



General Government Committee Meeting

Monday, April 13



Committee Members

Diedre Anderson

Euricka Felipe

Whitney Harness

Billy Rich

Corlis Sellers

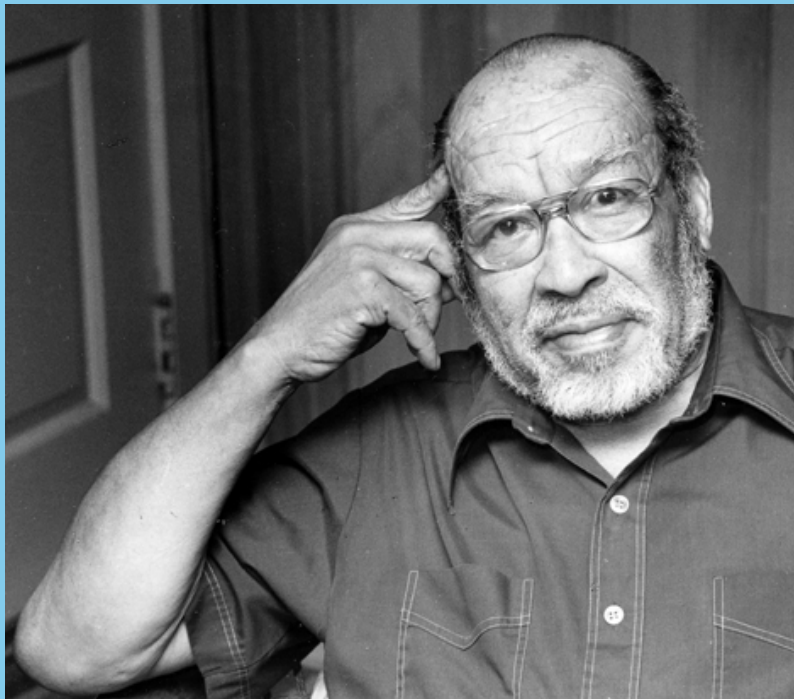
Marjorie Silber

Terry Taylor

Walk of Fame 2025



William Grady Benton
Julian Carr Burroughs
James Thackery Diggs Jr.
Margaret Snodgrass Mueller



Nomination Criteria

- The nominee(s) exhibited sustained excellence in his or her field for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made distinguished contributions to the community and civic-oriented participation.
- The nominee(s) is deceased (must provide copy of death certificate or obituary).
- The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts or entertainment industry in one or more of the following areas: music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts, motion pictures, television, or radio.

A “significant” contribution would be iconic in terms of renown and impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.





2026 Submissions

Flonnie T. Anderson
Joshua Brookshire
Big Ron Hunter
Carlotta Samuels
Harold C. Tedford
Dr. Robert Ward

Flonnie Nora Thomas (Stage Name : Flonnie T. Anderson)

W-S Residency 1930-2025 (Theatre)

- **Educator, artist, visionary, and trailblazer** whose life exemplified purpose, faith, and creativity
- **Graduated Atkins High School at 15**; earned degrees in English, French & Drama; certified educator
- **Founded the first Black Community Theater in the South (1952)**, later the **Flonnie Anderson Theatrical Association (F.A.T.A.)**
- **Pioneering educator for 30+ years** in WS/FC Schools; taught English, Drama, French & AP English
- **Led Anderson High School's all-Black speech team** to national acclaim; created Parkland's first **integrated theater troupe** with a historic **Kennedy Center performance (1976)**
- **First Black actor and director** with The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem; acclaimed for her role as **Sojourner Truth** on PBS (1976)
- **Parkland Magnet Auditorium named the Flonnie Anderson Performing Arts Center** in her honor
- Later recognitions include **Distinguished Women in the Arts (2018)**, author of *A Fearsome Force of Nature* (2019), **Seven Over Seventy Honoree (2024)**, and **National Women of Achievement recognition (2025)**
- Lifelong member of **Wentz Memorial UCC**, devoted community member, mentor, and cultural champion
- Leaves a legacy of **courage, creativity, leadership, and transformative impact** across generations



Joshua Brookshire (Stage Name : Speak N Eye)

W-S Residency 2010-2022 (Music)

