**LEH Humanities Award Recipients 1985–2022**

**Humanist of the Year**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1985 | Stephen Ambrose, PhD, historian, University of New Orleans |
| 1986 | Joe Gray Taylor, PhD, historian, McNeese State University |
| 1987 | Lewis P. Simpson, PhD, literary scholar, Louisiana State University |
| 1988 | Huel D. Perkins, PhD, educator, Louisiana State University |
| 1989 | Ernest Gaines, author, University of Southwestern Louisiana |
| 1990 | Patricia and Milton Rickels, PhD, educators, University of Southwestern Louisiana |
| 1991 | Earle Labor, PhD, literary scholar/editor, Centenary College |
| 1992 | Jessie Jean Poesch, PhD, art historian, Newcomb College of Tulane University |
| 1993 | Donald E. Stanford, PhD, literary scholar |
| 1994 | Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, PhD, historian, University of New Orleans |
| 1995 | (no awards due to shift in ceremony from December to March/April) |
| 1996 | Ralph Lee Woodward, Jr., PhD, historian |
| 1997 | Richard Ford, author and literary scholar |
| 1998 | Peggy Whitman Prenshaw, PhD, literary scholar, Louisiana State University |
| 1999 | Lawrence Powell, PhD, historian, Tulane University |
| 2000 | Joseph G. Tregle, Jr., historian, University of New Orleans |
| 2001 | Glenn Conrad, historian, University of Louisiana at Lafayette |
| 2002 | Jason Berry, independent scholar |
| 2003 | Beth Willinger, PhD, director, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women |
| 2004 | Douglas Brinkley, PhD, historian, University of New Orleans |
| 2005 | Carl Brasseaux, PhD, Director of the Center for Cultural and Eco-tourism at ULL |
| 2006 | Nick Spitzer, PhD, professor of folklore, University of New Orleans |
| 2007 | J. Richard Gruber, PhD, executive director, Ogden Museum of Southern Art |
| 2008 | Ellis Marsalis, Coca Cola endowed chair of Jazz Studies, University of New Orleans. |
| 2009 | Barry Ancelet, PhD, scholar, University of Louisiana at Lafayette |
| 2010 | Michael White, PhD, musician, Xavier University |
| 2011 | Dana Kress, PhD, scholar, Centenary College |
| 2012 | Patricia Brady, PhD, scholar, Loyola University |
| 2013 | William Pederson, PhD, historian, Louisiana State University at Shreveport |
| 2014 | Walter Isaacson, President and CEO of the Aspen Institute |
| 2015 | Cokie Roberts, historian and journalist |
| 2016 | Zachary Richard, singer-songwriter, poet, documentary film producer, cultural activist, and environmentalist |
| 2017 | William Joyce, author, illustrator, and pioneer in the digital and animation industry |
| 2018 | Leah Chase, chef, author, and advocate for the arts and humanities |
| 2019 | Darrell Bourque, poet and activist |
| 2020 | Terence Blanchard, composer, musician, educator |
| 2021 | John T. Scott (posthumous), artist, teacher, and visionary |
| 2022 | Ruby Bridges, author and activist |

**Lifetime Contribution to the Humanities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1992 | Lindy Boggs |
| 1997 | Charles T. Beaird, publisher, *Shreveport Journal* |
|  | Sydney Besthoff, owner, K&B Drugstore and founder, Contemporary Arts Center |
|  | J. Bennett Johnson, retired US Senator from Louisiana |
| 1998 | Steve Perry, Governor Mike Foster’s Chief of Staff |
| 2000 | Minnie Lou Lynch, Oakdale |
| 2001 | Kenneth Holditch, literary scholar emeritus, University of New Orleans |
| 2002 | Michael P. Smith, photographer |
| 2003 | James Sefcik, director, Louisiana State Museum |
| 2004 | E. John Bullard, director of New Orleans Museum of Art |
| 2005 | Thomas Jaques, retired State Librarian |
| 2006 | Rosemary James, founder of Pirates Alley Faulkner Society, Faulkner Literary Festival and Double |
|  | Dealer Redux Literary Journal  Joseph DeSalvo, Jr., founder of Pirates Alley Faulkner Society, Faulkner Literary Festival and Double |
|  | Dealer Redux Literary Journal |
| 2007 | Susan Larson, Book Editor, New Orleans *Times-Picayune* |
| 2008 | Dr. Norman Francis, president, Xavier University |

