

Black and African American North Carolina Award Winners ^[1]

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Government and Heritage Library, 2021

See also: [History of the North Carolina Awards](#) ^[2]; [North Carolina Awards](#) ^[3]; [North Carolina Awards ceremony programs](#) ^[4] (NC Digital Collections)

The [North Carolina Award](#) ^[2], the state's highest civilian honor, was established by the [General Assembly](#) ^[5] in 1961 and the first award-winners were honored in 1964. Artist [Romare Bearden](#) ^[6] was the first African American to receive the award in 1976.

As of 2021, 314 North Carolinians have honored as recipients of the North Carolina Award, 34 of whom have been Black or African American.

Alphabetical List of Black and African American Medal Winners

Angelou, Maya ^[7] . Literature, 1987	Frye, Henry. Public Service, 2007
Baker, Etta. Fine Arts, 2003	Green, Jaki Shelton. Literature, 2003
Barber, William J., II, Rev. Dr. Public Service, 2019	Kenan, Randall. Literature, 2005
Barrax, Gerald W. Literature, 2009	Koontz, Elizabeth Duncan. Public Service, 1977
Bayes, Ronald. Literature, 1989	Lee, Howard N. Public Service, 2015
Bearden, Romare ^[6] . Fine Arts, 1976	Lucas, John Harding. Public Service, 2013
Biggers, John. Fine Arts, 1995	Lynch, Loretta ^[10] . Public Service, 2017
Brown, Robert J. Public Service, 2016	Marsalis, Branford. Fine Arts, 2011
Burke, Selma ^[8] . Fine Arts, 1982	Mitchiner, Reginald. Science, 1977
Chambers, Julius L. Public Service, 2002	Moore, Lenard D. Literature, 2014
Corbett, Dr. Kizzmekia S. Science, 2020	Rivera Jr., Alexander M. Fine Arts, 2008
Davis, Charles (Chuck). Fine Arts, 1992	Spaulding, Maria F. Public Service, 2021
Donaldson, Lou. Fine Arts, 2012	Talley, André Leon. Literature, 2021
Fletcher, William. Science, 2000	Taylor, Billy. Fine Arts, 1993
Flood, Dr. Dudley E. Public Service, 2021	Walker, LeRoy T. Public Service, 2004
Franklin, John Hope. Literature, 1993	Weatherford, Carole Boston. Literature, 2010
Freelon, Philip G ^[9] . Fine Arts, 2017	Williams, William T. Fine Arts, 2006

Biographical essays are available for each North Carolina Award recipient in the ceremony program for that year. Ceremony programs are accessible online [here in the North Carolina Digital Collections](#) ^[11].

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