

# REFLECTIONS



*Reflections* (detail), 2013 © Reginald C. Adams  
City of Austin Art in Public Places Collection

# PORTRAIT GUIDE



## INTRODUCTION

In 2011, Art in Public Places (AIPP), a program of the City of Austin Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office, commissioned artist Reginald C. Adams to create a unique work of art for the new African American Cultural and Heritage Facility located at 912 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. In collaboration with McKinney York Architects, Adams designed a 6' by 25' glass and ceramic tile mosaic mural to be integrated into the building's façade. The mural features historical people, places, and events, including portraits of 89 people who have contributed to the advancement of the African American community in Austin. This booklet is a guide to those portraits.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

In November 2010, a Request for Proposals was released to professional artists living in Texas. The goal for this project was to showcase a work of contemporary public art that honored the cultural heritage of the African American community in Austin. The total budget for artwork was \$65,000 (2% of the capital improvement project budget), an amount that was allocated in accordance with the Art in Public Places Ordinance.



*Bring It On, Pass It On* community event  
October 2011

In February 2011, an independent selection panel was assembled to review the 21 eligible applications received. The panel included Dr. Moyo Okediji (associate professor, John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies, UT Austin), Dr. Eddie Chambers (assistant professor, Department of Art and Art History, UT Austin), and Lisa Hembry (member, Texas Historical Commission). The panel unanimously recommended Reginald C. Adams of Houston for the commission; their recommendation was approved by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission.

To begin the design process, AIPP hosted a series of public meetings at which the community was asked to provide information about the history of East Austin and the African American community. There were presentations to various organizations, brainstorming sessions, and even a scanning party, all of which helped to shape the design of the artwork.



Mosaic workshop  
April 2012

After the final design was approved by the AIPP Panel and the Austin Arts Commission, AIPP organized two mosaic workshops at which members of the public, including students from Kealing Middle School, were able to work on a portion of the mural.

The mural was installed in late 2012 and dedicated on March 1, 2013, at the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility Grand Opening.

## PORTRAITS

During a presentation to the African American Resource Advisory Commission, Adams proposed incorporating into the mural design portraits of people who have contributed to the advancement of the African American community in Austin. This concept was embraced by the Commission, and a subcommittee was formed to lead the effort. Working closely with AIPP, the subcommittee held two public meetings at which the community members were invited to submit recommendations. The subcommittee then vetted the list, and with the Commission's approval, began researching biographical information and collecting photographs.

AIPP would like to thank the subcommittee for their tireless efforts and steadfast enthusiasm, without which this project would not have been completed: Dr. Chiquita W. Eugene, Daryl Horton, and Nelson Linder. THANK YOU!

### WILLIAM T. DEDRICK

As mentioned in the Artist Statement on the following page, William T. Dedrick is featured in the center of the mural. Dedrick was the son of freed slave and former owner of the Dedrick-Hamilton house which now houses the African American Visitors Center. He and his wife, Sarah, were significant members of the African American community in Austin in the early twentieth century.

The portrait was inspired by a photograph reproduced in the children's book *Let's Pretend: Mae Dee and her Family Join the Juneteenth Celebration*, by Ada DeBlanc Simond. It shows Dedrick in uniform as the commander of the Knights of Pythias, a charitable and fraternal order.

### WILHELMINA DELCO

The mural also features Wilhelmina Ruth Fitzgerald Delco, a dedicated leader in the Texas House of Representatives from 1975 to 1995 and the first African American official elected at-large from Travis County. During her time in the state legislature representing the 50<sup>th</sup> district, she was appointed chair of the Higher Education Committee; later she was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore, making her the first woman and the second African American to hold the second highest position in the Texas House of Representatives.

Delco holds a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville where she majored in sociology and minored in economics and business administration. She and her husband, Dr. Exalton A. Delco Jr., currently live in Austin.



*Reflections* (detail of Wilhelmina Delco), 2013  
© Reginald C. Adams

## ART IN PUBLIC PLACES



Since 1985, the Art in Public Places program has commissioned more than 180 artworks that are located in public facilities, parks, and streetscapes throughout the city. Funding for AIPP is allocated by City Ordinance as 2% of eligible capital improvement budgets. AIPP is a program of the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office.

The Austin Arts Commission provides program oversight, and regularly appoints a 7-member AIPP Panel composed of respected local visual arts and design professionals to make program recommendations. AIPP staff works closely with project architects, city departments and the community to ensure that the public art collection includes high quality artworks representing the broad range of media, styles, and cultural sensibilities that contribute to Austin's distinctive ambiance. Visit [www.austincreates.com](http://www.austincreates.com) to learn more about Art in Public Places.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

This mosaic mural is a tribute to the history and heritage of the East Austin community and to every woman, man, and child who has lived his or her life in ways that have made the world a better place for others. Inspired by the exemplary civic leadership of William T. Dedrick, this creative landmark pays homage to his legacy and his contribution to the community at large.

Each colored piece of glass, stone, and tile incorporated within the mosaic mural is symbolic of the people of East Austin. Varied in shape, size, and color, the tiles reflect the diversity, endurance, and vitality of the community as it evolves and changes for the better.

The essence of the community is captured through six vignettes that together comprise the central framework for the mural: Faith, Family, Health and Wellness, Arts and Culture, Sports, and Civic Leadership. Anchored in the heart of the mural is a portrait of William T. Dedrick. Nestled at the bottom-center of the design is a blooming magnolia flower, which reflects the cycle of life, growth, and change that East Austin is experiencing.

The community is truly a reflection of the people. We celebrate and acknowledge the people that have forged East Austin into the community as we know it through a series of 89 portraits, which flank the top and bottom border of the mosaic mural. These faces, which reflect virtually all sectors of society, are just a sample of the exceptional civic leadership that East Austin has become renowned for.

Over the generations, as children and adults from all walks of life visit the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility, we hope that this mosaic mural serves as a reflection of the greatness that lies within us all.

Together, let us exalt the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future of East Austin.

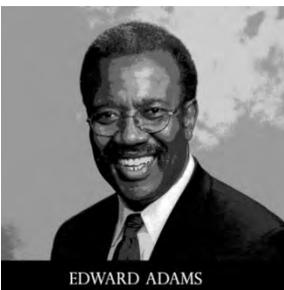
Reginald C. Adams

## PORTRAIT GUIDE

*Reflections* captures many important people, places, and events of Austin's African American community. Initially, the mural was meant to include portraits of 100 prominent community leaders; however, finding high-quality images proved to be difficult and, in the end, only 89 portraits appear in the mural. The names and biographies of all 100 people are provided in this guide in alphabetical order.

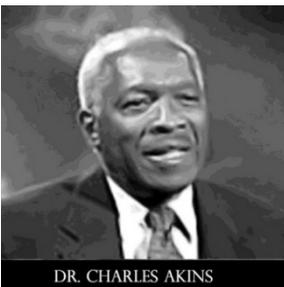
Biographical information was graciously provided by Dr. Chiquita W. Eugene, who was assisted by Myah Dhesi of AmeriCorps VISTA. We hope this information serves as a resource for the community; it is a work in progress that will continue to be updated so that it can truly represent the lives of the people selected for this mural. Ultimately, our goal is to expand this document beyond this group to include additional (and future) leaders of Austin's African American community.

### 1. Edward Adams



Edward Adams (1939-2008) moved to Austin in 1975 to work in the IBM office as product-system manager; he held several leadership positions within IBM including director of site operations, regional manager of corporate community relations, and public affairs for the western sites. Adams retired from IBM in 2000 to start his own consulting firm. Adams was affiliated with various boards and organizations, including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Higher Education Planning Committee. In 1989, Adams was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Huston-Tillotson College. In 1998, he and his wife, Mary Lou Adams, were honored by the Austin Project for their service to children and families. Adams served on the Board of Regents of Texas State Technical College System, and was the first African American elected as chairman. In addition to his professional activities, Adams also held the positions of lector and Eucharistic lay minister at St. James Episcopal Church.

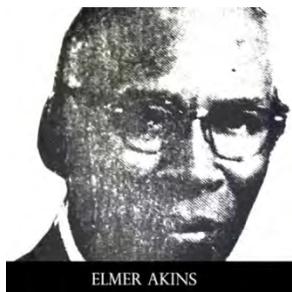
### 2. Dr. Charles Akins



An academic administrator and educator during the Civil Rights era, Dr. W. Charles Akins (b. 1932) was born in Austin. He attended segregated Blackshear Elementary School and Kealing Junior High School. At L. C. Anderson High School he met W. B. Campbell, who inspired him to become a school principal. After graduating from Anderson in 1950, Akins earned a bachelor's degree in history from Huston-Tillotson College, a master's degree from Prairie View A&M College, and administrative certification from Southwest Texas State University. In addition, in 1982 Huston-Tillotson presented Akins with the honorary doctorate of humane letters. But where Akins truly distinguishes himself is in his contributions to one of 20<sup>th</sup>-century

America's most important societal advancements--equal education for all children. His teaching career began with near immediate recognition: in 1962, just three years after he began teaching social studies at his alma mater, he was recognized as Anderson's Teacher of the Year. As Austin ISD began to integrate its teaching faculty in 1964, Akins was selected to be the first African American teacher in newly desegregated Johnston High School. There he sponsored the Boys' Service Club and became the school's first dean of boys. He subsequently served as assistant principal at Anderson and Lanier high schools. In 1973, during one of the most turbulent social times in Austin history--the implementation of federally mandated school busing for racial integration--Akins was selected as the first principal of the new L. C. Anderson High School. His leadership there paved the way for all Austin schools to create communities in which diversity is valued, expectations are high for all children, and opportunities are offered for students and staff to achieve at their fullest potential. In 1982, Akins's service to the school district expanded as he assumed central administration responsibilities, most recently as Associate Superintendent for Development and Community Partnerships. In 1998, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees voted to name Austin's newest high school after Akins. Groundbreaking took place in 1999, and W. Charles Akins High School opened its doors to students in August 2000. The school is a tribute to Akins and his commitment to young people. It ensures that his work and spirit not only endures but thrives.

### 3. Elmer Akins



Elmer Akins (1911-1988), a radio announcer and live gospel music promoter, was born in Pilot Knob, Texas, the fifth child of sharecroppers Jim and Hattie Akins. At a young age, his parents sent him to live with an uncle in Austin so he could attend Gregory Elementary School (now Blackshear Elementary). In the mid-1920s, Akins moved back to the country and began cotton farming. In 1930, poor crops and low prices forced him to leave his ten acres and move back to Austin, where he worked near the old Varsity Theater on Guadalupe for ten years as a porter, janitor, and shoeshine man. In 1942, he began working at the Texas Supreme Court as a janitor and clerk, retiring in 1976. During the early 1940s, Akins developed a passion for live radio broadcasts of gospel quartets, such as the Fairfield Four, a group featured on Nashville's WLAC-AM. He began singing in choirs and quartets and hosted live gospel programs for Austin's KNOW-AM. While working at the Varsity Theater, Akins had befriended Jake Pickle and John Connally. In 1947, Akins persuaded Pickle to sell him a fifteen-minute slot on KVET, Pickle and Connally's new radio station. The one-time Sunday morning show developed into a twelve-week series, and then blossomed into a 51-year institution. By 2002, Akins's "Gospel Train" had become America's longest continuously running radio show. Akins was recognized by the Texas Association of Broadcasters as the longest-continuing radio host in the United States; the association honored him as a Texas Broadcast Legend in 1998. Akins also bore the titles Voice of Austin and Deacon of Austin Gospel Music during his half-century of broadcasting.

#### 4. Ada Anderson



ADA ANDERSON

An influential Austin civil-rights advocate, Ada Anderson (b. 1921) was born in Tarrant County, Texas. Anderson graduated from Anderson High School in 1937. Anderson was the first African American to enroll in the University of Texas Master of Library Science program, but switched to the College of Education, earning her master's degree in educational psychology. In 1953, Anderson helped found the Austin chapter of Jack and Jill of America, and later formed the Austin Human Relations Commission, which worked to change city regulations and open Austin hotels, schools, and businesses to all people. Anderson has worked as a teacher and psychometric, assisting Austin Community College and UT, and served on the board of the Laguna Gloria Art Museum. A founding member of the Austin Lyric Opera, in 1989 Anderson initiated the Leadership Enrichment Arts Program, which offers the experience of performing and visual arts to low income and minority youth. Anderson received recognition in the Texas Black Women's Hall of Fame and the African American Women's Hall of Fame in 1986, and among her honors are a UT Distinguished Alumnus Award and a leadership award from the Austin Chamber of Commerce Business Committee on the Arts.

#### 5. Laurine Cecil (L. C.) Anderson



LAURINE CECIL (L.C.) ANDERSON

Laurine Cecil Anderson (1853-1938), a teacher and school administrator, was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He received his bachelor's degree from Fisk University. He trained for the Methodist ministry and taught at the Tuskegee Institute with Booker T. Washington before moving to Texas in 1879 to assist his brother E. H. Anderson, a minister and teacher at Prairie View Normal Institute. After heading Prairie View for seventeen years, Anderson moved to Austin to serve as principal of the school for blacks that later became L. C. Anderson High School, named in his honor. He resigned in 1928 because of ill health. Anderson is buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

#### 6. Marcellus Jack "Andy" Anderson

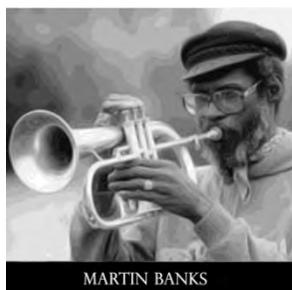


MARCELLUS JACK 'ANDY' ANDERSON

Andy Anderson (1908-2004) is recognized as a community leader who paved the way for future generations. He was the first African American admitted to membership in the Board of Realtors, and the first to receive a real estate license from the Texas Real Estate Commission. He served as president and co-founder of the Texas Association of Real Estate Brokers. He was the national coordinator for the Johnson-Humphrey presidential election campaign, founder and president of the 5,000-member United Political Organization of Texas, a U.S. Department of State representative to Angola, and a U.S. Department of State representative to the Independence Celebration of Guyana. He served as a trustee of St.