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| 2009 | Priscilla Lawrence, Executive Director, The Historic New Orleans Collection |
| 2010 | Gloria Fiero, PhD, Friends of the Humanities, University of Louisiana Lafayette |
| 2011 | Patricia Gay, Preservation Resource Center |
| 2012 | Glen Pitre, filmmaker |
| 2013 | Alfred Lemmon, PhD, Director of Williams Research Collection, The Historic New Orleans Collection |
| 2014 | Peggy Scott Laborde, film producer and journalist |
| 2015 | Susan Roach, scholar |
| 2016 | Beth Courtney, President of Louisiana Public Broadcasting |
| 2017 | Susan Tucker, author, editor, and archivist |
| 2018 | Mary Lou Christovich, preservationist, author, and philanthropist |
|  | Ben Sandmel, musician, author, and oral historian |
| 2019 | Hiram “Pete” Gregory, PhD, Northwestern State University |
| 2020 | Bertney and Linda Langley, Coushatta Tribal Archives |
|  | Warren Perrin, founder, Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation |
| 2021 | Frank de Caro (posthumous), nationally recognized folklorist |
| 2022 | Dr. Joyce Marie Jackson and Kalamu ya Salaam |

**Chair’s Award for Institutional Support**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1992 | James R. Moffett, Freeport McMoRan |
| 1993 | *Times Picayune* Publishing Corporation |
|  | Beth Courtney, Louisiana Public Broadcasting, |
| 1994 | Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
|  | Louisiana State Museum |
| 1995 | (no awards due to shift in ceremony from December to March/April) |
| 1996 | Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival |
|  | University of Southwestern Louisiana |
| 1997 | WYES-Channel 12 |
| 1998 | Willis-Knighton Health System |
| 1999 | The Historic New Orleans Collection |
| 2000 | East Baton Rouge Parish Library |
|  | Loyola University of New Orleans |
| 2001 | Patrick F. Taylor Foundation |
| 2002 | Hibernia National Bank |
| 2003 | Governor Murphy J. Foster |
|  | Mark Drennen-Division of Administration |
| 2004 | Jones Walker Law Firm |
| 2005 | Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge |
| 2006 | Bruce Cole, PhD, National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman |
| 2007 | Louisiana State University in Shreveport |
| 2008 | Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier |
| 2009 | Friends of the Humanities Lafayette |
| 2010 | Phyllis Taylor, Patrick F. Taylor Foundation |
| 2011 | The Helis Foundation |
| 2012 | Center for Louisiana Studies, Lafayette |
| 2013 | Shell Oil Company |
| 2014 | The Zemurray Foundation |
| 2015 | BHP Billiton |
| 2016 | Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) |
| 2017 | The Carolyn W. And Charles T. Beaird Family Foundation |
|  | W.K. Kellogg Foundation |
| 2018 | Rosemary and Randy Ewing |
| 2019 | Dorothy Hanna & Rod and Mattie Olson |
| 2020 | Walton Family Foundation |
| 2021 | Entergy Charitable Foundation |
| 2022 | Union Pacific Foundation |

