columbus native Rahsaan Roland Kirk (August 7, 1935 – December 5, 1977) was an American jazz multi-instrumentalist who played tenor saxophone, flute and many other instruments. He was renowned for his onstage vitality, comic banter, political ranting, and the ability to play several instruments simultaneously accompanied by his virtuoso improvisation. His playing was generally rooted in soul jazz or hard bop, but Kirk's knowledge of jazz history allowed him to draw on many elements of the music's past, from ragtime to swing and free jazz. Preferring to lead his own bands, Kirk rarely performed as a sideman, although he did record with arranger Quincy Jones and drummer Roy Haynes and had notable stints with bassist Charles Mingus. One of his best-known recorded performances is the lead flute and solo on Jones' "Soul Bossa Nova", a 1964 hit song re-popularized in the *Austin Powers* films (*Jones 1964; McLeod et al. 1997*). – *Rahsaan Roland Kirk Wikipedia page*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rahsaan_Roland_Kirk

Vince Andrews

Vince Andrews had a history of great performances at major concert venues in the USA and abroad with his Vince Andrews Band. He was an affiliate artist of The Yamaha Corporation, and sound developer for Sonic Foundry's ACID software. Vince's repertoire incorporates innovative heart felt compositions. He was also a Resident Instructor at The Ohio State University and (in 1983) added the title of President of Gerard Music, LLC. – *Smooth-Jazz.de*
<http://www.smooth-jazz.de/Artists3/Andrews.html>

Craig McMullen

Columbus native Craig McMullen graduated from Columbus City Schools and went to Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. A talented guitarist, McMullen began a professional career with the famed Curtis Mayfield and The Impressions and later went to Los Angeles as a studio guitarist for numerous musical artists such as Aretha Franklin, The Supremes, Bill Withers and Ike Turner. He also played on albums with Jazz greats Freddie Hubbard, Bundle of Joy and Stanley Turrentine. He received a Gold Record for his work on "Boogie Fever" by The Sylvers and appeared on television shows such as The Tonight Show and The Midnight Special. – daln.osu.edu

[http://daln.osu.edu/bitstream/handle/2374.DALN/1157/Guitarist-%20McMullen,%20Craig%20\(2010-03-04\)%20Transcript%20Part%201.txt?sequence=5](http://daln.osu.edu/bitstream/handle/2374.DALN/1157/Guitarist-%20McMullen,%20Craig%20(2010-03-04)%20Transcript%20Part%201.txt?sequence=5)

Gene Walker

Saxophonist Gene Walker, a native and resident of Columbus, Ohio, began touring in 1958 with some of the world's greatest entertainers including the Beatles, King Curtis, Jackie Wilson, Sam Cook, Johnny "Hammond" Smith, Jimmy McGriff, the Drifters, Chris Columbo and the Platters. He continued to perform with his own Gene Walker's Generations Band and Gene Walker's Cotton Club Orchestra. His distinguished career also includes receiving a Bachelor of Music Arts degree from The Ohio State University in 1988 and accepting a teaching position at OSU instructing jazz saxophone and combo classes. His participation with the OSU Jazz Ensemble camp each summer teaches jazz history and saxophone and has also brought the jazz tradition into Columbus schools through the *American Jazz Experience* and the Jazz Professors Performing Septet. He has served in artist residencies with the Ohio Arts Council and the Greater Columbus Arts Council and continues to instruct jazz saxophone and combo during the summer at the prestigious Jamey Aebersold jazz camps. – [JazzArtsGroup.org](http://www.jazzartsgroup.org)

<http://www.jazzartsgroup.org/jazz-academy/jazz-in-the-community/faculty/>

Jimmie "Stix" Rogers

Jimmie "Stix" Rogers was 26 years old when he set a new world record for marathon drumming. Curious passersby watched as he played his drums for 80 hours, 35 minutes and 14 seconds in the window of Ziggy Coyle's Music Center on North High Street. Beating out an average of 65 strokes per minute, his drumsticks hit the skins an estimated 314,289 times without stopping. "Stix" began his career in 1946 at Champion Jr. High School. Through a talent contest he found himself on the "Ted Mack Original Amateur Hour" program. He worked with the Rusty Bryant Band for five years, and also played in the bands of Lester Young, Lionel Hampton, Ted Fiochetto and Sammy Davis Jr. "Stix" made guest appearances on such TV shows as "I've Got a Secret," "What's My Line," Dave Garroway's show and Steve Allen's old "Tonight" show. He toured overseas with Bob Hope, and was the subject of articles in *Ebony Magazine*, *Look*, *Life*, *Time*, *Downbeat*, *Billboard* and *Variety*. He holds the *Look* and *Downbeat* Awards for Drumming and is a recipient of the Society of Creative Artists Talent, Master of Jazz Arts Award, 1988. – [*Listen for the Jazz- Key Notes in Columbus History 2nd Edition*](#). Arts Foundation of Olde Towne. 1991. Arnett Howard.

Aaron Diehl

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Diehl began touring with the Wynton Marsalis Septet immediately after his high school graduation. He is also a 2007 graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City, where his teachers included jazz artists Kenny Barron, Eric Reed and Oxana Yablonskaya. His honors include Lincoln Center's prestigious Martin E. Segal award in 2004, winner of the 2003 Jazz Arts Group Hank Marr Jazz Competition, and Outstanding Soloist at Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2002 Essentially Ellington Competition. Mr. Diehl is also the 2011 Cole Porter Fellow in Jazz of the American Pianists Association. He has been hailed by the New York Times as a "Revelation," and the Chicago Tribune as "The most promising discovery that [Wynton] Marsalis has made since Eric Reed." Aaron Diehl's distinctive interpretations of the music of Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, Art Tatum, Duke Ellington, and other masters pays homage to the tradition while establishing his own original voice. – *AaronDiehl.com*. <http://www.aarondiehl.com/biography.html>

Steve "Paco" Grier

Steve "Paco" Grier is a Columbus native and a seasoned professional percussionist, performing with jazz legends such as John Faddis, Grover Washington, Eddie Daniels, Arturo Sandoval and Tito Puente, just to name a few. In 1981, "Paco" was voted the Most Outstanding Rhythm Section Player of The Akron University Jazz Festival. This phenomenal percussionist was a stalwart performer with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra for ten years. During his musical tenure, he gained open acceptance in the Jazz world touring throughout Europe and the United States with International Jamaican Jazz pianist, Monty Alexander. – *FYIQuintet.net*
<http://www.fyiquintet.net/steve.php>

Arnett Howard

Multi-talented Arnett Howard (born September 6 1950) is a musician, broadcaster, journalist, historian, traveler, communications consultant, teacher, pilot, scuba diver, skier and a big women's basketball fan. Howard first started playing music professionally in 1967. He was a member of several local bands before leading "Arnett Howard's Creole Funk Band" from 1988 to 2002, and became such a legend in the Columbus region that he was named an ambassador for the City of Columbus. Howard retired from Creole Funk Band in 2002, and his new band is simply called "Arnett Howard & Friends". Since 1985, Howard has performed more than 5,000 concerts in central Ohio and around the world. In 2003, he also played with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra. He is also an authority on Columbus' music history, co-authoring Listen for the Jazz: Keynotes in Columbus History and is also known for writing the "Football Friday Night" theme song for Columbus' station WCMH-TV. – *CreoleFunk.com*, <http://www.creolefunk.com/arnett.htm>

Archie "Stomp" Gordon

With the lyrics "Whomp, bebop, boom, bam! I'm a killa' dilla', yes I am", Archie "Stomp" Gordon announced himself to the world before he was even out of South High School. Growing up on Barthman Avenue on Columbus' tough Southside, at age 13 he organized a group of teenagers into a little band. He didn't have a set of drums at that age, but friend Marty Mellman did and they would ride the bus down Parsons Avenue to practice at Stomp's home. Future jazz star Rusty Bryant was eleven and wanted to be in the band too, so Stomp told him to find a saxophone and

he could join. Within one week of getting his horn, Rusty was doing gigs with Stomp's band. Stomp got his moniker because during rehearsals he would crank up the piano seat, kick off his shoes and socks and spend enough time plunking at the keyboard with his toes that he could pick out melodies to popular songs. Audiences following Stomp around Columbus in the late 1940s and early '50s said his show was high energy, raucous and sexy. When Stomp hit the road, he played from coast to coast, Atlanta to Los Angeles, Virginia to Alaska.

– *Columbusbicentennial.blogspot.com*

<http://columbusbicentennial.blogspot.com/2012/05/archie-stomp-sordon-pianist-killadilla.html>

Jeanette Williams

Columbus native Jeanette Williams began her singing career in church on the city's east side. A graduate of East High School, Williams enjoyed wide acclaim as the featured singer in the Seeds of Fulfillment. Her first professional appearance was with Hank Marr at the age of 14. She also appeared with Rusty Bryant, touring the U.S. and Europe. When she later appeared on the same bill with Sarah Vaughan at the Palace Theatre, Williams thought she "died and went to heaven" when Sarah asked her to sing with her. Williams appeared with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra and Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Her rich and powerful voice, influenced by roots in gospel music and the blues, make her a jazz singer of remarkable talent. She is also an excellent cook has distinguished herself as a gourmet caterer. She has three children – André, Marcus and Sherrice. – *JazzArtsGroup.org*

<http://www.jazzartsgroup.org/affiliate-musicians/jeanette-williams/>

Candice Watkins

Ms. Watkins directs the logistical needs of the Park Street Festival, HighBall Halloween, the Ohioana Book Festival, Hot Times, ComFest, Park Street Festival, and the Whitehall Food Truck and Fun Festival. She is the founder and director CenterLine/Street Magic, which works with community talent building community events. As a music historian, she has co-authored three books on music history and produced four audio CDs to document jazz in Columbus. She currently serves as the director of the Arts Foundation of Olde Towne is also the past board chairperson of Friends of the Homeless. As an artist, she works in photography, fiber, printmaking, neon and glass. – *Excerpts from ColumbusUnderground.com article.*

<http://www.columbusunderground.com/candice-watkins-receives-fourth-annual-arch-award-dm1>

Raleigh Randolph

Known to most of his sidemen as "Ol' Boss", Harlan T. "Raleigh" "Four or Five Times" Randolph, called his groups the Sultans of Swing: an 18-piece jazz big band. He was a vocalist, bass player, member of the National Black Culture Society and Alabama State Council of the Arts and Humanities and a 1983 inductee into the Jazz Hall of Fame. Having been introduced to the bass fiddle by his father, Raleigh traveled with Zack Whyte out of Cincinnati, was picked up by the Whitman Sisters, and then jumped to the Silas Green Band from New Orleans. When World War II intervened, he took a day job and led the 16- piece Band with the Atomic Swing at night. Raleigh and his group worked at the El Cairo and Club Litchford in Columbus, and also traveled up and down the East Coast and through the South, sharing the

bill with Dinah Washington, Billy Eckstine, Pearl Bailey, and the King Cole Trio, and with Johnny Moore's Three Blazers, Una May Carlisle, and Wynonie Harris as part of The Swing Parade of 1946. He died in 1995.

– *Digital-Collections.ColumbusLibrary.org*

<http://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/african/id/55>

Bobby Floyd

Columbus native Bobby Floyd's talent launched him into a very rewarding career: putting him in demand and making him one of the favorite, first-call pianists/organists for many well-known artists. He has traveled the world accompanying Ray Charles on piano and organ. He has made many guest appearances with some of the most distinguished orchestras, including The Boston Pops, The Rochester Philharmonic, and The Detroit Symphony. He has been the feature pianist for the legendary Count Basie Orchestra and has toured nationally and internationally as organist for the Grammy Award winning Dr. John. In his hometown of Columbus, Floyd has been the featured pianist & organist with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Byron Stripling, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and other arts organizations and venues throughout Columbus and Ohio. He has also completed several recordings. Bobby's recordings and live performances demonstrate his ability to electrify audiences and have received the highest praise from critics and musicians alike.