- **Co-founder of Speak N Eye**, a Winston-Salem psych-rock/hip-hop duo with his brother Aaron.
- **Eastern NC roots:** Born in Elkin; raised in Morehead City; became a key music promoter while at **East Carolina University**.
- **Pillar of the Piedmont underground scene (2010–2022):** Booked diverse touring acts and strengthened the region’s DIY music culture.
- **Founder of the Annual Winston-Salem Rap Round Robin (2016–present):**
 - Multi-stage rotating hip-hop showcase
 - Features local + touring talent; covered yearly by major regional media
- **Organizer of “This Storm” (2018):** Local-artist compilation album raising several thousand dollars for **Hurricane Florence relief**.
- **Passed away June 21, 2022** from undiagnosed Sarcoidosis; major loss to the regional music and arts community.
- **Rap Round Robin now dedicated in his memory**, honoring his belief in music’s communal and transformative power.



Ron Hunter

(Stage Name : Big Ron Hunter)

W-S Residency 1953-2024 (Music) “The World’s Happiest Bluesman”

- **Known for joyful spirit:** Celebrated for his upbeat personality and warm presence throughout his life and career.
- **Early life:** Born 1953 in Winston-Salem, NC; learned blues guitar from his sharecropper father.
- **Musical roots & style:** Created a unique “red-clay-squirrel-scratching blues” style; blended blues, country, and singer-songwriter traditions.
- **Career highlights:**
 - Mentored by Guitar Gabriel in the 1980s.
 - Key member of the Music Maker Foundation community from 1994 onward.
 - Performed internationally (Belgium, Australia, Lincoln Center).
- **Artistic legacy:** Warm, honeyed vocals on songs like “*Not Gonna Stress Myself*” and “*How Lucky Can One Man Be.*”
- **Community impact:** Known for kindness, generosity, and encouraging musicians of all levels; embodied true musical community.



Carlotta Verlease Samuels Fleming (Stage Name : Carlotta Samuels)

W-S Residency 1955-2025 (Music)

- Winston-Salem native; Reynolds High & Salem College alum
- Early singer inspired by Mahalia Jackson; rose to local and international fame
- Toured globally with Jackie Sinclair & Sylvania Wilder as:
The New Supremes, Odyssey 5, The Wess Machine
- Recorded albums, appeared on TV, performed with major artists
- Formed gospel group **Expressions** (2000) with daughter Zakiyyah
- Composer of original works including **“Jesus You Got My Vote”**
- Multifaceted career: actress (NC Black Repertory Co.), City employee, educator, social worker, entrepreneur
- Performed in major stage productions including works by Micki Grant, David Payton & Maya Angelou
- Ordained minister & Overseer at Macedonia Worship Center; active in Fine Arts Ministry



Harold Calvin Tedford (Stage Name : Harold C. Tedford)

W-S Residency 1965-2021 (Theatre)

- **Wake Forest University (1965–1998)**

Technical Director, then Director of the Theatre Department

Led design of the Scales Fine Arts Center (1974–1976) with set designer Joe Melziner

Directed **50+ productions**, sponsored **Year of the Arts & New Play Festival**

Main Stage renamed **Harold Tedford Main Stage** in 2016

- **Impact on Students & Community**

Brought notable artists and directors (e.g., industry professionals, international guests) to teach and mentor students

Organized immersive theatre trips to **New York & London**

Inspired countless students to careers in the arts

- **Community Arts Leadership**

Artistic Director & Board Member, **Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance**

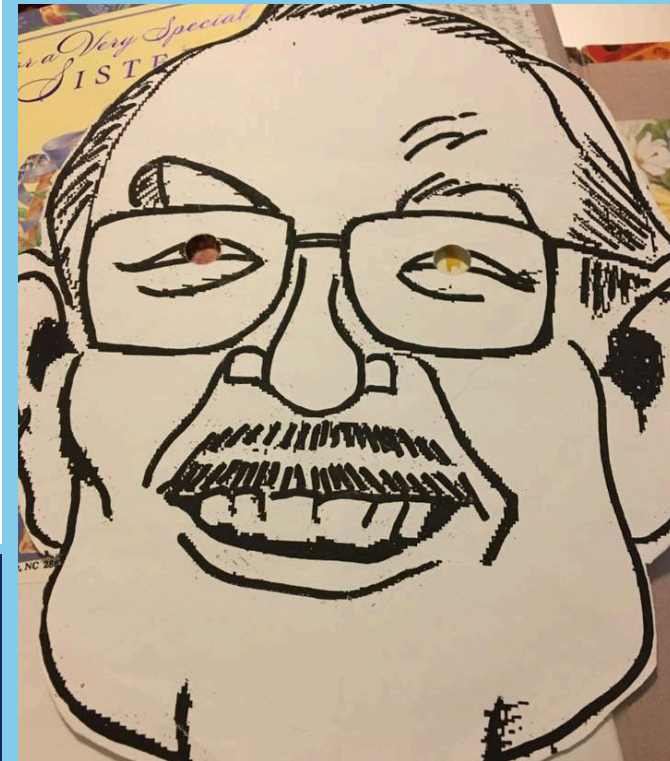
Advisor: **NC Black Theatre Festival & Little Theatre of Winston-Salem**