**Humanities Book Award**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1998 | *Rising Tide*, John Barry |
| 1999 | *Swapping Stories: Folktales from Louisiana*, edited by Carl Lindhal, Maida Owens, and C. Renee |
|  | Harvison |
|  | *Louisiana Sojourns: Travelers’ Tales and Literary Journeys*, edited by Frank de Caro, Rosan Jordan |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2000 | *Fortune and Misery: Sallie Rhett Roman of New Orleans: A Biographical Portrait and Selected Fiction* |
|  | *(1891-1920)*, Nancy Dixon |
|  | *Zydeco!*, photographs by Rick Olivier and text by Ben Sandmel |
| 2001 | *Marie Adrien Persac, Louisiana Artist*, contributors H. Parrott Bacot, et.al |
| 2002 | *Audubon’s Watch,* John Gregory Brown |
| 2003 | *Historic Buildings of the French Quarter*, Lloyd Vogt |
|  | *Plantations by the River*, Marcel Boyer and Jay Edwards |
| 2004 | *Buildings of Louisiana*, Karen Kingsley |
|  | *Charting Louisiana: 500 Years of Maps*, Alfred E. Lemmon, John T. Magill and Jason Wiese |
| 2005 | *One Big Self, Prisoners of Louisiana*, Deborah Luster |
| 2006 | *Missing New Orleans*, Phillip Collier, Rick Gruber, Mary Beth Romig, and Jim Rapier |
|  | *Why New Orleans Matters*, Tom Piazza |
| 2007 | *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast*, Douglas Brinkley |
|  | *Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City,* Jed Horne |
|  | *Geographies of New Orleans: Urban Fabrics Before the Storm*, Richard Campanella |
| 2008 | *One Drop: My Father's Hidden Life--A Story of Race and Family Secrets*, Bliss Broyard |
| 2009 | *The World That Made New Orleans: From Spanish Silver to Congo Square*, Ned Sublette |
| 2010 | *Bienville’s Dilemma*, Richard Campanella |
| 2011 | *Dictionary of Louisiana French: As Spoken in Cajun, Creole, and American Indian Communities*, edited |
|  | by Albert Valdman, PhD, and Kevin Rottet, PhD |
| 2012 | *Congo Square: African Roots in New Orleans*, Freddi Williams Evans |
| 2013 | *The Accidental City*, by Lawrence Powell, PhD |
|  | *Ernie K-Doe: The R&B Emperor of New Orleans*, Ben Sandmel |
| 2014 | *A Company Man,* by Marc Antoine-Caillot, edited by Erin M. Greenwald, PhD |
|  | *Livestock Brands and Marks: An Unexpected Bayou Country History*, Christopher E. Cenac Sr., MD, |
|  | FACS |
| 2015 | *Jerry Lee Lewis: A Life*, Rick Bragg |
|  | *Upstairs Lounge Arson: Thirty-Two Deaths in a New Orleans Gay Bar, June 24, 1973*, Clayton Delery- |
|  | Edwards |
| 2016 | *Beyond Freedom’s Reach*, Adam Rothman |
|  | *Poverty Point: Revealing the Forgotten City*, Jenny Ellerbe and Diana M. Greenlee |
| 2017 | *Teche: A History of Louisiana’s Most Famous Bayou*, Shane K. Bernard |
|  | *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume 1: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish*, Christopher E. Cenac Sr., MD, |
|  | FACS |
| 2018 | *Krazy: George Herriman, a Life in White and Black*, Michael Tisserand |
|  | *The Thibodeaux Massacre: Racial Violence and the 1887 Sugar Cane Labor Strike*, John DeSantis |
| 2019 | *A Cajun Girl’s Sharecropping Years*, Viola Fontenot |
| 2020 | *Solitary: My Story of Transformation and Hope*, Albert Woodfox |
| 2021 | *Katrina: A History, 1915-2015,* Andy Horowitz |
| 2022 | *Economy Hall: The Hidden History of a Free Black Brotherhood,* Fatima Shaik |

