



ESTEEM AWARDS 2019

***12th Annual
Celebration of Honor
Sunday July 7, 2019***



**Lighthouse Church of Chicago UCC
2335 N Orchard Street**

Visit TheEsteemAwards.com

CITY OF CHICAGO

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ESTEEM AWARDS 2019

PrideIndex.com welcomes you to the 2019 Esteem Awards. This afternoon marks the 12th anniversary of our celebration of honor which recognizes the contributions of African Americans and the LGBTQ community in the areas of entertainment, media, civil rights, business and art.

This year's EAs is taking place along with The Lighthouse Church Worship Service and Brunch. Much love and respect to Pastor Jamie Frazier and staff for providing a platform to bring this celebration of honor. As always feel free to visit PrideIndex.com to find about more information regarding the activities taking place over Chicago's Black Gay Pride holiday weekend. There you will also find information on cultural and civic events you should consider taking part in year round.

As the PrideIndex.com family of supporters and allies has spent numerous hours to ensure that you have a great time, welcome and enjoy.

*Sincerely,
Phil Esteem
PrideIndex.com*

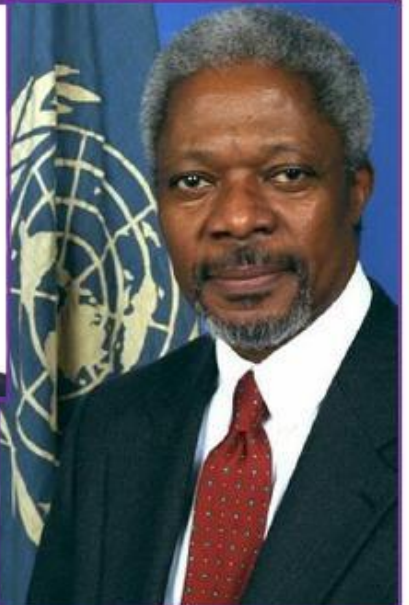
Esteem Award Designed by: Langstan Smith Designs,
Awards Services: Plaques & Gifts By Perci
Event Coordinators: Andre Jackson & Arnold Jordan
For a listing of all 12 years of honorees visit us

The loss of loved ones, friends or colleagues often inspires me to ensure their memories lives on. I used to wish that I could travel back in time to spend one more hour with them all. As I grew older I began to cherish my relationships much more than ever. There would be no need to travel back because I'd already shared many priceless moments that would last forever. *In Memoriam* is dedicated to ones we've lost this Pride Year July 2018 - June 2019. An (*) indicates transgender persons lost due to violence.

Craig Cannonball Anderson, Friend
Kofi Annan, Former UN Sec General
Chuck Barsdale, Singer with *The Dells*
* **Vontashia Bell**, Sister, Friend
 Bobby Benson, Friend
* **Muhlaysia Booker**, Sister, Friend
 Angela Bowen, Activist, Teacher
 Emantic Bradford, Brother
 Doris Cameron, Sister
 Ashanti Carmon, Friend
 Tim Conway, Actor
 Sylvia Chase, Journalist
 Roy Dellums, Co-founder of
 The Black Caucus
 Melvin Edmonds,
 Singer with *After 7*
Willie Ford, Singer with *The Dramatics*
 Momma Flossie, Friend, Neighbor
 Aretha Franklin, Music Icon
* **Ciara Minaj Carter Frazier**,
 Sister, Friend
 Tom Gallagher, Gay Veteran
* **Sasha Garden**, Sister, Friend
 Barbara Hammer, Writer
 Katherine Helmond, Actress
 Olivia Hooker, Survivor of 1923
 Tulsa Race Riot
David Horwitz, Consumer Reporter
 Tab Hunter, Actor
Nipsey Hussle, Activist & Musician
 James Ingram, Crooner
Bothem Shem Jean, Friend, Brother
 Dr. John, Musician
 Laurent Lambert, Sister, Friend
 Laurence Leather, Musician