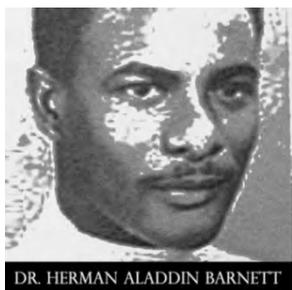
Edward's University, Texas Southern University, and the American Institute for Learning. He was a co-founder of Anderson Wormley Real Estate and Insurance Company, founder and president of National Protestant Brotherhood Life Insurance Company, and the first African American to become a bank director in Austin, at Community National Bank. He was the first African American to serve on the Austin Planning Commission, and the first African American to serve as a board member on the Chamber of Commerce. He was an Austin Symphony trustee, and founding member of the Board of Austin Crime Stoppers. A broad range of community interests captured his heart. From the Boy Scouts of America, where he served as district chair, to the 300,000-member Federation of Masons of the World, where he was president, Anderson gave generously to civic organizations. He was grand master of the St. Joseph Grand Lodge and the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas. He was also a founding member of the Austin chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. Gus Garcia, former mayor of Austin says: "young African Americans owe a great debt of gratitude to Andy Anderson."

## 7. Martin Banks



Martin Banks (1936-2004) is a beloved jazz artist, known as the Master of the Trumpet. Banks first picked up a trumpet at age four. His father and uncle played with John Coltrane in the 1930s and he was raised on the music of the jazz greats. At age 15, he moved to San Francisco to pursue a music career and found work playing in the Ray Charles backup band. That job led to a twelve-year stint in the house band of the famed Apollo Theater, a place in the original Motown Revue and jobs with Sun Ra and the Duke Ellington Band. He appeared on more than two dozen jazz albums and made a good living as a studio sideman while continuing his live performing career. In the early 1990s, Banks returned to Austin, where he played with the Austin Jazz Workshop, the Creative Opportunity Orchestra, and the Jazz Pharaohs. He also mentored several generations of Austin Jazz greats, such as Alex Coke, Carl Settles, and Elias Haslanger. He was well known for his drop-in appearances at local high schools, where he talked about his career and encouraged young jazz hopefuls.

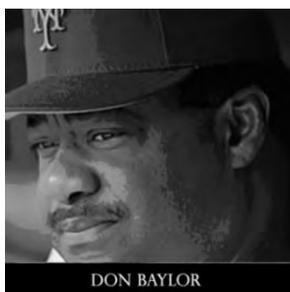
## 8. Dr. Herman Aladdin Barnett



Born in Austin, Herman Aladdin Barnett III (1926-1973) began dreaming of a life in medicine when he was only four years old. Graduating from high school in 1943 in the midst of World War II, he put his dreams on hold and joined the U.S. Army. He trained to become a combat pilot and soon joined the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen. With the war's conclusion, however, he was honorably discharged in 1946 without seeing combat. Barnett received his pre-medical education at Samuel Huston College. In 1949, Barnett broke the color barrier at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston, as the institution's first African American medical student. After graduating from medical school in 1953, Barnett completed his internship and surgical residency at the Medical Branch hospitals.

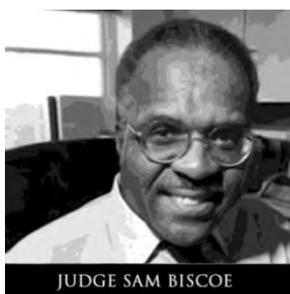
He specialized in trauma, focusing on the physiological changes bodies experienced in emergencies and during post-operative recoveries. Barnett was a pioneer again when he became the first African American to serve on the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. His dedication to medicine earned him many honors, including an American Cancer Society fellowship for the study of the carcinogenic effect of sulfonamides; a grant from National Medical Fellowships; the Omega Phi Psi Citizenship Award; and the Huston-Tillotson Achievement Award.

## 9. Don Baylor



Austin native Don Baylor (b. 1949) starred in both baseball and football at Austin High School. He was offered a scholarship to play football at the University of Texas by Longhorns coach Darrell Royal, which would have made him the first African American football player at UT. He opted instead to pursue a baseball career, enrolling at Blinn Junior College in Brenham, Texas. Baylor was drafted in 1967 by the Baltimore Orioles, and after six seasons was traded to the California Angels. He also played with the New York Yankees, the Boston Red Sox, the Minnesota Twins, and the Oakland A's during his 21 seasons in baseball. In 1985 he won the Roberto Clemente Award, given to the player who "best exemplifies the game of baseball sportsmanship, community involvement, and the individual's contribution to his team," as voted on by baseball fans and members of the media. After retiring as player, Baylor became a coach. He enjoyed tremendous success as the manager of the expansion team the Colorado Rockies, for which he was named National League Manager of the Year in 1995. Baylor is currently the batting coach for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

## 10. Judge Sam Biscoe



Judge Samuel T. Biscoe was born and reared in Tyler, Texas. He graduated from Emmett Scott High School in 1965. He received his associate's degree from Tyler Junior College in 1967 and a bachelor's degree in history from North Texas State University in 1969. At the University of Texas School of Law, he was president of both the Student Bar Association and the Class of 1973. He was an Earl Warren Fellow with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund from 1973 to 1974, after which he entered private practice. In 1983, he became general counsel and special assistant to the Texas Department of Agriculture, a position he held through 1988, when he was elected Travis County commissioner for Precinct One. He resigned his position as commissioner to seek the office of Travis County judge, and has served in this capacity since 1998. Biscoe has received numerous awards and honors, including Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Man of the Year, Huston-Tillotson College Volunteer of the Year, the Austin Area Urban League Whitney D. Young Award, NOKOA the Observer Newspaper Political Leader of the Year, the Villager Newspaper Living Legend Award, the NAACP Dewitty/Overton Award, and many others. During his tenure as Travis County judge, Biscoe served as chair of the

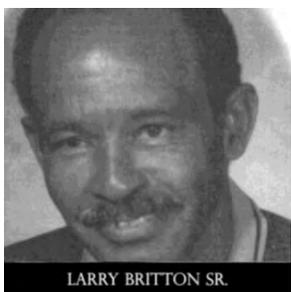
Community Action Network, chair of the Affordable Housing Subcommittee of the City of Austin Social Equity Commission, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Capital Area Planning Council.

#### 11. Dr. June Brewer



June Harden Brewer (1925-2010) grew up in Austin. She was the first of five African American women to apply for admission to graduate school at the University of Texas in 1950 after the Supreme Court's ruling on Sweatt v. Painter. She was admitted in the summer of 1950, after having graduated with honors from Tillotson College in 1940 and receiving a master's degree in English from Howard University. She completed her PhD in 1963. For 35 years, Brewer worked as an English professor at Huston-Tillotson College, where she was chairperson of the English department. She helped in establishing an undergraduate chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority on the UT campus. She also founded the non-profit organization Borders Learning Community, which promoted closing the racial achievement gap, especially in raising standardized test scores. Brewer worked with many community organizations throughout her life, such as on the Austin Independent School District task force for dropout prevention.

#### 12. Larry Britton Sr.



Lawrence Britton Sr. (1919-2002) was in the education profession for over 31 years, with 29 years as a teacher and coach at L. C. Anderson High School, McCallum High School, and Reagan High School. He was one of the organizers of the East Austin Youth Foundation. He was inducted into the Prairie View Hall of Honor and the Austin Sports Hall of Honor, and recognized by the Legislative Black Caucus of the State of Texas for outstanding contribution in athletics and for service level commitment to black Texans and the state of Texas.

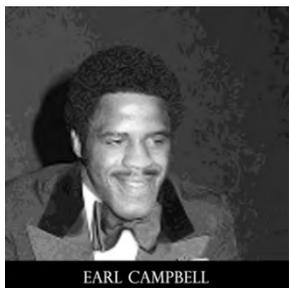
#### 13. Andrea Pair Bryant



Baltimore native Andrea Pair Bryant (1942-2012) first arrived in Austin in 1978, working as a lawyer for IBM. It was not long before she became involved with the Austin community and was selected to participate in the Leadership Austin program. She began working with groups such as the Austin Area Urban League and the Paramount Theater, participating on their boards of directors. Soon after becoming an attorney, Andrea became involved with the National Bar Association (NBA), the nation's oldest and largest association of African American lawyers and judges. She helped found the first local chapter of the NBA, and became a dedicated member and leader, serving on the Board of Governors as secretary from 1988 to 2000. Bryant also served on the National Bar Institute's board, chairing its grants

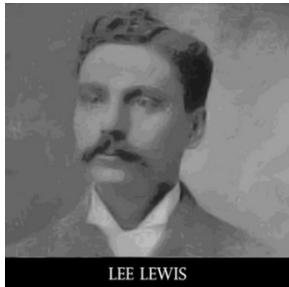
committee and was a founding member of Austin's Town Lake chapter of the Links, Incorporated and ProArts Collective. Bryant gave her time and talents to many organizations, such as her church, where she was a Sunday school teacher of first grade students for many years.

#### 14. Earl Campbell



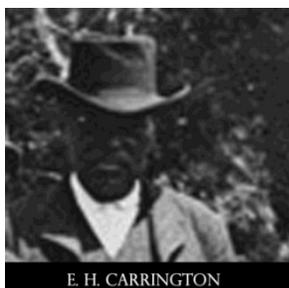
Born in Tyler, Texas, Earl Campbell (b. 1955) played football at the University of Texas, winning the Heisman Trophy in 1977 and leading the nation in rushing with 1,744 yards. He was the first recipient of the Davey O'Brien Memorial Trophy, which was awarded to the most outstanding player in the now-defunct Southwest Conference. He was a first-team All-America selection by the American Football Coaches Association in 1975 and a consensus All-America choice in 1977. He was selected as the Southwest Conference's Running Back of the Year in each of his college seasons, and finished college with a total of 4,444 career rushing yards. As a player with the Houston Oilers and the New Orleans Saints, Campbell is widely acknowledged as one of the best power backs in National Football League history. In 1991 he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

#### 15. Rev. Lee Lewis Campbell



Lee Lewis Campbell (ca. 1865-1927), an African American Baptist pastor, was born in Milam County, Texas. He attended Bishop College, in Marshall, and the University of Chicago. Sometime afterwards he returned to Texas and married Ella Williams. Campbell was ordained to the Baptist ministry, and in 1892 he became pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin, a position he held for 35 years. In Austin, he founded St. John's Institute and Orphanage and served as president of the General Baptist State Convention and vice president of the National General Baptist Convention. He was also president of St. John's Encampment Colored Association, an annual event during which thousands of African Americans came to Austin to discuss race relations.

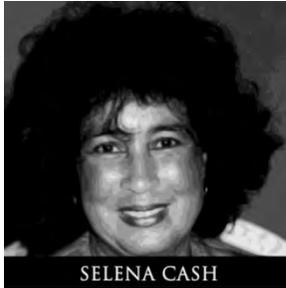
#### 16. E. H. Carrington



E. H. Carrington (?-1917), a former slave, was a community leader who was known for his readiness to assist others. He founded the E. H. Carrington Store in 1870 at 522 east 6<sup>th</sup> Street. After his death the business was continued by his son-in-law Louis D. Lyons, a trustee of Samuel Huston College, who added a second floor to house a meeting room that became the site of many functions of the black community. Carrington and Lyons were known for their benevolence. They provided financial assistance to African Americans who were unable to

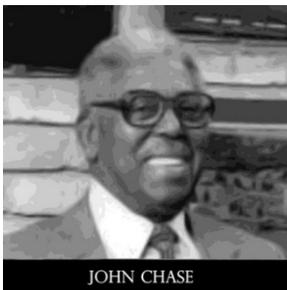
bury their dead and made loans to families to purchase farmland and homes.

### 17. Selena Cash



Mother of three, grandmother of five, with a career in education spanning over 35 years (all in the Austin Independent School District), Ms. Cash has made a tremendous difference in many lives. She attended public school in Fort Worth and received a bachelor's degree from Huston-Tillotson College. After further study at Texas Southern University and UT Austin, she earned a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University in counseling and guidance. She holds Texas mid-management and superintendency certifications. She began her career as an English teacher at the first Kealing Junior High School, later worked as a counselor at Allan Junior High and Lanier High, and served as assistant principal at Murchison Junior High. She was promoted to principal in 1981, becoming the first black female to be named chief administrator of an Austin secondary school. In 1985, she came full circle and was named principal of the new Kealing Junior High Magnet School. She participated in every phase of the design process for this new building. She is a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church, the National Education Association, the Austin Association of Public School Administrators, the Texas Association of Secondary Principals, the Texas Middle School Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Town Lake Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, and National Women of Achievement. She also participates in the volunteer services programs at Sweet Home Baptist Church and Texans' War on Drugs.

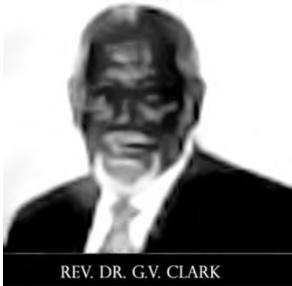
### 18. John Chase



Maryland native John Chase (1925-2012) was the first African American to enroll at the University of Texas School of Architecture-- though he did not intend to make history, he simply intended to study architecture. Two days before, when the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that UT must desegregate its graduate and professional schools, the 25-year-old draftsman, a native of Maryland and graduate of predominantly black Hampton University, saw his chance to study at one of the best architecture schools in the country. He was the first black architect to be licensed in Texas, and the first to be admitted to the Texas Society of Architects and the American Institute of Architects' Houston chapter. By the end of his life, he was known as an iconic modern architect and a political insider.