– *Biography provided by Bobby Floyd*

Mary McClendon

Columbus native Mary McClendon has been a regular on the central Ohio jazz scene since the late 1970s. Her smooth vocals and scat singing have made her an audience favorite as she has shared the stage with jazz greats Benny Carter, Louie Bellson, Clark Terry, Harry "Sweets" Edison and the late, great Sarah Vaughan, to name a few. Mary has often worked with the Jazz Arts Group as a vocalist and she continues to build her resume to include acting, gaining roles in movies such as *The Jesse Owens Story*. – *JazzArtsGroup.org*

<http://www.jazzartsgroup.org/affiliate-musicians/mary-mcclendon/>

Harry "Sweets" Edison

Harry "Sweets" Edison (1915-1999) was born in Columbus, but spent his early childhood in Kentucky, where he was introduced to music by an uncle. At the age of 12 he moved back to Columbus and he began to play trumpet in local bands. In 1933 he became a member of the Jeter Pillars Orchestra in Cleveland, and after a year moved with the band to St. Louis, where he spent the next two years. In 1937 he joined Lucky Millinder's band in New York, and six months later moved to the Count Basie Orchestra. Edison became an important soloist with Basie, and occasionally composed and wrote arrangements for the group. In 1944, he played a prominent role in perhaps the finest jazz film ever made, *Jammin' the Blues*. When the Basie band disbanded temporarily in 1950, Edison pursued a varied career, leading his own groups, traveling with Jazz at the Philharmonic, and working as a freelancer with other orchestras. In the early 1950s he settled on the West Coast, where he became highly sought-after as a studio musician. A highly original soloist, he preferred playing the middle register, which evolved into a personal, spare, and often humorous style. He was noted for his perfect sense of timing and his manner of repeating a single note or phrase over several measures. – *PBS.org*

http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_edison_harry_sweets.htm

Royal G. "Rusty" Bryant & Friends

The groove-oriented tenor sax of Rusty Bryant was heard best on his funky soul-jazz albums of the late '60s and early '70s, though he'd actually been leading bands since the '50s. Born Royal G. Bryant in Huntington, WV, he grew up in Columbus, Ohio and became an important part of the local jazz scene, playing a robust, wailing tenor sax inspired by the likes of Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt. He first worked as a sideman, but began leading his own bands in 1951. In the mid-'50s, Bryant signed with Dot Records and landed major R&B hits with "All Night Long," and a double-time cover of "Night Train." Bryant toured the country briefly with artists like Nancy Wilson, but soon returned to Columbus, where he played on a strictly local basis. He returned to recording in 1968 on Richard "Groove" Holmes' classic "That Healin' Feelin'", and began leading his own sessions again for Prestige, beginning with 1969's *Rusty Bryant Returns*. His albums, including *Night Train Now! Soul Liberation*, *Fire Eater*, and *Wildfire*, successfully updated his sound for the times, and became cult classics among acid jazz aficionados for their strong, funky grooves. Bryant returned for a couple of albums in the early '80s before settling back into his hometown once again. He passed away on March 25, 1991. – *AllMusic.com*
<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/rusty-bryant-mn0000218082>

Section 4- Dance

Paul Laurence Dunbar Center

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Cultural Arts Center was opened in December 1971 with the highly regarded Leonard Nelson Napper as its first director. The center, located in a building on land owned by Capital University and Columbus Academy, quickly became a magnet for Columbus artists. Mr. Napper founded and directed the Paul Laurence Dunbar Concert Choir, created with a repertoire selected from the works of African-American composers (spirituals, gospel tunes, and classic songs). The Dunbar Concert Choir served as musical ambassadors, performing throughout Ohio. Even after the center was destroyed by fire in 1979, the choir continued.

– *SeniorMusicians.Homestead.com*

<http://seniormusicians.homestead.com/2006.html>

Stephanie Bland

Stephanie Bland is the founder of the dance studio *Two Left Feet...In The Right Direction*. The studio specializes in the formal training of ballet, tap and Jazz dance. She produced and organized performances and shows in the fine arts field under "Unified Diversity". – *ColumbusArts.com*

<http://columbusarts.com/orgs/4661-two-left-feetin-the-right-directionstephanie-bland/>

Bettye Robinson

"Aunt Bettye", as she was called, inspired and influenced a generation of young Black women with her passion for art of the dance. In the 1970's, before the Title IV sports explosion, area girls received ballet, tap and jazz dance lessons from this entrepreneur. She opened her first dance school in 1946 in Youngstown. She

moved to Columbus, married Attorney Ross B. Robinson and opened a small home basement dance studio that rapidly grew into a building in downtown Columbus. She created "Le Danseurs Noir", the first Black ballet dance company in Columbus. She always advised motivated and trained students to open their own businesses or perform in the arts. She served as choreographer for the Columbus Victory Matrons Cotillion and the Youngstown Junior League Cinderella Ball. – *OhioMBE.com*
<http://www.ohiombe.com/1152012/1152012.pdf>

BalletMet

BalletMet has provided artistic excellence in the field of dance to Central Ohio since 1978. The BalletMet Dance Academy, founded in 1980, ranks among the five largest professional dance education centers in the United States and offers a variety of classes to students from ages 4 to 84 years old. Other educational offerings include the Dance-in-Schools program, Family Culture Corps and Morning at the Ballet. These programs touch nearly 30,000 students annually, including many young people from minority and underserved populations who could not otherwise participate. Since its 1990 move to the 35,000 square-foot Dance Centre, which is one of the finest facilities in North America, both BalletMet and its Academy have become recognized as institutions of local and national stature. Pictured on the Cultural Wall are students Imari Carrington and Matt Rees with teacher Daryl Kamer. – *BalletMet.org* <https://www.balletmet.org/backstage>

Malik Willoughby

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey and a graduate of Ashford University, Malik Willoughby Sr. was introduced to music appreciation through his eldest brother, Abdus, a deejay. His brothers Kenyatta and Carnell provided his early inspiration for the arts of emceeing and street dance. He has been performing rap/dance/spoken word with the high-energy, dynamic Hip Hop group S.P.I.R.I.T. and has performed professionally with CAPACITY (later known as the TRANSIT ARTS Performance Group). Malik has been the dance choreographer and guest artist with the following productions to his credit: Black Nativity (2001-2003), Chocolate Nutcracker Production (2003 & 2005), and The Adventures of Pan (2007 & 2008). He conducted Hip Hop dance workshops at DePauw University (2003-2006), Columbus BalletMet (2004-2006), Ohio Dance Festival – Bowling Green University (4/2006) and O.S.U. (3/2008). He was a member of Thioassane West African Dance Company (2003-2006) and served as a consultant for Columbus Public Schools Gifted and Talented Program for dance (2005 & 2006). Malik has served as Recreation Supervisor with Columbus Recreation and Parks, helping to improve special events in the area of performing arts through citywide open mikes, dance residencies and citywide cheer, dance & step competitions. He has written successful P.L.A.Y. grants enabling collaborations with the King Arts Complex, CAPA, and Cleveland's Rock & Roll Hall Fame, exposing inner city youth to a variety of arts experiences. – *TransitArts.com*
<http://www.transitarts.com/bio.html>

Uhuru Dancers

The Uhuru Dancers (Freedom Dancers) were founded in 1971 on the Ohio State University campus under the direction of John Bennison from Ghana and Toni Young who was an OSU student at that time. Since their creation, the Uhuru Dancers have

instructed classes and workshops for children and adults. They have traveled throughout the Midwest and in Canada. They have also performed liturgical, modern and jazz dance. They have performed on local T.V., for the “Artists in the Schools” programs, United Nations festivals, Parks and Recreation centers, colleges, social organizations, church programs, weddings, naming ceremonies, penal institutions, art galleries, libraries, International banquets, Expos, Kwanzas and African Liberation Day. One of their most memorable occasions was performing for Governor James Nwobodo of Anambra State, Nigeria and his delegation when they visited Columbus in 1981. Later that year, they funded, produced, directed, and performed in “Tour Africa with Uhuru.” Their philosophy is best summed up in their own words: “We are here to provide an African cultural education through dance, music, and song – to work together with the community – developing spiritual awareness – promoting sisterhood and brotherhood – revitalizing a cultural experience that has been lost, stolen, strayed and denied – that forgotten strength – that forgotten pride...”

– *Biography provided by Beverly Starghill*

Crystal Boyce

Crystal Boyce is a successful dancer, instructor and owner of the Leap of Faith dance studio in the King-Lincoln District and Leap of Faith Dancewear Boutique in the shops at the Lincoln Theatre. She's also a community volunteer and runs the dance ministry at St. Paul A.M.E. Church. After graduating from the Fort Hayes School of Performing Arts, studying at Ohio State and embarking on her own careers in both the political and corporate worlds, Boyce opened Leap of Faith on East Long Street in 2004. “Her ideas have been vital to the rebirth of the neighborhood and the renovation of the Lincoln Theatre,” said William Conner, president and CEO of the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts. – *Capital-Style.com*

<http://www.capital-style.com/content/stories/2010/04/30/leadingladies-crystal-boyce.html>

Suzan Bradford-Kounta

Mrs. Bradford- Kounta began her dance training at Columbus area cultural arts center at an early age. Her passion for dance radiated during her four years at Norfolk State University, VA, where she served as Dance Captain for the university's dance theater. Upon completing college, Mrs. Bradford-Kounta traveled to Senegal, West Africa to study dance, music and culture. After her return, Mrs. Bradford-Kounta secured a position with the YWCA of Columbus, where she developed, implemented and coordinated an African dance program for youth. During her fifteen years at the YWCA, Mrs. Bradford-Kounta instructed and choreographed numerous school programs and seven annual concerts with the YWCA African Beginnings Children's Dance Ensemble. Her teaching venues have included community centers, several state universities, state institutions, treatment programs, public and private schools, special populations, conferences and local venues such as BalletMet, Chocolate Nutcracker, SAVE Awards and First Night Columbus. She developed and implemented staff training for Columbus Public Schools on Integrating the Arts in the Classroom and has completed training through the Greater Columbus Arts Council, in incorporating the academic standards in its school based arts programs. She has also served as the General Manger of the Lincoln Theatre.

– *ThiossaneInst.org*. <http://thiossaneinst.org/about-us/>

Frank Lane & Raymond Wise

Raymond Wise began his musical career at the age of three, singing gospel music with his family singing group "The Wise Singers." He then went on to Denison University (Granville, Ohio) where he reorganized the Black Student Union Choir, started the Black Student Union Dance Company and earned a B.F.A. in Music. He went on to study Opera, Art, and German at the Institute for European Studies in Vienna, Austria. Then on to study African-American History, Music, and Dance at San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California. He also completed an apprenticeship in the business and recording of Gospel Music with the Walter Hawkins Corporation in Oakland, California. Rev. Wise was awarded a Graduate Fellowship from the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio where earned his Master's in Music Education and Ohio Teacher's Certification. He also completed a Doctorate in Music Education at the Ohio State University. In addition Rev. Wise appeared on radio and television, composed over 500 compositions, directed over 30 choirs, recorded 16 albums, performed with orchestras, opera and dance companies and has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, as a singer, dancer, pianist, composer, choral director, lecturer, and teacher. – *RaiseOnline.com*

<http://www.raiseonline.com/site/groups.html>

Frank Lane was educated through the Columbus South High School and started his gospel musical career at the age of 5. Directing and singing with his church choir, he got an early start at developing a successful career in the Gospel Arts. Mr. Lane appeared on radio and television, performing throughout the United States and Europe as a member of various local and national musical organizations and as a soloist on several recordings. He served as director, assistant director, or guest director for over 20 local or national mass choirs. From there he went on to study Business Administration at Franklin University. Frank was called to the gospel ministry in 1998 and pursued a Masters of Divinity at the Methodist Theological Seminary in Delaware, Ohio. Over the years, Mr. Lane has been affiliated with the Gospel Music Workshop of America, through which he received further training in the Gospel Music field. In addition he was trained to instruct the Center for the Gospel Art's specialized curriculums in the Gospel Arts, and has been teaching them successfully since 1990. He helped to develop the center's Pre-School Piano classes and curriculum. Frank instructs classes in Pre-School and Elementary Piano and Tap, Adult Tap, Gospel Directing, and Floral Arranging. – *RaiseOnline.com*

<http://www.raiseonline.com/site/groups.html>

China White

Mrs. White holds a Master's degree from The Ohio State University Department of Dance, where she also taught dance. She received training at the Judimar School of Dance under Marion Cuyjet along with Judith Jamison, the artistic director of the prestigious Alvin Ailey Dance Company, and at the Bettye Robinson School of Dance under her aunt Bettye Robinson. Her performance credits include: ten years of touring with the Dance Theatre of Harlem throughout the United States and Europe, performances in the motion pictures, "A Piece of the Action" with Bill Cosby and Sidney Poitier and "The Wiz", appearances on several nationally televised dance specials and commercials. She has been a faculty member at the Fort Hayes

Metropolitan Education Center as well as the owner and operator of the Theatre Street Dance Academy in Columbus. Ms. White also choreographed and performed as lead dancer in Opera Columbus' sold-out performances of "Aida" and "Porgy and Bess", and Columbus Board of Education's production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors". To start the new millennium, she set the story of "Amistad" to dance, which Theatre Street performed as the opening act to Debbie Allen's "Chocolate Nutcracker". She is also the choreographer for the Victory Matron's Star Lite Cotillion. Along with her husband, she hosted The All American Basketball camps for eleven years, working with National Basketball Association stars such as Jason Kidd, Michael Finley, Antonio Daniels, Michael Redd, Mike Bibby, Eric Snow, Katie Smith, and several other NBA players. China was the 1999-2000 Educator of the Year at Fort Hayes MEC. – *Biography provided by China White*

Tony and Aziza West

Performers, musicians and educators, Tony West and Aziza West drew inspiration from a variety of sources – from the vibrant style of West African drumming and dance to South and East African music, from the catchy rhythms of Latin America to popular line dances from the United States. As teachers of dance and rhythms, they created an exciting and highly engaged teaching style: encouraging participation by students and teachers, to help them better understand the history and culture behind dance and music traditions from throughout the world. – *GCAC.org*
http://www.gcac.org/edu/ais_detail.php?artist=105

