

# OCR

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 (1941-2020), Cincinnati  
 • Bishop Robert Culp, Toledo  
 • Dr. Cleaster Whitehurst-Mims, Cincinnati  
 • James Hardiman, Cleveland  
 • Johnny Wu, Cleveland  
 • Robert “Chip” C. Harrod, Cincinnati  
 • Raymond Fitz, S.M., Dayton  
 • Dwight Tillery, Cincinnati  
 • U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, Dayton  
 • Sarah and Peter Fossett (1826-1906), Cincinnati  
 The Cincinnati Inductees are:

**Susan Upton Farley** (December 29, 1941-April 23, 2020) Susan Upton Farley was a distinguished alumna at her beloved alma mater Princeton high school. She was in the first graduations class of 1959. Former mayor Farley went on to become the first African American Woman Mayor of the Village of Woodlawn and was the first African American woman to run for Mayor within Hamilton County, Ohio. She served as Mayor from 1992-2004, and then from 2012-2019. Highlights of her role as Mayor include visiting South Africa with the National Conference of Mayors, Inc., and organizing the Mayor’s Walk for the Diabetes Association. She was a member of the World Conference of Mayors and the National Conference of Black Mayors, where she served as the Vice President of the Black Female Mayors

branch, the President of Plenary Committee, and the Director of the Youth Committee. Former mayor Farley received honors from Hamilton County, and The Barack Obama Foundation. She was honored by the Urban League of southwest Ohio and was named an Urban League Lion. In addition, she was honored as an influential person in the Who’s Who In Black-Cincinnati.

**Cleaster Whitehurst-Mims** is an extraordinary and innovative educator, political activist, motivational speaker, pioneer, philanthropist, and author. She is the daughter of Theodore and Bessie Whitehurst, the widow of Julius Mims, and the mother of Kenneth Mims. She grew up on a sharecropper farm during the Great Depression and the Jim Crow era in Enterprise, AL. She was the first African American woman to earn an undergraduate degree from Xavier University in 1971. She also received her master’s degree and an Honorary Doctorate for serving the nation. Dr. Whitehurst-Mims was not only an educator for 60 years but also the creator of the first Marva Collins preparatory school in the country, and later The Cleaster Mims International Boarding School. This school gave less advantaged and primarily African American children a level playing field by offering materials, resources, and knowledge. She and a few pioneering teachers gathered used furniture and books and launched one of the best

private schools in the basement of a church with twenty-six students. Dr. Mims and her staff built an institution into a multimillion-dollar operation and lifted many students into successful achievers and scholars.

**Robert C. “Chip” Harrod** has devoted a half-century to the causes of human relations and civil rights. He is the founding President of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. He provided leadership in bringing about the successful repeal of Article XII, Cincinnati’s anti-gay City charter amendment. Under his leadership in 1993, the National Conference of Christians and Jews was awarded the contract by Major League Baseball to conduct diversity training for the Cincinnati Reds organization, which is the first franchise of any professional sport to undergo such education. Harrod currently serves as the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Commission in the City of Montgomery, Ohio, as well as Executive Director of EquaSion,

a group that counters religious-based discrimination. Chip Harrod has received many awards: At the 19th Olympic Winter Games, Mr. Harrod was an Olympic civilian torchbearer; he received a Key to the City of Tulsa, OK; the Diversity Award from Cincinnati League of United Latin American Citizens and the MLK Legacy Award, from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Attorney **Dwight Tillery** is Founder and President emeritus of the Center for Closing the Health Gap of greater Cincinnati, Ohio which ensures equal access and awareness of resources to reduce health disparities by race. This Center has done so successfully and improved the quality of life for thousands of Cincinnatians. Mr. Tillery is the former and first popularly elected Black Mayor of Cincinnati. His leadership transformed the lives of Black residents in the City of Cincinnati in the areas of racial justice, education, civics, community health and politics, and he

continues to be a social justice activist working towards equity for African Americans.

