

For Immediate Release

Contact:

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**Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum
Accepting Nominations for the 7th Annual Honoring Our Heritage Award**

Springfield, Illinois, April 16, 2018- The Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum is seeking nominations from communities throughout Central Illinois for its 7th Annual Honoring Our Heritage Award to be presented during the 2018 Gala held on October 25, 2018 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois. The Honoring Our Heritage Award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the Springfield & Central Illinois communities.

Nominations must be received electronically or postdated by 5:00 pm, Friday, June 15, 2018.

Our theme this year is “200 years of African American Progress Within the State of Illinois.” This theme is representative of the State’s Bicentennial activities as well as programs and exhibits commemorating the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Illinois African Americans have a long, extensive history of significant and momentous contributions, achievements, and activism.

Nominees may be youth, college students, as well as adults.

2018 Nomination Criteria:

1. Nominator must include a one-page cover letter with name, address and contact phone number and relationship to nominee.
2. Nominate someone who has made very significant contributions or accomplishments to African Americans in Central Illinois (alive or deceased). You may make more than one nomination, but you must follow nomination criteria for each individual nominee.
3. The person may not have been previously honored or recognized by the Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum Gala.
4. Summarize the major contributions that make the person worthy of the Museum honoring her or him (**no more than two pages**). If you use someone else’s writing or statement, make sure to identify the source so we are not guilty of plagiarism. Separately summarize the major individual contributions of the nominee. Make sure that all vital information you submit is correct.
5. The person should have lived or is living in Central Illinois including the areas in and around Springfield, Decatur, Jacksonville, Lincoln, Bloomington and Normal, Champaign and Urbana, Peoria and Alton (see Official Central Counties observed by museum).
6. Youth can be nominated between 18 years and 25 years.
7. Provide the full name of the nominee, telephone number, email address, and mailing address.
8. Complete and attach 2018 Honoree Nomination Form

9. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.

10. **Submit nomination no later than June 15th, 2018** by email to Ocheng Jany at jany9001@gmail.com or email Ernestine Lawrence at chiestine1@att.net. You may also mail your nomination to the Museum using the address below:

Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum

Attention: 2018 Honoree Nominations

1440 Monument Avenue

Springfield, Illinois 62702

Central Illinois Counties (observed by museum):

Region 1- Sangamon, Menard, Macon, Christian, Montgomery, Shelby, Moultrie

Region 2- Tazewell, McLean, Ford, Mason, Logan, Dewitt, Piat

Region 3- Iroquois, Vermillion, Champaign, Douglas, Edgar, Coles, Clark, Cumberland

Region 4- Pike, Jersey, Calhoun, Scott, Macoupin, Morgan, Green, and Madison

Region 5- Adams, Brown, Schuyler, Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Case

For more information visit our website at www.spiaahm.org or email siaahf@yahoo.com. Gala Co-Chairs are Ocheng Jany or Ernestine Lawrence.

About AAHM: The Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum exhibits, identifies, collects, catalogs, restores, houses and maintains documents and artifacts relating to and chronicling the history and legacy of African Americans in Central Illinois. The Museum provides research opportunities, educational programming and interpretive services to historians, educators, students and others interested in the lives and legacies of African Americans in Central Illinois while enhancing their overall knowledge about African American people.