Wil Montgomery, Friend
* **Londonn Moore**, Friend
Them Mumford, Writer/Producer
 Rashod Ollison, Journalist
 Richard Overton, WWII Veteran
 Endra I. Richardson, Friend
 Jemel Roberson, Father, Hero
 Dovey Johnson Roundtree,
 Civil Rights Pioneer
 Otis Rush, Musician
Ntozake Shange, Poet/Playwright
 John Singleton, Director
 Tom Skinner, Friend
* **Chelsi Smith Sister**, Friend
* **Zoe Spears Sister**, Friend
* **Chanel Spurlock Sister**, Friend
 Kristoff St. John, Actor
* **Dejanay Stanton**, Sister, Friend
 * **Kelly Stough**, Activist
George Taliaferro, First Black player
 drafted in NFL
 Nathaniel Taylor,
 Sanford & Son Actor
 Peter Tork, Musician from the
 Monkees
 Will Triplett, Actor
* **Shantee Tucker**, Sister, Friend
 LaDon Ward, Brother
* **Jazzaline Ware**, Sister, Friend
* **Michelle "Tamika" Washington**,
 Sister, Friend
 Charles Weldon, Theater Icon
 Randy Weston, Jazz Pianist
 Nancy Wilson, Jazz Icon
 Andre Williams, Songwriter

IN MEMORIAM



ALLIES / SPONSORS / SUPPORTERS



Andre Jackson

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL



Langstan Smith
Mrs. Anonymous



Beverly Packnett



Teresa Simpson

MarQ G.



SMART+
STRONG

Adam McNath

Lenny Lee

James Hines



AIDS
FOUNDATION
OF CHICAGO

Shefflon Tidwell



Thank You



LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

July 7, 2019

Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered for the Black Gay Pride Sunday Worship Brunch and Esteem Awards presentation.

Since its creation, the Esteem Awards have reminded us of the importance and impact of Chicago's African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities, and the support they provide to those in need. The wide-ranging reach of the support they provide to those in need has both shaped lives and inspired change. The Esteem Awards recognize involved civic and community organizations and dynamic individuals for ongoing efforts and advocacy within the African American and LGBT communities.

This evening's celebration honors local and national individuals and organizations for their dedicated efforts on behalf of African American and LGBT communities in the areas of civil rights, social service, business, media, artistic expression, and entertainment. They continue to make a difference within the spheres of civil rights, social service, business, media, artistic expression and entertainment. Because of the steadfast work of all being honored tonight, Chicagoland is a better city.

I hope your event is enjoyable and memorable. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" being particularly prominent.

Mayor

IN MEMORIAM



Dj
Craig Cannon Ball Anderson

Author
Playwright
Producer
Creator
Friend

you will be missed by our community



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QUEER RADIO

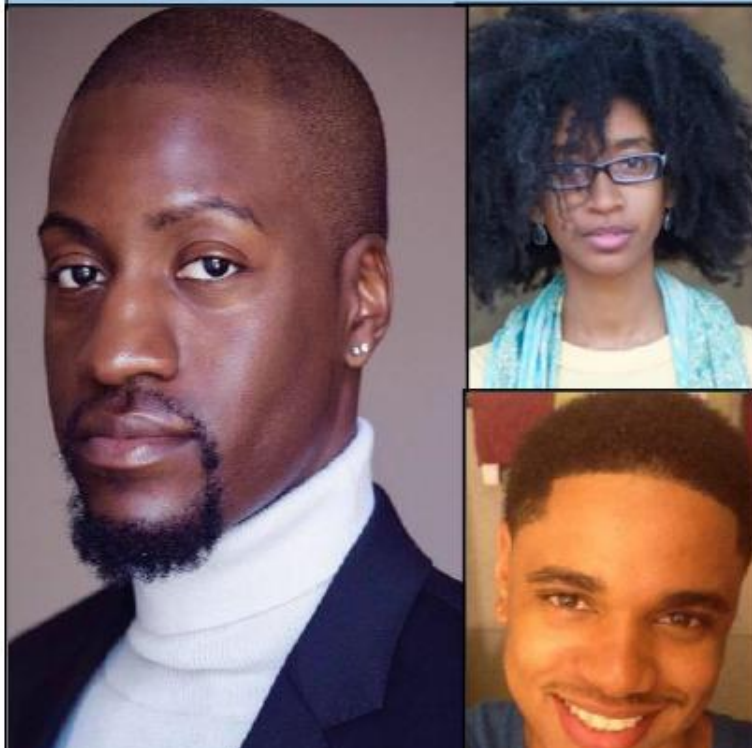
DONE RIGHT.



