

ASC HONORS

April 28, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

BOOTH PLAYHOUSE



ASC HONORS

ASC HONORS

Recognizing exceptionally creative individuals whose lifetime contributions have distinguished them and enriched the cultural and social fabric of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Dr. Tom Hanchett, History
Tyrone Jefferson, Music
Sonia Handelman Meyer, Visual Arts
Beverly Penninger, Film
Dr. Raphael Tsu, Science

THE CATO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING AWARD

Recognizing teachers who have distinguished careers teaching the arts, sciences, or history or who have demonstrated creative infusion of the arts, sciences, or history into the core curriculum.

Windy Fullagar, Arts
Ann Jacob, History
Julie McConnell, Science



ASC HONORS SELECTION PANEL

Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux, Steve Crump, Herb Jackson,
Patricia McBride, Wesley Mancini, Alan Yamamoto

CATO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING AWARD SELECTION PANEL

Nancy Addison, Wayne Fisher, Tesh Ramey, Elizabeth Withrow



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Culture For All.

ASC HONORS

featuring "Nouveau Sud, Nouveau Cirque"

APRIL 28, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.
BOOTH PLAYHOUSE

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Susan Faulkner

RECOGNITION of AMERICANS for
the ARTS' BUSINESS COMMITTEE
for the ARTS AWARD
Duke Energy

RECOGNITION of ASC HONOREES +
ASC CATO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
in TEACHING HONOREES
Robert Bush

World Premiere of "Nouveau Sud, Nouveau Cirque"



Dr. Tom Hanchett

ASC HONORS

Creating Community Together

When Tom Hanchett arrived in Charlotte in the early '80s to work for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission his job was to study neighborhoods many saw as old and run down.

"People said, 'You're a historian? Go to Charleston, go to Williamsburg. That's where the real history is,'" recalled Hanchett. "Dilworth was largely unappreciated. I saw the sidewalks and beautiful bungalows and thought this is a great place. If we can see the love that went in to it, we can be in it and feel love."

Hanchett's career is built upon sharing the love he's found in the history of our forbearers and showcasing the living traditions he's found in all corners of our city.

During more than 16 years as staff historian at the Levine Museum of the New South, Hanchett curated nine exhibits and served as scholarly advisor on three others. His work on the museum's showcase exhibit, "Cotton Fields to Skyscrapers: Reinventing Charlotte and the Carolina Piedmont in the New South," earned the Southeast Museums Conference award of Best New Exhibit in 2001.

The Hanchett-curated "COURAGE" exhibition, exploring the landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, won top national awards from the American Association for State and Local History and the American Alliance of Museums in 2006. The National Medal for Museum and Library Services recognized the museum's team at the White House.

Hanchett's "HistorySouth.org" website is a rich resource of essays and observations exploring food, music, architecture, history and culture in Charlotte.

"Food and music tell you a lot about who's here and how people put together their world," said Hanchett.

His regular "Food From Home" feature in the Charlotte Observer celebrates food traditions from the multi-ethnic and ever evolving cultural landscape of the New South. He teamed with Cedric Mangum of the United House of Prayer to launch the annual "Gospel Shout!" concerts, which connect new audiences to the storied music tradition of this exuberant African-American church. Hanchett helped create the 1985 Spirit Square reunion of bluegrass and mountain music legends in "The Charlotte Country Music Story."

Working with planner John Howard and the staff of the Community Building Initiative, Hanchett developed the "Black, White, and More" bus tours providing context and history behind Charlotte's racial landscape and shifting demographics.

Generous with his time and knowledge, Hanchett is quick to share credit with former Levine Museum president, Emily Zimmern, and one of his mentors, historian Dan Morrill, a past ASC Honoree, for shaping his collaborative approach and encouraging his work to be reflective of the community.

"History is really what the community creates together," says Hanchett. "All the things that touch you are enriched by all of the people who make them."



Tyrone Jefferson

ASC HONORS

We Come from Greatness

Tyrone Jefferson likes to quote civil rights activist Marcus M. Garvey who said, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

The quest for ancestral knowledge is not only Jefferson’s lifelong passion, but part of the mission of A Sign of The Times, the nonprofit community service organization he founded in 2006.

