

TWENTIG, INC. HISTORY

Twentig, Incorporated, Dayton Chapter, was founded in September 1976 by Alyce D. Lucas, Grace M. Williams, and a group of dynamic women. It was incorporated in March 1977. Initial civic efforts included aid to the Southwest Senior Citizens and awards to talented Dayton Public Schools students unable to purchase musical instruments.

After many years, we have continued to grow in our mission by serving the Dayton Community with purpose and dignity, effecting positive change and added value.

Joining with the **Dunbar Project Club** and the Ohio Historical Society, Twentig promoted the 1979 Dunbar Day Celebration. Interested in preservation and restoration of the **Paul Laurence Dunbar Homestead**, Twentig, Inc. held a benefit performance, *Step Into History*, at Memorial Hall in 1980. Funds from that benefit were pooled with previously collected funds, and a heating/cooling system was installed at the Dunbar Historic Site. This installation permitted proper climate control for the preservation of artifacts at the site. A media production, *Paul Laurence Dunbar and His World*, produced with the support of the Ohio Humanities Council, is currently housed in the Anacostia Museum, Schomberg Collection (New York Public Library), Central State University, Sinclair Community College, Morgan State University, Dayton Public Schools, and the Ohio Historical Society.

Concern for preservation of historic sites led to Twentig's involvement with the Women's Christian Association Historic Site (an organization for African American women). The 1980 Benefit Performance yielded a \$3,000 donation to the Montgomery County Historical Society as matching funds for the Women's Christian Association. Our collaborations continue today with the Funk Hall of Fame and Exhibition Center. Their mission is to preserve and maintain a collection of Funk Music memorabilia and oral histories so future generations of music enthusiasts can learn about, and be inspired by, the creative force that is Funk Music; and also with Mercy Manor, Incorporated whose mission is to provide a safe, spiritual residence for homeless women with histories of addition, incarceration, and abuse while they reestablish themselves into the local community.

The Student Musical Instrument Loan Project acquires donations of musical instruments that can be refurbished and channeled to students identified by the school district. Among the instruments Twentig has provided in the past decades are trumpets, violins, clarinets, cellos, flutes and saxophones.

The Musical Instruments Grant Project was instituted in the 1980's to provide scholarship opportunities for promising students to attend the nationally known Interlochen Music Enrichment Camp in Michigan. Today, this program continues to be the focus because of the needs in the public schools today. We grant funds to provide music teachers in the school systems the opportunity to apply for grants to supplement classroom instruction.

It is our belief that visual and performing arts play an important part in developing and sustaining a culture. Twentig, Inc. recognized the extraordinary talent of Dayton's Willis "Bing" Davis, An internationally known artist, "Bing" has contributed to the development of many youths through his own Art programs. Our fundraising efforts were channeled in this direction to raise a minimum **of \$100,000 for a scholarship endowment with the Dayton Foundation** that was established in 1990. The Endowment has grown to over \$184,000. Twentig was able to meet its goal within five short years through the generous donations from the Dayton Community during its various fundraising efforts.

We are proud to announce that we donate six thousand dollars annually toward student's scholarships and for the past 32 years, scholarships have been awarded to **Twentig, Inc. Willis "Bing" Davis Scholars** through the Twentig Endowment Funds. These awards allow students to pursue higher education degrees in the areas of visual and/or performing arts.