**Sarah** (1826-1906) and **Peter Fossett** (1815-1901) were active in Cincinnati in the late 1800’s. It is estimated that the couple assisted hundreds of enslaved Black people in escaping to freedom. Along with their bold Underground Railroad activity, the Fossetts were known locally and nationally as outspoken proponents of the abolitionist movement.

Peter Fossett lobbied for prison reform and sat on the school system’s segregated board of directors. Sarah Mayrant Walker Fossett filed and won a lawsuit that resulted in the desegregation of streetcars in Cincinnati for African American women. She was the manager of the Colored Orphans Asylum in Cincinnati, for which the couple provided financial support. The Fossetts also were co-founders of the First Baptist Church in Cumminsville, Ohio.

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC),

along with long-time supporting sponsors Wright State University, Honda and PNC, will host the fifteenth annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame induction ceremony. The program will consist of a formal ceremony that will honor men and women who have made significant contributions to the progress of Civil Rights and equal justice in the State of Ohio. Stacia Naquin, News Anchor for ABC 6 and Fox 28 News Columbus, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for this year’s event. Representative Josh Williams will provide the keynote address; performers during the ceremony are James Blackmon and Samara Baptist-McMullen.

The event is free and all members of the public are invited to attend the induction ceremony and the reception that will be held in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda immediately following the ceremony.

In order to track attendance and offer proper seating, the Civil Rights Hall of Fame is requiring all guests to RSVP.

# CAROLE

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 member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. She holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Michigan, completed the Certificate Investment Management Analyst Program at Wharton School Aresty Institute of Executive Education, and completed the Investment Management Workshop at Harvard Business School.

She is Global Board Chair of 100 Women in Finance, a professional network that empowers women in finance to achieve professional success. With more than 30,000 members in 32 locations, the

organization’s goal is for women to occupy 30% of senior investment roles and committee executive positions by 2040.

Prior to this recent appointment, Crawford founded 100WFintech Global Visibility Initiative, to elevate women in fintech roles. She also founded fincap360, a global family office consulting practice focused on venture and niche investments, after a senior investment role at Morgan Stanley.

Carole established her career at Morgan Stanley before founding fincap360, a boutique global family-office consulting and CFO practice, focused on venture and niche investments.

She is actively involved in the global

Fintech ecosystem. She founded the 100WFintech Global Visibility Initiative and CFA Society New York’s Fintech Thought Leadership group. In 2020, she was recognized by NYC Fintech Women as an Inspiring Fintech Female Leader. She received CFA Society New York’s Volunteer Leader of the Year award.

At 100 Women in Finance, Carole founded the 100WFintech Initiative to elevate the public profile of female fintech leaders, enable stronger connection to the fintech ecosystem and inspire the next generation of female fintech talent. As a leading global forum for fintech, 100WFintech provides

all members with access to exclusive content to stay abreast of innovation and the changing landscape of the global finance industry.

Crawford said she is proud to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors of 100WF, “a welcoming professional community that embraces members of all backgrounds.” She added she is passionate about 100WF’s 30/40 Vision, with the goal for women to occupy 30% of senior investment roles and executive committee positions by 2040. She sees 100WF’s action-oriented network, dedicated to empowering each other and promoting a more diverse industry, as a platform for women to thrive.

# GALA

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 • Christopher Che, president and CEO, The Che International Group  
 • John Hawkins, CEO, MPI Consulting  
 • Crystal Kendrick, president and CEO, The Voice of Your Customer  
 Emerging Leader Award: Kai Lewars, principal/founder, Kaiker Development & Construction  
 Chairman’s Award: Marty Dunn, partner, Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP  
 Leaving a Legacy Award: Melvin Gravely, chairman,

Triversity Construction Company LLC, and Robie Suggs, president and CEO, Warsaw Federal Credit Union  
 Corporate Impact Excellence Award: Damon Jones, chief communications officer, Procter & Gamble; Nathaniel Lampley Jr., managing partner, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease; and Stephanie Smith, senior vice president and chief inclusion officer, Fifth Third Bank

For more information about the gala, sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales, visit [www.aaccgala.com](http://www.aaccgala.com).

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