Through music, dance and spoken word, A Sign of the Times develops community programming connecting people with history, heritage and traditions of the African Diaspora.

Seeds for the organization were sewn when Jefferson visited Kenya, Africa, in 1978. The experience became a turning point in his life.

“I went to Mombasa as a tourist,” recalled Jefferson. “Some locals saw me in the hotel and thought I worked there. When they realized I was American they wanted to take me into the bush, to their homes. It immediately reminded me of my grandmother’s neighborhood when I was a kid. The sense of community I felt connected me back to East Liddell Street in Charlotte. I saw where I came from.”

Jefferson believes historical contributions of his forbearers inspire people to see possibilities and realize dreams thought beyond reach.

“Discovering pre-slavery black history and the contributions we’ve made in engineering, science, medicine and beyond has changed my life. Once I know who I am and where I came from, I have no room in my heart to hate anybody.”

A renaissance man with a trail of success in a number of pursuits, Jefferson is well known for his musical career as a jazz trombonist, composer and musical arranger.

He enjoyed nearly three decades working as a trombonist and musical director with the legendary James Brown. He’s also had a distinguished recording career, collaborating with a diverse group of artists including soul-man Pee Wee Ellis, jazz pianist Alex Bugnon, rapper LL Cool J and hip hop pioneers Public Enemy.

A Sign of The Times touches the community in positive ways from scholarship offerings to jazz workshops and educational programming.

Bridging Musical Worlds is an annual collaborative program with the Charlotte Symphony and UNC Charlotte in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Held at Charlotte’s historic Excelsior Club, the program is a celebration of African-American musical forms such as jazz, blues and gospel.

Diggin’ History Through Music and Dance takes African-American history out of the classroom, using music, dance and spoken word to enlighten participants.

For his contributions to the community, Jefferson was recognized in 2013 by the Harvey B. Gantt Center with its Artist Spirit Award.

“Now is always the right time to learn about our culture,” said Jefferson. “It’s a sign of the times.”



Sonia Handelman Meyer

ASC HONORS *Revealing Subjects*

Sonia Handelman Meyer's passion for photography grew from a chance encounter she had in 1942 while working as a civilian for the U.S. Army Signal Corp at Ft. Buchanan in Puerto Rico.

"I met a young man working for the National Youth Administration taking pictures of the conditions," recalled Meyer. "His photographs were beautiful and exposed things that needed to be changed. I knew immediately this was something I wanted to do."

In photography, Meyer saw an opportunity to satisfy an unfulfilled longing to create art and seize upon a vehicle to influence change.

"The power of social change and the need for social justice was something very deep in me," said Meyer.

Upon her return to New York, Meyer joined the New York Photo League, the historic photographers' cooperative of pioneering change agents addressing social causes such as poverty, racism and civil rights.

From 1943 to 1951, Meyer's studio was the streets of New York City. As she traversed through Harlem, Spanish Harlem and many of the city's impoverished neighborhoods, she captured poignant reflections of everyday life during this turbulent time in American history.

Some of her most enduring images are of the children at Harlem's Sydenham Hospital, the first racially integrated hospital in the city, where she volunteered her time. Personal, immediate and honest, her photographs unveil deeply intimate character studies.

"As I walked the streets my eyes opened to what was there," said Meyer. "Instead of passing things by, I looked at them and I saw them for what they were."

Meyer's work gained prominent national attention as part of the 1949 major exhibition, "This is the Photo League."

When the Photo League ended in 1951, Meyer lost much of her enthusiasm for her work setting it aside to raise a family.

Since relocating to Charlotte in 2002, Meyer's work has been rediscovered and found a new following. Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy, her representative, held a solo exhibition of her work in 2007. In 2013, 90 of Meyer's photos were brought to life in the Mint Museum's extensive exhibition, "Bearing Witness: The New York Photo League and Sonia Handelman Meyer."

"What's been most gratifying," Meyer said of the renewed interest in her work, "is that people today see what I saw then and share the understanding."

Her work is held in many prestigious collections including, the Metropolitan Museum, the Columbus Museum of Art, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, New York City's Jewish Museum, Charlotte's Mint Museum and Bank of America's Corporate Collection. "I never thought I was taking something away from the people," she said of her subjects. "I felt I was revealing them."