**Documentary Film Awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2008 | *Reconstructing Creole*, Jennifer John Block |
| 2009 | *Louisiana Story: The Reverse Angle*, Tika Laudun and Charles Richard |
| 2010 | *All Over But To Cry*, Jennifer John Block |
| 2011 | *Walker Percy*, Winston Riley |
| 2012 | *No One Ever Went Hungry*, Kevin McCaffrey |
| 2013 | *T-Galop*, Conni Castille |
| 2014 | *Bayou Maharajah*, Lily Keber |
| 2015 | *Big Charity*, Alexander John Gustrom |
| 2016 | *Shape of Shreveport*, Chris Charles Scott |
| 2017 | *Small Town Rage: Fighting Back in the Deep South*, David Hylan and Raydra Hall |
| 2018 | *Deeply Rooted: John Coykendall’s Journey to Save our Seeds and Stories*, Christina Melton |
| 2019 | *A Man and His Trumpet: The Leroy Jones Story*, Cameron Washington |
| 2020 | *Mossville: When Great Trees Fall*, Alexander Glustrom |
| 2021 | *Professor Longhair: Rugged and Funky*, by directed by Joshua Bagnall |
| 2022 | *The Neutral Ground* directed by C. J. Hunt and produced by Darcy McKinnon |

**Documentary Photography Awards**

Michael P. Smith Memorial Award for Documentary Photography

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2009 | Philip Gould |
| 2010 | Syndey Byrd |
| 2011 | Debbie Fleming Caffery |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2012 | Neil Johnson |
| 2013 | Chandra McCormick and Keith Calhoun |
| 2014 | Richard Sexton |
| 2015 | Deborah Luster |
| 2016 | David Spielman |
| 2017 | Eric Waters |
| 2018 | Jeremiah Ariaz |
| 2019 | Frank Relle |
| 2020 | Charles M. Lovell |

**Documentary Photographer of the Year**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2021 | Abdul Aziz |
| 2022 | L. Kasimu Harris |

**Light Up for Literacy Award** (Given in partnership with State Library of Louisiana)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2015 | Ann Dobie |
| 2016 | Herreast Harrison |
| 2017 | Richard Louth |
| 2018 | Sisters of the Holy Family |
| 2019 | Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell |
| 2020 | Lynn Clark |
| 2021 | Pat Austin |
| 2022 | Jeannine Pasini Beekman and Tracy Cunningham |

**Champion of Culture Award**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2015 | Daryl Byrd, MBA, President, CEO and Director, IBERIA BANK |
| 2016 | David Kerstein, President and CEO, Helis Oil & Gas |
| 2017 | William D. Adams, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities |
| 2018 | Roger Ogden, founder, Ogden Museum of Southern Art |
| 2019 | Gregory Kallenberg, founder, Shreveport Film Prize and Prize Fest |
| 2020 | LSU Press |
| 2021 | Carol Bebelle, co-founder of Ashé Cultural Arts Center |
| 2022 | John Barbry, director of development and programming,Tunica-Biloxi Language and Culture Revitalization Program |

**Museum Exhibition of the Year**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2018 | *Storyville: Madams and Music*, The Historic New Orleans Collection |
| 2019 | *Changing Course: Reflections on New Orleans Histories*, New Orleans Museum of Art |
| 2020 | *Per(Sister): Incarcerated Women of Louisiana*, Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane |
| 2022 | Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience, permanent exhibition |

*Note: The Museum Exhibition of the Year Award will now be awarded biannually in even-numbered years. The next award in this category will be made in 2022.*

**Best in Digital Humanities**

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| --- | --- |
| 2021 | *Slow Burn: David Duke*, podcast produced by Slate and hosted by Josh Levin |

*Note: The Best in Digital Humanities will be awarded biannually in odd-numbered years. The next award in this category will be made in 2023.*

