LEH Humanities Award Recipients
1985–2020

**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

**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
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

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

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

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

2004  Zydeco!, photographs by Rick Olivier and text by Ben Sandmel

2005  Marie Adrien Persac, Louisiana Artist, contributors H. Parrott Bacot, et.al

2006  Missing New Orleans, Phillip Collier, Rick Gruber, Mary Beth Romig, and Jim Rapier

2007  The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Douglas Brinkley

2008  Why New Orleans Matters, Tom Piazza

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

2014  Ernie K-Doe: The R&B Emperor of New Orleans, Ben Sandmel

2015  Livestock Brands and Marks: An Unexpected Bayou Country History, Christopher E. Cenac Sr., MD, FACS

2016  Just Lee Lewis: A Life, Rick Bragg

2017  Beyond Freedom’s Reach, Adam Rothman

2018  Poverty Point: Revealing the Forgotten City, Jenny Ellerbe and Diana M. Greenlee

2019  T-Galop, Conni Castille

2020  Bayou Maharajah, Lily Keber

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  Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume 1: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Christopher E. Cenac Sr., MD, FACS

2014  Krazy: George Herriman, a Life in White and Black, Michael Tisserand

2015  A Cajun Girl’s Sharecropping Years, Viola Fontenot

2016  Shape of Shreveport, Chris Charles Scott

2017  Deeply Rooted: John Coykendall’s Journey to Save our Seeds and Stories, Christina Melton

2018  A Man and His Trumpet: The Leroy Jones Story, Cameron Washington

2019  The Thibodeaux Massacre: Racial Violence and the 1887 Sugar Cane Labor Strike, John DeSantis

2020  Solitary: My Story of Transformation and Hope, Albert Woodfox

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

**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

**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

**Museum Exhibition of the Year**

2018 *Storyville: Madams and Music*, The Historic New Orleans Collection
2020 *Per(Sister): Incarcerated Women of Louisiana*, Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane

*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.*

**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, Pinery 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 Hefflin, 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

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
2010  Gail Garcia, community relations manager, Iberia Parish Library
2011  Todd Mouton, Louisiana Crossroads
2012  Virginia Carter, PhD and Kathleen Pool, Kentucky Humanities Council, PrimeTime partner
2013  Janine Farver and Patricia Putman, Florida Humanities Council, PrimeTime partner
2014  Elaine Black and the Georgia Public Library Service, Prime Time partner

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