



**SPONSORSHIP  
PROPOSAL  
FOR  
BLACK TIE  
2025  
FUNDRAISER**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

As a successful business in our community that plays a major role in the viability and vitality of our economy here, as you search for ways to reach a broader customer base, increase and attract new customers and maintain a reputation of giving back to community, we invite you to partner with the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County (AAHS).

Partnering with AAHS, gives you an opportunity to increase your business exposure within the community, as well as demonstrate your support to an important preservation effort in Franklin: preservation of African American History and the McLemore House Museum, the oldest and only remaining residence built by an ex-slave, Harvey McLemore and the Merrill-Williams House, property also owned by ex-slave Moses Merrill. These opportunities strengthen your roots in the community, as your sponsorship helps to support AAHS's mission and our preservation projects.

The sponsorships that we offer may be tailored to fit your marketing goals and budget. Join us as we work together as a community to make sure valuable and important history and cultural diversity remain a part of our great quality of life that we so enjoy here!



Pictured: AAHS Founders, Thelma Battle, Rick Warwick, Mary Mills, Mary Pearce and AAHS President, Alma McLemore

*As a nonprofit leader and a board member of the Williamson County Convention and Visitor Bureau, I applaud the African American Heritage Society for the work they are doing to improve our community and contribute to our quality of life in Williamson County. I have appreciated being able to support their efforts for years through the Black Tie Affair. It is an event that celebrates generations of leaders in our community.*

Steve Smith  
Foundation Director, Williamson Medical Center

*The African American Heritage Society is an important component in furthering the story of Franklin and I am proud to play a small part in its vital role of saving what matters. To mend, tend and blend historical significance and community participation is what must be done to continue the inheritance of our community.*

Emily Magid

*As the business owner of MoeBetter BBQ & Fish I'm so grateful to help support AAHS through fundraisers and other events. AAHS is a very important organization in helping to rebuild and redevelop the community in which I grew up in.*

Thanks AAHS  
Maurice Pope



# About



The African American Heritage Society of Williamson County is an organization founded in 1992 by a small group of concerned citizens to preserve and protect African American history and heritage in Williamson County. The group was made up of local citizens, both black and white and with the teamwork efforts of this group and many others from the local community, the McLemore House Museum was purchased and is the current headquarters of the African American Heritage Society. The museum is on the National Registry of Historical Places and is visited on a regular basis by various groups and individuals. AAHS has completed the \$120,000 renovation project of the 140 year old museum that began in March 2021. AAHS also recently purchased the historic Merrill-Williams home at 264 Natchez St. to preserve and renovate as a heritage center for the community. Our annual "Black Tie Affair" helps to raise funds to support the McLemore House Museum and the Merrill-Williams House and generally has up to 700 attendees. Our mission is to chronicle the lives and contributions that African Americans have made in Williamson County as well as collect, preserve and interpret artifacts pertaining to African American History in our community. We provide educational opportunities and community awareness by hosting events and supporting efforts that relate to our mission. We are a 501©3 non-profit organization.





## Other Sponsorship Opportunities

### \* In-Kind Opportunities

Many of our sponsors are able to provide us with great products and services in exchange for sponsorship recognition! If you are interested in adding in-kind value to your cash sponsorship or providing a full in-kind sponsorship, please contact our email address at [info@aahswc.org](mailto:info@aahswc.org).

### \* Other Ideas

Are you interested in providing support to AAHS with something that is not mentioned in this proposal? Do you have a unique idea of how you can partner your business with AAHS? Sponsorship proposals can be customized to meet your business needs by contacting:

Alma McLemore, Sponsorship Coordinator  
615-305-0904



*"The African American Heritage society is part of the fabric that makes Franklin an All American City. I was so honored to be a part of the Fuller Story initiative. The initiative includes four markers placed on Franklin's historic square sharing the African American experience before, during and after the Civil War. The Fuller Story Initiative was one of the main reason's Franklin was designated an All American City by the National Civic League. In 2021, a bronze statue of a US Colored Troop Soldier was placed on the square in front of the historic court house, facing the confederate monument in downtown Franklin. The community, including local pastors, historians and the African American Heritage Society worked together to bring this project to fruition. While many other cities across the South have clashed with the community regarding civil war monuments, this partnership, between local government and community leaders, to tell the Fuller Story, made national news and set an example of a different way communities can deal with their past. Our local government and community partners, people of all races and backgrounds, came together to change how Franklin's story is told to visitors and future generations."*

Dr. Ken Moore, Mayor of Franklin

*"The African American Heritage Society has been an ever evolving force in our community, focusing on community outreach, racial relations, understanding our shared Civil War and Civil Rights history, workforce housing and community development, education and scholarships to promote future leaders."*

-Pam Lewis - Owner PLA Media,  
City of Franklin Housing  
Commission,  
Civil War Historic Commission,  
former Vice-Mayor, Alderwoman  
and Planning Commissioner.