Beverly Penninger

ASC HONORS

Replacing Fear with Understanding

Telling others' stories is a privilege documentary filmmaker Beverly Penninger undertakes with the utmost respect and sense of responsibility.

"I never start a project with any preconceived ideas," said Penninger. "My goal is to honor the subject and share the journey of discovery with the viewer."

Subjects featured in Penninger's assemblage of films over her decades' long career include luminaries like NASCAR legend Richard Petty, NBA star Muggsy Bogues and musical giants of the Newport Folk Festival. She's collaborated with such industry notables as Walter Cronkite, Stockard Channing, Charles Kuralt and Loonis McGlohon.

Yet it is often the voices of those on the periphery, our community's underdogs, where her platform for their stories has the greatest impact on others.

One of the first features Penninger produced for WBTV in the early '80s featured the amazing back stories of developmentally disabled residents at Charlotte's Nevins Center.

"Initially I was very uncomfortable, fearful actually, of what it might be like to be around the residents," recalled Penninger. "When I first walked into the room, it was like the world stopped. They all waved, smiled and laughed and immediately I knew there was nothing to be afraid of."

This experience cemented a core value in all her work. "There is nothing to fear from people who are different. That applies to everything, race, religion, orientation. This is at the essence of what I do, take away the fear and create in its place understanding."

"Any Day Now," a film she co-produced for local PBS affiliate WTVI, is a deep source of pride for Penninger. The film told the heart wrenching stories of 16 Charlotte women, each domestic abuse survivors.

The compelling documentary won two national awards, including recognition by the American Women in Radio and Television. The production team raised the funds for the women featured to travel to the New York City awards ceremony where they were recognized for their courage.

Penninger established her own production company, Naka Productions, in 1993 after many years perfecting her craft. The breadth and depth of her work has earned her accolades and recognition, including Emmy, Telly, Gracie, IABC Gold Quill & Gold Crown and Cine Golden Eagle Film and Video awards.

In 2010 Penninger was chosen as one of only 25 producers for the PBS Producers Academy.

In the closing line of award winning film, "The Spirit of Sacajawea," Penninger strategically ended the film with the narrator stating, "She made history simply by being herself."

Just like one of her heroines, Beverly Penninger does great things by simply being herself.



Dr. Raphael Tsu

ASC HONORS

A Lifelong Search for Meaning

As a young boy growing up in Shanghai, China, Raphael “Ray” Tsu would look skyward wondering about the universe beyond the clouds.

“I asked my mother, ‘What is behind the clouds?’” recalled Tsu. “She told me, ‘The sun.’ I’d then ask, ‘What is behind the sun?’ and she told me, ‘The stars.’ When I finally asked, ‘What is behind the stars?’ she told me, ‘Only God knows.’ I knew then at 10 years old there was so much we didn’t know. This is what drives me as a scientist, to learn about what we don’t know.”

Tsu’s long journey from Shanghai to Charlotte is one filled with years of searching for and discovering meaning. Along the way, his valuable contributions to the world of science have created a lasting legacy.

His career as a scientist saw Tsu working at such prestigious organizations as Bell Laboratories, Trinity University, Campinas University, the University of Sao Paulo, the Solar Energy Research Center, North Carolina A & T State University and the Micro Electronic Center of North Carolina.

During his employment with IBM, Tsu’s close working relationship with Nobel Laureate Leo Esaki led to a breakthrough development of man-made superlattice structures. This work pioneered a new era of microelectronic device production and dramatically accelerated advances in nanoscience.

Since 1988, Tsu has served as Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he is known as an exemplary scientist and engineer. Tsu’s development and direction of research programs have resulted in more than \$8 million of sponsored projects assigned to the university and the Charlotte region.

Tsu is personally credited with advancing the university as a preeminent research institution in the field of science and technology of microelectronic devices. His partnerships with local technology companies, such as Synoptics, have attracted other faculty to the region and enabled the establishment of doctoral programs in engineering and physics.

Tsu is a fellow of the American Physical Society and International Advisory Board of the Microelectronic Journal.

He’s been recognized with numerous awards, including by IBM in 1975 as an Outstanding Contribution award winner, the 1975 Alexander von Humboldt Award and was co-winner of the American Physical Society’s International New Material Prize in 1985.

