LEH Humanities Award Recipients
1985–2019

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

Lifetime Contribution to the Humanities

1992 Lindy Boggs
1997 Charles T. Beard, 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
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

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. Beard Family Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
2018 Rosemary and Randy Ewing
2019 Dorothy Hanna & Rod and Mattie Olson

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
A Company Man, by Marc Antoine-Caillot, edited by Erin M. Greenwald, PhD
2014  Livestock Brands and Marks: An Unexpected Bayou Country History, Christopher E. Cenac Sr., MD, FACS
2015  Jerry Lee Lewis: A Life, Rick Bragg
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

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

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

**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

**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

**Museum Exhibition of the Year**

2018      *Storyville: Madams and Music*, The Historic New Orleans Collection

**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 Egjeru, 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 Tulier-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
Dr. John Hall, professor emeritus in geography, LSU Shreveport
Dr. Thomas Fick, English professor, Southeastern Louisiana University
David Kunian, radio documentarian
2009 Ann Dobie, PhD, Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of Louisiana Lafayette
2010 Georgian 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

Public Humanities Programming

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
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
   Blake Bailey, Lusher Alternative Elementary School, New Orleans
   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