Section 5- Artists

Elijah Pierce

Elijah Pierce was the youngest son of a former slave on a Mississippi farm. He began carving at an early age when his father gave him his first pocketknife. By the early 1930's, he began mounting his three-dimensional figures on cardboard or wooden backgrounds. In 1932, Pierce completed the *Book of Wood* which he considered his best work. The book was originally carved as individual scenes and tells the story of Jesus carved in bas-relief. Cornelia and Elijah held "sacred art demonstrations" to explain the meaning of the *Book of Wood*. Panels from the *Book of Wood* are currently on display at the Columbus Museum of Art. His barbershop on Long Street was a place where customers gathered for both haircuts and lively discussions of current events. All the while, Pierce was quite engaged in the life of the local community and of the nation: his carvings showing his love of baseball, boxing, comics and the movies. They also reflected his interest in national politics and his appreciation for American heroes who fought for justice and liberty. Pierce's carvings chronicled the African-American experience, but he seldom distinguished the race of his figures, depicting them instead as "everyman". It wasn't until the early 1970's that Pierce became known outside the local community. Boris Gruenwald, a sculptor and graduate student at Ohio State University, discovered Elijah Pierce's work in a Columbus YMCA exhibition and later met with Pierce, telling him he was going to make sure the world knew of his art. The two would become dear friends and Gruenwald organized several important exhibitions. Within a few years Pierce was known both nationally and internationally in the world of folk art. Pierce participated in exhibitions at galleries such as the Krannert Art Museum, the Phyllis

Kind Gallery of New York, the National Museum of American Art, and the Renwick Gallery. In 1973, Pierce won first prize in the International Meeting of Naive Art in Zagreb, Yugoslavia. In 1982, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him a National Heritage Fellowship as one of 15 master traditional artists. – *CSCC.edu*
<http://www.cscce.edu/elijahpierce/bio.htm>

Alice Schille

Alice Schille (1869–1955) was an American watercolorist and painter. Schille was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended the Columbus Art School beginning in 1891. She studied at the Art Students League of New York on a scholarship under William Merritt Chase. There she studied figure drawing with artist Kenyon Cox. In 1894 she went to Europe and remained there until 1900, in 1903 studying at the Académie Colarossi in Paris, later traveling extensively in the United States, Morocco, Egypt and abroad. For years she taught at the Columbus Art School, retiring in 1948.
– *Alice Schille Wikipedia page.* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alice_Schille

Pheoris West

Pheoris West has been an associate professor at The Ohio State University College of the Arts since 1976. He studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and earned a Masters of Fine Arts from Yale University. His areas of expertise are painting and drawing, computer graphics, and design. His art has been shown in various art displays since 1970. Examples of his work are held in the collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, the Museo Civico D'arts Contemporaneo Di Gibilina, Palermo, Italy, and the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati. He took part in the national touring exhibition "To Conserve a Legacy: American Art from Historically Black Colleges and Universities." He was a curator for the 1999 "HOMAGE TO JAZZ" at the Martin Luther King Center in Columbus, Ohio. He has also served on the National Endowment of the Arts Expansion Arts Panel, the International Juror National Exhibition of Zimbabwe, and the Ohio Arts Council. – *Art.OSU.edu and Pheoris West Wikipedia page.*
<http://art.osu.edu/people/pheoris-west-emeritus-faculty>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pheoris_West

Walt 'Wali' Neil

"Walt Neil's beautiful mural at the gateway to Ganthers Place is a symbol of hope for residents of that area", once said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. Neil's guide on a trip to Africa named him "Wali" - a Kiswahili word meaning "friend." An accomplished vocalist, drummer and teacher of the arts, his talents have taken him on a journey around the world, teaching art and music courses from the fishing village of Ngor in Senegal, West Africa to the Wholistic Stress Control Institute in Atlanta. He also brought his work to the island of Jamaica and served as artist-in-residence at the African American Museum in Cleveland. His art has been seen in the King Arts Complex in Columbus, a "Heal the World" festival at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and at Cleveland's City Hall. In part self-taught and in part the result of mentoring he received from Columbus artists Tom Pannell, Ed Colston and Bill Agnew, Neil has shared this talent with urban youth, teaching art in schools and afterschool programs. As a muralist, he has worked to prevent youth from turning to graffiti vandalism. Much of his Columbus mural work remains untagged. – *Wall-With-A-View.Webs.com*

<http://wall-with-a-view.webs.com/Articles/Article%20-%20Ganthers%20Place%20Neil.html>

ACE Gallery

Kojo Kamau and his wife Mary Ann Williams founded the ACE Gallery in 1979 at 90 N. Washington Ave in Columbus. The idea was to create a place where African American artists could showcase their work. Artists included Queen Brooks, Smoky Brown, Barbara Chavous, Larry Winston Collins, Willis Bing Davis, Roman Johnson, Elijah Pierce, Aminah Robinson, Alice Slade, and Pheoris West. The gallery grew so much due to its popularity that it later moved to 722 N. High Street.

– *Columbus Dispatch* (9/28/1999) By Nancy Gilson, page E-8

Art for Community Expressions

Art for Community Expression has held over 200 art shows in Columbus since it was founded in 1979 to assist African American artists develop and show their work, and to raise funds for trips to Africa. ACE's membership places self-taught and naive artists shoulder-by-shoulder with those trained in art schools and universities. The non-profit is an exemplary community cultural institution and a model of mutuality. It provides professional mentoring as well as social inspiration and support. – *Starr-Review.blogspot.com*

Pictured on the wall:

Seated: Roman Johnson, Aminah Robinson, Barbara Chavous, Smoky Brown
Standing: Freda Ayodele, William Agnew, Alice Slade, Larry Collins, T Graves, Pepper, Queen Brooks, Kojo Kamau, Charles Dillard

<http://starr-review.blogspot.com/2013/07/art-for-community-expression-enduring.html>

Aminah Robinson

Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1940. Her art is grounded in her belief in the African concept of *Sankofa*, learning from the past in order to move forward. Her extended journeys to various countries in Africa, New York City, Sapelo Island, Georgia, Israel, and Chile resulted in a series of art that often includes a RagGonNon – a large and complex work of art that is often on cloth encrusted with buttons, beads, and other found objects. Ms. Robinson's work has been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the United States, receiving numerous awards and grants from arts organizations. In 2002, the Columbus Museum of Art organized a retrospective exhibition of her work that traveled throughout the country. In 2004, Ms. Robinson was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, which is given to "talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction." Her work is in many private collections and in many museums including the Columbus Museum of Art, the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Tacoma Art Museum and the Newark Museum. She has drawn from her life experiences growing up in the public housing of the former Poindexter Village to create a celebrated collection of artwork. When CCAD President Denny Griffith asked Robinson to describe the most important aspect of her work, she replied, "It's about people. It's about history." – *AminahsWorld.org* and excerpts from a *Columbus Underground* article

<http://aminahsworld.org/meet/bio.php>

<http://www.columbusunderground.com/history-lesson-the-106th-anniversary-of-the-death-of-james-poindexter-dm1>

William Hawkins

William Hawkins was born in Kentucky in 1895, but spent much of his adult life in and around Columbus, Ohio, where he moved in 1916. One of the most highly regarded and self-taught African American artists of the twentieth century, Hawkins worked tirelessly at numerous jobs—often simultaneously—ranging from breaking horses and running numbers to industrial steel casting and truck driving. Hawkins began painting in the 1930s, though he only dedicated himself exclusively to art around 1979, when he was discovered by artist Lee Garrett, leading to national attention and what collectors generally describe as his “mature period.” Tending to paint with a single brush and semi-gloss enamels on large plywood and Masonite surfaces, he often worked from magazine images or his own black-and-white photographs of buildings and animals – boldly articulating his unique, expressionistic interpretations of architectural forms, religious subjects, and nature studies in bright color and broad, patterned brushstrokes. By the time of his death in 1990, Hawkins amassed a body of work comprising approximately 500 paintings and pencil drawings (not counting his lost early pieces). His highly personal visions of architecture and pop cultural themes are generally rendered in a restrained palette, sometimes including collaged found objects or images to designate depth and dimension in lieu of conventional perspective or detail. – *FoundationStart.org*
<http://foundationstart.org/artists/william-hawkins/>

Columbus Museum of Art

CMA houses art that speaks to diverse interests and styles. Approximately 200,000 people tour the Museum each year, many participating in programs designed for diverse audiences from school children to scholars. The Museum has an outstanding collection of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century American and European modern art, including spectacular examples of Impressionism, German Expressionism, Cubism, folk art, contemporary art, glass, and photography. The CMA also houses extraordinary collections by Columbus natives George Bellows, Elijah Pierce, and Aminah Robinson. In addition, its dynamic Center for Creativity fosters imagination, critical thinking, and innovation through experiences that engage visitors with art and with each other, model the creative process, highlight examples of creativity in action, and underscore the importance of creativity in our community. – *Discovery District.com*
<http://www.discoverydistrict.com/who-we-are/member-spotlight/columbus-museum-of-art/>

Ursel White Lewis

Ursel White Lewis managed to aid, support, view and appreciate the art of the Columbus African American community at a time when being a patron of the arts was a gesture usually applied to those of financial privilege. Born in Oklahoma City in 1913, “Lady Lewis” (as she was called) came to Columbus with her ailing mother in 1941. In 1943, she married Howard W. Lewis, who worked in the chemistry department at the Ohio State University. She was a fashionable woman who made

hats and wore three quarter length gloves all year round. In 1974, she got several pieces of art from a barber on Long Street, who was right around the corner from the Columbus Museum of Art, and donated them to the museum. That barber was Elijah Pierce. As a result of her patronage, the CMA now has hundreds of pieces and two exhibit rooms dedicated to the now-famous woodcarver as well as artwork from Columbus artists Roman Johnson, Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson and Henry Cade, Jr. – *ColumbusBicentennial.Blogspot.com*
<http://columbusbicentennial.blogspot.com/2012/02/ursel-white-lewis-patron-of-arts.html>

Marion Richardson

Photographer Marion Richardson chronicled the Columbus black community from the early 1930s to the mid 1950s to make sure its history was recorded in more than just words. His work also included iconic photographs of the Leveque Tower and other scenes from downtown Columbus over the decades. He was also a business owner who ran a construction company and a bowling alley. Mr. Richardson passed away in 1984. – *From excerpts from a Columbus Dispatch Article by Jeffery Briggs*
Source – The Columbus Dispatch – Visual Arts “Photos preserve life of a time gone by” By Jeffery Briggs (Sunday, August 16, 1992)

Chief Shongo Obadina

A licensed plumber and pipe fitter by trade, Chief Shongo Obadina has long been a community activist and artist. Born in 1946 and raised in Columbus, he spent several years in New York and Boston. Resettling in Columbus in 1976, Chief Shongo established the William H. Thomas Art Gallery at 1270 Bryden Road and, two years later – the Urban Cultural Arts Foundation. Since then, he volunteered as the executive director and curator, dedicated to helping people in and around the community. His efforts enabled the foundation and the gallery (both non-profit, volunteer-based organizations) to live, grow and become an active part of providing inspirations and encouragement for better living conditions. Countless artists from Columbus and the world have since brought their works for exhibition at Chief Shongo’s Gallery, including Ed Colston, Aminah Robinson, Queen Brooks, Pheoris West, Barbara Chavous, and Smoky Brown. Poets, singers, musicians and dancers have left their spirit vapor in every room. His volunteer efforts have also been spent as an active member of boards or committees such as the South Side Settlement House (Board president), NEAC planning committee, Central Community House, and the Police Athletic League. Chief Shongo is a great artist in his own right. His woodcarvings and copper expressions can be seen in the front, back and on every level of the William H. Thomas Gallery. The house is a work of art itself: even having his rendition of a dragon in the back yard. – *ArtAndLifeInTheHood.com*
<http://www.artandlifeinthehood.com/46414.html>

Emerson Burkhart

Born near Kalida, Ohio in 1905, Emerson Burkhart graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1927, studied at the Art Student's League in New York City and subsequently travelled to Provincetown, Massachusetts where he took instruction from noted artist Charles Hawthorne. Returning to the Midwest in 1931, he taught at the Columbus, Ohio School of Art and was an early member of the Ohio Art League. Burkhart was primarily an American Scene painter – documenting African-American

life in Columbus and well known for his street scenes. His paintings also often depicted his disdain for wretched excess and our evolution to a disposable society. He received two WPA mural commissions, one at Stillman Hall on the campus of Ohio State University, and the now infamous mural painted above the auditorium of Central High School in Columbus. Several years after the completion of the mural, the school principal had the mural whitewashed, calling it too “risqué” and inappropriate for young minds. This mistake was corrected sixty-five years later when the mural was restored and given a new home at the Columbus Convention Center. Burkhart continued to paint prolifically throughout the 1960s until he suffered a stroke and passed away in November 1969 at his home in Columbus.

– *EmersonBurkhart.info*

<http://emersonburkhart.info/home.html>

Roman Johnson

Roman Johnson (1917-2005) was known for social-justice paintings, portraits and a rascally personality. Except for 10 years in New York, he was a lifelong Columbus resident. Johnson’s younger years were guided by his mentor, Emerson Burkhart. Mr. Johnson was involved in the field of Fine Arts for more than 35 years, studying not only with Burkhart, but also Cletus Butler and Edwin Dickerson. Mr. Johnson spent a year painting in Paris and five years at the New York Art League. While in New York, he served as Art Instructor for the American Red Cross and Veteran's Administration, teaching and sketching convalescent service men. – *Columbus Dispatch article excerpts and LibGuides.CSCC.edu "The 17 'Roots and Legacies' artists."* *Columbus Dispatch*. 25 Nov. 2007. Web. 7 Dec. 2011.