### 19. Rev. Dr. G. V. Clark

The Reverend G. V. Clark is the esteemed pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church. In March of 1970, Clark was called to the leadership of Mount Zion Baptist Church, and with him came visions of continued growth. Clark currently serves as the moderator of the St. John Regular Baptist District Association, and as the president of the Missionary Baptist General Convention



of Texas. He is also active with the Baptist Ministers' Union of Austin, Texas and Vicinity. He served as secretary/treasurer of education for the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas and is the past president of the State Presidents and Moderators' Council of the National Baptist Convention of America. Clark was licensed and ordained to the ministry by the College Heights Baptist Church of Austin, and served successfully as pastor of St. Mary's Baptist Church in Pflugerville and the Sweet Home Baptist Church in Round Rock. In 1958, Clark graduated from the Huston-Tillotson College, with a bachelor's degree after a tour of duty in the military. He earned a master of divinity degree from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. He has matriculated to further his graduate studies at UT Austin and the Andover-Newton Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. He has also been bestowed an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Huston-Tillotson.

## 20. W. C. Clark Jr.



W. C. Clark Jr. (b. 1939) is an American blues musician. He is known as the Godfather of Austin Blues for his influence on the Austin blues scene since the late 1960s. He was born into a musical family: his father played guitar and his grandmother, mother, and sisters all sang gospel in the church choir. "I had so much music in my soul," Clark recalls, "all I had to do was pick up an instrument and play it." He learned the guitar as a youngster and at age 16 played his first gig at the Victory Grill, where he was introduced to Texas blues legend T. D. Bell. Soon after, Clark switched to playing bass and joined Bell's band, the Cadillacs. In the early 1960s he began a six-year stint with Blues Boy Hubbard and the Jets at the popular Austin nightclub Charlie's Playhouse. There he met R&B hitmaker Joe Tex, who recruited Clark to fill the vacant guitar slot in his group. Clark toured the Southern "chitlin' circuit," learning music firsthand from Tex and countless soul and blues stars, including Tyrone Davis and James Brown. Along the way, Clark perfected his ability to lift an audience into a soul frenzy. *Blues Revue* has called his music "modern Texas blues at its best . . . impeccable, soothing soul and flashy, jumped-up roadhouse blues . . . [with] heartfelt emotion and sweet as molasses soul delivery. . . . As a vocalist, he's untouchable."

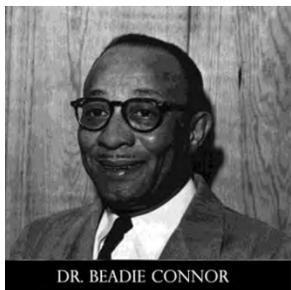
## 21. Sheryl Cole



Sheryl Cole is the first African American woman elected to the Austin City Council, a position she has held since 2006. As a public servant, her main theme is collaboration, in hopes of making legislative changes in education. A resident of Austin for over 25 years, Sheryl earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from UT Austin, and became a certified public accountant in 1986. After working for two years with the Big Five accounting firm Ernst & Young, Sheryl returned to UT for law school, and after graduation she joined the law firm Wright &

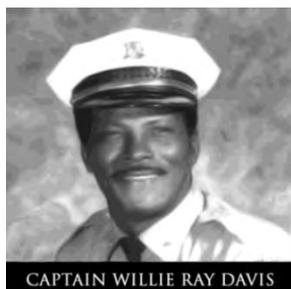
Greenhill. Sheryl served as staff counsel at the Texas Municipal League from 1995 to 2001.

## 22. Dr. Beadie Connor



The distinguished medical career of Dr. Beadie Connor (1902-1994) provided an important link between Huston-Tillotson College, Holy Cross Hospital, and several other 19<sup>th</sup> Street corridor institutions that served the African American community. After beginning his medical career in Kansas City, Connor practiced in Waco and Cameron before moving to Austin in 1937. Connor maintained his medical office on east 12<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition to serving as the campus physician at Huston-Tillotson, Connor cared for his patients at Holy Cross Hospital.

## 23. Captain Willie Ray Davis



Willie Ray Davis (1924-2006) was one of the first three African Americans hired by the Austin Fire Department in 1952. Davis was assigned to Station 5 at 1005 Lydia Street. His success inspired others so much that by 1954 African Americans were employed as firefighters in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and other Texas cities. In 1966, Ray was promoted to lieutenant, becoming the first African American fire officer in Texas. In 1969, he was named Austin Firefighter of the Year—an honor bestowed on him by the B'nai B'rith Hill City Lodge No. 241.

In 1973, Davis successfully conquered the civil service exam and was promoted to captain. Recognized for his exceptional technical knowledge in the field of fire prevention and containment, Davis was assigned to the department's public education division. He retired with honors in 1983. He received the Distinguished Service Award, given by Mayor Carole Keeton McClellan and the Austin City Council.

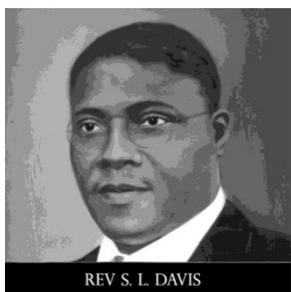
## 24. Denise Davis



Denise Davis is a native Texan with nearly two decades of experience working in the Texas Legislature. Ms. Davis has extensive experience in drafting winning strategies on complex legislation, administrative rules, legal memoranda, and briefs for clients in both the public and private sectors. Before founding Davis Kaufman PLLC in 2012, Davis served as chief of staff to House Speaker Joe R. Straus. In this role, she provided strategic and operational advice to the speaker and to the entire House leadership, and oversaw the legislative agenda and daily activities of the speaker's office. Prior to this job, Davis served as the first African American house parliamentarian and special counsel to the Texas House of Representatives, where she advised the speaker and members of the House on all ethics, legal, and parliamentary matters, including points of order, House rules and precedents, and open records. Her public service also includes work as general counsel to Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff, director and counsel to the

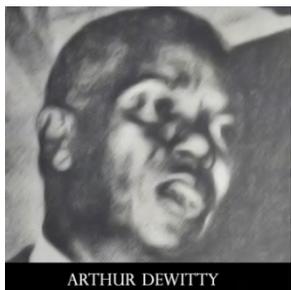
Texas Judicial Council under Chief Justice Tom Phillips, general counsel to the Senate Jurisprudence Committee under Senator Rodney Ellis, legislative counsel for the Texas Legislative Council, and assistant public information officer for Lt. Governor William P. Hobby. In addition to her many years in public service, Davis has also worked in private practice, serving as special counsel to the corporate department of an international law firm, where she provided public policy law and governmental relations services to corporate clients. Davis received her bachelor's degree in government and her law degree from the University of Texas. While at the university, Davis served as notes editor for the *American Journal of Criminal Law*.

## 25. Rev. S. L. Davis



The Reverend Silas Leonard (S. L.) Davis (1888-1988) came to Austin in 1937 to serve as pastor of the David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He organized Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church two years later, and served as its pastor until his death at age 100. He was born in Dale, Texas, to Andrew and Laura Davis, who had been born into slavery. Davis was known as highly principled, and through his presence in the ministry, he had an enormous influence in the east Austin African American Community. He was succeeded in the ministry by his grandson, Rev. L. K. Jones, who has continued Davis's work in east Austin. In 1998, the City of Austin renamed Washington Avenue in front of Mount Calvary Church in his honor.

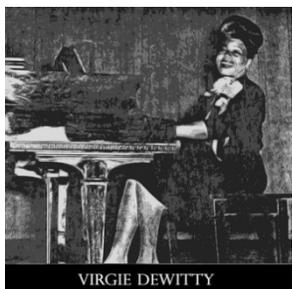
## 26. Arthur DeWitty



Arthur B. DeWitty (1908-1967), the fourth of nine children, was born in Hutto, Texas. He was the son of Ransom and Cora DeWitty. When he was five years old, the DeWitty family moved to Austin. DeWitty attended the old Olive Street School, later graduating from L. C. Anderson High School. He held odd jobs in order to work his way through school, working as a dishwasher and a cook in the University area. In 1933, DeWitty married Virgie Carrington, a high school teacher. An accomplished pianist, Mrs. DeWitty served for many years as a music director of Ebenezer Baptist Church. DeWitty became a full-time newspaperman, writing a column for the *Houston Informer* and doing freelance work for various publications around the country. He was associated with the *Informer* for 23 years. The 6'4" DeWitty was a persuasive spokesman for the cause of civil rights. In the days when others remained silent, DeWitty spoke out on a variety of issues. He attended school board and church meetings, advocating civil rights and equal opportunity for all. In 1945, DeWitty organized the Travis County Voters League in order to increase voter participation in local elections. In 1951, he ran for Austin City Council and almost won a seat as the first African American council member. In 1953, the Austin City Council, together with the *Austin American-Statesman*, in response to DeWitty's near-win, advocated for a change in Austin's voting system that would make it more difficult for minorities to win a City Council seat. A charter change for all at-large citywide seats

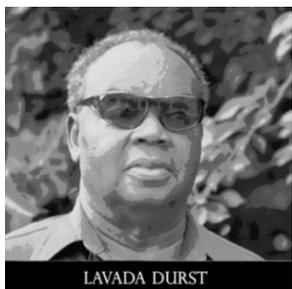
was put on the ballot and quickly passed. In 1956, DeWitty received east Austin's first Most Worthy Citizen Award. Mayor Tom Miller signed a proclamation making April 15th Arthur DeWitty Day in Austin. Over 3,000 people turned out to honor him. In 1966, the local NAACP chapter established the Annual Arthur DeWitty Freedom Award in his honor. The award is given each year to the person in Austin who has made the most significant contribution in the field of civil rights.

## 27. Virgie DeWitty



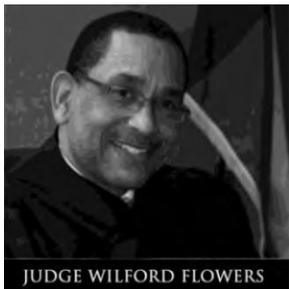
Virgie Carrington DeWitty (1913-1980), music teacher and choir director, was born in Wetumka, Oklahoma, the daughter of William and Violet Carrington. The family moved to Austin when DeWitty was a small child and joined Ebenezer Baptist Church. Because of a strong musical influence and encouragement at home and at church, DeWitty started playing the piano by ear at home. From 1938 to 1940 she directed the radio program "The Bright and Early Choir" for the Texas Quality Network. She composed more than 100 gospel songs, spirituals, and anthems. One of her most famous pieces was "Magnify the Lord." She taught music at Anderson High School in Austin and composed the school song. In 1933 she married Arthur B. DeWitty.

## 28. Rev. Albert Lavada Durst ("Dr. Hepcat")



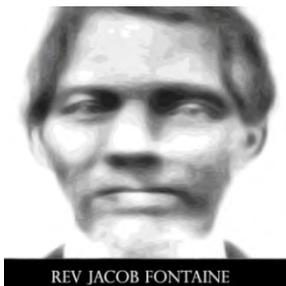
Lavada Durst (1913-1995) was a pioneer in the field of broadcasting. At the age of 12, Durst learned to play the piano in the church opposite his home. He later claimed his left hand was influenced by Albert Ammons and Meade "Lux" Lewis and his right by renowned Texas bluesman Robert Shaw. Durst continued to play in an amateur capacity at house-rent parties and suppers while running recreation facilities in east Austin. His talent for jive talk landed him a job as a baseball announcer at Disch Field, which in turn brought him to the attention of the local radio station KVET. In 1948, as "Dr. Hepcat," he became the first black disc jockey in Texas, broadcasting six days a week. Program director Fred Caldwell also owned Uptown Records, for whom Durst recorded "Hattie Green" and "Hepcat's Boogie" in 1949. Shortly afterwards he re-recorded the first title for Don Robey's Peacock label. In the late 1950s, Durst managed the Chariottes spiritual group, who also recorded for Peacock. He gave up playing music in 1965 when he was ordained as a minister at the Mount Olive Baptist Church, but returned to the piano a decade later. Durst was unusual for a Texas blues pianist, maintaining a strong left-hand pulse to his blues and boogie improvisations that accompanied his semi-improvised monologues.

## 29. Judge Wilford Flowers



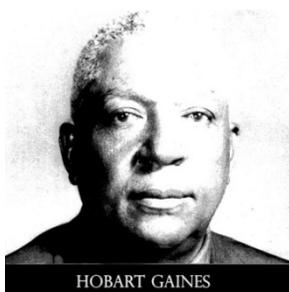
Judge Wilford Flowers was born in Port Arthur, where he graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1968. He received his bachelor's degree in economics from Lamar University in 1972, and his law degree from the University of Texas in 1976. Serving in Travis County, Flowers was the first African American to be appointed as assistant district attorney, the first African American to serve as a county court at law judge, and the first African American to serve as a district judge. In 1991, Flowers began his first term in the 147th District Court, and served until his retirement in 2010. He was named Outstanding Young Lawyer by the Austin Young Lawyer Association in 1986 and Outstanding Jurist by the Texas Bar Foundation in 2009, and received the Distinguished Lawyer Award from the Austin Bar Association in 2011.

## 30. Rev. Jacob Fontaine



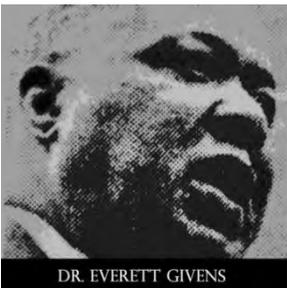
The Reverend Jacob Fontaine (1808-1898), Baptist preacher, political and civic leader, and newspaper publisher, was born into slavery in Arkansas in 1808. His several owners included the Tuttle and Isaacs families, but his best-known and most influential master was Rev. Edward Fontaine, a great-grandson of Patrick Henry, who moved to Austin in 1839 as the personal secretary to Texas president Mirabeau B. Lamar. While serving as Fontaine's sexton, Jacob would preach in the afternoons to blacks in the basement of the old Methodist church at Brazos and 10th streets. Jacob Fontaine and other black members of the congregation began to meet secretly in 1864 to organize a break from the church. In 1867, after emancipation, Jacob founded the First (Colored) Baptist Church in Austin. That same year he helped to found the Travis County Association (later known as the St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Association), and was elected its first moderator.

