A Proud History of Achievement

For more than 350 years, African Americans have contributed to Boston’s history. This retrospective, a small sample contained on these pages and more extensively on the monitors here at Fenway Park, is a tribute to the early writers, historians and activists who built a legacy of barrier-breaking achievements, and used their talents to work against the monumental inequalities of the day. It celebrates contemporary local, longtime media personalities and their accomplishments and recognizes those who have achieved national acclaim. Most importantly it is a history that sets a standard of excellence for future generations everywhere.

Early Wordsmiths: the Power of the Pen


W.E.B. DuBois — Educator/civil rights activist/journalist, co-founder NAACP.

Bert Islew aka Lillian Alberta Lewis — Wrote for Boston Herald under male pseudonym in 1880’s.


Maria Stewart — America’s 1st political writer/essayist, lecturer on abolition & women’s rights.

Phillis Wheatley — A slave who became a world class poet in 1773.

Print, Radio & TV All-Stars

Sarah Ann Shaw — 1st black woman to break into local TV.

Kenneth Cooper — Won Pulitzer Prize in his role of producing “The Race Factor” series for Boston Globe.

Liz Walker — 1st woman anchor in primetime.

William Worthy — World renowned foreign correspondent.

Carmen Fields — Writer, Boston Globe, anchor WGBH’s 10 O’Clock News.

Jim Boyd — Award winning WCVB, for more than 36 yrs.

Larry Whiteside — 1st sports columnist covering Major League Baseball for Boston Globe.

Lovell Dyett — Award winning radio talk show host.

Sonny Joe White — Radio producer/host extraordinaire.


Charles Austin — One of Boston’s earliest TV newsmen.

Wesley Morris — Pulitzer Prize winner for Criticism at Boston Globe.
Local Media Luminaries

Melvin Miller — Bay State Banner serving the African American community for 50 years.

Callie Crossley Phillip Martin, multi award winners on set of WGBH’s Basic Black.

Don West — photojournalist, chronicled Mandela’s first visit to Boston and other Portraits of Purpose.

Pam Cross — reporter anchor WCVB for more than 20 years.

Karen Holmes Ward — reporter anchor WCVB for more than 20 years.

Derrick Jackson — Boston Globe columnist national perspective.

Latoyia Edwards — NECN anchor for more than a decade.

Byron Barnett — reporter/host long-running 30 year old WHDH Urban Update.

Adrian Walker — Boston Globe columnist, Boston’s Political and Social scene.

Meghan Irons — Boston Globe features reporter covering Boston neighborhoods, for more than a decade.

Akilah Johnson — Globe political beat, Pulitzer Prize finalist for team reporting.

Pam Cross — reporter anchor WCVB for more than 20 years.

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Meghan Irons — Boston Globe features reporter covering Boston neighborhoods, for more than a decade.

Akilah Johnson — Globe political beat, Pulitzer Prize finalist for team reporting.

Henry Hampton — producer of iconic civil rights documentary Eyes on the Prize.


Touré — super blogger, host of MSNBC’s The Cycle.

Henry Louis Gates — Foremost authority on African American history, Peabody Award winning documentarian, Harvard Professor.


Deval Patrick — Only 2nd Governor elected in country’s history.


Edward Brooke — 1st popularly elected Senator since Reconstruction.

Local Media Luminaries

National Contributors

Straight Out of Boston: National Newsmakers
Boston Bred Arts & Culture Giants

- Dorothy West — Harlem Renaissance icon, author, *Living Is Easy*
- Donna Summer — Superstar, songwriter defined the Disco Era
- Elma Lewis — Nationally known arts educator, MacArthur Genius Award, and Presidential Medal for the Arts
- Roy Haynes — legendary all time jazz great
- Keith “Guru” Elam — son of history making Boston judge, made rap history
- Lois Mailou Jones — sculptor extraordinaire
- New Edition — from Orchard Park Projects to achieve worldwide success

Of Historic Note

- First African Meeting House — Beacon Hill, oldest standing black church in nation
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) — oldest branch/youngest serving president, Mike Curry
- Urban League of Eastern Mass. — One of the oldest branches of national organization that fights for jobs and economic justice
- 12th Baptist Church — Historic Roxbury Church served as spiritual home to MLK, while he attended Boston University
- 54th Regiment — Subject of movie *Glory*, a statue at Beacon Hill recalls brave African American men of the 1st organized US military installment

Special Thanks to those who contributed to making tonight’s event a success of historic proportions:

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- Zuri Berry
- Zeninjor Enwemeka

**Music by Soul Source feat. Curtis Henderson**

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