<http://libguides.csc.edu/content.php?pid=283506&sid=2336213>

Section 6- Authors

Ella Coleman

Journalist, entrepreneur and speaker Ella Coleman founded and served as president of Ellavation Enterprises, Inc. – what she called “a higher level” media communications and publishing company. The firm provided innovative radio/television programs and segments, as well as speaking and training presentations to inspire young minds and offer relational solutions to organizations, businesses, agencies, churches, families and individuals. Ellavation also provided magazine and book publishing consultations. In 1990, Ella created and hosted the "Brothers Helping Brothers" Radio-thon, recruiting 400 African American men mentors, including public officials, business executives, college students, blue-collar workers and others to help disadvantaged African American boys and teens in Ohio. – *VoiceOfDestiny.org*

<http://voiceofdestiny.org/destinygroup/visionariesconclave.html>

Call & Post Building

The Columbus Call & Post Newspaper was founded in 1962 by Amos Lynch. This paper was an extension of the Cleveland Call & Post, which was founded in 1932. The paper, formally known as the Columbus Post, covered some of the tumultuous events in the country including the 1965 racial disturbances of Selma, Alabama, the March on Washington, the assassinations of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr., the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and much more. The paper became a voice of the people in Columbus and many people used it as a tool to fight injustice and oppression within the city. The paper also provided official endorsements of political candidates and helped to sponsor "Get Out To Vote" rallies. Today, the building is owned by John Waddy, community leader and entrepreneur. – *The Columbus Call & Post: The Founding of Local Black Community Newspaper, 1962 – 1966, A Thesis Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Masters of Arts By Virgil Vicent Hollingsworth, Sr., B.A., M.A. – The Ohio State University 1975, and other sources.*

Amos Lynch and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

Amos Lynch served nearly 33 years as editor-in-chief of the Columbus Call & Post before founding his own newspaper, the Columbus Post, in 1995 – to cover central Ohio's black community. Among his many central Ohio activities, Mr. Lynch helped found the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Breakfast in 1986. Besides being known as an iconic journalist, Lynch spent his career educating and empowering the African-American community through his weekly publications. He mentored many notable media personalities, including Columbus' own Angela Pace, community affairs director at WBNS-10TV. He earned the nickname of "Godfather" for his decades of leadership and mentorship in the black community and was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2011.

<http://www.whoswhopublishing.com/index.php/newsroom/announcements/336-the-godfather-of-news-amos-lynch-inducted-into-ohio-civil-rights-hall-of-fame>

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast started in 1985 with a group of ladies from the historic Shiloh Baptist Church – LaRue V. Keeler, Charlene Taylor and Lorraine Clemons (all now deceased) who wanted to honor Dr. King in a more proper way than having a simple meal at their church. They thought it should be a citywide observance recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and honoring Dr. King's legacy of touching the conscience of America with his dream of love, peace and justice and a better world for everyone. The three women and the Reverend C. Dexter Wise, III, Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, and Mr. Amos H. Lynch, Sr., Editor, Columbus Call and Post Newspaper, organized the first annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast on January 20, 1986 at Downtown Columbus' Sheraton Hotel. Mr. Lynch and Rev. Wise heavily publicized the breakfast event, of which Mrs. Keeler became the primary coordinator. About 1,000 people attended making the Breakfast event a great success. The Breakfast rotated through different venues as it grew. The Breakfast now attracts approximately 6,000 people and is billed as the largest breakfast in Dr. King's honor in the nation. – *Excerpts from Columbus Dispatch article by Jeb Phillips and WhosWhoPublishing.com*

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2011/10/14/civil-rights-advocates-honored.html>

Mary Ann Williams

Dr. Williams was a poet, playwright, solo actress, and theatrical director. Her special interests included communications and related leadership challenges for women and other African-Americans, the social and political images of African-Americans in media, and dramatic literature. She joined the faculty of the OSU Department of Black Studies in 1972, serving as a real inspiration to many students who participated in her

classes, plays, and poetry sessions. For ten years, Dr. Williams was Coordinator of Broadcast Productions for the Department of Black Studies. She hosted and produced the weekly Emmy-nominated series "Afromation" on WOSU-TV, moderated the weekly hour series "Black Studies Broadcast Journal" and the weekly one-half hour "Black Studies Beat" on WOSU-AM radio. Among her many guests were Alex Haley, Maya Angelou, Ruby Dee, and Mohammad Ali and many programs were broadcast on National Public Radio. She also served as Acting Chairperson of the Department of Black Studies during the 1986-1987 academic years before returning to her first love of teaching. Dr. Williams was recognized for her service with proclamations from the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate for community service, contributions to education, and outstanding broadcasting. She was the recipient of the first annual Wilmington College Trustees Alumni Award. In 1983, the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Theatre Alliance Playwright's Workshop at Wittenberg University selected her as one of the ten best playwrights in the State of Ohio. In 1985 Dr. Williams was selected for Who's Who Among Black Americans. – *Trustees.OSU.edu*
<http://trustees.osu.edu/assets/files/minutes/Archive%20minutes/1992/Dec691.pdf>

Anna S. Bishop

Called "The Mother of Black History in Columbus", Anna Bishop was not only an educator in the Columbus Schools, but also a singer, poet, actress, composer and tireless community activist. She was also the author of *Beyond Poindexter Village: The Blackberry Patch*, which chronicled the history of the community from just after World War I, when black Southerners migrated north to take advantage of the industrial boom and the jobs it created in many Midwestern cities like Columbus. *The Blackberry Patch* was an area settled in East Columbus in what is now known as the King-Lincoln District: bordered by Long Street, Mount Vernon Avenue, Ohio Avenue and Mink Alley. – *ColumbusBicentennial.Blogspot.com*
<http://columbusbicentennial.blogspot.com/2012/04/anna-bishop-educator-black-historian.html>

Shay Banks

Shay Banks-Young is a radio and TV personality and poet in Columbus, Ohio. Genetic testing in 1998 confirmed an ancestral connection between Madison Hemmings's brother, Eston and Thomas Jefferson. She then went on the Oprah Winfrey show and met Eston's descendant Julia Jefferson Westerinen. Since then, Banks-Young and Westerinen have been bringing a discussion of racial issues, titled "A Conversation in Black and White," to audiences around the country.
– *Monticello.org*
<http://www.monticello.org/getting-word/people/shay-banks-young>

Is Said

An author, mentor, community-based activist and educator, Is Said provides sage leadership on a national level as well as in the greater Columbus arts community. He conceives, stages, writes and performs unique multimedia arts events – combining visionary, historical-based poetry or prose synergistically with high-energy African music and dance. Founding the Columbus-based "Advance Party" in 1973, he brings to life a powerful, spiritual vision to inspire, inform, and empower diverse audiences. With an inclusive multicultural approach, Is Said serves formally and informally as a

consultant to many arts agencies and individuals, seeking his wisdom born of a lifetime of community experience. – *IsSaid.com*
<http://www.issaid.com/>

Columbus Metropolitan Library

The Columbus Metropolitan Library is nationally recognized as one of the premier library systems in the United States, earning the distinction of National Library of the Year in 2010. The Main Library is the original building of what is now a 21-location system throughout Franklin County. It was originally funded in 1903 with a \$200,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie and was built on a site formerly occupied by the Governor's Mansion. The 418,800 square foot, Roman Classic-style building was first opened to the public in 1907 and is constructed of Vermont marble and granite. Four additions were made to the building, most recently in 1991. The Main Library hosts almost 1,000 children and teen programs each year, as well as art exhibits, music concerts, genealogy workshops and orientations to business, grants and careers research. – *DiscoveryDistrict.com*
<http://www.discoverydistrict.com/who-we-are/member-spotlight/december-2010/>

James Thurber

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty was written for dreamers by a dreamer. James Grover Thurber was the American author, cartoonist and celebrated wit who penned this story and many others. Thurber was best known for his cartoons and short stories, published mainly in *The New Yorker* magazine then collected in his numerous books. One of the most popular humorists of his time, Thurber celebrated the comic frustrations and eccentricities of ordinary people. He was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1894 and is considered one of the foremost American humorists of the 20th century. His inimitable wit and pithy prose spanned a breadth of genres, including short stories, modern commentary, fiction, children's fantasy and letters. Thurber wrote nearly 40 books, and won a Tony Award for the Broadway play, *A Thurber Carnival*, in which he often starred as himself. One of his books, *My World and Welcome To It*, was turned into an NBC television series in 1969-1970 starring William Windom. The show won best Comedy Series and Windom won Best Actor in a Comedy Series at the 1970 Emmys! Thurber died in 1961. – *ThurberHouse.org* and *James Thurber Wikipedia page*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Thurber
<http://thurberhouse.org/james-thurber.html>

Thurber House

Listed on the National Register of Historic places, Thurber House was the home of author, humorist, and New Yorker cartoonist James Thurber and his family when Thurber was a student at The Ohio State University. Thurber House opened in 1984 as a non-profit literary center and museum of Thurber materials. It is a living museum, allowing visitors to experience Thurber's life by becoming a guest of the Thurber family. While in the house museum, visitors are invited to sit on the chairs, play a tune on the downstairs piano, see the typewriter that was Thurber's while he was at the New Yorker, and become a part of literary history. The Thurber House is furnished in the style of the 1913-1917 period when Thurber lived in the home. It

remains a popular destination for all ages. – *ThurberHouse.org*
<http://www.thurberhouse.org/thurber-house-museum-and-thurber-center.html>

Section 7- Education

Catherine Willis

Volunteers can move figurative mountains and Catherine Willis is a grand example of that when it comes to education in Columbus. She is a retired Columbus City Schools educator who has been involved as a community volunteer for many years. The focus of her volunteer work has been enriching the lives of youth and senior citizens by providing experiences and information about the art and culture of Africa and African-Americans. She has received awards for her work from the YWCA, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus City Schools, the Junior League of Columbus, and the United Negro College Fund. Ms. Willis attended Spelman College and received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Kent State University. She is a native of Cleveland, is married to another former educator, and is the proud mother of two successful children. Ms. Willis has served as the vice president of Friends of Art for Community Enrichment (FACE): a position that functions as the CEO/executive director for the organization. – *tcfapp.org*
<http://tcfapp.org/PortraitView/PrintPortrait?strBackground=%20&PortraitKey=116>

Urban Strings Youth Orchestra

Music is an integral part of a good education. Urban Strings, founded in 2007, is a Central Ohio-based community youth orchestra of serious, young, talented musicians from various public and private schools throughout the metropolitan Columbus area. Urban Strings performs a multicultural repertoire of great music ranging from classical, jazz and gospel, to R&B, and movie themes. Participants are provided with an opportunity to learn various types of music to which they might not otherwise be exposed. Urban Strings provides the opportunity for its instrumentalists to hone proper performance techniques for their respective instruments, while placing a high value on academic performance, preparing participants to become well-rounded college applicants. During 2013, Urban Strings Half Notes and Urban Strings Quarter Notes were launched as learning and performance groups for less experienced and beginning musicians that will serve as avenues of growth for Urban Strings Youth Orchestra. Friends of Art for Community Enrichment (F.A.C.E.) is the sponsor of Urban Strings. – *Urban Strings Youth Orchestra Facebook page*
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/URBAN-Strings-Columbus-Ohio/406003406157837?id=406003406157837&sk=info>

William "Bill" Moss

William Roger "Bill" Moss (September 17, 1935 – August 2, 2005) was an enduring and often larger than life community leader, political activist, and one-time music impresario in Central Ohio and was recognized nationally for his efforts concerning educational matters and practices. He also founded and ran his own recording studio and record label. Moss was an outspoken and committed activist in the school desegregation and busing issues in the early 1970's. This led Moss to make his first

run for political office, an Independent run for the U.S. Congress in 1976. Moss lost to the incumbent and local Democrats blamed him for splitting the vote, causing their candidate to also lose. But this gave Moss the name recognition and momentum he needed to gain election to the Columbus Board of Education the following year. He would run twice unsuccessfully for higher office before serving in the Ohio National Guard, where he was recognized as Ohio Soldier of the Year. He also earned a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Management from Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. Moss returned to elective politics in 1985, returning to the Columbus Board of Education. He was defeated for reelection in 1989. He returned to the Board in 1991, wrote a book entitled, *School Desegregation: Enough is Enough*. In 1994, Moss lost a hotly contested primary for the Ohio House of Representatives. The following year, he was the Democratic nominee for Mayor of Columbus, but was defeated in that election by the incumbent Mayor. In 1997, Moss was returned to the Board in a special election, and was reelected in 1999. In 2003, Moss was defeated in his final political run, trying for reelection to the Columbus Board of Education. He attempted another run for the School Board as a write-in candidate, but passed away in 2005 before he could begin a campaign. – *Bill Moss Wikipedia page*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Roger_%22Bill%22_Moss