## 31. Hobart Gaines



Hobart Gaines (1918-1989) is very important in the field of education. Born in the east Texas town of Waskom, Gaines received a bachelor's degree from Bishop College, now in Dallas, where he served as president of his graduating class. He earned his master's degree in administration and supervision from Prairie View A&M College in 1952 and began working for Austin Independent School District in 1959. He was a principal at L. C. Anderson High School, and was also the first African American Association Superintendent. Gaines, who had a 36-year career in education—23 years with Austin ISD—acted as a mediator for the district to help black and white teachers and students integrate. He was married in 1943 to Venolia Elaine Board, also a teacher with Austin ISD.

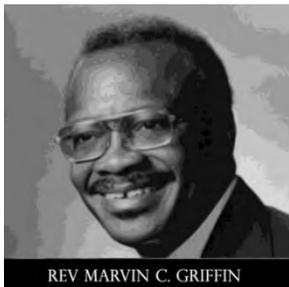
### 32. Dr. Everett Givens



DR. EVERETT GIVENS

Dr. Everett H. Givens, though recognized as an excellent dentist, is far better known for efforts to gain equal privileges, rights, and opportunities for African American citizens of Austin. He sought action in the Texas Supreme Court to compel the University of Texas Board of Regents to establish in Austin a branch university for African Americans. Givens's petition recited the constitutional provisions for establishing the University of Texas, Texas A&M College, and the branch university for African Americans, and asserted there was "specifically granted and set apart to said institutions, in addition to lands heretofore granted to the University of Texas, one million acres of land for their endowment, maintenance and support."

### 33. Rev. Marvin C. Griffin



REV. MARVIN C. GRIFFIN

The Reverend Marvin C. Griffin (b. 1923) was an active community and spiritual leader in Austin. He was born in Wichita, Kansas, to Beatrice Howell and William Marvin Collins. He was raised by his aunt and uncle and was educated at public schools in Dallas before graduating from Bishop College with a bachelor's degree. He went on to receive four other degrees including his master of divinity degree from the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, his master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and his doctor of ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Griffin began his official ministry in 1940 at Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church in Dallas. In 1942, he received his certificate of ordination. From 1951 to 1969, he served as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in Waco, then began his tenure as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, located in east Austin. In 1975, he led the congregation in a mortgage burning ceremony during the celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. During his early tenure at Ebenezer he served a two-year term as the first black president of the Board of Directors for the Austin Independent School District. Griffin served as the corresponding secretary of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas and the director of the Christian Education Enrichment Program at the National Baptist Fellowship of Churches. He also spent time as a director and lecturer for the Teacher Training Department of the National Baptist Sunday School Congress. He served as an instructor at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, teaching "Pastoral Ministry in the Black Church." Griffin performed in many other capacities at state and national religious gatherings. Under his leadership, in 1988, Ebenezer Baptist Church formed the East Austin Economic Development Corporation (EAEDC) whose goals included affordable housing programs for rental and home ownership, housing counseling, down-payment assistance, rental assistance, energy assistance, projects for the elderly, and statewide technical assistance to faith-based community development organizations. In 1990, he successfully guided the board in acquiring a grant enabling the Ebenezer Child Development Center to construct a new facility, which has the capacity to accommodate 200 children and also houses the Family Life Center, used for

banquets and other church activities. In 2002, on his 33rd anniversary as pastor of Ebenezer, the building that houses the East Austin Economic Development Corporation was named the Marvin C. Griffin Building in his honor. He retired in 2011, after more than 40 years heading the church.

#### 34. Berl Handcox



Berl Handcox (b. 1932) grew up in Denton, Texas, and Wichita, Kansas. In 1951, he enlisted in the Navy and shortly after was assigned to the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Valley Forge. Handcox attended Prairie View A&M College, where he met his wife, Ruby. In 1967, he moved to Austin and took a job at IBM in the education department. A short time later, he was named equal employment opportunity coordinator for IBM. Handcox and his family challenged the unwritten rule that forced African Americans to live almost exclusively in east Austin. He became known within the black community as president of a group called the Young Men's Progressive Club, and this exposure inspired some of his associates to suggest that he run for a seat on the Austin City Council. In 1971, Handcox became the first African American since Reconstruction to serve on the Austin City Council. He was re-elected in 1973, but resigned in 1975 to head the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity for the State of Texas. Since his tenure, Place 6 on the Austin City Council has traditionally been filled by an African American.

#### 35. Bernice Hart



Bernice Hart (1920-2012) grew up in segregated east Austin. She attended local public schools, earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Tillotson College, and became one of the first African American women to get a master's degree from the University of Texas. She was elected to the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees, serving for 12 years, part of that time as president. Hart overcame Austin's racial segregation and helped govern the Austin ISD for more than a decade. Bernice Hart Elementary School is named in her honor.

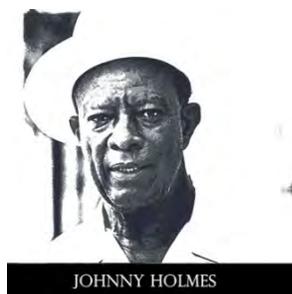
#### 36. Don Haynes



Don T. Haynes Jr. (b. 1951) has been director of bands at Lyndon B. Johnson High School in Austin for 37 years. He began his music career at the age of six, tutored by his father, who was band director at Solomon Coles High School in Corpus Christi, and his mother, who studied voice at both the Julliard School in New York and the University of Texas. As a child, he studied piano, trumpet, French horn, flute, clarinet, and cello. Following graduation from Roy Miller High School, he studied at the Del Mar College School of Music in Corpus Christi,

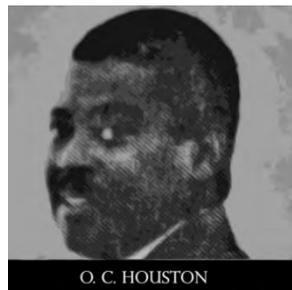
and then transferred to the University of Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music in 1973 and was a member of the Longhorn Marching Band. In 1978, he completed a masters' degree at UT, specializing in instrumental music conducting. He was the assistant band director at Anderson High School for two years, before being named director of bands at LBJ Early College High School.

### 37. Johnny Holmes



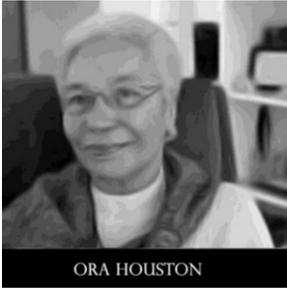
Johnny Holmes (1917-2001) is the visionary behind the Victory Grill Cafe, who some say initiated Austin's music scene. Holmes opened the Victory Grill on Victory Over Japan Day in 1945, conceiving it as a restaurant and bar for black soldiers returning from the war. Victory Grill is a historic music venue on the "chitlin' circuit," which hosted famous African American acts, such as Bobby "Blue" Bland, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, W. C. Clark, and B. B. King, when Austin was legally segregated. Still owned by the Holmes family, the Victory Grill was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

### 38. O. C. Houston



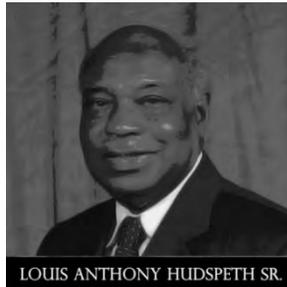
O. C. Houston Jr. (1946–2013) was the son of O. C. Houston Sr. and Lue Etta Foste. He attended Austin public schools and graduated from L. C. Anderson High School. Houston attended UT Austin, becoming one of the first African American graduates from the college of pharmacy in 1969. In 1968, he married Ernestine Edwards. In 1970, Houston purchased Hospital Pharmacy and remained the sole owner until his death. He was a lifetime member of the National Pharmacists Association and supporter of the Student National Pharmacists Association, Huston-Tillotson College, and the Anderson High School Reunion Committee. For his commitment to the profession of pharmacy, he received numerous accolades, including the Bowl of Hygeia Award and was named one of the Top 10 pharmacists in Texas and one of the Top 100 independent pharmacists in the nation. For his service to the east Austin community, Houston received the East Austin Humanitarian Award, the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, and the NAACP Humanitarian Award for Community Service. Although an astute businessman and active community leader, it would be his commitment to east Austin and the three generations of family members served at Hospital Pharmacy that would prove to be his most significant accomplishment. His hobbies included cycling, and rebuilding classic Ford cars. Houston was also a licensed pilot and avid gourmet cook who enjoyed hosting dinner parties on special occasions and holidays.

**39. Ora Houston**



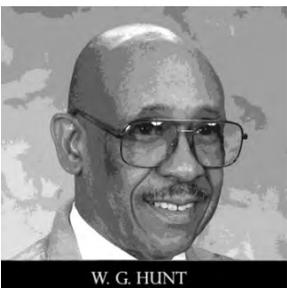
Ora Houston is a longtime Austin resident as well as an active member of the community. She attended Blackshear Elementary School, Kealing Junior High School, and L. C. Anderson High School. In addition, she was a member of the Anderson High School PTSA, the NAACP, the Austin Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority; volunteered at the Holy Cross Hospital and with the Special Olympics; and served on the boards of directors of Saint Andrews School and Family Eldercare. She was an advocate for individuals with disabilities living in the community. Houston is a member of the choir at St. James Episcopal Church, which was formed in 1941 by African Americans who were not welcome at white churches in Austin. She is also a delegate to the National Convention of the Episcopal Church.

**40. Louis Anthony Hudspeth Sr.**



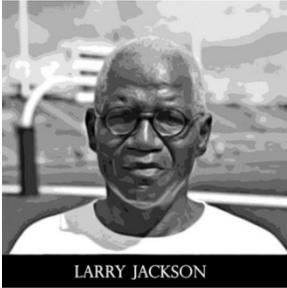
Louis Anthony Hudspeth Sr., the owner of Hudspeth Enterprises, is an important community leader. He served in the U.S. Air Force at Minot Air Force Base and Okinawa, Japan. He was the first African American in the Austin area hired by Frito Lay, and was also the first African American to hold the position of district manager in the seven-state Southwest Zone. He has been awarded many honors, including a Certificate of Appreciation for Entrepreneurship by the Austin Black Contractors Association, an award for Service to our Community by the United Way, the Ebenezer Baptist Church Man of the Year Award, the Austin Independent School District African American Heritage Award, and the Ebenezer Baptist Church Family of the Year Award.

**41. W. G. Hunt**



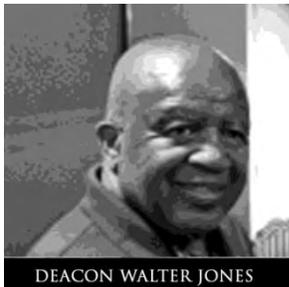
Willis Gordon (W. G.) Hunt (1922-1997) was an unusually gifted and talented individual who blazed the trail for many persons in the east Austin as well as the greater Austin communities. He assisted with the building of the Springdale Gardens, Marshall, and Mount Carmel apartments, each of which provide affordable housing. The only child of George Hunt and Christina Ford, he attended Austin public schools, Samuel Huston College, and UT Austin. He was a teacher and band director at Smithville High School and F. W. Gross High School for several years. He joined the Andy Anderson Agency as a salesperson and broker, and in 1962 founded W. G. Hunt & Co. Realtors, which he ran for over 35 years. The firm is now run by his son Willis G. Hunt II. Hunt was a World War II veteran. He was affiliated with numerous professional, civic, and social organizations.

#### 42. Larry Jackson



Larry Jackson (b. 1947) is a self-made man, a motivator, an advocate for children, and a champion for programs that help the citizens of east Austin. Jackson grew up in Los Angeles and Houston, and by the time he came to Austin in 1967, just out of high school, he was a seasoned civil rights worker. He came with Stokely Carmichael, a civil rights activist and leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), to help organize a student protest movement at UT Austin. During his activist days in Austin, Jackson did a variety of things to help make people aware of the plight of minorities. He helped organize a chapter of the SNCC at Huston-Tillotson College and the Angela Davis Child Care Center, and also helped found the United Front, Inc. Breakfast for Children Program and the Child Inc. Head Start Program. He is also the founder and current executive director of Austin Eastside Story Foundation, a non-profit agency providing after school enrichment including homework assistance, tutorials, and extra-curricular sports and cultural activities. He is the creator of the annual Alvin Patterson Battle of the Bands and Drumline Competition, which promotes education and showcases the cultural pride of the African American community in Austin. Jackson has served on the City of Austin's Neighborhood Revitalization Commission and Planning Commissions, and as a board member of the Austin Revitalization Authority.

#### 43. Deacon Walter Jones



Walter J. Jones (?-1965) was a prominent east Austin businessman and civic and church leader. He gained local fame as a proprietor of the Deacon Jones Barbeque, an east 11<sup>th</sup> Street eatery that he operated for over 30 years. Jones was a driving force in the east Austin community and business development activities. An east 11<sup>th</sup> Street entrepreneurial pioneer from the 1920s through the 1950s, Jones operated a variety of successful businesses, including a restaurant, catering service, and trucking company. Jones's community activities included holding office in the St. Joseph Grand Lodge. As an early and active member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Jones served as a deacon, a trustee, and a member of the Building Committee, in addition to holding other positions throughout his lifelong membership there. The Street-Jones building is named after Jones and Oliver Street.

**44. B. L. Joyce**



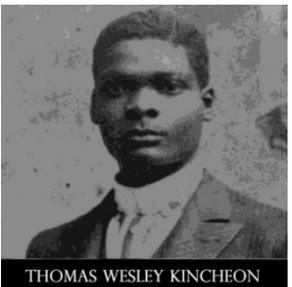
B. L. Joyce (?-1980) was the first band director of the black-only Anderson High School in Austin, a position he held from 1933 to 1955. He was a tailor by trade and made all the band uniforms himself. Under his direction, Anderson won the Texas Black Band Championship seven out of the nine times they participated.

