Year used	Name/Entity	Significance
2019	Aaron, Henry ("Hank")	Baseball legend who played for both Milwaukee Braves and Brewers; his Chasing the Dream Foundation awards scholarships through the Boys & Girls Clubs, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and UW-Madison; State Trail namesake
2021	African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee	Local network of African American community leaders and partners founded in 2017 to encourage the development and retention of Milwaukee's African American professsionals, and to promote Milwaukee as a top-ranking city for African American to live and work in.
2022	Al-Amin, Shaykh Ayyub	Born Roscoe Simpson in Flint Michigan, Al-Amin was a leader in Milwaukee's Muslim community. He moved to Milwaukee in th early 1970s, and together with his wife, converted to Islam, and helped establish the Milwaukee Islamic Dawah Center, where he served as executive director. He was also the dawah chairman for the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Dawah is an invitation to individuals to join the Islamic faith. The Dawah Center has expanded to include a food pantry and re-entry services to those who have been incarcerated.
2020	Allen, Debbie	PhD in Business Administration; owned and operated several local McDonald's restaurants; established DNA Network, a local consulting firm for female entrepreneurs; has appeared on the "Project Pitch It" television show.
2018	Allen, Will	Growing Power founder, MacArthur "Genius Grant" winner, expert in urban agriculture
2017 & 2018	America's Black Holocaust Museum	Founded by James Cameron; opened on Juneteenth Day, 1988, closed July 31, 2008, online virtual museum launched Feb. 25, 2012. A new physical museum space will be constructed as part of a redevelopment project with the Garfield School Building, 2215 N. 4th St.
2018	Anderson-Watson family	The Andersons, William H., his wife Anne Watson Anderson, and their daughter Emily, are considered the first African-American family to settle permanently in Milwaukee. More Watsons (Anne's parents and siblings) followed. Mabel Watson Raimey was a descendent of Anne's brother William.
2017	Artison, Richard	First African-American appointed and elected Milwaukee County Sheriff
2023	Ashe, Brother Booker T.	Brother Ashe was a Capuchin monk who founded the House of Peace in Milwaukee in 1967, a non-profit institution serving the poor. He ran it for over 25 years, until his retirement in 1995. In 1970, he was elected by the Capuchin order to a term as a provincial councilor, the first Black in the United States to be selected to that administrative post. Brother Ashe was also the first cousin of tennis legend Arthur Ashe. He died in 2000 at the age of 68.
2023	Baker, Dr. Rob "Biko""	After completing a degree at UW-Milwaukee in 2000, Baker moved to Los Angeles to attend graduate school at UCLA. There he studied history by day and witnessed history by night, working as a writer covering the thriving hip hop scene for The Source magazine. He blended the two interests by joining the League of Young Voters, encouraging youth to pursue social change through political and multi-media activism, and he served as the group's executive director for 10 years while completing his PhD. Violence in Milwaukee and the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri spurred him to more activism and creative output. He launched his digital storytelling company, Render, to help amplify social causes and nonprofits through web sites and social media.
2020	Baldwin Florists	First African American floral shop in Milwaukee, established in 1983, located at 3825 N. Teutonia Avenue
2023	Ball, Dr. Denita R.	Dr. Ball is the first black woman to hold the post of Milwaukee County Sheriff, first on an interim basis after the resignation of Earnell Lucas, then elected in November 2022 to a full term. Sheriff Ball holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, a master's degree in criminal justice administration from the UW–Milwaukee, and a doctorate of philosophy in educational leadership from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Prior to her election, Sheriff Ball had served since 2019 as chief deputy sheriff/undersheriff of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, and before coming to the Sheriff's Office, she worked for the Milwaukee Police Department and retired at the rank of deputy inspector after 25 years of distinguished service. While a member of the police department, Sheriff Ball set up and was the first commander of the Neighborhood Task Force, a group of 200 officers whose efforts resulted in double-digit decreases in crime.
2021	Banks, Jimmy	Jimmy Banks, a Milwaukee native, was an accomplished soccer player who graduated from Custer High School and went on to play at UW-Milwaukee. He made history as one of the first African Americans to play for the U.S. Men's National Team and played a pivotal role during the USA's 1990 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign. As the head coach of the Milwaukee School of Engineering men's team, Mr. Banks won 198 career games and appeared in two NCAA Division III Tournaments. Jimmy Banks was a cherished family member, friend, coach and mentor who will be remembered for his lasting impact on the community and U.S. Soccer.