Clifford Tyree

A Life trustee of Denison University, Clifford Tyree lived a remarkable life filled with community service that speaks to his extraordinary dedication to community and how he encouraged the development and achievement of young people. Mr. Tyree's tireless efforts to recruit African American students from the Columbus area to attend Denison laid the foundation for the culturally diverse campus that exists today. Both from his official position with the Youth Services Bureau and by the sheer force of his moral will, he gave young African American men and women the incentive to stretch to fulfill all the promise within themselves. He received numerous awards and honors throughout his inspiring life. In 1988, he was named Citizen of the Year for his work as co-founder of the Black Family Week Committee and for over 30 years of outstanding service to the community. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Ohio Dominican College in 1989. He received the Temple Israel Humanitarian Award in 1990 for his participation in the I Know I Can program for disadvantaged youth from inner city Columbus. He earned the Borden Inc. Award of Excellence from the Columbus Urban League in 1992; the Julian Sinclair Smith Celebration of Learning Award from the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation in 1993 and a Jefferson Award for outstanding volunteerism in recognition of his fundraising efforts for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), as volunteer coordinator for the UNCF Walk-a-thon, and I Know I Can. – *Denison.edu*
http://www.denison.edu/announcements/denison_mourns_the_loss_of_clifford_tyree.html (article no longer online)

Ohio School for the Deaf

In 1832, a new Ohio School for the Deaf was erected on East Town Street for \$15,000. The main building was three stories high, fifty feet by eighty feet. A barn and several outbuildings were also built. The facility was designed to accommodate 60-80 pupils and, at the time, was supposed to meet the needs of the population for many years to come. In 1868, a new main building of Franco-Italian architecture, having towers, steep roofs, and dormer windows, replaced the dilapidated 1834

building. The schools remained there with additions and reconstruction until 1953. The school saw its highest attendance in 1904, when 532 pupils were taught and housed on the grounds. The school's name was later officially changed to the Ohio State School for the Deaf and its operation was placed under the auspices of the State Department of Education. In 1941, school administrators and the Ohio legislators were concerned that the East Town Street school buildings were in great disrepair and established a commission to investigate the need for a new facility. As a result, 235 acres were purchased on the far north side of the city. This site, originally a golf course with wooded areas, grassy knolls, and a lovely ravine with a wide stream, would soon become the new home for both the Ohio School for the Deaf and Ohio State School for the Blind. Construction was delayed until after World War II and after major state highway projects were finished.

– *OhioSchoolForTheDeaf.org*

<http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org/history.aspx>

Edward "Ed" Willis

A Columbus East High School graduate, U.S. Navy veteran and a prominent civil rights and education leader, Edward "Ed" Willis understood that learning opens doors. He attended Delaware State College in Dover Delaware and graduated from The Ohio State University in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. Willis received a Masters of Education from The Ohio State University in 1958, with further study in Mathematics. Mr. Willis was Assistant Principal at Champion Middle School from 1961-1963 and Principal from 1963-1970. He also served as Principal for the summer school and night school sessions held at Champion. Mr. Willis became Principal of East High School in 1971 and served the school faithfully until his retirement in 1986. Mr. Willis' had a deep commitment to the community: a 50-year plus member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Lambda Boule, the Near Eastside Council, the Mt. Vernon Avenue Business Men's Improvement Association, Board of Directors of the Big Brothers Association of America, Columbus Urban League, NAACP, Education Advisory Committee of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, Chairman of the Educational Division of the United Negro College Fund of Central Ohio, Board of Directors of the Ohio State Student Loan Foundation, Board of Directors of the Franklin County Society for Crippled Children. – *Edward Willis Obituary*

<http://diehlwhittaker.frontrunnerpro.com/runtime/90466/runtime.php?SiteId=90466&NavigatorId=324538&op=tributeObituary&viewOpt=dpaneOnly&ItemId=625701>

Aquinas High School (Aquinas Hall)

Originally Aquinas High School, from 1903-1957, Aquinas Hall was purchased by Columbus Technical Institute (which became Columbus State Community College) in 1965 and became the campus' first building that year. Bishop James J. Hartley started the school as St. Patrick's High School in 1905 in three rooms of St. Patrick's parochial school building. The original building opened in February 1906; when the school was expanded in 1911 and accredited to grant academic degrees, the name was changed to Aquinas College High School. The next year another addition was made, students still boarded in dormitories there. With new Catholic high schools being built, the last classes graduated from Aquinas in June 1965, and in August the school was closed and became available for CSCC to purchase. – *CSCC.edu*

<http://www.cscceu/about/columbus/building-guide.shtml>

Columbus State Community College

Columbus State Community College (CSCC) is a [community college](#) first established as Columbus Area Technician's School in 1963. It was renamed Columbus Technical Institute in 1965 and renamed again to its current name in 1987. The college has grown from an initial enrollment of 67 students in 1963, to its current enrollment of about 26,000 students over two campuses, nine regional learning centers and online courses. – *Columbus State Community College Wikipedia page*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbus_State_Community_College

Evelyn Luckey

Evelyn Foreman Luckey served as Columbus Public School teacher 1957-1967, and as assistant school superintendent 1977-1990. Dr. Luckey was the first African American woman trustee of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 1973-1988, and the first African American woman board president in 1985.

– *Digital-Collections.ColumbusLibrary.org*

http://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/cdm4/cml_search_results.php?CISOROOT=/african&CISOROOT_alt=&t=s&CISOSORT=subject%7Cf

East High School

Still a center of education in the King-Lincoln District, East High School is located at 1500 E. Broad Street. A part of Columbus City Schools, it was originally constructed in 1922. It was completely renovated in December 2008. The historic building was equipped for 21st-century learning. Renovation work included restoring numerous skylights throughout the building, refinishing the solid woodwork and wrought iron railings, as well as installing new energy-efficient lighting fixtures. The new capacity is 1032 students. Included in the renovation was the addition of a 34,000-square-foot gymnasium. The new gymnasium features three full-sized basketball courts and seating for 1850 spectators. Total construction cost was \$28.2 million.

– *East High School Columbus, OH Wikipedia page*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_High_School_\(Columbus,_Ohio\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_High_School_(Columbus,_Ohio))

Jack Gibbs

When people drive to the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center in Columbus, they often enter on a street called Jack Gibbs Boulevard. But they may not know about who he is. Gibbs taught history and coached football at Columbus Central High School, served as Vice Principal at Franklin Junior High School and became the first black high school principal in Columbus, serving at East High School from 1967 to 1971. At his death in 1982, he was the Executive Director of the Ft. Hayes Career Center. In 1971, Jack served as president of Columbus Model Cities' Education & Resources Program. In 1972, as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Career Center, he oversaw the development of what was later known as the Ft. Hayes Career Center. He was also a trustee for the Ohio State University. In fact, the Jack Gibbs Scholarship is awarded annually to one male and one female senior at East High School for "Outstanding achievements in leadership."

– *ColumbusEastAlumni.org*

<http://www.columbuseastalumni.org/JackGibbs.html>

Ft. Hayes Metropolitan Education Center

The 77-acre military post known today as Fort Hayes was born out of the need for a federal arsenal to equip Ohio regiments called to duty during the Civil War. Fort Hayes served as a major Midwest training and induction center during the Civil War through the Vietnam conflict. Today's Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center serves as an urban public high school, located at the edge of downtown Columbus, with a mission to create expectations of excellence within students through challenging and collaborative learning, blending the arts, academics and career programs. The Fort Hayes Career Center, as it was first known, was established in 1976 when the Federal Government abandoned the fifty acres on which it is located. Through the leadership and efforts of Jack Gibbs and two local congressmen, Columbus Public Schools was able to purchase these fifty acres for one dollar (\$1.00). The original career center consisted of four buildings--the Business Building, the Health Building, the Visual Arts Center (Shot Tower), and the Battelle Math/Science Building. In the fall of 1988, three unique educational programs were added: a career center program, The Battelle Youth Science Program, and an arts and academic high school. The Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School was created in 1988, joining an already highly rated arts, business, childcare, and health vocational programs. Ninth and tenth graders (about 223 of them) arrived to begin the work of starting a new high school, along with 23 new staff members. An additional grade level was added each year, and the first senior class graduated in June, 1991. – *FtHayes.com*

<http://www.fthayes.com/fthayes.com/History.html>

Columbus College of Art and Design

What is now considered one of the nation's best higher education institutes for art and design had very humble beginnings in Columbus. The original founders of the Columbus Museum of Art established the Columbus College of Art & Design as the Columbus Art School in late 1878. In January 1879, adult classes commenced on the top floor of a commercial building at the corner of High and Long Streets. Children's classes followed in 1880. Over the decades, the Art School grew, causing it to move to various locations around downtown Columbus. Among the faculty at that time was noted painter [Alice Schille](#). Columbus-born [George Bellows](#) had a brief stint as a student before going onto study in New York. By 1928, the organization's facilities were becoming overcrowded. Philanthropist Ralph H. Beaton made a \$60,000 gift that enabled the Art School to construct a new building and (in 1959) the Columbus Art School became Columbus College of Art & Design (CCAD). CCAD separated from the Museum in 1981 and formed its own board of trustees. As the school continued to grow, it bought, renovated, and constructed new buildings around its downtown home to suit its changing needs, including Design Square Apartments, an award-winning apartment-style residence hall for upper-level students in 2006, and the renovation of Design Studios on Broad into custom spaces for fabrication, fashion design, and a master of fine arts program took place from 2006–2013, fueled by the college's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign. The CCAD campus now consists of 14 buildings on nine contiguous acres, and today's student body represents 40 U.S. states and more than 30 countries. When you view today's latest fashions, admire a newly designed building or product or even enjoy the computer-generated animation at the movies, you are likely looking at

the work of a CCAD graduate. – *Columbus College of Art and Design Wikipedia page*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbus_College_of_Art_and_Design

Joseph Canzani

Joseph V. Canzani was an artist, educator and President of the Columbus College of Art & Design from 1949 – 1995. He was born in 1915 and emigrated from his native Italy to the United States as a child with his parents and brothers. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, playing clarinet, oboe, and saxophone in the military band, and returned to study Design at Pratt Institute in New York City after the war. He later completed his master's degree at The Ohio State University. A dedicated and inventive teacher, he was asked to assume the leadership of the (then) tiny Columbus School of Art and a part of the Columbus Gallery of Fine Art (now the Columbus Museum of Art). He later brought the school to fully accredited status as a college of art and design. During his tenure, the school grew from just 17 students at the close of the Second World War, to over 1,200 at the time of his retirement at age 80. His 46-year leadership as the head of CCAD made him one of the longest-tenured college presidents in U.S. history. – *JosephCanzani.com*
<http://www.josephcanzani.com/about/>

Megan Evans

An active arts educator, Megan Evans was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received a BA in Art from the University of Findlay and later completed a Master Degree in Art Education at The Ohio State University, focusing on creating public art with young people. She is currently a middle school visual arts educator in the Columbus City School district, continuing to focus her work in public art, specifically on the Historic Near East side of Columbus, Ohio. She is an avid grant writer, funding most of the large public art pieces through grant monies. She and her students recently were awarded a 2000 Columbus Bicentennial grant to celebrate the history of the Near East side through a large sculpture project.
– *CreativeControlFest.com*. <http://creativecontrolfest.com/megan-evans/>

Section 8- Business

Edna Bryce

Because of her tireless efforts with both the business and the community she was affectionately known throughout the King-Lincoln District and beyond as “The Flower Lady.” In 1934, Edna Bryce began Bryce Florist in the living room of her home. With no experience, training or resources, she built the business into a profitable institution. Besides being a successful businesswoman, she was an influential political activist and community leader who was the driving force in the development of the Mt. Vernon Avenue District Improvement Association during the 1950's. While president of the association, she was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the development of the Mt. Vernon Plaza. She also devoted much of her life to the Columbus Branch of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.
– *Columbus.gov*. <https://columbus.gov/Templates/Detail.aspx?id=45173>

Carl L. Brown Foodliner

Starting out as a \$2 an hour clerk at a Columbus A&P Grocery Store, Carl Brown went on to become the owner and operator of what was the largest black-owned grocery store in the United States. After leaving A&P, he first opened two vegetable/fruit stands at the Eastern Market on Mt. Vernon Ave. He found that his products were in high demand so he kept his stands open 24/7. In the late 1940's there was an increase in southern black migrants moving to Columbus and they increased his business so much that he needed to buy a store. In 1952 he moved to Mt. Vernon and Champion Ave where he purchased the old Dunbar building for \$15,000 and opened Brown's IGA. In 1968 he moved into Mt. Vernon Ave and became Carl L. Brown Foodliner. The store began to struggle when the Interstate highway was built along with the development of Mt. Vernon Plaza, which opened smaller versions of the grocery store called "carry-outs." Brown continued to face more challenges in the 70's and 80's as people began to move out of the neighborhood and new grocery chains opened up. The store finally closed in the late 1990s. – *Call and Post* article (Thursday, July 7, 1994) Pg. 2A

Diehl-Whittaker Funeral Home

Diehl-Whittaker Funeral Service began serving Columbus since 1905, making it Columbus' oldest African-American family owned and operated mortuary. From the beginning, they made it their mission to serve all people, regardless of race or ethnicity. That has built a high level of the respect in the community that has allowed them to establish a reputation of dignity and trust. It was a woman, Mrs. Dollie Whittaker, who originally established the Whittaker Funeral Home, later known as "Mrs. D.A. Whittaker & Sons". Located, as it is still is, at the corner of East Long Street and Hamilton Avenue, the funeral home is an important business and social institution in the community. The Whittaker family operated it for three generations until 1969, when the Diehl family, who had owned and operated a funeral home in Youngstown, Ohio, purchased it. The firm is currently owned and managed by Richard J. Diehl, who in 1977 built the currently existing facility on the site of the original Whittaker establishment; it was at this time that the firm's name was changed to "Diehl-Whittaker". – *Diehl-Whittaker.com*

<http://diehl-whittaker.com/DW-funeral-home-history.shtml>

Brian Brooks and Otto Beatty III/ EE WARD

Recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce as the oldest minority-owned business in the United States, the E.E. Ward Moving Company was founded in 1881 by William S. Ward and his father John T. Ward. "Let Ward Do It" was the motto for the company which began with a team of horses, a wagon and two helpers. In 2001, Mr. Eldon Ward, the last member of the Ward Family to own the business, sold and entrusted his business to Brian Brooks and Otto Beatty. These two young men, who have been friends since the age of five, pledged to uphold the legacy and tradition of excellence established by the Ward Family and expected by its customers.