His vast body of publications includes 200 papers and more than 10,000 citations and references. Tsu finds it gratifying to know his work inspires others and advances the science he’s dedicated his life to.

“All my work is because of collaboration,” said Tsu, who views knowledge sharing as the foundation of scientific discovery. “Scientists need interaction to succeed. Accidents leading to discovery happen only when you are working with others.”



Windy Fullagar

ASC CATO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING *Strike Up the Band*

Alexander Graham Middle School Band Director Windy Fullagar got hooked on making music in the eighth grade.

She made a decision then that her career would always revolve around the band room. After 21 years teaching and serving the community, she's still in the band room having the time of her life.

"I like the synergy of making music with others," said Fullagar, a multiple Teacher of the Year award winner throughout her career in Charlotte, including last year's honoree at Alexander Graham. "The best way to share this joy is through teaching. I consider myself lucky to be a teacher because I really love what I do."

Through Fullagar's instruction and guidance, first time band members overcome initial struggles with instrumentation and learn the joy of becoming part of something larger.

"I love seeing that little light in their eye when they figure it out," said Fullagar, speaking of her younger students. "They're able to push forward and create not just notes on the page but the emotion attached to the music as well. That is simply a joy to be a part of."

Fullagar takes pride in continually striving to become a better educator. She seeks professional development opportunities to strengthen her own skill set and generously shares her knowledge with others.

She recently took on a leadership role with the North Carolina Music Educators Association. As chair of the Tri-M music honor society for the southern division of the National Association for Music Education, her work has direct impact on students across the southeast region.

Fullagar has assisted with the development of curricula and assessments for the district and serves as a lead teacher, coach, advisor and mentor for colleagues. "It's incredibly important for me to share with my peers," said Fullagar. "Sharing resources is just what teachers do."

Recognizing exposure as a key component in developing interest in music for children, Fullagar routinely recruits new band members through creative introductory sessions held at area elementary schools.

"We take musical honor society students to talk with fifth graders," said Fullagar. "We tell them what's great about instrumental music and why they should consider joining. We also host instrument selection nights, where the children can actually come and see, play and hear the instruments."

Fullagar's infectious enthusiasm for her role doesn't go unnoticed. One of her colleagues remarked, "There is no better way to earn a kid's respect than by believing in them. It's not shocking that a kid accidentally calls Windy 'Mom' at least once or twice a year."

For Windy Fullagar, the love attached with that moniker suits her just fine.



Ann Jacob

ASC CATO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING *Even Better Next Year*

Ann Jacob views challenging students as a way for children to achieve possibilities beyond what they imagine for themselves.

A future filled with possibility and opportunity is what awaits Jacob's students as their classroom is transformed daily into a dream factory where no challenge is too great and no possibility out of reach. For more than 30 years Jacob's enthusiasm for instruction and opening up pathways for students to excel has translated into success.

"I'm always thinking about how I can make things exciting for the students," says Jacob, New Town Elementary School teacher of gifted 4th and 5th graders. "I like to take what's presented and make it a little bit more creative, a little bit more exciting for the kids."

No wonder the distinguished educator proudly notes teaching is not just her profession, it's her hobby.

"Teaching is the only profession I know that comes to a close every ten months and then starts all over again," says Jacob, recognized as New Town Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. "My immediate thought at the end of the school year is, 'Next year is going to be even better.' I want to be the teacher that 20 or 30 years from now, students remember."

Jacob has achieved a well earned reputation among peers, administrators, parents and students as an innovator who views core curriculum as merely a starting point for learning. "As a teacher, there is so much I can do beyond what is required," said Jacob. "There is so much richness and depth I can add to students' education. I know I can make a difference."

Jacob's influence is felt through her tireless work in pursuit of educational grants allowing for expanded programming such as her recently secured North Carolina Bright Ideas Grant from the Union Power Cooperative.

"My proposal was called 'Lights, Camera, Action: Tragedies and Comedies of Ancient Greece,'" said Jacob. "My art background led me to choose a theme supporting the ancient Greece unit. We use art history to gain background knowledge and the students performed a play where they dressed in togas and student woven headdresses, arm bands and belts using the techniques of the ancients."