**45. Karen Kennard**



Karen Kennard received a bachelor's degree in political science from Southern Methodist University and a law degree from Texas Tech University. Karen was appointed city attorney in 2011, the first African American female in that position. She previously held the position of first assistant city attorney. Prior to working for the City of Austin Law Department, Karen served as an assistant attorney for the City of Midland and had a distinguished career with the Texas Municipal League, where she served in a number of positions, providing legal guidance and analysis on issues affecting municipalities, developing legislative policy goals, and serving as a liaison to organizations, legislators, and the press. Kennard is active in the Austin community and promotes a range of issues. She is a strong believer in the power of education to improve lives and create a better community.

**46. Thomas Wesley Kincheon**



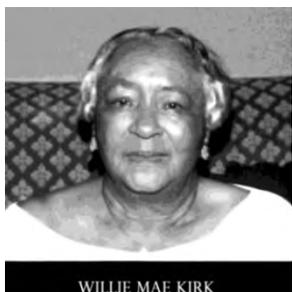
Born in Hays County, near Buda, Thomas Wesley Kincheon (1871-1966) and his wife, Mary, established the African American community of Kincheonville in what is now southwest Austin. He settled in the community in the late nineteenth century, and lived there with his three sons. According to his grandson, the choice of the location was influenced by the oak, elm, and mesquite trees and two clear springs on the site.

#### 47. The Honorable Ron Kirk



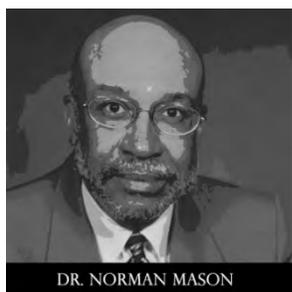
Ron Kirk was born in Austin, the youngest of four children. His father was a U.S. postal worker and the family was politically active. He grew up in a predominantly African American community and attended Austin's public schools. Kirk attended Austin College, graduating in 1976 with a degree in political science and sociology. He attended the University of Texas School of Law, after which he practiced law until 1981, then moved to Washington, D.C. to work in the office of Texas senator Lloyd Bentsen. Kirk served as Texas secretary of state under Governor Ann Richards, served as the mayor of Dallas from 1995 to 2002, and ran for the U.S. Senate in 2002. He was named one of the 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America in 2008 by the *National Law Journal*. Kirk was appointed U.S. Trade Representative in 2009 by President Barack Obama.

#### 48. Willie Mae Kirk



A teacher in Austin for more than 32 years, Willie Mae Kirk was influential in advancing civil rights in an era of segregation. She served on the Austin Library Commission for more than a decade and, with Ada Anderson, helped start the Austin chapter of the Jack and Jill Foundation, a social and recreational civic organization for youth. She was active in the Civil Rights Movement, protesting segregation in schools, at lunch counters and at Barton Springs, where African Americans—including her own children—were prohibited from swimming. Kirk raised her children to be active and engaged citizens, as evidenced by her son, Ambassador Ron Kirk. In 2012, the Oak Springs Library was renamed to honor Willie Mae Kirk in recognition of her community service and involvement. Kirk shared her personal motivations in an interview with the *Austin American-Statesman*: “My first priority is my students. Kids need to have a place where they can get any of the knowledge they need.”

#### 49. Dr. Norman Mason



A native of Marshall, Texas, Norman Mason is a graduate of Howard University's College of Liberal Arts and College of Dentistry. He has practiced general dentistry in Austin for the past 39 years and is the managing partner in the practice of White Mason McElveen & Associates, one of the largest ethnically diverse dentistry practices in Texas. In 2003, he was appointed to a six-year term on the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. Mason is the recipient of many awards and honors as a community leader, including the East Austin Humanitarian and the East Austin Living Legends awards. Over the years, he has been an active member of his professional organizations and has participated in numerous civic and community organizations, serving on the board of directors for the Austin YMCA and KAZI-FM, among

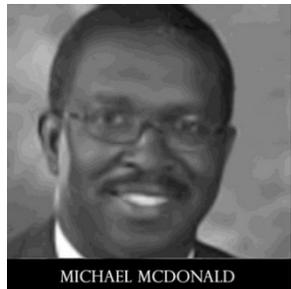
others. The close proximity of Mason's office to the University of Texas enticed him early on to become an active participant in the university community. For three decades, he and his wife, LaVonne, have served as mentors to African American student-athletes, providing the support necessary to ensure their success. He is a past president of the Austin Longhorn Club, a life member of the Longhorn Advisory Foundation, and a member of the College of Liberal Arts Foundation Advisory Council.

**50. Myra A. McDaniel**



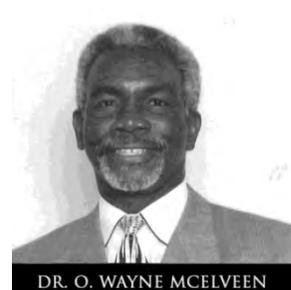
Myra A. McDaniel (1932-2010) practiced law in Austin for more than 30 years and was Texas' first African American secretary of state. She began her legal career at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, and served as secretary of state from 1984 to 1987. She served on a multitude of civic and community boards, at St. Edward's University, Seton Hospital, the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, and elsewhere, supported many philanthropic organizations, such as Austin Lyric Opera and SafePlace. She felt that community support was a requirement for those who were able. Her modest approach to life afforded her the ability to share the riches she enjoyed with others.

**51. Michael McDonald**



Michael McDonald began his career with the City of Austin in 1983 as a police officer. Twelve years later, he became Austin's first African American assistant chief of police. During his tenure, McDonald managed every bureau in the organization, then was promoted to chief of staff in 1999. He served as assistant city manager for public safety services from 2006 to 2012, and currently works as deputy city manager, overseeing police, fire and emergency medical services as well as the Code Compliance Department, Community Court, and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

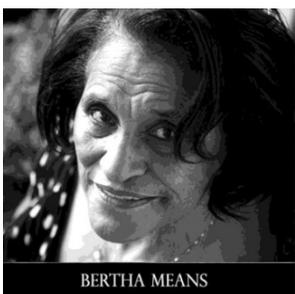
**52. Dr. O. Wayne McElveen**



Dr. O. Wayne McElveen is a senior partner and owner in the dental practice of White Mason McElveen & Associates in Austin. A native of Vauxhall, New Jersey, McElveen received a bachelor's degree in applied sciences and industrial engineering from Lehigh University. He received his DDS from New York University, and served his general practice residency at Newark Beth Israel Hospital. Upon moving to Austin, he joined the dental practice of White and Mason. He has been affiliated with various organizations, such as the New Jersey Dental Association, the Texas Dental Association, the Gulf State Dental Association, the National Dental Association, the American Dental Association, and the Academy of General

Dentistry. Over the past three decades in Austin, McElveen has been actively involved in many community and civic oriented organizations, including the NAACP, the Urban League Advisory Board, the Boys and Girls Club of America Advisory Board, the Texas Organization of Professionals, the Austin Striders Track Club, and the Texas Title XIX Advisory Board. He has also given countless hours of community service, speaking at schools, clubs, and organizations whenever possible. His aspirations are to continue serving his community and mankind and see that his descendants have a prosperous future and a life beneficial to themselves and others.

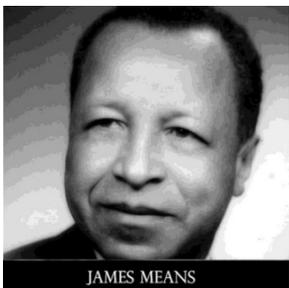
### 53. Bertha Means



Bertha Means is known for her work as a businesswoman, teacher, and civil rights activist. She helped start Mothers Action Council, which led demonstrations to integrate public facilities in Austin during the 1960s. She held several positions with the Austin Independent School District in the areas of elementary and secondary education. She was also a director of Head Start and the first coordinator for reading instruction in the junior and senior high schools of Austin. She introduced her colleagues to new techniques of reading instruction and designed the reading specialists program, which was funded under the Emergency School Aid Act. She taught in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Prairie View A&M College and UT Austin, and conducted workshops in teacher education at Huston-Tillotson College. She and her family helped remove age-old color barriers in Austin, opening doors for blacks and other minorities. In 1958 her daughter, Joan, and others had been denied participation in their senior class picnic because blacks were not allowed to swim in Barton Springs pool. As a result of protests initiated by Austin High School students, Barton Springs was integrated. When her children and other children of the Austin chapter of Jack and Jill of America were denied admission to skate at the newly-opened Ice Palace in 1963, she and others organized the Mothers Action Council. Means became chair of the Direct Action ("Picket") Committee, organizing peaceful demonstrations, both sit-ins and stand-ins, at establishments that had histories of segregation. This action spurred the integration of all public accommodations facilities in Austin, and eventually led to the creation of the Human Relations Department of the City of Austin. From 1967 to 1974 Means served as a City Council appointee to the Parks and Recreation Board, where she initiated steps for the improvement of parks in east Austin. This initiative led to the construction of Givens Recreation Center in 1977. The plaque mounted on a wall at Givens Recreation Center reads, "A Tribute in Honor of Mrs. Bertha Sadler Means. Her dedication and leadership made this structure a reality."

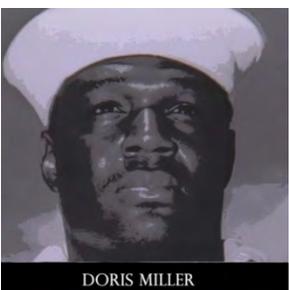
### 54. James Means

James H. Means (1910-2008) was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He grew up in a large, loving family based on a firm moral foundation, hard work, entrepreneurial training, music lessons on a variety of instruments, regular church attendance, charitable works, and a dedication to education. After graduating from Merrill High School, he earned his bachelor's degree in



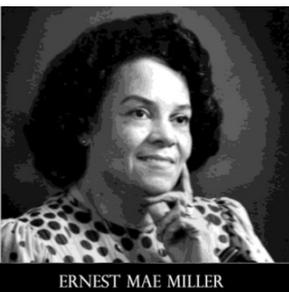
mathematics in 1933 from what is now the University of Arkansas, followed by a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa. Arriving at Austin's Tillotson College in 1938, James taught mathematics and physics, headed the Department of Mathematics, served as chair of the Physical Science Division, and chaired or belonged to many regional and national mathematics and science societies. Means was a former member of the Austin branch of the NAACP and a former chairman of the board of the NAACP Federal Credit Union, which later merged with the east Austin branch of the Greater Texas Federal Credit Union. He was also chairman of the board of Austin Cab Company.

### 55. Doris Miller



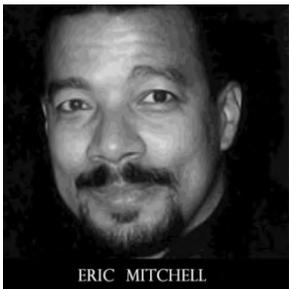
Doris Miller (1919-1943) was born in Waco to farmers Connery and Henrietta Miller, the third of four sons. Miller was a fullback on the football team at Waco's A. J. Moore Academy. In 1939, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he became a mess attendant, third class, one of the few ratings then open to African Americans. He was noted for his bravery during the attack on Pearl Harbor, when he served on the U.S.S. West Virginia. He was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross, the third highest honor awarded by the Navy at the time, after the Medal of Honor and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

### 56. Ernest Mae Miller



Ernie Mae Miller (1927-2010), the granddaughter of Anderson High School namesake L. C. Anderson, was a mainstay of east Austin life, and a blues and jazz pianist and vocalist whose career exceeded a half-century. Miller was born in Austin and learned piano by ear while very young. She would later remember listening as her grandmother played records on a Victrola for hours. She took lessons for a time from a teacher in Waco. At Anderson High, where there was no need for a piano player, she switched to saxophone. It was also while in high school, family members recalled, that she used to sneak out of the house to go see Count Basie or Duke Ellington when they were passing through town. During World War II she played saxophone in the Prairie View Co-eds, an African American all-girl swing band from Prairie View Normal and Industrial College that toured nationally. As a pianist, Miller had a storied residency beginning in the early 1950s at the New Orleans Club on Red River Street (where she played everything from slightly risqué jazz to "The Eyes of Texas" on game days). She was inducted into the Austin Music Hall of Fame in 2007. Miller played at many of Austin's finer hotel lounges and restaurants, but her residencies at such long-gone clubs as the Flamingo Lounge, the Jade Room, and the Commodore Perry Hotel reserve for her an important place in Austin music history.

## 57. Eric Mitchell



Eric Mitchell (1953-2011), a one-term Austin City council member, was an outspoken, and often polarizing, representative who was quick to challenge Austin's environmental community. Though he served just one term, from 1994 to 1997, Mitchell shook up City Hall by questioning the actions, motives, and integrity of city bureaucrats and City Council colleagues on a regular basis. "He was very honest and would say exactly what was on his mind," former Austin city manager Jesus Garza said. "You always knew exactly where you stood because he backed up his opinions with facts." A November 1994 *American-Statesman* story said that Mitchell, then five months into his term, was "often dismayed and sometimes disgusted with the way things work in the offices, cloakrooms and auditoriums of city government." He was closely aligned with the business community and was a key architect of the development of the Austin Revitalization Authority – an organization that was charged with redeveloping the east 11th and 12th street corridors.

## 58. The Honorable Azie Taylor Morton



Azie Taylor Morton (1936-2003) was born in Dale, Texas, and graduated from Huston-Tillotson College. Her first job was teaching at a school for delinquent girls. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Morton as the 36th treasurer of the United States and the first (and still only) African American to hold the position. She served until January 1981. Her signature was printed on U.S. currency during her tenure, an honor she shares with four African American men. As a child, she worked in the cotton fields near Austin, but was an outstanding student who entered Huston-Tillotson University at age 16, graduating cum laude in 1956 with a degree in commercial education. She was also a staff member of the Texas AFL-CIO, a member of President John F. Kennedy's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, and member of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA). Because of her passion for helping low-income residents get a college education, the HACA created the Azie Taylor Morton Scholarship Fund in 2004 to provide scholarships for low-income students attending Huston-Tillotson.