2017	Barbee, Lloyd	Civil rights activist, WI Assembly member, led efforts to desegregate MPS
2019	Barnes, Mandela	The first African American to serve as Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor and only the second to be elected to a statewide office. (The first was Vel Phillips, who was elected Secretary of State in 1978.) He represented the 11th Assembly District in the state legislature from 2013-2017, and was defeated in a race for state Senate in 2016. Before his career as an elected official he worked as an organizer for Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (M.I.C.A.H.).
2021	Barnett, Vic and Dawn	Victor Barnett was 19 when he founded Running Rebels to help mentor young people (mostly African Americans) who were in danger of being pulled into the street life of gangs, crime, and violence. He used basketball as the tool to engage, mentor and guide youth toward an alternative path that would ensure their future success. From this vision and action, Running Rebels Community Organization was born, and today Victor and his wife, Dawn, have turned Running Rebels into a history-making mentoring organization that serves 2,500 youth annually.
2022	Barnett, Victor	Founder & Exec. Director, Running Rebels youth services
2023	Beckley, Maurice 'Doc B'	Doc B is one of Milwaukee's first hip hop DJs, and is the founder and owner of B-Boy Productions, a local company that provides music for public events. He was also the official Green Bay Packers DJ at Lambeau Field during their 2014-2015 season, and has participated in the 10,000 Fearless movement, a group of men and women working to stop the bloodshed in the Milwaukee community.
2022	Bennett, Cheryl	General manager, 88Nine Radio Milwaukee
2019	Benson, Clayborn	Founded the Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum in 1987. He currently serves as the organization's Executive Director. The Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum is the only institution in the state that collects and preserves African-American history specific to Wisconsin. Benson also worked at WTMJ-TV as a photojournalist for 39 years.
2022	Berrien, Lucille	Lucille Berrien is a 93-year-old welfare rights activist and was involved in Milwaukee's open housing marches during the 1960's working alongside James Groppi. She is a former member of the Black Panther Party and the first Black woman to run for the mayor of Milwaukee in 1972. She co-founded the Milwaukee Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression in 1973. Milwaukee County's Berrien Park is named for her.
2022	Brisco, Rev. Willie	President of MICAH, Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope; has spent the better part of his life fighting racism in the Milwaukee area, along with focusing on issues of inequality in transportation, employment and housing.
2021	Broadnax, John R.	Broadnax was a noted civil rights attorney who was involved in settling Milwaukee's landmark school desegregation case in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He and his law partners founded their firm, Wilson, Broadnax, and Owens in 1956, making it the oldest minority-owned law firm in Wisconsin. Broadnax was also a lifetime member of the NAACP and served as president of its Milwaukee chapter, and in 2002 was recognized by the State Bar of Wisconsin for his outstanding contributions to the legal profession.
2017	Bronzeville	A neighborhood bounded by North Ave., State St., 3rd St. and 12th St. that became densely populated by African-American in the early 20th century, particularly with the migration of laborers from the south seeking factory jobs.
2018	Brooks, Beechie O.	Well-known real estate developer, one of a group of black realtors to form United Realty and served as its president; helped create and develop the Halyard Park subdivision; was one of the first minorities in Milwaukee to be accepted to the National Association of Real Estate Brokers; awarded the first Frank Fitzpatrick Development Award by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
2021	Brown, Chytania	President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee, the first African-American female to hold that post.
2020	Butler, La Keisha	Municipal attorney for the City of Milwaukee who in 2018 was appointed Executive Director of the Fire and Police Commission, the first African American to hold that position.
2017	Butler, Louis	First African-American on the WI Supreme Court
2022	Butts, Antonio	Executive Director of the nonprofit Walnut Way Conservation Corp., located in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood where he grew up. Through this organization, Butts works to bring economic development and opportunity to the local community.
2017 & 2018	Cameron, James	Lynching survivor, founder of America's Black Holocaust Museum
2023	Carrington, Keith	Mr. Carrington was serving as the principal at North Division High School, when he died unexpectedly at the age of 48 in August 2022. He had been working in that position since 2016. The two decades prior to that, Mr. Carrington worked as a paraprofessional, special-education teacher, assistant principal and principal at a number of other MPS schools. He was also a part-time security supervisor for first the Bradley Center and then the Fiserv Forum. He was admired and respected by his North Division students and staff for his positive presence and commitment to both the school and the neighboring community.
