

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: April 10, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager
Frank Elliott, Marketing and Communications Director

Council Action Requested:

Adoption of Resolution Electing the 2023 Inductees for the Winston-Salem Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Memorial Walk of Fame.

Strategic Focus Area: Economic Vitality and Diversity

Strategic Objective: Promote Travel and Tourism

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

In November 2015, the Mayor and City Council created the Winston-Salem Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Memorial Walk of Fame (Walk of Fame) to recognize deceased city residents who made significant contributions to the arts and entertainment industry. This program will honor their contributions with the placement of a medallion along the Walk of Fame, which is located on the Cherry Street sidewalk next to The Benton. The City Marketing and Communications Department opened the 2022 nomination process in January and received the following eight nominations. The applications submitted for all the nominees are attached to this Council Action.

Committee Action:

Committee	CDHGG – 4/10	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

2023 Winston-Salem ACE Memorial Walk of Fame Panel Recommendations

2023 Nominee	Category
Dick Bennick	Radio
Paxton Davis	Writing
James Funches	Music
Jake Gardner	Music
Kathryn Grayson	Motion Pictures
Curtis Hairston	Music
Shirley Holloway	Theater
Clarence Paul	Music

A diverse panel of citizens, representing various artistic disciplines and fields within the entertainment industry, has reviewed the eight nominations. The panel evaluated the nominations according to the following criteria:

- The nominee(s) is deceased.
- The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts and 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 the impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.
- 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 following table presents the panel’s recommendations for election to the 2023 Winston-Salem Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (ACE) Memorial Walk of Fame.

2023 Finalists	Category
James Funches	Music
Curtis Hairston	Music
Shirley Hairston Holloway, “The Barefoot Storyteller”	Theater

The Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee will consider the panel’s recommendations and submit the slate of finalists to the Mayor and City Council for final approval and election. The attached resolution presents the finalists for consideration by the Mayor and City Council. The City’s Marketing and Communications Department currently administers the program. Funding for the program is provided from the City’s occupancy tax fund. Anticipated expenses include advertising, printing, materials, and installation of the stars at an estimated annual budget of \$16,175.

The Mayor and City Council elected the following inductees for the Classes of 2016-2022.

Nominee(s)	Year of Nomination	Category
The 5 Royales	2016	Music
Larry Leon Hamlin	2016	Theater
Phil Hanes	2016	Arts/Philanthropy
William Samuel Scales	2016	Theater/Motion Pictures
John Iuele	2017	Music
Chris Murrell	2018	Music
Dr. Robert Wise	2018	Radio
John H. Heath	2019	Music/Theater
Norman Johnson	2019	Music/Theater
Doris Pardington	2019	Theater
Maya Angelou	2020	Writing
George Lee	2020	Radio/Television
John S. Mueller	2020	Music
Penelope Niven	2020	Writing
A. C. Stone	2020	Radio
John Ehle	2021	Writing
Earline King	2021	Visual Arts
Joe King	2021	Visual Arts
Sam Moss	2021	Music
Stuart Scott	2021	Television
Howell Binkley	2022	Theater
George Hamilton IV	2022	Music
Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin	2022	Theater
Anne Shields	2022	Visual Arts

City staff will plan a special ceremony in 2024 in conjunction with the National Black Theatre Festival. The Walk of Fame site at The Benton will include the star medallions honoring the members, as well as a directory at the location.

Photos of the 2021 event are below. A webpage has been dedicated to this event. Photos and video can be viewed by going to www.cityofws.org/walkoffame.