## 59. Judge Harriet Murphy

Harriet Murphy was the first African American woman appointed to a regular judgeship in Texas in 1973. She was a judge for the City of Austin Municipal Court for 20 years and during that time she became the presiding judge. She is also the only African American woman to serve as a democratic presidential elector from the state of Texas. Among her numerous honors, Murphy was the inaugural recipient of the Thurgood Marshal Legal Society Award of the University of Texas School of Law. She received the NAACP DeWitty Award in recognition for civil rights advocacy. She was also inducted into the Spelman College Alumnae Hall of Fame



in 1993 and was recognized by the National Bar Association as the 2003 recipient of the Gertrude E. Rush Award. She received the Judge Raymond Pace Alexander Award from the Judicial Council of the NBA in recognition for outstanding contributions to judicial advocacy in 2005. In 2007, Murphy received the first Lifetime Achievement Award by Austin YWCA and a Community Leadership Award from the University of Texas. Murphy was inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2010. She has also served on many national and local boards, which include the Judicial Council of the NBA, the Executive Committee of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College, the City of Austin Energy Startup Commission, the Austin Urban League, Austin Habitat for Humanity, Global Austin, the Austin Black Lawyers Association and the Austin Chapter of the Links, Incorporated.

## 60. Ora Nobles



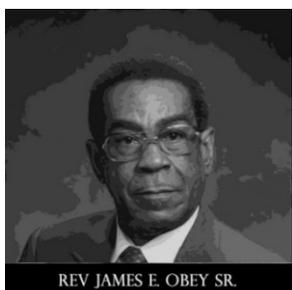
Ora Lee Nobles (1921-2004), along with her husband, Spencer Nobles Jr., ran a popular east Austin barbecue restaurant for 40 years. They campaigned to save their Blackshear neighborhood from the bulldozers of urban renewal and to redevelop it for low-income housing. They were born only a few miles apart, she in Austin and he in Webberville, in southeastern Travis County. Her father worked in a lumberyard, while his father was a sharecropper who later worked in maintenance at Huston-Tillotson College. Together, they attended Austin's segregated public schools. When they married in 1939, she owned an east Austin beauty shop, which she kept until 1996. During World War II, Spencer worked at a shipyard on the Texas coast and, later, in a munitions plant in north Austin. After the war, he joined a brother in the barbecue business, learning the craft until 1957, when he and his wife opened the Rosewood Barbecue Center on Rosewood Avenue. By 1990, the restaurant's menu was southern and soul, serving chicken, ribs and mutton, chitterlings, ham hocks and greens, peach cobbler, and sweet potato pie. Their customers included President Lyndon B. Johnson and rock star Tina Turner. Through the restaurant they became involved in community activism. In the early 1960s, their first location was torn down in a federal urban renewal project to revitalize east Austin. The project's bulldozers devastated other businesses along the street and the old homes of the nearby Blackshear neighborhood. In 1964, Nobles joined her neighbors in organizing the Blackshear Residents Organization, for which she served as president. The group organized families and drove to San Antonio to talk to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Group members attended hundreds of Austin City Council meetings and fought banks that were refusing loans to the area. Nobles later served as president of the Blackshear Neighborhood Development Corporation, which was rebuilding homes with federal grant money acquired with the City's help, and served as a board member of the Legal Aid Society of Central Texas, winning awards for her community work in east Austin.

### 61. Hazel Falke Obey



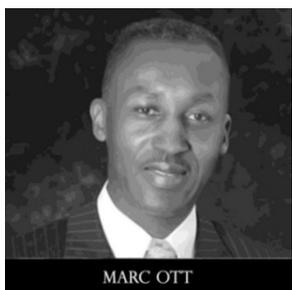
Hazel Falke Obey (1943-2005) was a civil rights and community activist. Obey was born in San Antonio and in 1961 married Rev. James Obey, two years before the couple came to Austin, where the minister became senior pastor at the David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. She was an 18-year member of the Democratic National Committee, vice chair of the Texas Democratic Party, life member of the NAACP, and a founding member of the Texas State Rainbow Coalition, a local branch of Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition. As an activist, she worked for the integration of the Austin Independent School District, helped start the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, and spoke out in concern about Austin Police use-of-force policies and apparent disparate treatment of minorities. Obey had a long career in local government, working for Texas State Representative Wilhelmina Delco, Governor Mark White, Attorney General Jim Mattox, and Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, among others.

### 62. Rev. James E. Obey Sr.



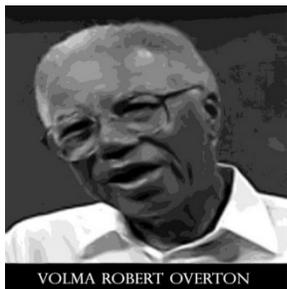
The Reverend James E. Obey Sr. (?-1992) was called as pastor in 1963 with the David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Under his guidance and leadership, the church accomplished a number of key improvements, including the air-conditioning of the entire church plant, construction of a new parsonage, and sponsorship of the Marshall apartments, a \$1.2 million rent supplement housing project. The church mortgage was burned in 1969. The church is very proud of this record of solvency brought about by Pastor Obey's keen foresight and leadership.

### 63. Marc Ott



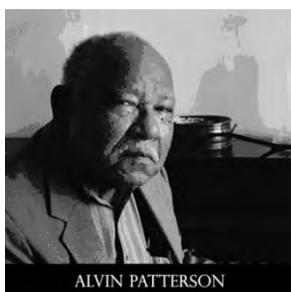
Marc Anthony Ott was hired as City Manager by the Austin City Council in 2008, and is the city's first African American in that position. He previously served as Assistant City Manager for Infrastructure Services for the City of Fort Worth. In his time as City Manager, Ott has advocated for transparency, civic dialogue, innovation, and fiscal sustainability, pursuing a goal to become the "Best Managed City in America." Under his leadership, the City has focused on the future of the Austin metropolitan region, developing a new comprehensive plan for the City and the investment of critical resources toward utility improvements, sustainability, transportation, and long-term infrastructure planning. Ott earned his bachelor's degree in management and master's degree in public administration from Michigan's Oakland University. He is also a graduate of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. He and his wife, Pamela, have two children, Carly and Gabriel.

#### 64. Volma Robert Overton



Volma Robert Overton (1924-2005) was born in Travis County and attended public schools in Maha before moving to Austin. Six months after graduating from Austin's Anderson High School, Overton joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served two years in the Pacific Theatre. He was honorably discharged, but continued to serve for 28 years as a U.S. army reservist, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. Overton attended Huston-Tillotson College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. Two years later, he began his career with the U.S. Post Office; in 1979 he was appointed Postmaster at Cedar Creek, Texas, serving until his retirement in 1985. While attending to his postal duties, Overton faced the central core issues of segregation and discrimination. Martin Luther King Jr. was making his speeches and marches during this time and Overton decided to participate. In 1963, Overton became president of the Austin chapter of the NAACP and also attended the March on Washington. Two years later, in 1965, he marched alongside King in the Selma-to-Montgomery March. During Overton's 20-year tenure as president of the Austin NAACP, he organized picketed marches on segregated businesses, integrated Bastrop State Park, organized a credit union to serve east Austin, led a campaign to institute single member districts for Austin City Council elections, and served on the newly created Commission on Human Rights, which developed from his efforts. Overton was an ardent advocate for quality education for all students. He was most vocal on the issues of ending discrimination and fought for desegregation in public schools, and became deeply involved in the landmark federal lawsuit to end segregation in Austin public schools. With victory in hand, Overton continued to champion the cause for the Austin Independent School District by lobbying for funding, quality teaching materials, and increased parental involvement. He mentored, tutored, and prepared young students for college, believing education was the key to freedom. Austin's Overton Elementary School is named in his honor.

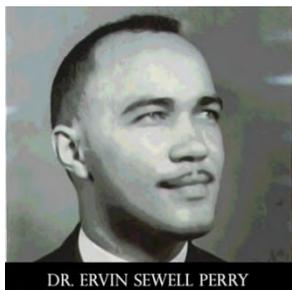
#### 65. Alvin Patterson



Alvin Patterson (1923-2007), an Austin native, was the second band director at L. C. Anderson High School, his alma mater. After attending the New England Conservatory of Music, Patterson returned to Anderson in 1955, replacing his mentor, legendary director B. L. Joyce. He led the band to seven state titles during his 16-year tenure, and also racked up a number of firsts. In 1959, the Yellow Jackets became the first black band to march at a Texas gubernatorial inauguration. They were also the first to play in the Austin Aqua Festival parade. After Anderson closed, Patterson moved to McCallum High School, where he worked as a counselor until 1984. He then served as assistant to the dean at St. Edward's University until his retirement in 2003. In addition, Patterson was a committed neighbor and chairman of the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association's Architectural Control Committee. According to a statement released by the Austin Independent School District, "Alvin Patterson was a great friend of the [AISD] and Austin students. He not only taught music, but also character and

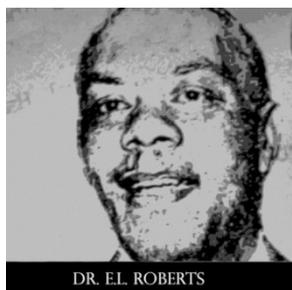
respect for others. He delighted when students performed well, in band as well as in other academic areas. The education received in his classroom and in his band hall was of value to all his students. Thousands of students benefited from his strong but gentle guidance and wisdom. His leadership will be missed.”

#### 66. Dr. Ervin Sewell Perry



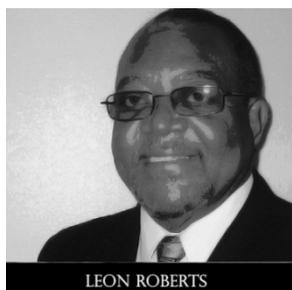
Dr. Ervin Sewell Perry (1935-1970) was an associate professor of civil engineering, the first African American to be appointed to the academic rank of professor at the University of Texas in Austin. He received his master's degree and PhD from UT, working in the areas of materials science and structural mechanics. Before his untimely death, Perry was a prominent figure in engineering. In 1970, he was awarded the National Society of Professional Engineers' first Young Engineer of the Year Award. He had been similarly honored at state and county levels by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

#### 67. Dr. E. L. Roberts



Dr. E. L. Roberts (?-1967), operator of Robert's Clinic, is a pioneer in hospitalization in Austin, being the first African American physician to make clean, comfortable, and sanitary hospital rooms available to his race. Roberts was a graduate of Wilberforce University and Meharry Medical College.

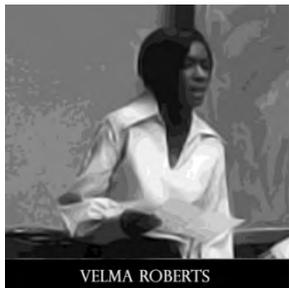
#### 68. Leon Roberts



Leon Roberts is a native of Savannah, Georgia, who moved to Austin in 1985 after a 15-year stint with the U.S. Air Force. Roberts started his 21-year-long career in Austin public schools as a hall monitor at Covington and Bailey middle schools. Roberts retired in 2005, and is an active member of Holy Cross Catholic Church, where he serves as a lector, a member of the board of the Office of Black Catholics, the men's choir, the Social Justice Ministry, the Fundraising Committee, the MLK Blood Drive Ministry, and the Welcoming Committee. Roberts is a member of the George Washington Carver Museum Ambassadors, for which he currently serves as parliamentarian. He assists in the distribution of groceries for the Healthy Options Program for the Elderly (HOPE), and for a number of years has delivered meals to the elderly for Meal on Wheels. Roberts has been active in Prince Hall Lodge activities, acting as a deputy for the 24th District and president of the Council of Past Master Masons; he also held the offices of high priest for the Royal Arch Masons, recorder for the Knights Templar, and

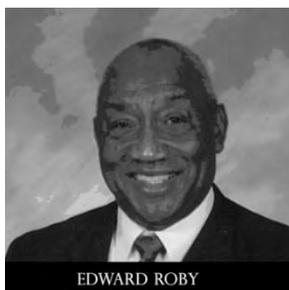
illustrious potentate for the Shriners. He is an active member of the local NAACP chapter. He and his wife, Patricia, endowed a \$25,000-scholarship at Texas A&M University for their deceased son, Kevin, who was a pilot and the first black drum major at A&M.

#### 69. **Velma Roberts**



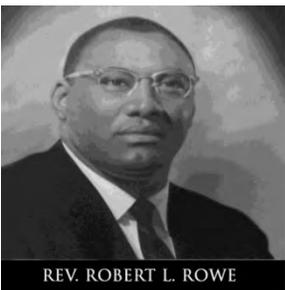
Velma Roberts (1930-2000) was one of east Austin's civil rights activists. She got involved in politics when she was named president of the local Welfare Rights Organization (WRO), where her major focus was the politics of poverty and the plight of women on AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). In 1981, Roberts received the Friends of VISTA Award for her efforts to eliminate poverty. In 1992, she was awarded the Arthur L. Green Civil and Human Rights Award. Roberts and Dorothy Turner founded and led the Black Citizen's Task Force, which maintained constant pressure on Austin's city government to heed the African American community. Austin's Turner-Roberts Recreation Center is named in their honor.