Teaching and inspiring her students is the last thing Jacob thinks about before she goes to bed and the first thing on her mind when she awakens each day, even during the summer months when school is out of session.

"Teaching is the one profession that makes other professions possible," said Jacob. "I want to get better every day."



Julie McConnell

ASC CATO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING *Taking it to Another Level*

For Julie McConnell, AP biology teacher and science department chair at Hough High School, teaching students to “think like a scientist” is a way to equip them with problem solving skills they’ll need in their studies and throughout their lives.

“Getting kids to collaborate is a much more effective learning technique than providing procedures and process for them,” said McConnell. “It’s all about taking it to another level and helping them see nothing is beyond their reach when they apply themselves.”

McConnell has been encouraging her students to excel over her 30 year teaching career, always creating a framework to challenge and engage them.

“Teaching is something I know I’m supposed to be doing,” said McConnell. “I get to do something that really matters. It’s important for me to have a relationship with my students. I expect a lot from them and I want them to have high expectations for themselves.”

McConnell was part of the inaugural staff that opened Hough High in 2012. Her impact was immediate and dramatic in establishing a rigorous science curriculum. She introduced AP biology classes at the school, founded Hough’s Science National Honor Society Chapter, founded and coaches the Science Olympiad team, and secured a grant for the purchase of laboratory equipment for biology, chemistry and forensics use.

Her accomplishments earned McConnell special recognition as MeckEd Teacher of Excellence and the Hough Principal Award for Technology in 2014.

“It’s exciting to know you made a difference for someone,” said McConnell. “I had a student tell me, ‘Don’t give up on me Mrs. McConnell,’ and I said, ‘Don’t give up on yourself.’”

McConnell seized a very big opportunity to open students up to the world of possibilities that science offers when she began a relationship with the Charlotte-based Echo Foundation. The foundation works closely with area schools annually, introducing them to Nobel Laureates, their work and the impact a single individual can have on society.

In their 2004/2005 program, the Echo Foundation brought renowned physicist, Douglas Osheroff to Charlotte. While teaching at North Mecklenburg High School, McConnell showcased Osheroff’s work, recreating his innovative pressure system in a real-time science experiment for a crowd of 350 students and teachers. McConnell’s continued to work with the foundation, working creatively to integrate science into the curriculum and relate it to the work of the featured Laureates.

“These opportunities for the students are huge,” said McConnell. “I want them to know they really can change the world.”



ASC HONORS MEDALLION *by Joanna Gollberg*

Joanna Gollberg's thoughts on her creation of the ASC Honors Medallion.

"The medallion depicts ASC's logo, science via a type of molecular structure as well as the arts and history via an ever evolving continuum."

The design was cast in bronze and finished by hand.



Building Community through Circus

There's an inherent element of danger in circus.

If performers don't work together, they put themselves at risk.

This is perhaps a metaphor for how the members of any town or city need to rely on each other, said Carlos Alexis Cruz, an assistant professor of Physical Theatre at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Cruz uses circus as primary vocabulary in order to illustrate and explore how local residents can work together to create something beautiful in his project "Nouveau Sud, Nouveau Cirque," which translates to "New South, New Circus."

"I think what 'Nouveau Sud' is saying is even though we all come from different sides and different perspectives and strong cultural points of view, we're all actually in this together," Cruz said.

"We all want this region to be our home and the only way we can succeed in that is if we feel this place can be different and welcoming."

Funded by ASC's \$25,000 McColl Award, "Nouveau Sud, Nouveau Cirque" is a cirque-style performance that incorporates the "underground" dance, acrobatic and physical theater scenes that thrive within Charlotte-Mecklenburg's ethnic communities.

Through the physical language of dance and movement, the stories and traditions of Latino, African-American and Asian-American communities will be tied to the larger story of Charlotte-Mecklenburg in this examination of what it means to be a citizen of the "new" South.

"There are so many interesting cultures and people here," Cruz said. "I still feel that we should all benefit from that."

He began to work on his contemporary circus, or how they call it, an urban circus back in September 2014 shortly after winning the McColl Award, which is named in honor of Hugh and Jane McColl for their long-term commitment to the cultural community and given every three years with the purpose of investing in the creation of a new work of art.

