



Philadelphia Legacies
LEGACIES ARE MEANT TO LEARNED & SHARED

215-432-2898
CultureTrust, 1315 Walnut St
Suite 320, Philadelphia, PA 19107

bridgingworldsprogram@yahoo.com
www.philadelphialegacy.org
Stephen C. Satell, Founder/Executive Director

MEDIA ADVISORY

**ATTENTION: ASSIGNMENT DESK
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Philadelphia Legacies Names a New Class of Honorees to be Awarded at the 11th Annual Philadelphia Portrait & Community Awards — and Reintroduces Itself as the City's Living, Year-Round Archive of How Philadelphia Solves Problems

WHAT: A press conference formally announcing the 11th Annual Portrait & Community Awards honorees — five Portrait Awards and five Community Leader Awards, spanning eleven Philadelphians — and previewing the year-round programming, including the Historical Landmark Tours, that carries their stories into Philadelphia's classrooms, senior centers, and streets throughout 2026, America's 250th year.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 — 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection, Temple University, Sullivan Hall, 1330 Polett Walk, 1st Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19122

WHO: Blockson Library curators and staff. Nonprofit leaders and Philadelphia Legacies award winners, including 2026 awardees, Mercer Redcross of October Gallery, Karen Jordan of the Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters, and Tina Sloan Green of Black Women in Sports Foundation; and Councilmembers Cindy Bass and Curtis Jones, Jr.

WHY IT MATTERS: As the nation marks its 250th birthday amid deep political division, Philadelphia Legacies is using its 11th year to make a simple, provable argument: this city has faced — and solved — versions of today's hardest problems before, from a divided Constitutional Convention to a

bulldozer stopped by a 25-year-old mother, to a family who turned an empty rowhome lot into one of the last urban stables of its kind. This year's honorees, living and posthumous, are the proof.

The 2026 Portrait Award winners are:

In attendance will be a descendant of a family of abolitionists. Our Portrait Awardee's great-great-great-grandfather, William Still, ran the Underground Railroad. Our awardee became an award-winning WNBA superstar and is now an African American scholar with a forthcoming book to be announced at the press conference. A life that is a testament that obstacles can create opportunities and forge transformation.

A father and son who, for over 72 years, broadcast and created global and Philadelphia legacy in real time. This history still lives and breathes and will be highlighted at this year's Gala. The living son of this dynamic duo will be in attendance.

The journey of two parents, coming from different islands to North Philadelphia, planting the seeds for the first African American President Judge in Philadelphia, an award-winning historical documentarian, and an early computer programmer. This is an example of a close Black family determined to positively impact on their community.

A poor boy from North Philadelphia who, over 20 years ago, recognized the Philadelphia Negro Leagues for creating positive culture inside the Black community, and set out to honor that legacy with a statue in West Park, Philadelphia. To accomplish this, this visionary partnered with the Philadelphia Phillies, one of the most racially fraught teams in baseball — to get the statue built. This became a healing feat for the entire city and is an example that even after facing hard times, people can find understanding and work together for the common good.

The 2026 Community Leaders Award winners, our unsung heroes, are:

A woman who, at 25 years old, laid her own body down in front of a bulldozer to stop it from paving over the land where her children played — and turned that single act of defiance into a nonprofit association that has served her community for decades.

A husband-and-wife team built a stable in Philadelphia and, for over 50 years, taught generations of children how to ride.

A teacher and youth advocate.

And finally, a man who has been a major creative force across Philadelphia as a writer, track coach, and youth advocate.

VISUALS FOR YOUR CAMERA:

- The Blockson Collection itself — the fifth-largest collection of Africana materials in the world, on Temple's campus, a presenting sponsor of this year's program
- The unveiled Portrait award paintings by Philadelphia artists (see Featured Artists)

- Multigenerational moments: Doug Henderson Jr. speaking to his father Jocko Henderson's broadcasting legacy; Valerie Still speaking to her sports and freedom fighting legacies
- Archival photos and footage of Philadelphia Legacies eleven years

RSVP / MEDIA CONTACT:

Stephen C. Satell, Founder & Executive Director, Philadelphia Legacies (215) 432-2898 | bridgingworldsprogram@yahoo.com

Jacqueline Taylor-Adams, Experience Producer, Master Griot Publishing Syndicate (484) 442-0171 | jta@mastergriotpublishing.com