**PAST AWARD CATEGORIES**

**Individual Achievement in the Humanities Awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1987 | Barbara Cicardo, PhD |
| 1988 | Goodloe Stuck, historian, Louisiana State Library, Shreveport |
| 1989 | Robert Lafayette, PhD, scholar, Louisiana State University |
|  | Judy Godfrey, Meadows Museum of Art |
| 1990 | Barry Jean Ancelet, PhD, scholar, University of Southwestern Louisiana |
| 1991 | Karen Snyder, filmmaker |
|  | Elizabeth Bedikian and Dan Wilson, New Orleans Public Library |
| 1991 | Elizabeth Bingham, head of circulation, East Baton Rouge Public Library |
|  | Gary Tisdale |
| 1992 | Dorothy Brown, PhD, scholar, Loyola University of New Orleans |
|  | Barbara Ewell, PhD, scholar, Loyola University of New Orleans |
|  | Paul Stekler, filmmaker, University of Texas |
| 1993 | Phanuel Egejuru, PhD, scholar, Loyola University of New Orleans |
|  | Patrick Mire, filmmaker |
|  | Michael P. Smith, photographer |
| 1994 | Mary Howell, Piney Woods Opry |
|  | Phillip Gould, photographer  Mary Richardson, scholar, McNeese State University |

1995 (no awards due to shift in ceremony from December to March/April) 1996 Robert Becker, PhD, scholar

Peggy Scott Laborde, film producer Glen Pitre, filmmaker

1997 Earl Bryant, PhD, scholar, University of New Orleans John Bullard, director, New Orleans Museum of Art James A. Cowman, scholar, Nicholls State University

1998 Dana Kress, scholar, Centenary College

William Pederson, scholar, Louisiana State University—Shreveport Kalamu Ya Salaam, poet

1999 Sarah Albritton, artist

Mark Fernandez, PhD, historian, Loyola University of New Orleans Peggy Jelks, PhD, scholar, Northeast Louisiana University

John Menszer, photographer

Susan Roach, PhD, scholar, Louisiana Tech University

2000 David Estes, PhD, scholar, Loyola University of New Orleans Stanley Hilton, PhD, scholar, Louisiana State University Ursula Jones, associate librarian, Calcasieu Parish Library

Thomas Phelps, program officer for public humanities program, NEH Cindy Treme, assistant director, Beauregard Parish Library

2001 Tom DuBose, PhD, literary scholar, Louisiana State University Shreveport Michael Luster, folklorist

Denise Tullier-Holly, PhD, scholar, Southeastern Louisiana University Richard Louth, PhD, Southeastern Louisiana University

Lee Estes, photographer

2002 Oneal Isaac, professional storyteller

Michael Tarver, PhD, associate history professor at McNeese State University Kathleen Smith, PhD, assistant history professor at Northwestern State University Michael Wynne, historian

2003 Olivia Pass, PhD, professor of language and literature, Nicholls State University Deb Robertson, director of public programs, American Library Association David Moore, PhD, associate professor of history, Loyola University

Judy Boyce, librarian, West Baton Rouge Public Library 2004 Nancy Hawkins, manager, Louisiana Division of Archaeology

Lisa Abney, director, Louisiana Folklife Center and Natchitoches/NSU

Mary Ann Wilson, PhD, professor of English. University of Louisiana Lafayette Huey S. Guagliardo, PhD, professor of English. LSU Eunice

Marshall Scott Legan, professor/chair of history at the University of Louisiana Monroe James Trojanowski, Prime Time expansion in Wisconsin

Carole DeJardin, Prime Time expansion in Wisconsin

2005 Jack Bedell, professor of literature and creative writing, Southeastern Louisiana University Martha Hodnett, youth services librarian for the Lafourche Parish Public Library

Helen Taylor, PhD, professor and director of the Master of Liberal Arts program, LSU Shreveport. Linda LeBlanc, parent involvement coordinator, Jefferson Davis Parish School System

Cheryl Ware, PhD, professor of English, McNeese State University

2006 Wanda Ellard, storyteller at 100 sessions of LEH’s Prime Time-Family Reading Time literacy program Jerry Purvis Sanson, PhD, professor of history, Louisiana State University Alexandria

Diane Dufilho, director, Meadows Museum of Art at Centenary College of Louisiana Shreveport Folklife Festival