*"African American history and the McLemore House Museum and the Merrill-Williams House are very significant in the rich history here that attracts thousands of people annually from all over the country. It is indeed a part of the story and it is through you, our community and our supporters that the story continues, as well as our mission and vision, for present and future generations."*

Alma McLemore, President  
AAHS

*"As a descendant of Harvey McLemore, Williamson County native and educator here, it is important that our community continue to share the story of my great-great-great grandfather and how he, as an ex-slave, became a free man and lived and survived in a world where life was difficult as an African American; he worked and built his own home, the McLemore House Museum, which is directly across from where I serve as principal today, of what was once an all-colored school, Johnson Elementary. "*

Tosha Robinson Baugh  
Harvey McLemore descendent  
Principal, Johnson Elementary School



### AAHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alma McLemore, President  
Pamela V. Bright, Board Chair  
Wanda Onadeko, Treasurer  
Mary Pearce, Secretary

Julian Bibb  
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### ADVISORY BOARD :

Tosha Robinson-Baugh Rachael Finch Dr. Carroll Van West  
Dr. Learotha Williams

### BOARD EMERITUS:

Thelma Battle, Historian Rick Warwick, Historian

# Sponsorship Form

Please complete the following form to confirm your chosen sponsorship level. They may be returned to African American Heritage Society, C/O Alma McLemore, Sponsorship Coordinator. Please feel free to contact Alma McLemore at 615-305-0904 or email amclemore51@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name (as you wish to be acknowledged)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- \_\_\_ \$25,000.00 Level 1 Presenting Sponsor
- \_\_\_ \$15,000.00 Level 2 Platinum Sponsor
- \_\_\_ \$10,000.00 Level 3 Diamond Sponsor
- \_\_\_ \$ 5,000.00 Level 4 Gold Sponsor

- \_\_\_ \$ 2,500.00 Level 5 Silver Sponsor
- \_\_\_ \$ 1,000.00 Level 6 Bronze Sponsor
- \_\_\_ \$ 500.00 Level 7 Patron Sponsor
- \_\_\_ \$ 250.00 Level 8 Supporting



## PAYMENT INFORMATION:

\_\_\_ Please send me an invoice

\_\_\_ I have enclosed a check made payable to African American Heritage Society

**Thank you for supporting AAHS!**

Please send your invoice or check along with your high-resolution color logo to African American Heritage Society, P. O. Box 1053, Franklin, TN 37065

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Sponsorship Commitment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Sponsor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Sponsorship Fact Sheet

**WHO:** The African American Heritage Society  
2025 Black Tie Affair Fundraiser

**WHEN:** February 1, 2025

**WHERE:** Embassy Suites, Franklin, TN

**WHAT:** The African American Heritage Society, “Black Tie Affair” is an event that has been in existence since 2002, kicking off the opening of the McLemore House Museum and the beginning of many years of a very special night in which hundreds of supporters of the organization come out for a great time and to help further the mission of the society. Awards are given that night to African Americans and others who have made significant contributions to African American History and culture and which generally has over 700 guests in attendance. African American History is truly significant in telling the complete story and the story cannot be told without the support of our community. We host this event to seek donations and sponsorships to sustain the organization for present and future generations.

**Audience:** The annual “Black Tie Affair” attracts over 700 adults of all ages, from Williamson County and other surrounding counties and cities. The audience consists of the business community, government and elected officials, church community, young professionals and individuals from the overall community in support of AAHS. The community continued its support of the event this year, which was a huge success.



**SPONSORS:** AAHS is seeking sponsors: corporations, businesses and individuals with an interest to support the African Heritage Society, the McLemore House Museum and the Merrill-Williams House and its mission through cash sponsorship and/or in-kind donations.

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:** \$500 to \$25,000



# Thank You.



## Past Black Tie Honorees and Guests

### Thank you to our 2024 Black Tie Sponsors:

Nissan, Anonymous, First Horizon, Justice Loves Mercy, Vulcan Materials, Leipers Fork Market, Williamson Medical, Frist Foundation, Let It Shine, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pinnacle Bank, Crowder Trucking, Emily Magid, Buerger Moseley & Carson, Tennessee Valley Homes, Bristol Development, Rotary Club of Franklin At Breakfast, Franklin Realtors, Renasant Bank, BrandMettle, Ed Underwood, Wilson Bank & Trust

The African American Heritage Society is committed to promoting the preservation of African American history through the "Black Tie Affair" and other events and educational opportunities that bring the community together with supporters of all ages for a worthy cause.



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Website: [www.aahswc.org](http://www.aahswc.org)



\*\*Pictures taken from Williamson Herald, Southern Exposure Magazine and other websites.