– *EE Ward.com*. <http://www.eeward.com/about-us.html>

Long Street

Long Street's history dates back to the late 1800s when many African Americans settled here after migrating to the area from Georgia, Alabama, Virginia and Mississippi. Many searched for new jobs or looked to settle where they could escape the racial hatred and segregation they left in the Deep South. The area began to

grow into a city of its own and by the early 1900's was known as Bronzeville. They created a government system and elected a mayor, Rev. N. L. Scarborough, who was also the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church. As the area grew, thousands of African Americans visited the area because it was also known as the "Harlem" of Columbus. Famous musicians such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Nancy Wilson, James Brown and hometown heroes, Rashann Roland Kirk and Harry "Sweets" Edison would perform in one of the many clubs around the area. Businesses grew, schools developed and within a matter of 40 years, the area was made up of more than 68,000 African Americans, many of whom went on to have successful careers. All of that changed in the late 1960's and early 70's when the I-71 freeway system was built. It separated the neighborhood and cut many residents off from the resources that they need to survive. Now, almost 50 years later, the Ohio Department of Transportation worked with local community artists Kojo Kamau and Larry Winston Collins to create a one-of-a-kind mural that highlights the history of the community and reconnects the neighborhood through the new Long Street Bridge.

– *Excerpts from various sources – Bronzeville Poster (11/6/1938), History of African Americans in Columbus Collections, section on Bronzeville/Black Berry Patch (2001). The Columbus Dispatch – Black History Month Edition (1/16/2000), special insert.*

A Cut Above The Rest Barber Shop

One of the most unique barbershops in Columbus, Ohio is *A Cut Above The Rest*. In this barbershop, you'll not only get a great haircut, but you'll also get an education on the history of African Americans in Columbus. The shop just has historical ambiance about it. There are historical pictures on the walls of the neighborhood and a mural entitled "Back in the Day", depicting how the neighborhood looked back in the early 1960s. While waiting for a haircut and looking at the pictures, customers will usually hear about another customer's personal experience of the district. And ironically, their conversation will begin with the phrase "Back in the Day" and lots of laughter. "People from all over the world come to this shop just to look at the mural," said Al Edmondson, owner of the shop and president of the Mt. Vernon Avenue Improvement Association. "This neighborhood has a rich history and I wanted to capture it in the mural," he said. The mural is painted by local artist Greg Matthews. The mural highlights fashions of each decade, local business and the famous parades: something many customers can identify with in one or more scenes in the mural. – *Examiner.com article by S. Yolanda Robinson*
<http://www.examiner.com/review/a-cut-above-the-rest-gives-haircuts-and-a-black-history-lesson>

Black Art Plus, George Miller

Black Art Plus has been around since 1986, when 78-year-old owner George Miller took a leap of faith and opened the shop in a struggling area. The mission of Black Art Plus is to expose the public to the enhanced world of Black Art by providing the availability of access to the best art the world has to offer. The range and type of art we represent is as wide as any gallery in the country. Originals, limited editions, posters, batiks, papyrus, and many other art forms are sold in the gallery. – *BlackArtPlus.com and Columbus Dispatch article by Mark Ferencik*
<http://www.blackartplus.com/>

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2011/07/05/a-new-life-for-olde-towne.html>

Gilbert's Shoes

Gilberts Shoe Store started when Harry Gilbert's father bought him a cobbler's shop for \$50 when he was 16 years old. Harry started by selling used shoes, which were very popular sellers at the time. There were two types of shoes, open soles and belly soles. Belly soles lasted only a couple months before wearing out but open soles lasted longer and so there was a good market for used open sole shoes. Over time, Mr. Gilbert expanded his store by renting the buildings next to his until the store stretched almost the whole block. When the Depression hit, Gilbert sold 20% of the shoes in Columbus because of his store's low prices. It was located at 210 E. Town St. – *Columbus Jewish History interview with Dr. Ivan Gilbert*

http://columbusjewishhistory.org/?post_type=oral_histories&p=124

Waldo Tyler

Dr. Waldo Woodson Tyler founded Tyler Drugs in 1921. His drug store became one of the oldest and largest independently owned and operated prescription drug stores in Columbus. Originally located on E. Long St, it was moved to the corner of 20th and Mt. Vernon Ave. Eventually Tyler Drugs had 3 locations throughout Columbus. A sign that said "Through these doors pass the finest people in the world": showing how appreciative the Tyler's were of their customers. Dr. Tyler was the first African American to graduate from Ohio State's College of Pharmacy. He passed away in 1957. Dr. Tyler's son, Waldo Harris Tyler, then followed in the footsteps of his father, graduating from The Ohio State University's College of Pharmacy as well. He took over Tyler Drugs after his father's passing. The Tyler family was very involved with the community and the civil rights movement. – *Biography provided by Dana Tyler. Also includes excerpts from Columbus Dispatch and Columbus Citizen Journal articles, published in 1962.*

Glory Foods, Bill Williams

Using delicious dishes served in his Columbus, Ohio soul food restaurant as inspiration, William F. "Bill" Williams, along with partners Dan Charna, Iris Cooper and Garth Henley, launched Glory Foods in 1989. The company's vision was steeped in generations of Southern-style recipes and flavors that came during a friendly discussion about holiday dinner preparation. Williams mentioned the number of hours and care that went into cooking a savory pot of collard greens and how no African-American family celebration is complete without them. After extensive research, Williams and his partners realized that pre-seasoned, canned collard greens were not available anywhere. So they set out to launch Glory Foods. The name Glory captured the warm heritage of African-American food traditions as well as a spiritual connotation that the founders felt would resonate with consumers. Glory Foods officially launched its initial line with 17 pre-seasoned canned vegetables in 1992 and later expanded its line to offer 85 products that are now available at retailers nationwide. Glory Foods also gives back to the community. Before his death in 2001, Williams worked tirelessly on his personal mission to attract young African-Americans to the culinary arts and the hospitality field. Glory Foods established scholarships in this regard in the name of the late Mr. Williams, Sr. and continues to support other programs for minority students. Additionally, Glory

Foods donates thousands of its products to food banks in need each year. In 2010, Glory donated product to support relief efforts following hurricane damage in Haiti. – *Gloryfoods.com*. <http://www.gloryfoods.com/our-roots/>

Schiff's Shoes

Schiff's Shoes was started by Robert W. Schiff in 1920 and by 1940, had become the third largest shoe chain in America. By 1946, it had changed its name to Shoe Corporation of America. The site is the current site of the Columbus Commons parking garage. – *Digital-Collections.ColumbusLibrary.com*
<http://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/cdm/ref/collection/memory/id/18901>

Melvin Steward, Steward's Foodmart and Deli

Melvin Steward opened a retail grocery with a 600-square-foot carry-out in 1977 located in the Mt. Vernon Plaza. Mr. Steward, along with his family, expanded the business to 1,300 square feet in 1982 and eventually took the anchor spot of the plaza (2,300 square feet) to open Steward's Foodmart and Deli. In 1997, they expanded to over 5,000 square feet, which included off-street customer parking. When asked why he decided to expand his empire on Mt. Vernon, he replied, "We started here, we grew here and this is where we're going to stay. With the help of the neighborhood, this store will not only survive, but grow and be a springboard for other stores and businesses." – *The Columbus POST (Week of May 29-June 4, 1997) "Newly-Constructed Steward Shopping Center Celebrates Grand Opening" By R.C. Bournea (Staff Writer) Pg. 12-A*

King-Lincoln Gateway Building

This beautifully designed mixed-use building with its distinctive turret was designed to hold office, retail, restaurant and banking space. It is home to several divisions of the Columbus' Department of Public Safety and is also home to the [Zanzibar Brews Coffee House](#). It's the first stop on the King Lincoln Entertainment District Walking Tour and right away, jazz sculptures and lush green space serve as a link from the glorious jazz past of the area to the new, green urban future.
– *ColumbusOH.about.com*

<http://columbusoh.about.com/od/neighborhoodssuburbs/ss/King-Lincoln-Entertainment-District-A-Walking-Tour.htm>

Mt. Vernon Ave.

The commercial area of Mount Vernon Avenue originated in the early 1900s as a safe haven for African-American people segregated from the primarily white community of the time. Not permitted to enter many businesses in downtown Columbus during the 1940s, a distinct economy was created, building on establishments already developed in the area. The construction of Interstate 71 through Columbus and the social upheaval and riots of 1967 injured the community to the point where many moved away. Today, Mount Vernon Avenue survives and is recovering after being targeted for economic and historic revitalization, including new and rehabilitated housing. – *Remarkable Ohio Historical Marker*

<http://www.remarkableohio.org/HistoricalMarker.aspx?historicalMarkerId=106011>

Section 9- Sports

James 'Buster' Douglas

When one uses the phrase “shocked the world”, they are very likely talking about Columbus native James "Buster" Douglas. Born in 1960, Douglas is the former undisputed World Heavyweight Boxing Champion. He gained the title when he scored a stunning upset in knocking out previously undefeated Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson on February 11, 1990 in Tokyo, Japan. At the time, Tyson was considered to be the best boxer in the world and one of the most feared heavyweight champions in history due to his utter domination of the division. Las Vegas odds-makers were so convinced Tyson would easily win, Douglas was declared a 42 to 1 underdog, making fight commentator Reg Gutteridge call Douglas' victory "the biggest upset in boxing history, bar none." The son of professional boxer William "Dynamite" Douglas, Douglas grew up in Columbus' predominantly black Linden-area neighborhood at Windsor Terrace. He attended Linden McKinley High School where he played football and basketball, even leading Linden to a Class AAA state basketball championship in 1977. Douglas is one of the few non-students to be honored by Ohio State University with the opportunity to dot the "I" during the performance of the Script Ohio by The Ohio State University Marching Band.

– *Buster Douglas Wikipedia page*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buster_Douglas

Jerry Page

Beginning his boxing career at age 7 at the Windsor Terrace Recreation Center, Jerry Page rose to earn the Gold Medal in boxing at the 1984 Summer Olympics, earning him the admiration and respect of fellow Columbus citizens. Page won many awards and championships as an amateur, including the National Golden Gloves Championship and three-time Ohio State Fair Champion. Page attended Windsor Elementary, Linmoor Junior High and Linden McKinley High School. – *Columbus.gov*

<http://columbus.gov/Templates/Detail.aspx?id=45212>

East High School 1967 Tennis Team

1967 East High School Tennis Team: Row 1 (Pictured left to right): Thomas Jacobs, Charles Hawkins, Donald Holland, Noway White, Jeff Guinn, Kenneth Clark. Row 2 (Pictured left to right): James Singletary, George Winkfield, Norman King, Anthony Jacobs, Paul Cook, Coach Caron – *1967 East High School Year Book*

Florence Richardson

Recognized as a championship bowler and leader in the racial integration of bowling in Central Ohio, Florence Richardson was a retired LPN from Riverside Methodist Hospital, where she was already recognized for twenty years of outstanding service. Prior to her nursing career, Florence started as a cook in The Marmor Restaurant in downtown Columbus and later as the Day Manager and Certified Bowling Instructor at Vermont Recreation Center Bowling Lanes on Mt. Vernon Ave. She was inducted into the OWBA Bowling Hall of Fame in 1991. She was also an active member of her beloved Shiloh Baptist Church, where she served more than 80 years. She was a member in the Nurses Corps, was a founding member of the Evergreens Senior Citizen Group, and was an original member of the Gleaners Sunday School Class #9. – *Ms. Florence Richardson's Obituary*

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=153298193>

East High School 1967 Golf Team

1967 East High School Golf Team. Pictured left to right: Coach Roseboro, Belinda Church, Donald Church, Quandrous Williams, Donald Holland. – *1967 East High School Year Book*