That month he offered a glimpse of the ground "Nouveau Sud, Nouveau Cirque" would cover at ASC's "Imagine 2025" event. In the colorful, breathtaking performance, African-American and immigrant experiences were linked by break-dancing, Latino folk dancers and poetry recited in both Spanish and English.

"People are really excited," he said. "It's a diverse group exploring an art form that is not as mainstream or present in our area. That makes it unique, perhaps innovative for this region, but honestly we are just recovering old performing art-forms juxtaposing them with cultural heritages/community traditions to develop a common vocabulary for the whole community at large. This is a circus/cirque for social change; as we say, an urban circus."

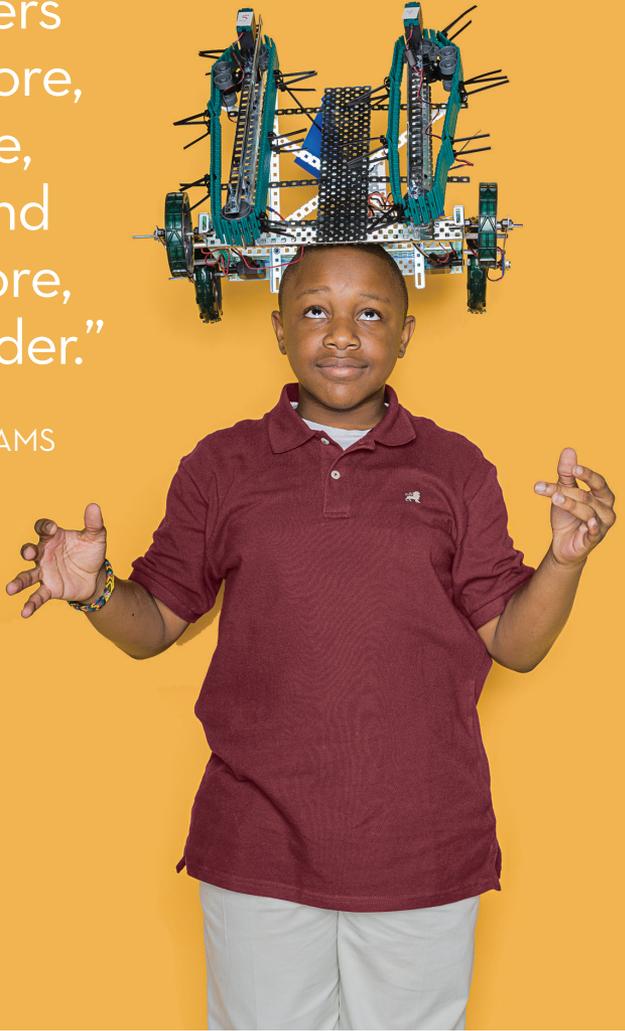


THE MCCOLL AWARD

The McColl Award, named in honor of Hugh and Jane McColl, Jr., is a \$25,000 grant with the purpose of investing in the creation of a new work of art. Through this, ASC seeks to: commission new creative works; inspire creative thinking in the presentation of creative products; and increase awareness, recognize excellence and build a greater appreciation for the creative process among the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

“If your actions
inspire others
to dream more,
learn more,
do more and
become more,
you are a leader.”

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS



ASC applauds **Duke Energy's** induction into
the Americans for the Arts Business Committee
for the Arts Hall of Fame.

Your leadership and commitment to our
region's cultural community inspires us all.

PAST ASC HONORS RECIPIENTS

2008

Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux & Patricia McBride, Dance
Steve Crump, History/Film
Herb Jackson, Visual Arts
Dr. Francis Robicsek, Science/Medicine
Arthur Smith, Music

2012

Robert Corbin, Science
Clara Jones, Music
Wesley Mancini, Design
Dr. Dan Morrill, History
Kathy Reichs, Literature

PAST CATO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS

2012

Elizabeth Withrow, Science
Andrew West, History
Byron Baldwin, Visual Art



SPECIAL THANKS to

Blumenthal Performing Arts
Rick Fitts
Nancy Pierce
Porcupine Provisions
Michael Solender



Culture For All.

Ensuring access to an excellent, relevant,
and sustainable cultural community
for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Region

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