#### 70. **Edward Roby**



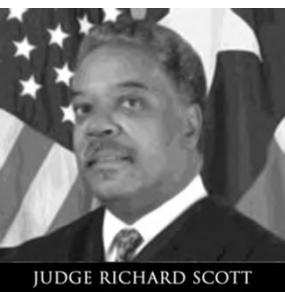
Edward L. Roby is a native of Austin. He is a 1960 graduate of Anderson High School, where he played football and was named all-district center. He received his bachelor's degree in physical education from Texas Southern University. He served two years in the U.S. Army, acting as youth athletic director and receiving the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star. He was also inducted into three athletic halls of fame: the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame, the Anderson High School Hall of Fame, and the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He retired in 2001 after 37 years in the Austin Independent School District (AISD). In AISD, he served as the first African American Assistant Athletic Director. For the past 23 years, Roby has been an active member of the Wesley United Methodist Church, where he has served in a number of positions. Among other activities, he is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, serves on the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coach Association (PVILCA) board of directors, and acts as the executive director of George Washington Carver Museum Ambassadors (GWCA). He also volunteers with Meals on Wheels, the Gents Club, the Historical Passion Society, and the Austin Access TV Channel School Health Advisory Committee. He has made a significant impact on the community, acting as an inspiration for youth through his coaching and teaching. He and his wife, Nettie Nelson Roby, have two daughters, DeSean and Antorri.

### 71. Rev. Robert L. Rowe



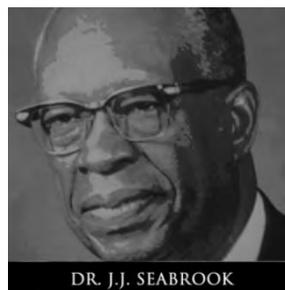
The Reverend Robert L. Rowe served as the able and dynamic pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church from 1949 to 1968. In 1952, he helped found the Ebenezer Child Development Center, the first of its kind in east Austin to be fully run and supported by a church. Around the same time he was instrumental in building the church's sanctuary and education complex, as well as a new parsonage.

### 72. Judge Richard Scott



Richard Scott, sworn into office in 1975, was the first African American elected judicial official for Precinct 1 in Travis County. He served nine consecutive terms as justice of the peace and served as chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association before retiring from the bench in 2010. Before his election, Scott practiced law and taught criminal law at Austin Community College. Throughout his career, he has been active in community service, including as an original sponsor of the Austin Area Urban League, a life member of the NAACP, a Leadership Austin mentor, and a liaison to the Austin Independent School District.

### 73. Dr. J. J. Seabrook



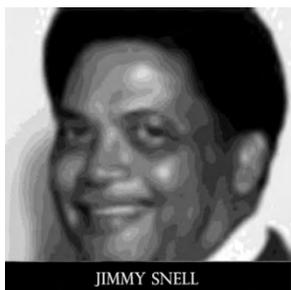
Dr. John Jarvis (affectionately known as J. J.) Seabrook (1900-1975) was well known as a pastor, educator, institution builder, and community leader. He served as the president of Huston-Tillotson College from 1955 to 1965, and in the 1970s, when 19th Street was renamed as Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Seabrook helped to bridge the divide between Austin's African American and white citizens. Many business owners opposed the new name. The cost of street signs and the reluctance to honor a black man were hurdles to overcome. Community divisions grew with a recommendation to use King's name only on the east side, where the population was primarily African American. Seabrook rejected the proposal to have two separate names for the street in his remarks to City Council in April 1972. Again at the May 1, 1975, City Council meeting, Seabrook reminded the Council that the street renaming had already been approved. At that meeting, Seabrook suffered a heart attack and collapsed at the podium; he died later that evening. Five days later, Mayor Roy Butler and the City Council unanimously adopted the original motion for renaming all of 19th Street after Martin Luther King Jr.

#### 74. Ada DeBlanc Simond



Educator and historian Ada DeBlanc Simond (1903-1989) chronicled life in east Austin in several books, including *Mae Dee and Her Family*, a series of six books about a small black community in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. She arrived in Austin with her family at the age of eleven. The oldest of six, she postponed her schooling for years to help raise her siblings and earn money. Yet she always tried to pursue her education. After raising her own children, she earned a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in home economics and child development. For over 25 years, she worked for the Texas Tuberculosis Association and the Texas State Department of Health. She also wrote about African American heritage in a column for the *American-Statesman* in the early 1980s.

#### 75. Jimmy Snell



Jimmy Snell (1927-1996) was a dedicated community leader and politician, successful businessman, and active proponent of east Austin revitalization from the 1950s through the 1990s. A graduate of Wiley College and an Air Force veteran, Snell moved to Austin in 1956 to manage the Austin office of Atlanta Life Insurance Company. He was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church and was actively involved as co-founder and board member of a number of social service organizations, most notably Child, Inc., Austin Child Guidance, and Austin Community Council. In 1974 he was selected to receive the Arthur DeWitty Award for distinguished public service. In 1975, he was elected to Austin City Council, Place 6. During his tenure as a councilman, Snell also served as mayor pro tem, the first African American in that position. He was instrumental in Austin's adoption of affirmative action hiring policies, in designating east 19<sup>th</sup> Street as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, in beginning the renovation of businesses along east 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and for strengthening the City's ethics code for elected officials and appointed boards and commissions. In 1981, Snell left the City Council and was elected to represent Precinct 1 on the Travis County Commissioners Court, the first African American to hold this office. After leaving the court in 1988, Snell continued to be an active community servant until his death. The Snell Building, located at 1050 east 11<sup>th</sup> Street, is named in his honor.

#### 76. Nelda Wells Spears

"After all, no one likes paying taxes or fees for vehicle registration and titles, so the least we can do is make sure our service is courteous and efficient." This was the motto of five-term Travis County tax collector Nelda Wells Spears. She was the first and only African American woman to hold this position. An Austin native, Spears graduated from Anderson High School. She received a bachelor's degree in English from Fisk University in Nashville and a master's degree in communication from Memphis State. Spears worked in Washington DC for U.S.



Senator Ralph Yarborough (1969-71) and in Austin for State Representative Wilhelmina Delco. Merging her education and experience in government, Spears served as director of personnel and EEO for Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts from 1975 to 1979, as personnel management Specialist for the Texas Department of Community Affairs, director of personnel and staff development for the Texas General Land Office, and chief deputy of the Travis County Tax Office. Following the resignation of the tax collector in 1991,

Spears was appointed to fill the unexpired term, and was re-elected five times, serving until 2012. In 1993, she was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Texas County and District Retirement System by Governor Ann Richards. One of the most telling achievements of Spear's administration is the high rate of registered voters in Travis County. Thanks in large part to the help of 1,509 volunteer deputy voter registrars, the voter registration rate far surpasses counties of similar size. In 2007, the office was recognized for best practice awards in customer service by the Texas Association of Counties and in technology innovation by Computer World. Spears has contributed to the community through volunteer work with the Austin Women's Center, the NAACP, her church, and the PTAs of her children's schools.

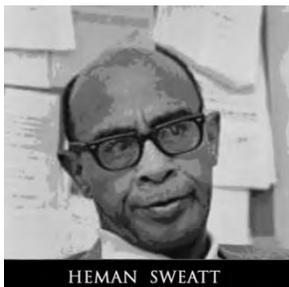
#### **77. Oliver B. Street Sr.**



During his lifetime, Oliver Bertram Street (1910-1988) was one of east Austin's most distinguished civic and business leaders. A builder and general construction contractor, he founded Oliver B. Street Construction Company in the late 1940s. At that time Street was one of few African American general contractors in Austin. Street was a graduate of east Austin's L. C. Anderson High School. He attended Samuel Huston College and Tuskegee Institute before returning to Austin to establish his construction company at 924 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The

lasting legacies of his four decades as a builder are the many residences, churches, Masonic lodges, funeral homes, and nursing homes he built throughout Austin. In 1957, Street was awarded the contract to build David Chapel Baptist Church. Street Construction Company and the St. John Regular Baptist Association, the financier for the project, made headlines for embarking on what was at the time the most significant construction project in Austin's history in which both the contractor and financier were African American firms. From this landmark contract, professional acclaim and business success for Street continued for the next 30 years. Street was a trustee and lifelong member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, and served as a Prince Hall mason and as a Shriner. Until his death, Street's civic activity included board service and membership in the Better Business Bureau, the National Business League, the Capital City Lions Club, the NAACP, the East Austin Chamber of Commerce, and numerous other community organizations. The Street-Jones building is named after him, along with Walter Jones. Street was married to Marylou Young and fathered one son, Oliver Jr.

## 78. Heman Sweatt



Heman Marion Sweatt (1912-1982), civil-rights plaintiff, was born in Houston, the fourth of six children of James Leonard and Ella Rose (Perry) Sweatt. Like other black Houstonians, Sweatt attended racially segregated schools. He graduated from Jack Yates High School in 1930 and subsequently attended Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where he earned an undergraduate degree in 1934. After returning to Houston, Sweatt pursued several occupations before teaching at a grade school in Cleburne and serving as the school's acting principal for a year. He attended the University of Michigan for two semesters, but left school in 1938, returning to Houston to work as a substitute mailman. In 1940 he married his high school sweetheart, Constantine Mitchell, and bought a house. He later applied to the University of Texas School of Law, but was denied admission because state law required segregation by race. The Court of Civil Appeals would later write that "he possessed every essential qualification for admission, except that of race, upon which ground alone his application was denied." Sweatt filed a lawsuit in Travis County against UT president T. S. Painter. Judge Roy C. Archer of the 126th District Court, recognizing that the State had no "separate but equal" facility for a law school, gave the State of Texas six months to "establish a law school for Negroes substantially equivalent" to the UT School of Law, and officials at UT complied. Archer concluded that the new school offered the petitioner "privileges, advantages, and opportunities for the study of law substantially equivalent at the University of Texas." Sweatt's legal team appealed the decision, and ultimately, in 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court disagreed with the lower court. While not yet denouncing "separate but equal" as the constitutional policy of the United States, the Court wisely saw beyond the bricks and books that make a school and concluded that separate professional schools were inherently unequal. Sweatt v. Painter laid the groundwork for the Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. In *Brown*, the Court finally concluded that, although the physical facilities may be equal, segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race deprives the children of equal education opportunities. In 1950, Sweatt was admitted to the School of Law, becoming the first African American student at UT.

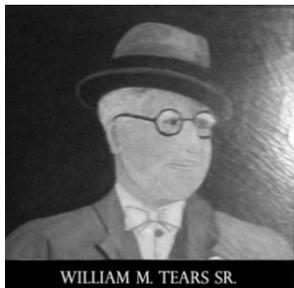
## 79. Lt. General John Q. Taylor King Sr.



John Quill Taylor King Sr. (1921-2011) was born in Memphis, Tennessee, to John Quill Taylor and Alice Clinton Woodson Taylor. The family moved to Austin in 1933 and opened the King Funeral Home. King entered World War II as a private, served as a captain in the Pacific theater of operations, and retired from the U.S. Army as a major general in 1983. During his time in the army, King served in Alaska, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Germany, Hawaii, and at many other U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force installations. He completed courses at several senior service schools, including the Command and General Staff College, the Air War College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and the Army War College. He received

many military awards and decorations. Former Texas governor Mark White promoted him to the rank of lieutenant general in the Texas State Guard in 1985.

#### 80. William M. Tears Sr.



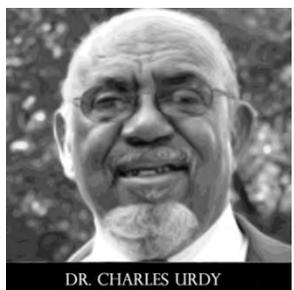
William M. Tears Sr. (1865-1923) was born in San Antonio. He was the founder of the Tears Funeral Home, which is believed to be the first African American-owned funeral business in Texas. Tears Funeral Home opened in 1901 at 614 east 6<sup>th</sup> Street to provide mortuary services for African Americans in Austin and the surrounding areas. Prior to opening this, Tears had worked as a mortician for the Thurlow B. Weed Funeral Home. Upon his death, his son William Jr. became manager of the firm.

#### 81. Dorothy Turner



Dorothy Turner (1935-2005) a longtime civil-rights activist, was a fierce advocate for east Austin and the black community. As a young woman, Turner rode the bus from east Austin to west Austin to clean white families' homes. Her political education came on the back of the bus while talking to other maids. Years later, she created *Grassroots Struggle*, a newspaper that told the story of the help—the politically marginalized. The mission of *Grassroots Struggle* was similar to that of the *Observer*—to boldly tell stories that weren't being reported elsewhere—and throughout the 1980s, *Grassroots Struggle* printed stories about black people and east Austin. Turner helped pressure the city to hire minority executives and to build the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. She was instrumental in the hiring of the City's first female assistant city manager and the City's first African American personnel director. "Mrs. T," as she was called, co-founded, with Velma Roberts, the Black Citizens Task Force. This organization fought as many issues as it could where blacks were unfairly treated. The Black Citizens Task Force spoke many times before the AISD Board of Trustees and the Austin City Council. Austin's Turner-Roberts Recreation Center, which opened in 2008, is named in her honor.

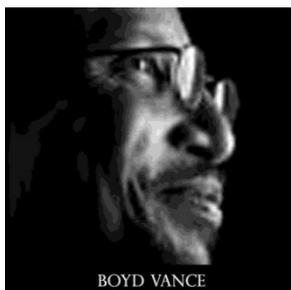
#### 82. Dr. Charles Urdy



Dr. Charles E. Urdy (b. 1933) was born in Georgetown, Texas. He spent the first eleven years of his life in Jonah, where his family worked as sharecroppers. Following World War II his family moved to Austin, where he attended L. C. Anderson High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Huston-Tillotson College, where he was active in early efforts for racial equality and integration. After graduating, he served in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps, and was stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama. He went on to graduate school

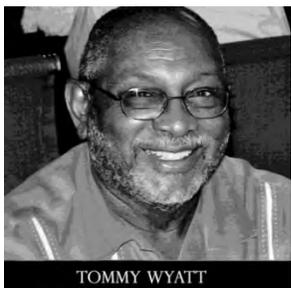
at the University of Texas, where he continued his activism in the Civil Rights Movement, and earned a PhD in physical analytical chemistry in 1962. He taught at Prairie View A&M, North Carolina College, and Huston-Tillotson College. For an unprecedented five terms--from 1981 to 1994--Urdy held the Place 6 seat on the Austin City Council. Since retiring from the council and from Huston-Tillotson, Urdy has worked at the Lower Colorado River Authority, serving as manager of the Environmental Science and Technology Division. He has also continued his community leadership role as chairman of the non-profit Austin Revitalization Authority, funded by the City to revitalize east Austin.