Archie Griffin

Archie Griffin is the only two-time winner of college football's prestigious Heisman Trophy, symbolic of "The Outstanding College Football Player of the Country." He was also a three-time All American in 1973, 1974, and 1975 and received many other awards and recognitions during his college career at The Ohio State University. In 2006, Griffin was listed in NCAA's "100 Most Influential Student-Athletes" and was appointed to the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Board of Directors. Griffin earned his degree in industrial relations. In 1976, he was a first-round draft choice of the Cincinnati Bengals, where he served as co-captain and played with the franchise for seven years. After his football career, Archie Griffin became president and CEO of the Ohio State Alumni Association on January 1, 2004. As the leader of a worldwide network of more than 450,000 alumni, Griffin made it his goal to keep all graduates and former students connected and continue to strengthen the status of the university. – *Fairfielddd.com*

http://www.fairfielddd.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=104&id=195

William 'Bill' Willis

A Hall of Famer in both college and professional football, Columbus native William "Bill" Willis ran sprints and threw the shot put on the track team and played football at Columbus East High School. He graduated and attended The Ohio State University, where he also played on the track and football teams. He was part of the Buckeyes football team that won the school's first national championship in 1942. He was named a college football All-American in 1943 and 1944 and later had his No. 99 jersey retired at halftime of the Wisconsin-Ohio State game at Ohio Stadium. After graduating in 1944, Willis heard about a new All-American Football Conference club in Cleveland led by his old Ohio State coach, Paul Brown. He got a tryout and made the team, breaking the color barrier in professional football. With Willis as a defensive anchor, the Browns won all four AAFC championships between 1946 and 1949. The league dissolved and the Browns were merged into the National Football League. Willis continued to succeed and was part of the Browns' NFL 1950 championship team. Retiring from football in 1954 to focus on helping troubled youth, Willis served as Cleveland's assistant recreation commissioner and was later named chairman of the Ohio Youth Commission. He remained in that position until his death in 2007. Willis was inducted into both the College Football Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame in the 1970s. He married Odessa Porter and had three sons, William, Jr., Clement and Dan. – *Bill Willis Wikipedia page and Mr. Willis' obituary*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Willis

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?n=bill-willis&pid=98753510#fbLoggedOut>

Larry Jones

The inspiration for Columbus' Larry Jones to pursue a successful college and professional basketball player and coach can best be summed up in his own quote about how his high school coach, Jackie Moore had a positive impact on his life. "I was ineligible for a season in high school," Jones said. "My coach helped me go from a poor student to an honor student. I hope I can say something to a young person that might make a difference in their life." A 6'3" guard from the University of Toledo, Jones started and ended his career with the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers, which drafted him in 1964. However, Jones would have his best years in the rival ABA, playing for the Denver Rockets, The Floridians, the Dallas Chaparrals, and the Utah Stars from 1967 to 1973. A high-scoring jump shooter, he averaged at least 22 points per game during each of his first four seasons in the league, and during one stretch with the Rockets in 1968, he scored at least 30 points in 23 consecutive games. He was also named to four ABA All-Star teams, and he was the first president of the ABA Player's Association. Upon retiring from professional basketball in 1974, Jones had tallied 10,505 combined NBA/ABA career points. He once scored 30 points or more in 23 consecutive games and he was the first ABA player to reach 5,000 career points. Jones went on to coach in the NBA and was on the coaching staff of two women's professional teams. Jones now conducts free summer basketball camps for youngsters in Columbus, Ohio. – *DenverPost.com*
http://www.denverpost.com/ci_17188152

Granville Waiters

Standing 6 feet 11 inches and 225 pounds, Columbus native Granville Stephen Waiters played center for Ohio State University's men's basketball team and was drafted by the Portland Trail Blazers in the second round of the 1983 NBA Draft. The Blazers sold their draft rights to the Indiana Pacers, and Waiters spent his first two seasons in Indiana. He then played for the Houston Rockets and Chicago Bulls until leaving the NBA for Europe in 1988. After his retirement from professional basketball Waiters has been involved with several humanitarian efforts in Ohio.
– *Granville Waiters Wikipedia page*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granville_Waiters

Beatty Recreation Center

Beatty Recreation Center was dedicated on October 25, 1951 and was the first such center built by the City of Columbus with the idea of providing community recreation. The city paid for its construction through a 1945 bond issue. Upon completion, Beatty was the most active community center in the city. The adjacent Beatty Park was named after Lucy M. Beatty who (upon her death) passed the land to her brother-in-law, William G. Beatty who sold the land to the City of Columbus for \$5,000 on June 6, 1921. – *The City Bulletin - July 2, 1921 - pages 208-209*

Estelle Baskerville Diehl

Estelle Baskerville was a high jumper who won a US title at the 1962 AAU Indoor Championships. She competed in the 1963 Pan American Games, placing sixth, while still a student at Columbus East High School in Ohio. She later competed for the Ohio Track Club and Tennessee State University. Baskerville competed in two Olympic Games as a high jumper but did not make the final jumps in either 1964 or 1968. – *Sports-Reference.com*
<http://www.sports-reference.com/olympics/athletes/ba/estelle-baskerville-1.html>

Section 10- Public Service

Angela Pace

A long-time TV news reporter and anchor, Columbus native Angela Pace has remained in Central Ohio throughout her professional career, where she has been a champion for victims of domestic violence, inner-city youth, drug prevention and a variety of other community issues. Her involvement in these causes includes serving on the boards of directors for the I Know I Can program, the Inner City Games, and working on the DARE campaign in central Ohio and with the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence. Pace also serves on the board of directors for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank, the Lincoln Theater Association, Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation, Columbus Association for the Performing Arts and the Jazz Arts Group. She served on the Capital University board of trustees for eight years and was also a member of the Capital University alumni board. Her work with the United Negro College Fund included hosting their annual telethon from 1987 to 1991 and serving as grand marshal for their walk-a-thon for four years. Pace is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists. Pace's efforts have been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the 1994 Women of Achievement Award from the YWCA of Central Ohio; the Governor's Award for Journalism and Community Service; the Capital University Alumni Achievement Award; three Emmy awards; and a regional Telly award. –10tv.com

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2011/02/04/story-columbus-angela-pace-wbns-natas.html>

Ann B. Walker

Walker was the community-services director for then-WLWC-TV (now WCMH, Channel 4) and the first woman in broadcast management at the station. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1978. She was a trailblazer both in broadcasting and in her neighborhood. She immersed herself in community activities and became involved in the Franklin Park Area Association.

– *Columbus Dispatch* article by Mark Ferenchik

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/02/16/pretty-park-irresistible.html>

Tuskegee Airmen Patch

In spite of adversity and limited opportunities, African Americans played a significant role in U.S. military history over the past 300 years. They were denied military leadership roles and skilled training because many believed they lacked qualifications for combat duty. Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military. Civil rights organizations and the black press exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all African-American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1941. They became known as the Tuskegee Airmen, referring to all who were involved in the Army Air Corps program to train

African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air. They went into combat to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II, never losing a bomber they escorted. They proved conclusively that African Americans could fly and maintain sophisticated combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen's achievements, together with the men and women who supported them, paved the way for full integration of the U.S. military. On November 6, 1998, President Bill Clinton approved Public Law 105-355, which established the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, to commemorate and interpret the heroic actions of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. The new site contains a museum and interpretive programs at the historic complex at Moton Field as well as a national center based on a public-private partnership.
– *TuskegeeAirmen.org*. <http://tuskegeearmen.org/explore-tai/a-brief-history/>

Byron Potts

Owner of Byron L. Potts & Co., LPA, the largest minority law firm in Central Ohio, Byron Potts received his B.S. in Criminal Justice in 1978 from Bowling Green University and Juris Doctor's degree in 1987 from Capital University. He was appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio as the first African American bailiff and law clerk (Court of Claims) in 1979. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and is very active in the community. In 2009, the Governor of Ohio appointed him to the Ohio Commission on African American Males. A member of Oakley Baptist Church, he serves on the Deacon Board and is President of their men's ministry. He is married to Vicki and the father of three sons: Antquan, Rashad and Byron Jr.
– *Biography provided by Byron Potts, Byron L. Potts & Co., LPA*

Albert "Al" Hawkins

Albert "Al" Hawkins was born in 1914 in Columbus, Ohio. Hawkins enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his country during World War II as a Medical Equipment Maintenance Technician. After his completion of service with the U.S. Army, he began a career in community service and politics. Hawkins was the first African-American to serve as the vice chairman of the Franklin County Democratic Party and was the 13th Ward Committeeman serving the entire near eastside. He worked for the party from 1955-1973. He then started his own public relations firm. Albert Hawkins accomplished many great things, such as serving as the first vice president of the Columbus chapter of the NAACP, as a member of the board of trustees of the Big Brothers Association and chairman of the east area Heart Fund drive. In 1978, Ohio State University dedicated its Black World Week to this great community and political leader in observance of Hawkin's accomplishments. He was honored at a reception at the conference theater as part of the activities at Ohio State University.
– *Biography provided by Danni Palmore*

Dr. David Hamlar

A 60-year resident of Columbus, Dr. Hamlar, fondly known as "Duck," was born in Roanoke, Virginia in 1924. He attended Hampton Institute, served in the Navy during World War II and received a B.Ed. from the University of Toledo where he was inducted into the UT Athletic Hall of Fame. He also earned a DDS from Howard University. Dr. Hamlar was married to his high school sweetheart, Maxine Harbour,

for 56 years until she passed away in 2001. Leading a successful dental practice for 52 years, Dr. Hamlar tended to various community interests and service organizations for which he earned recognition and awards; included are memberships in the Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Boule), the Cavaliers and Wedge Clubs. He held board positions on several community organizations including Columbus' Children's Hospital, the Columbus Academy, and the Urban League, to name a few. His most noted civic accomplishment was navigating the desegregation of Columbus City Schools as School Board President in the 1970s. Until slowed by illness, Dr. Hamlar maintained an active and fulfilling retirement by playing golf, enjoying club affiliations, and traveling with his devoted companion, LaVerne Dukes King. – *Dr. Hamlar's Obituary*
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?pid=160748789>

Dr. Wilburn H. Weddington

After finishing medical school Dr. Wilburn H. Weddington first practiced in Marietta, Georgia. But upon serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps, he was assigned to Lockbourne Air Base in Columbus where he rose to captain. He was discharged in 1957 and decided to call Columbus home. His family practice offices were located at 721 Mt. Vernon Avenue and he and his wife, Carlene, lived in Eastgate. He belonged to the Cavaliers Club and in 1971 he joined the staff at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Weddington is the namesake of The Weddington Society, an organization at the Ohio State University, founded in 1992, to provide support and assistance for undergraduate students in pre-health programs. He retired from OSU's College of Medicine in 1994. Dr. Weddington was one of the founding faculty members of the Ohio State Department of Family Medicine and served as a faculty member in the Department. He was also appointed as Associate Dean of Student Affairs and was instrumental in helping to establish the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center at the Ohio State University. – *ColumbusBicentennial.Blogspot.com and Fammed.Ohio-State.edu*
<http://columbusbicentennial.blogspot.com/2012/01/dr-wilburn-h-weddington-family-practice.html>
<http://www.fammed.ohio-state.edu/article.cfm?ID=5669>

Columbus Urban League

The Columbus Urban League (CUL) is a community-based, non-profit, advocacy organization, whose mission is to empower families in need. They do this with data-driven, life-changing strategies designed to support the achievement of self-reliance and self-sufficiency and family stabilization. Founded in 1918, the CUL is affiliated with the National Urban League and is one of the largest and most prestigious community-based organizations in Central Ohio. Ranked 7th in the 98-affiliate network of the Urban League movement nationally, it is one of the nation's oldest organizations promoting equal and equitable access to resources. – *CUL.org*
<http://www.cul.org/about-cul/>

St. Clair Hospital

In 1911 local doctors founded the St. Clair Hospital. The home adjacent to the hospital served as a residence home and training school for nurses. In 1940, the hospital was converted into a convalescent home. In 1948, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Garrett, an African-American couple, transformed the facility into a hotel. The Hotel

St. Clair, which closed in 1976, accommodated African Americans who were not permitted to stay in white hotels. It also served as a social gathering place for members of Columbus' black community. Today's St. Clair Apartments were developed from the historic St. Clair Hotel in the Near East neighborhood of Columbus. The former hotel was a prominent landmark since its days as a home-away-from-home for African American musicians and entertainers performing in Columbus. Vacant for decades, the structure was renovated as housing for seniors using Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). The Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing asked Community Housing Network (CHN) to become the replacement general partner and manager of the St. Clair Apartments.