Volunteer: **Artworks Gallery, Meals on Wheels**

Supporter of **local theatre, symphony, opera, dance, and visual arts**

- **Ambassador for the Arts**

Lifelong advocate encouraging community engagement with arts

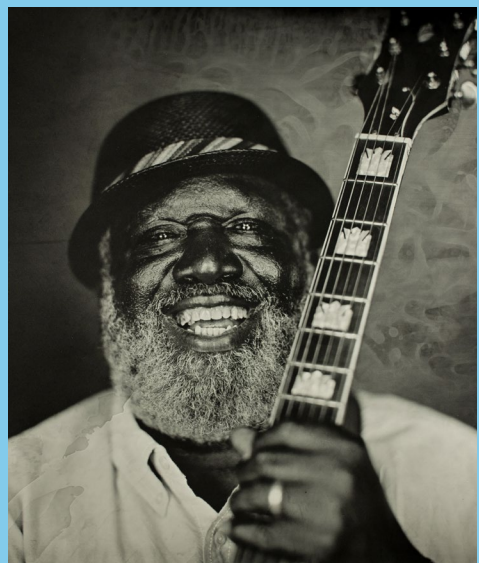


Dr. Robert Ward (Stage Name : Dr. Robert Ward)

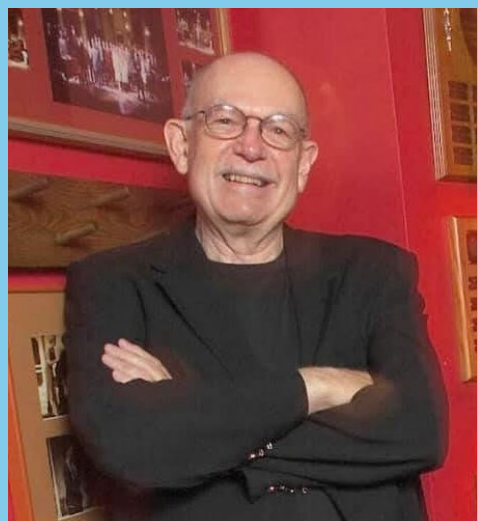
W-S Residency 1967-1978 (Music)

- **2012 Production of *The Crucible***
 - Staged March 3–20, 2012 at UNCSA’s Stevens Center for the opera’s **50th anniversary**
 - Included educational events, audience discussions, and an appearance by **Robert Ward**
 - Widely regarded as the **last major staging Ward witnessed** before his 2013 passing
- **Educational & Community Impact**
 - Student study guides and school outreach connected opera themes to curriculum
 - Collaboration with **UNCSA** provided training opportunities for young artists
 - Strengthened local engagement through talks, workshops, and community programs
- **Ward’s Legacy & Winston-Salem Connection**
 - Pulitzer Prize–winning composer and former **Chancellor of UNCSA (1967–1974/75)**
 - Lived and worked in Winston-Salem for **7–12 years**, shaping the city’s arts ecosystem
 - Nationally acclaimed for *The Crucible*, one of the most performed American operas
- **Impact on Piedmont Opera**
 - Production reinforced the company’s identity as a champion of **American opera**
 - Deepened ties with UNCSA and the regional arts community
 - Positioned *The Crucible* as a signature work connecting local education, history, and opera





2026 Finalist



Flonnie T. Anderson
Big Ron Hunter
Carlotta Samuels
Harold C. Tedford
Dr. Robert Ward

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