### 83. Boyd Vance



Actor, singer, community advocate, and arts revolutionary Boyd Vance (1957-2005) was particularly known for supporting African American performing arts in Austin. He founded ProArts Collective in 1993 to serve as a structure and promoter for minority theatre, and then expanded his mission to support and assist countless artists, art organizations, and community groups based in Central Texas and beyond. Vance starred in more than 40 Austin shows, including "Cabaret" and "Bubbling Brown Sugar," and in the comedy troupe Esther's Follies. He also appeared in nearly 500 performances as the flamboyant hairdresser in Zachary Scott Theatre's "Shear Madness." In 2006 the new theater at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center was named in his honor.

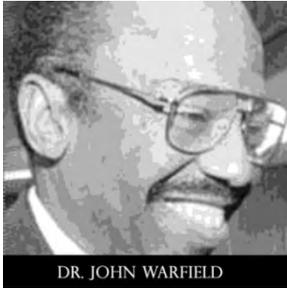
### 84. Tommy Wyatt



Tommy Wyatt is the founder, owner, and publisher of the African American newspaper the *Villager* and the Black Registry Publishing Company, which he founded in 1973. The *Villager*, a free community service weekly, is distributed each Friday to the University of Texas, Huston-Tillotson University, libraries, major supermarkets, churches, dining establishments, beauty shops, barber shops, pharmacies, and newsstands in Austin and surrounding areas. The *Villager* records the history of Austin's African American community, including school news, wedding announcements, and editorials. Wyatt is also credited as being one of the founders of the Capital City Chamber of Commerce, later named the Capital City African American Chamber of Commerce.

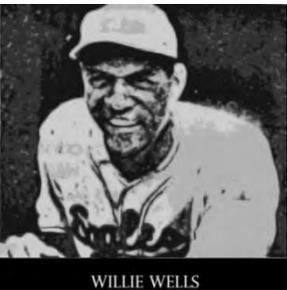
### 85. Dr. John Warfield

Dr. John Warfield (1936-2007) was a faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin for 26 years. Coming to the school in 1973, he combined the centers for Afro-American Studies and African and African American Research into one center, and became its first director, a position he held until 1986. Warfield played a critical role in recruiting and establishing the center's first faculty, establishing the



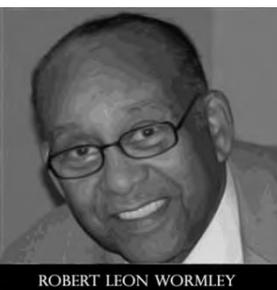
African and African American studies major, creating its curriculum, and aiding its research. Warfield also worked to connect the University's resources with communities outside the campus. He was the founder of Community Radio, Inc., which runs KAZI-FM, Austin's community-based radio station. He was an activist scholar publishing in the area of race and sports at a time when this area of interest was in its infancy. In spring 2000, the Center for African and African American Studies established the John L. Warfield Undergraduate Research Scholarship to encourage undergraduate students to conduct research in Africa and the African diaspora.

### 86. Willie Wells



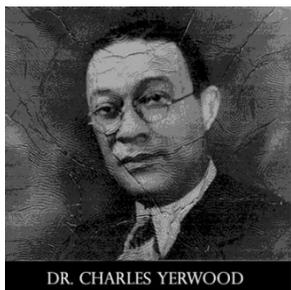
Willie (Devil) Wells (1905-1989), a baseball player in the Negro Leagues, was once called "the greatest living player not in the national baseball Hall of Fame," though he was elected to the hall posthumously in 1997. He was an American shortstop who played from 1924 to 1948 for various teams in the Negro Leagues. Wells was born in Austin. A star in both baseball and football in high school, Wells first played professional baseball in 1923, playing one season for the Austin Black Senators of the Texas Negro League, a minor league for the Negro National League. Wells was a superb all-around player. He was a fast base runner who hit for both power and average. But Wells was at his finest with his glove, committing almost no errors and having the speed to run down anything that came in his direction. He is widely considered the best black shortstop of his day. He taught Jackie Robinson the art of the double play. He was also notable as being the first player to use a batting helmet after being hit and suffering a concussion while playing with the Newark Eagles.

### 87. Robert Leon Wormley



Robert "Bob" Leon Wormley (1927-2010) was well-known businessman in Austin. After moving to Texas in 1954, Robert started his own real estate and insurance agency, which would later be known as Wormley Mitchell and Associates. His work would soon lead him to grow more involved in politics, not only on a local and state level, but a national level as well. He worked tirelessly to register voters. He organized ride service for the elderly to vote on Election Day. Robert became the first African American member of the Society of Certified Insurance Collectors, the first African American member of the Austin Association of Independent Insurance Agents, and a charter member of the Austin NAACP. Robert was also an active member of the Rotary Club, served as a scout master for the Boy Scouts of America, and served on the board of directors of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.

**88. Dr. Charles Yerwood**



Dr. Charles Yerwood (1885-1940), a native Austin resident and a Meharry Medical College graduate, was a prominent African American physician in Austin. He maintained a rural practice in Gonzales County.

**89. Dr. Connie Yerwood**



In 1937, Dr. Connie Yerwood (1908-1991) became the first African American doctor to work for Texas Public Health Services. She specialized in preventative medicine and worked hard as she traveled thousands of miles to rural communities, opening clinics for pregnant women and children. She also helped train midwives at a time when most Texas babies of all races were born at home. Over the years, Yerwood was repeatedly passed over for promotions. After the Civil Rights Act of 1964, she was finally promoted to be the first African American director of Maternal and Child Services in Texas, and later the first African American chief of the Bureau of Personal Health Services. Yerwood also found time to serve as trustee of Samuel Huston College, as the national president of the National Alumni Association of Samuel Huston College, and as an officer in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and took part in various other community activities.

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*The African American Resource Advisory Commission subcommittee was unable to locate high-quality images for the following 11 people in time for production. Therefore, they are not included in the mural.*

**90. Dr. E. W. Abner / Dr. John McKinley / Dr. Quinton B. Neale**

Proprietors of the first medical office in Austin to serve African Americans.

**91. Charles Clark**

Founder, in 1871, of the town of Clarksville, one of four communities for emancipated blacks in post-Civil War Austin. In 1977 the neighborhood became the first African American community in Texas to be recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.

**92. Onie B. Conley**



Onie B. Conley (1914–2003) was an educator and community advocate. "For decades, her cause was education for the young," said U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett. "For decades more, her cause was dignity for the old. In all her years, her dedicated, outspoken advocacy has been an inspiration to me and so many." Conley's volunteer efforts centered on community development and senior citizens issues. Conley advocated for the construction of two senior citizen centers in Austin, one of which is named in her honor. The Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center (named also for Mr. Roy G. Guerrero) opened in 1988 and was the first such center in east Austin. In 1995, she was selected as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. She also represented Austin on the Quality of Care for the Aging Committee, which focused on resources for elderly people. Conley was persistent in the development of east Austin. She served on the board of the George Washington Carver Museum and helped get the City to paint curbs, clean up vacant lots, and pave streets, said friend Linda Moore Smith, who called Conley an "adopted member" of her family. Conley was born and raised in Austin and was valedictorian of her high school. She graduated from Samuel Huston College, where she played basketball, tennis, and softball.

**93. Algerine Craig**



Algerine Graig was a librarian. The I. A. Craig Educational Center of east Austin was named in her honor.

**94. Rev. Ermant M. Franklin Sr.**



The Reverend Ermant Franklin Sr. (1910-1992), known as the "Big Hearted Preacher" because of his deep passion to always help someone in need, was the esteemed pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church for 39 years. His early life was spent in Pilot Knob, in rural Travis County. At an early age he knew his calling, when he always chose to be the preacher during playtime. Franklin became a preacher in 1939 while a lead singer with the renowned Paramount Gospel Singers. He studied under Rev. I. N. White and Dr. P. O. Oldham, and received a bachelor's degree from the Institutional Baptist Theological Seminary in Houston. His first call to pastor was at the St. Edwards Baptist Church in the Montopolis area of Austin, and after serving at a few other churches in the area, he was hired as pastor at St. James. He was appointed vice moderator of St. John Landmark Baptist Association and was also affiliated with the St. John Regular Baptist Association. His service extended to both the state and national conventions. After his death, a committee of the church organized to have Redwood Street, in front of St. James, changed to Rev. E. M. Franklin Avenue. Additionally, Franklin

Gardens, the affordable housing complex for seniors located across the street from the church, was built and named in his honor in 2011.

**95. George Johns**

George Johns was the owner and manager of the Harlem Theater, Austin's only exclusively black theater. Johns built the theater in 1935 and managed it through the 1940s.

**96. Jimmie and Georgia Owens**

Jimmie and George Owens were the owners of the Southern Dinette on east 11th Street. The restaurant was a staple of the east side from 1947 to 1988. The building was destroyed by fire in 1990.

**97. Della Phillips**



Della Phillips (b. 1908) was the owner of Phillips Funeral Home (later Phillips and Upshaw) with her husband Eugene Phillips. She was a teacher at St. Johns Elementary School (formerly Fiskville) for 30 years and later retired from Sims Elementary. Phillips received a bachelor's degree and a teaching certificate from Samuel Huston College.

**98. Eleanor Faye Sims**



Eleanor Faye Sims (1909 -1979), dedicated her life to the improvement of healthcare for the people of Austin. From 1934 to 1943, she served as a school nurse for the Austin Independent School District. She then worked for the Travis County Health Department as one of its first African American nurses, retiring in 1975. She worked hard to make people aware of the health needs of minority communities and was highly respected for her work. Sims graduated from Flint-Goodrich Nursing School in New Orleans and is responsible for the founding of the R. W. Well Child Clinic.

**99. Myrtle Washington**

Myrtle Washington was known as the "Rosa Parks of Austin."

**100. James Wheat**

James Wheat was a freed slave from Arkansas who founded the town of Wheatville in 1867. The boundaries of Austin's first black community corresponded to present 24th Street to the south, 26th Street to the north, Shoal Creek to the west, and Rio Grande Street to the east.

## Photographic Sources

### Austin American-Statesman

Andrea Pair Byrant; Rev. Jacob Fontaine; Bernice Hart; Ora Houston; Bertha Means; Ora Nobles; Alvin Patterson; Dorothy Turner; Boyd Vance; Dr. John Warfield, Robert Leon Wormley

### Austin History Center

Dr. Charles Akins; Elmer Akins; Dr. June Brewer; Arthur DeWitty; Virgie DeWitty; Dr. Everett Givens; O.C. Houston; Thomas Wesley Kincheon; Dr. E.L. Roberts; Willie Wells; Dr. Connie Yerwood

### Austin Chronicle

Martin Banks; Judge Sam Biscoe; Lavada Durst; Larry Jackson; Dr. J.J. Seabrook; Nelda Wells Spears

### Houston Chronicle

John Chase; Heman Sweatt

### The University of Texas at Austin

Ada Anderson; Dr. Charles Urdy; Dr. Ervin Sewell Perry

### Other

Dr. Charles Yerwood (Texas Historical Commission); Doris Miller (Texas Archive of the Moving Image); Myra A. McDaniel (Texas State Cemetery); Judge Wilford Flowers (Lamar University); Marcellus Jack "Andy" Anderson (Weed-Croley-Fish Funeral Home); Earl Campbell (AP); E.H. Carrington (Oxford African American Studies Center); Rev. Dr. G.V. Clark (AFRAM News); W.C. Clark ([www.wcclark.com](http://www.wcclark.com)); Don T. Hayes ([www.donhayes.net](http://www.donhayes.net)); Rev. Marvin C. Griffin (University of North Texas); The Honorable Ron Kirk (Wikipedia); Volma Robert Overton (Texas Humanities); Velma Roberts (Texas Observer); Rev. Robert L. Rowe (Ebenezer Baptist Church); William M. Tears (King-Tears Mortuary); Judge Richard Scott (Travis County Democratic Party); Dr. Herman Aladdin Barnett (University of Houston); James Means (King-Tears Mortuary); Laurine Cecil (L.C.) Anderson (Afro Texan); Lee Lewis Campbell (Afro Texan); Don Baylor ([www.gothamist.com](http://www.gothamist.com)); The Honorable Azie Taylor Morton (Black Post); B. L. Joyce (B.L. Joyce Parade); Michael McDonald (City of Austin); Marc Ott (City of Austin); Ernest Mae Miller ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)); Eric Mitchell ([www.obits.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.obits.dignitymemorial.com)); Algerine Craig (Mt. Zion Church); Onie B. Conley (Conley-Guerrero Rec Center); Dr. Beadie Connor and Hazel Falke Obey.

### Relatives/Self Provided

Edward Adams; Larry Britton Sr.; Selena Cash; Sheryl Cole; Denise Davis; Cpt. Willie Ray Davis; Rev. S.L. Davis; Rev. Ermant M. Franklin Sr.; Hobart Gaines; Berl Handcox; Johnny Holmes; Louis Anthony Hudspeth Sr.; W.G. Hunt; Deacon Walter Jones; Karen Kennard; Willie Mae Kirk; Lt. John Quill Taylor King Sr.; Dr. Norman Mason, Dr. O. Wayne McElveen; Judge Harriet Murphy; Rev. James E. Obey Sr.; Della Phillips; Leon Roberts; Edward Roby; Ada DeBlanc Simond; Jimmy Snell; Eleanor Faye Sims; Oliver B. Street Sr.; Tommy Wyatt