

**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 Preshaw, 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, <i>Shreveport Journal</i> 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 <i>Times-Picayune</i>
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	<i>Times Picayune</i> 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
2020	Walton Family Foundation

### Humanities Book Award

1998	<i>Rising Tide</i> , John Barry
1999	<i>Swapping Stories: Folktales from Louisiana</i> , edited by Carl Lindhal, Maida Owens, and C. Renee Harvison <i>Louisiana Sojourns: Travelers' Tales and Literary Journeys</i> , 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-Caillet, 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

#### 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

#### 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	<i>Storyville: Madams and Music</i> , The Historic New Orleans Collection
2019	<i>Changing Course: Reflections on New Orleans Histories</i> , New Orleans Museum of Art
2020	<i>Per(Sister): Incarcerated Women of Louisiana</i> , 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, 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

### 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  
 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

### 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