e3 radio



HONOREES



Chicago

Outstanding Service, Male:

Antonio V. King,

Outstanding Service, Female:

Imani Rupert-Gordon

Outstanding Service, Transgender:

Channyn Lynne Parker

**Future Leaders / Outstanding
Millennial:**

Ka'riel Gaither

Outstanding Social Services/CBO:

Brave Space Alliance

Special Recognition Award:

The Gene Siskel Film Center

Artistic Expression - Spoken Word:

OUTspoken!,

National

Outstanding Service, Male:

Steven Fullwood

Outstanding Service, Female:

Alexis Pauline Gumbs

**Future Leaders/Outstanding
Millennial:**

Perre L. Shelton

Special Recognition Award:

Sampson McCormick



United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

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NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

July 7, 2019

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 12th Annual Esteem Awards presentation and Black Gay Pride Sunday Worship Brunch. This award ceremony is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the numerous advancements made in the African-American and LGBTQ communities and their significance in the American life, as well as honoring those individuals and organizations that have been instrumental for this progress.

The Esteem Awards honors individuals as well as local and national organizations that have greatly contributed to our country through their activism, service, and creativity. The honorees are a diverse group including individuals who work in business, the arts, political activism. Advocating for equal protection of race and sexuality is a battle our country has been fighting for since its existence and I applaud you on furthering that end.

As a longtime supporter of the LGBTQ community, I applaud your recognition of those striving to advance issues of diversity and equality. Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to this afternoon's attendees for your dedication to the LGBTQ community and the Esteem Awards. Congratulations on all your work and achievements, and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

SMART+ STRONG

REALHEALTH

YOUR GUIDE TO BLACK WELLNESS

Real Health is the U.S.'s leading health magazine for African Americans. Launched in 2004, Real Health covers fitness and nutrition as well as a broad range of health issues affecting black families.

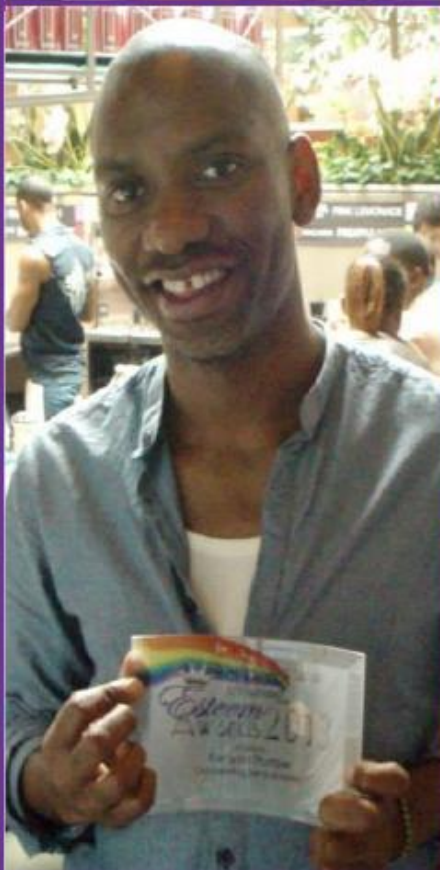
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OUTSTANDING SERVICE - MALE



Antonio King

Antonio King is a Chicago native and serves as Public Health Administrator/LGBTQ Outreach Liaison with The Chicago Department of Public Health. Antonio has over 20 years of experience in HIV/AIDS health education and prevention beginning as a volunteer in the late 80's with Chicago area community based organizations. Antonio has resided in various cities including: Chicago, IL, New York City, NY, Memphis, TN and Nashville, TN, and has served diligently in various capacities of LGBT Program management, Health Education & Outreach and LGBTQ At-Risk Youth Advocacy.

Antonio studied at DePaul University and is currently enrolled at McCormick Theological Seminary. Antonio has served as a sponsor, promoter or volunteer with various organizations, advisory boards and Board of Directors such as: Memphis PRIDE, What's TEA Trans Group, Chicago Pride, Chicago Rocks Committee, The Continental Pageantry System, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) and Illinois Marriage Equality.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE - FEMALE



Armani Rupert-Gordon

For over 15 years Imani Rupert-Gordon has worked to advance social justice efforts by working in higher education, social work, and nonprofit management.