– *Ohio Historical Marker and chninc.org*

<http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=17473>

http://www.chninc.org/project_summary.php?rec=31

Charles "Chuck" White

Considered the first African-American television personality in Ohio, "Chuck" White has been involved in the Artists-in-Schools Program for more than sixteen years, bringing children a variety of musical experiences through participatory folk music. Known for his work in television, and particularly for his tenure as co-writer/producer and puppeteer for the longest running local children's television program in the history of the industry, the former "Luci's Toyshop," White also collaborated with Warner Brothers composer, John Tatgenhorst, in writing numerous compositions for children which were performed by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra during its Young People's Concerts. He served as host of these concerts for eight years. The Sacramento Symphony Orchestra has also performed one of the White/Tatgenhorst compositions. – *DispatchBroadcast.com and GCAC.org*

<http://www.dispatchbroadcast.com/wbnstv.html>

http://www.gcac.org/edu/ais_detail.php?artist=106

Liz Evans

Liz Evans achieved more than 30 years of progressive success in public relations, community service programming and operations management within electronic media and not-for-profit environments. She founded and has served as President of the African American Cancer Support Group, Inc. of Columbus, which provides cancer awareness and support services to African-American cancer survivors, families and friends. She also served as Community Relations Director for Clear Channel Columbus from 1970 to 2001, where she planned and directed community relations and public service functions for WTVN-AM, WLVQ-FM and WTVN-TV. While there, she produced and hosted two radio programs: "Like It Is" and "Liz Evans Dialog" and TV Program "Aware". Coordinator for the "Jefferson Awards" and Assistant Coordinator for the "Jerry Lewis Telethon" and the "UNCF Telethon." She also served as consultant to the News Department on local ethnic and women's health issues and represented the stations on local, state and national service projects and boards. Her community work earned Ms. Evans numerous awards from the Columbus Race for the Cure, United Way Community Service, the YWCA's Women of Achievement Award, the Franklin County Children Service Outstanding Service Award, American Cancer Society Achievement Award and induction into to Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. – *Biography provided by Liz Evans*

James "Eddie" Saunders

James Edward "Eddie" Saunders made Columbus his home in 1937. In 1944, he produced the radio program "Swanee Hour" for the sick and shut-ins and continued to serve the community with his "Sermons and Songs" radio program. With Saunders as the first black disc jockey on Columbus radio, the radio program began in 1948 and went on to be the longest-running religious program in the United States. He was also the creator and producer of "Eddie Saunders Presents," a religious television program that aired for more than twenty years. Mr. Saunders is known as the "Dean of Central Ohio Broadcasting" because he responded to the needs of the people. His peers recognize him as an "authority" on African-American radio programming and history. In 1949, "Eddie" received his highly treasured international recognition, the "Outstanding Negroes in the U.S." award from the National Urban League. In 1962, he touched the lives of people of all ages when he started the Eddie Saunders Burial Fund to provide Christian burials for children of the less fortunate. James "Eddie" Saunders was inducted into The Disc Jockey Hall of Fame and the Ohio State Senior Hall of Fame in 1983. In 1989, the City of Columbus renamed Maryland Park to Saunders Park in his honor. – *Columbus.gov*
<http://columbus.gov/Templates/Detail.aspx?id=45244>

Mayme Moore

An outstanding woman who achieved as much for the cause of racial harmony and understanding as anyone in the nation, Mayme Moore was affectionately known as "the Mother of the Columbus Branch of the NAACP." Mayme Moore spent her lifetime in service, promoting racial pride and accomplishment through such organizations as the Urban League, the YMCA, PTA, both Boys and Girls Clubs, Children's Services, Mental Health, Black Youth Employment and Nutritional Programs. She helped found and guide many organizations, including the "Colored Women's Club," the nation's oldest black women's organization. She received numerous awards from local, state and national organizations, and, as a civil rights activist, stood alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington D.C. as he delivered his memorable "I Have a Dream" speech. – *Columbus.gov*
<http://columbus.gov/Templates/Detail.aspx?id=45208>

Dr. William Preston

Dr. William Preston was born in Roanoke, Va., was a graduate of Fisk University and came to Columbus to attend The Ohio State University Dental School. He graduated in 1955, but then went on to serve as a captain in the U.S. Air Force, completing a tour in Japan. He returned to Columbus in 1957 and began his dental practice, which he sustained for over 40 years, until his death. Dr. Preston maintained various business ventures, was active in civic and social activities in the city, and was a long-standing member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church. – *Biography provided by Trudy Bartley*

Kelton House

Once an actual stop on the famous Underground Railroad, the Kelton House is one of the few 'house museums' in the city of Columbus, where Columbus history can be seen and felt. When Fernando Cortez and Sophia Stone Kelton built this house in 1852, it was the last residence on East Town Street and was surrounded by pastureland. Ardent abolitionists, the Keltons were members of the local antislavery

society. Family history states that runaway slaves were hidden in the barn at the back of the house, in the 300-barrel cistern just east of the house, or sometimes in the servants' quarters until they could continue their journey to freedom. Today, the house still displays the same furnishings, plates, silverware, clothing, and books that were used by the actual occupants of the house. This gives the Kelton House a realistic feeling that is very effective in the education of children. Docents (tour guides), dressed in period costume, help make history come alive as they walk through the house and tell stories of the Underground Railroad, and life from 1850 to 1900. Not only has the Kelton House contributed to the education of numerous adults and children but it has also played an instrumental role in the growth and revitalization of Town Street. With the help of the Junior League of Columbus, the East Town Street Historic District was created and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. – *KeltonHouse.com*. <http://www.keltonhouse.com/ugrandkh.html>

Martha Hartway Lawrence and Thomas Lawrence

Columbus had steadfast supporters both for and against slavery. Fernando Kelton and his wife Sophia believed slavery was wrong and did all they could to aid runaways. This was dangerous work because it was against Ohio and U.S. law: Anyone caught hiding slaves, giving them food or clothing, or helping them flee north risked six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Nonetheless, Fernando Kelton served as station master/conductor on this road to freedom. The Kelton House has been authenticated as a stop on the Underground Railroad through the oral history of the Kelton and Lawrence families. In 1864, Sophia Kelton found Martha and Pearl Hartway, who had escaped slavery in Virginia, hiding in the shrubbery at the Kelton home. Sophia took the girls in and gave them temporary refuge. Because of Ohio's Black Laws and the threat of slavecatchers, both girls wanted to continue north to freedom in Canada, but Martha was too ill to travel and so she stayed in the Kelton home. Martha was raised and educated as one of the family for the next 10 years until her marriage to Thomas Lawrence, a free black carpenter from Cadiz, Ohio, who worked for Fernando Kelton. Kelton family members continued a supportive relationship with the Lawrence family. The Kelton's employed Thomas for 37 years. Martha and Thomas Lawrence bought property for their first home at 69 N. 17th Street, from Col. James Watson, husband of Ella Kelton. They had two children, Arthur Kelton Lawrence and Sadie Lawrence. Giving their older child the Kelton family name illustrated the close friendship that existed between these two families. Arthur Kelton Lawrence learned to read from books passed down from Frank Kelton. Arthur Kelton Lawrence went on to become both a pharmacist and physician; he practiced medicine in Columbus for 33 years. Arthur's son and daughter-in-law, James and Ruth Lawrence, visited with Grace Kelton in 1975, one year before her death, and attended Grace's funeral. – *KeltonHouse.com*
<http://www.keltonhouse.com/ugrandkh.html>

Jefferson Center

Refurbished in a style approximating their original condition but adapted for contemporary office usage, the homes of the Jefferson Center now provide space for twenty-eight nonprofit organizations. The Jefferson Center for Learning and the Arts acts as the owner and manager, leasing the houses at sub-market rates to these organizations, as well as providing residential units for a substance abuse rehabilitation program. But it took a strong local effort to save these architecturally

significant houses for preservation and adaptive reuse. Gradual deterioration similar to that experienced by other inner-city blocks throughout the country had robbed the community of much of its charm by the 1950's. The once handsome buildings had fallen into disrepair and the automobile was infringing on the parks. The construction of Interstate 71 during the early 1960s very nearly completed the destruction. It divided what was left of East Park Place leaving Jefferson Avenue separated from adjacent neighborhoods. The Arthur I. Vorys family, sensing the need both for preservation of what was left of the neighborhood that gave the world James Thurber, and determined to find a place for small charitable, religious, educational, and scientific, and cultural organizations, purchased most of the buildings along Jefferson Avenue between Spring and Broad Streets. The family then donated the buildings to the newly formed Jefferson Center for Learning and the Arts. The Jefferson Center's approach resulted in the creation of one of the first multiple tenant non-profit centers in the country, and in 1983 designation as the Jefferson Avenue National Register of Historic Places District. The adaptive re-use of these historic buildings has also created a sustainable economic model for maintaining them. Many of the buildings have public spaces that draw visitors. There are three separate art galleries on the block, a reading garden, and the Thurber Museum House. The Jefferson Center maintains these buildings and funds the capital improvements to improve efficiency, to protect the fabric of the buildings, and to prevent the types of failures which occur predictably within the life of a much used historic property.

– *TheJeffersonCenter.org*

<http://www.thejeffersoncenter.org/our-resident-organizations>

Curtis Brooks

Curtis Brooks served as the executive director of the Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization (CMAAO). Was a member of Union Grove Baptist Church. Under his supervision CMAAO went from being a relatively small organization into one of the largest human service agencies in Franklin County. Brooks was recognized nationally for his leadership and contributions to uplifting the community. – *The Columbus POST (Week of March 7-13, 1996), "National, Local Leaders Honor Brooks During Memorial Service"*

Fran Frazier

Education consultant and life coach Frances Curtis Frazier was born in Philadelphia in 1948. In 1966, she graduated from Little Flower Catholic High School. After high school, she became a Vista Volunteer, the national forerunner of the current Vista Program. She was sent by Vista to Portsmouth, Virginia to help residents who were being harassed by the Ku Klux Klan. She also taught peanut farmers how to read and write. After her Vista experience, she entered Norfolk State University and in 1972 received her B.S. degree in special education and later received a Master/Doctoral fellowship to attend The Ohio State University. She graduated with her M.A. degree in learning disabilities and behavioral disorders in 1973. Ms. Frazier was a special education teacher for Columbus City Schools, working primarily with seventh and eighth graders. After working as a special needs coordinator for the National Assault Prevention Center of Columbus, Frazier was hired to the executive staff for the Director of the Ohio Department of Human Services. She worked for the Office of Minority Family Preservation and Prevention Services and served as an administrator for cultural initiatives. She has also served as an education and school

climate consultant for universities, colleges, professional associations, school districts, and social service agencies across the country. Ms. Frazier is currently the principal investigator of "Rise Sister Rise," a research study on trauma and resiliency in African American girls that was developed in partnership with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and women's organizations across the state. Additionally, Frazier also served as a senior associate for *Everyday Democracy*, an organization that promotes public dialogue and civic engagement in communities and workplaces. – *TheHistoryMakers.com*

<http://www.thehistorymakers.com/biography/frances-frazier>

Helen Carter

A native of Springfield, Ohio, she was the director of *The Carter School of Music* located at Hamilton Ave and Spring St. The school was open to students from ages 5 -65 and taught both traditional instruments and vocals. Prior to her position in Columbus, she was an instructor of music at Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C. where she taught the piano and the organ. In addition to serving as the director, she was also a composer and lead organists for St. Paul A.M.E. Church. — *C.C. Magazine* (Sunday, May 14, 1950)

Jerry Hammond

Jerry Hammond served on Columbus City Council for 16 years (1974-90), including six years as the first African American Council president (1984-90). Following retirement from City Council, he remained active: serving on the Ohio Environmental Board of Review, and the board of Franklin County Children's Services. He led efforts to outlaw discrimination in employment and housing in the city, and to establish goals for minority and female participation in city-funded projects. Prior to serving on council, he chaired the Police Community Relations Committee that helped draft the city's first written policy on use of deadly force. Hammond was a tireless advocate for strong neighborhoods, strategic economic development and growth policies. He was a force in the redevelopment of the Near East side now known as the King-Lincoln District, including the establishment of the King Arts Complex, and permanent funding for the arts. He was also a member of the original committee involved in creating the Ft. Hayes Career Center and co-chaired the successful 1978 Columbus City Schools levy campaign following desegregation. Most importantly, it is said he always made time for others, especially to help people find jobs, financial assistance, or connecting them with human services. – *Mr. Hammond's obituary*

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dispatch/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=144991237#fbLoggedOut>

Isabelle Ridgway Care Center

The non-profit, community-owned Isabelle Ridgway Center has a rich heritage from its humble beginnings on September 15, 1912 as the "Old Folks Home" to its current stage of evolution as Isabelle Ridgway Care Center. Ninety plus years ago, a loving, conscientious woman by the name of Isabelle Ridgway recognized the need to provide a place where the elderly in her community could live in comfort and have privacy, companionship and care. Now operated as a 100-bed, long-term care center, it is considered to be a "cornerstone" on the Near East side of Columbus. Isabelle Ridgway Care Center is certified to provide Medicare and Medicaid

Services. Approximately 97% of the Center's residents are on Medicaid. Ninety-eight percent are African American. The average age is 80 and 78% percent of the population is female while 22% is male. Services provided by the Center include nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, dietary services, social services, housekeeping and laundry services, maintenance, adult day services, therapeutic recreation, transportation and outreach services. Isabelle Ridgway Center's success through the years can be contributed to its volunteer and community support. Religious, inter-generation, senior companion and other programs are offered through volunteer services. A host of groups, organizations and individuals from local churches, businesses, fraternities, sororities and service organizations provide contributions and services hours that are immeasurable.

– *IsabelleRidgway.com*. <http://www.isabelleridgway.com/>