2007 Mary Jill Brody, PhD, the Fred B. Kniffen Professor of Geography and Anthropology, LSU, Baton Rouge John Magill, Head of Research, The Historic New Orleans Collection

2008 Delma McLeod-Porter, PhD, professor and coordinator of developmental writing, McNeese State University

J. Paul Leslie, PhD, professor of history, Nicholls State University Jack Heflin, professor of English, University of Louisiana at Monroe

2009 Dr. John Hall, professor emeritus in geography, LSU Shreveport

Dr. Thomas Fick, English professor, Southeastern Louisiana University David Kunian, radio documentarian

Ann Dobie, PhD, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of Louisiana Lafayette 2010 Georgiann Potts, scholar and program director, University of Louisiana Monroe 2011 Charles Elliot, PhD, professor of history, Southeastern Louisiana University  
2012 Greg Lambousy, Director of Collections, Louisiana State Museum

2013 2014 Stephen Webre, PhD, Garnie W. McGinty professor of history and interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Louisiana Tech University

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2007 | Louisiana Folklife Inc., for community history *From Bouef to Beaucoup: Vintage Tales of Caldwell* |
|  | *Parish* |
| 2008 | John R. May, PhD, professor of English, LSU Baton Rouge, for his remarkable summer film |
|  | festival at Ascension Parish Public Library in Gonzales |
| 2009 | Karen McPheeters, director, Farmington Public Library in New Mexico |
|  | Gail Garcia, community relations manager, Iberia Parish Library |
| 2010 | Todd Mouton, Louisiana Crossroads |
|  | Virginia Carter, PhD and Kathleen Pool, Kentucky Humanities Council, PrimeTime partner |
| 2011 | Jane Hood and the Nebraska Humanities Council, PrimeTime partner |
| 2012 | Janine Farver and Patricia Putman, Florida Humanities Council, PrimeTime partner |
| 2013 | Elaine Black and the Georgia Public Library Service, Prime Time partner |
|  | Patrice Melnick, Festival of Words, Grand Coteau |
| 2014 | Ashley Hardee Boudreaux and Debra S. Lee, M.Ed, NBCT, Sabine Parish Schools |

**Public Humanities Programming**

**Humanities Teacher of the Year**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1998 | Lloyd Sensat, Jr., Hahnville High School |
|  | Norma Stigal, Phoenix Elementary School, Alexandria |
| 1999 | Patsy Causey, Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts |
|  | Melanie La Fleur, Many High School |
| 2000 | Caroline Ancelet, Acadiana High School, Lafayette |
|  | Gaye Rice Ingram, Cedar Creek School, Ruston |
| 2001 | Sue Clausen, Neville High School, Monroe |
|  | Jane Bartlett, Lusher Alternative Middle School, New Orleans |
| 2002 | Howard Hunter, High School |
|  | Beverly Kelley, Middle School |
|  | Cherice Harrison-Nelson, Elementary School |
| 2003 | Sharon Cormier, High School |
|  | Bryan Gowland, Middle School |
|  | Rachel Brittain, Elementary School |
| 2005 | Sharlene Algaier, Woodlake Elementary School, Mandeville |
| 2006 | Jan Gardner, teacher at C.E. Byrd High School, Shreveport Judith Allain, teacher at St. John Elementary School, Franklin |
| 2007 | Diego Gonzales, Benjamin Franklin High School, New Orleans |
| 2008 | Catherine Green, Caddo Middle Magnet School, Shreveport |
|  | Emmitt Glynn III, Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge |
| 2009 | Cathy Mills, Episcopal School of Acadiana, Lafayette |
|  | Jennifer Williams, Isidore Newman School, New Orleans |
| 2013 | Vicki Bell, Queensborough Elementary, Shreveport |

**Legislative Awards**

2007 Congressman Bobby Jindal State Senator Willie Mount State Senator Butch Gautreaux

2009 State Senator Cheryl Gray State Rep. Joe Harrison

2010 State Senator Lydia Jackson State Senator Joel Chiasson