

THE INSTITUTE OF BLACK
INVENTION AND TECHNOLOGY

TIBIT CONNECTIONS



Issue 2: October, 2020

TIBIT BRINGS THE EXHIBIT TO YOU!

TIBIT is the only traveling museum in the country that educates audiences of all age groups about African American inventors and innovators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math/medicine (STEAM), displaying both original and reproduced artifacts. TIBIT was founded by Carroll and Sandra Lamb in 2005 in Amherst, MA. The traveling museum is now located in Kansas City, Missouri. Please visit TIBIT's website at www.tibit.biz to learn more about the various exhibits and programs.

SPOTLIGHT INVENTORS



PHILIP SIMMONS:

One of the most celebrated iron workers in Charleston, South Carolina. Simmons fashioned more than 500 decorative pieces of ornamental iron gates, fences, balconies, and window grilles that can be found throughout the city.

In 1982, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him its National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor the United States can bestow on a traditional artist. He was born in June 1912 and died June 2009.



CRYSTAL WINDHAM:

As a student at the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, Crystal Windham learned about automotive design and she discovered that she could apply her love of art to the automotive industry. Her artistic talent and creative thinking led Windham to becoming the first African American woman to hold the title of Director of Interior Design at General Motors in 2008. In January of 2016, she became the Director of Cadillac Interior Design.



LLOYD A. HALL:

Hall was a pioneer in food chemistry and a founding member of the Institute of Food Technologists. While working at Griffith Labs as a chief chemist and director of research, he discovered how to flash-dry a chemical compound to cure meats and sterilize spices which extended their shelf life and kept fats and oils from spoiling. Hall's flash-drying formula is widely used for the preparation of oily foods, such as potato chips. Hall died in 1971.

A MESSAGE FROM TIBIT's...

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

During this uncharted time of unrest and uncertainty, we hope that each of you are combating the stressfulness with faith, hope, and compassion, realizing that small acts of kindness can have a massive ripple effect.

We have received many positive responses on our first issue of the TIBIT newsletter. Our October issue will also be on our website, so please tell friends, family, educators, and coworkers to go to www.tibit.biz to view it.

TIBIT's co-founder, Sandra Lamb, was invited to be a part of an expert panel comprised of members from eight different states to review and comment on a proposed Black and Latino Course of Studies for high school students in Connecticut. For their participation, each panel member will be given a small stipend to donate to a non-profit organization, and Sandra will donate her stipend to TIBIT as we begin to accept donations to support activities and events halted by the pandemic.

As our environment becomes safer and you begin to plan events, please consider contracting with TIBIT for one of its featured exhibits. Keep in mind that TIBIT will customize any exhibit to meet your needs.

Please visit our Facebook page at www.tibit.biz to keep abreast of TIBIT's plans and upcoming events.

Regards, Carroll Lamb

SUPPORT TIBIT

The Institute of Black Invention & Technology, Inc. (TIBIT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that brings a traveling exhibit to colleges, universities, private, charter & public K-12 schools, conferences, museums, libraries, corporations, festivals, living rooms, senior living facilities and cultural events. TIBIT's exhibits instill pride and increase cultural awareness by providing a better understanding of the historic African American experience. With your support and donations, TIBIT will be able to continue bringing these experiences to more people around the country. Visit www.tibit.biz and click on Donations.

BLACK WOMEN in STEAM

DR. AYANNA HOWARD

Dr. Howard is an educator, robotics research engineer, innovator, and entrepreneur. At the age of 11, Howard decided that she wanted to create artificial limbs for people. She was inspired by the Bionic Woman, a TV show in which a severely injured woman attains extraordinary powers through artificial bionic limbs. Dr. Howard was 27 years old when she was hired by NASA to lead a team trying to make a robot for future Mars missions that could "think like a human and adapt to change." On her first day of work, she walked into a meeting room and was greeted by a man who told her "the secretaries aren't here. They moved their meeting down the hall." Even though she was shocked by the statement, she responded, "Hi! I'm Dr. Ayanna Howard, You'll be working with me on the project". She worked for NASA from 1993-2005.

In 2005, she was hired by Georgia Tech University in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She is now the Linda J. and Mark C. Smith Professor and Chair of the School of Interactive Computer in the College of Computing. Her unique accomplishments include: creating SnoMote robots, which gained her international recognition for their capability for studying climate change in Antarctica, being recognized as one of the 23 most powerful women engineers by Business Insider, and being ranked as one of the top 50 U.S. women in Technology by Forbes In 2013. Dr. Howard founded Zyrobotics as a university spin-off and is the Chief Technology officer, and she has authored over 250 peer reviewed publications.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Little Known Black Inventor Fact...

Approximately 56 miles from Kansas City, Missouri, in St. Joseph, Missouri, on January 13, 1903, an African American man by the name of Charles S.L. Baker, invented and patented a radiator that heated up with friction rather than combustion. In 1904, he built a factory called The Friction Heat and Boiler Company to manufacture his radiators which employed 50 people.

PLANTING THE STEAM SEED

MARSHMALLOW BUILDING



1. Get a bag of marshmallows and toothpicks for you and your child(ren).
2. Experiment building structures by pushing the toothpicks into the marshmallows.
3. Discuss the structures' sturdiness to get their grasp on design, thought, and technology behind structural engineering.
4. Take a picture of the structures and then everyone can eat up!

HELPING GIRLS TO EXPLORE STEAM

GIRLS' STEAM/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

TIBIT will not be hosting its annual Girls' Summit this year (2020) due to the coronavirus. However, we thought we would give you an update on our very first entrepreneur keynote speaker who spoke at the Summit event in 2017. At that time, speaker Zandra Cunningham was only 17 years old and is now 19, majoring in business at Buffalo University in New York. Her skin care company is now valued at \$500,000.00 with products sold nationwide in store chains like Costco and Target. Zandra's company recently moved into a 5,000 sq. foot manufacturing facility to meet the growing needs of her company. If you are willing to support TIBIT's efforts to host the Girls' STEAM/Entrepreneurship Summit in 2021, please visit our website at www.tibit.biz to explore the various ways you can make a donation to this effort.



WALTER LINCOLN HAWKINS

March 21, 1911– August 20, 1992

Walter Hawkins was both an engineer and chemist who was regarded as a pioneer in the field of polymer chemistry. He was the first African American hired by AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1942 as part of their



technical staff. Over the course of his 34 year career at Bell Labs, along with co-worker, Victor Lanza, one of their earliest and most notable works was creating a polymer coating, now called "plastic cable sheath." Earlier coatings were toxic, costly, and would easily erode due to harsh weather. The Lanza/Hawkins' polymer was cheaper, safer to use, and more resistant to extreme weather conditions. This polymer coating saved billions of dollars, enabled the development of telephone services around the world, and is still used today to protect fiber optic cable. Hawkins earned 18 U.S. patents and 129 foreign patents. He became the first black engineer to be inducted into the National Academy of Engineering, was presented with the National Medal of Technology by President H.W. Bush, and was posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2010. Walter Hawkins was also known for his advocacy efforts for minority students.



www.TIBIT.biz • (816) 550-3733

TIBIT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Barbara Terry, President
Sherri Drake, Vice President
Monica Thomas, Secretary
Kenneth Stone, Treasurer
Sandra P. Lamb
Nabou Dieng-Strife