Imani Rupert-Gordon serves as the Executive Director of Affinity Community Services. Affinity is a justice organization that works to support the entire LGBTQ+ community, with an emphasis on Black LGBTQ+ women. Imani has delivered presentations and keynote addresses on topics of intersectionality and diversity and inclusion, as well as issues pertaining to LGBTQ+ youth, LGBTQ+ older adults. In addition, Imani serves on the Illinois State Treasurer's LGBT Advisory Council; the governing board of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's United Pride Executive committee. Most recently, Imani was selected to serve as a member of the Democratic Party of Illinois Delegate Selection Affirmative Action Committee for the 2020 Presidential election.



United States Senate

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
SMALL BUSINESS
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

July 7, 2019

Greetings Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to The 12th Annual Esteem Awards. I want to extend a special thank you to Lighthouse Church for hosting this event. Today, we honor those whose efforts have contributed to the advancement of African-American and LGBTQ communities.

Since 2007, the Esteem Awards has recognized outstanding Chicago organizations and individuals for supporting the African-American and LGBTQ communities. Together with the Lighthouse Church, the Esteem Awards have worked to promote opportunity and pride across the Chicagoland area. I applaud today's honorees for demonstrating inclusivity through social services, entertainment and community engagement. The contributions made by these extraordinary advocates represent the best of Illinois.

I send my heartfelt congratulations to all of the Esteem Award honorees. My very best to you all on this special occasion.

Sincerely,

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

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OUTSTANDING MILLENNIAL

Perre Shelton

PrideIndex.com honors Perre L. Shelton. Perre is no stranger to the Esteem Awards we've watched him grow from a dynamic young spoken word performer into an intelligent man. The educator, mentor, and artist currently resides in Washington DC where he's a PhD Candidate of Counseling - Psychology. Shelton is the founder of THE LAMAR METHOD (TLM) which was inspired by his history of working with marginalized and underrepresented populations such as people of color, veterans, LGBTQ+ individuals, etc.



Did you know that Perre Shelton once performed on Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam?

To see Perre's electrifying performance of "Dandelion" visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=Hx5lX69AE_g

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Sampson McCormick

It gives us great pleasure to honor Sampson McCormick with this Special Recognition Award. Sampson is a stand-up comedian, writer, lover of the theater, men, and black excellence. McCormick was born in Washington DC but currently resides in Los Angeles. He got his start in comedy at the age of 16. He has been featured on BET, TV One, and VICELAND. In 2018 he made history as the first LGBTQ comic to perform at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Mr. McCormick's body of works include an off-Broadway run of "BBoy Blues: The Stage Play," as well as films such as That Bitch Better Be Funny: Sampson Live at Howard Theater.



Did you know that Sampson recently wrote, directed and starred in a short film? A DIFFERENT DIRECTION is the story of Frankie Bailey, a black, gay man in his 30's struggling to make ends meet while being forced to confront one of the biggest challenges of his life.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE - MALE



Steven Fullwood

"Every time someone thanks you, it raises your vibration. I sparkle, I light, & I vibrate so high. Thank you, Philip, for this award. It means a great deal to me because it comes from my community. I vow to do the good work until I die, and then some."

Did you know that Steven once held a job as a children's librarian in his native Toledo, Ohio? "The job required me to think broadly about the needs of African-American children and to help their parents augment their children's education through books, film festivals, and other Black-focused programs," he said.

His published works include *Black Gay Genius: Answering Joseph Beam's Call* (co-edited by Charles Stephens), 2014, *To Be Left with the Body*, (co-edited by Cheryl Clarke), 2008, and *Carry the Word: A Bibliography of Black LGBTQ Books* (co-edited by Lisa C. Moore), 2007.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE - FEMALE



Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Alexis Pauline Gumbs is a community cherished writer and Black feminist scholar. She was the first scholar to research in the papers of Audre Lorde at Spelman College and June Jordan at Harvard University, and her work to amplify the lessons of Black feminist writers is recognized around the world. . Her work to create the Mobile Homecoming Living Library and Archive with her partner Sangodare is a model for Black LGBTQ

intergenerational engagement and care. She is the author of *Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity*, *M Archive: After the End of the World* which have transformed and enlivened Black feminist theory and poetics. Her co-edited volume *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines* offers an expansive vision of mothering as a transformative way of nurturing life, grounded in the leadership of Black lesbian feminist activists of the 1970s and 80s. She and her partner live in Durham, North Carolina where they are in the early stages of creating an intergenerational assisted and independent living community to celebrate and center Black LGBTQ brilliance.

M Archive: After the End of the World is available here

<https://www.dukeupress.edu/m-archive>

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TRANSGENDER

Channyn Lynne Parker



Channyn Lynne Parker is a Transgender advocate, public speaker, community-centric leader and Manager of External Relations for Howard Brown Health Center. Prior to her current role, Channyn served as manager of The Broadway Youth Center's, Youth Youth Development Program, and manager of Chicago House Social Service Agency's, TransLife Project (2017).

Channyn, is the first openly transgender woman to work in the Cook County Dept. of Corrections, working with populations in protective custody. Inaugural Trans 100 awardee (2013). White House speaker, National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2015). Chicago Women's March speaker (2017, 2018). Recipient of the Henrietta Lacks award, Women in Health in Chicago (2018) and Equality Illinois prestigious, Freedom Award (2019).

Channyn, is quoted as saying, "Equality is the firmest pillar upon which human value stands. If I am named amongst those who are ambitious, and maybe even be crazy enough to believe that we, somehow through our actions can leave this world a better place. If I have played some small part in reducing the burden of injustice, then I have lived a life well served."

OUTSTANDING MILLENNIAL

Kariel Gaiter



I am more than appreciative and honored to be considered for this award.

I would like to thank every resilient POC that's impacted by various barriers to live their ideal lifestyle. I definitely want to thank Bonsai Bermudez for advocating for efficient resources for my community and creating a space for me to be an asset to those POC on their journey.

And lastly I would like to thank you {Philip} for bringing visibility to those who fight for our community.

Some honoree acceptance statements have been slightly modified for size and spacing consideration. Visit TheEsteemAwards.com for full length statements along with profiles of over 200 past award recipients.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE - SOCIAL SERVICES/CBO

LaSaia Wade is an open Afro-Puerto Rican indigenous Trans Woman, founder of TNTJ Tennessee Trans Journey Project, and member of Chicago Trans Gender Nonconforming Collective and the Trans Liberation Collective, and Director of Brave Space Alliance. Recently, she was honored at the Chicago LGBTQA Black History Recognitions ceremony and is the first Trans woman in Illinois History to be honored in Women's History month for the work she's doing not limited to community organizing. Her role in organizing ranges between and beyond as a central organizer for the Trans Liberation Protest Chicago, the largest march for trans rights in Midwestern history and being the Midwest Mother for the House of Ferré.



ARTISTIC EXPRESSION-SPOKEN WORD

Archy Jamjun is the curator of OUTspoken! LGBTQ stories at Sidetrack, which occurs the first Tuesday of each month, and is honored to accept this award on behalf of the Outspoken! team. He has won The Moth Grand Slam twice and will be published by Barrel House this summer.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Since 1972, the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago has presented critically acclaimed film programming annually with over 1,500 screenings and 200 filmmaker appearances to an audience that has grown to 100,000. The Film Center was renamed the Gene Siskel Film Center in 2000 after the late, nationally celebrated film critic, Gene Siskel. The Film Center's programming includes monthly series and annual film festivals like the Black Harvest Film Festival which will celebrate its 25th anniversary August 3-29, 2019. The Film Center's most vibrant annual showcase, Black Harvest is the Midwest's largest- and longest-running Black film festival featuring provocative films that tell stories, spark lively discussions, and address issues relating to the experiences from the African diaspora. Black Harvest features Chicago premieres, filmmaker appearances, panel discussions, and special events. Presented are over 50 features, documentaries, and shorts, including a number connected to Chicago, affirming the city's role as a vital center for independent filmmaking. Black Harvest supports the Film Center's ongoing mission to present inclusive and insightful programming. www.siskelfilmcenter.org OR



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Co-sponsors: Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches,
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