2023	Carter, Jackie	Ms. Carter was appointed Director of Port Milwaukee in January 2023, the first African American to be appointed to lead that enterprise. Prior to her appointment as director, she was the Finance and Administration Officer at the Port. Ms. Carter has also worked in the local non-profit and public sector for more than 20 years. She graduated with a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Public Administration from Concordia University, and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Alverno College, with a double major in Business & Management and Professional Communication.
2021	Carter, Lester	Long-time local pharmacist and owner of Carter Drug Store (now a Hayat Pharmacy), "Dr. Carter" was recognized for his service to the community with an honorary street sign at his pharmacy's location on N. 24th St. and W. Burleigh St. in 2018
2017 & 2018	Caulker-Bronson, Ferne Yangyeitie	Founder, Ko-Thi Dance Company; Professor Emerita of Dance, UWM
2023	Chambers, Lula	In the late 1970's Lula Chambers was the Executive Director of the Highland Park Community Center, a city housing project, youth and family recreation center. She was also a caseworker in the family empowerment program of S.E.T. MINISTRY (SERVICE, EMPOWERMENT, and TRANSFORMATION), a Milwaukee non-profit agency that helps socially and economically disadvantaged people set and achieve goals that promote self-sufficiency and improve their lives. Her service with that organization included working with residents of the Milwaukee Housing Authority. She served in the office Mayor Henry Maier. Ms. Chambers passed away in 2007, and was the grandmother of newly elected Ald. Mark Chambers.
2018	Chaney, Felmers	Milwaukee's first African-American police sergeant, president of NAACP and Milwaukee Urban League, co-founder and president of North Milwaukee State Bank
2017	City Hall construction workers	A photo from 1896 shows that several African-Americans worked on building Milwaukee's City Hall, at a time when they were only about .3% of the city's population
2022	Clark, George Marshall	Clark was the victim of the only recorded lynching of a Black person in Milwaukee, dying on Sept. 8, 1861. He was buried in a unmarked grave in Forest Home Cemetery. After research by Tyrone Randle and America's Black Holocaust Museum located his final resting place, funds were raised for a headstone. In 2021, on the anniversary of his death, the stone was installed and bears the inscription, "Lest we forget."
2020	Coggs, Elizabeth	Daughter of trailblazing politicians Isaac and Marcia Coggs, Elizabeth carried on her family's tradition of public service, first on the Milwaukee County Board from 1998-2008, and then in the Wisconsin Assembly.
2017	Coggs, Isaac	Served as WI Assemblyman from 1953-1964. After trying twice before, elected to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in 1964. He and Calvin Moody were the first African-American County Supervisors, and due to redistricting had to run against each other in 1968, a race Moody won. The Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center is named for him.
2018	Coggs, Marcia	American Democratic politician; served in the Wisconsin State Assembly (1977-1993); graduated from UW-Milwaukee
2019	Coggs, Spencer	After a long term of service in the WI Assembly and Senate, became the first African-American to be elected Milwaukee city treasurer (and first African-American elected to any city executive branch office)
2020	Colas, Faithe A.	Colas' 30-year career in media and public relations began with the Milwaukee Courier and contiues today as she hosts the weekly radio talk show "There's Always Something Good to Talk About." In 2019 she joined the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office as director of public relations and community engagement.
2020	Cole, Preston	held several leadership positions with the City of Milwaukee, most recently as Commissioner of Neighborhood Services; currently serves as the Wisconsin Secretary of Natural Resources, and was a previous Chair of the State Natural Resource Board and the first African American elected to that position.
2022	Community Within the Corridor	Formed by local developers in 2020, this group focuses on the rehabilitation of the former Briggs and Stratton industrial site on the north side of Milwaukee into affordable housing, community amenities, and commercial space. Team members include Mikal Wesley of Urbane Communities, Falamak Nourzad of Continuum Architects, Que El-Amin of Scott Crawford Inc., Jennifer Green of Commercial Realty Advisors, and Rayhaino Boynes of Sharp Creatives.
2021	Conyers, Nathan	Conyers was a journalist and co-founder of The Milwaukee Times weekly newspaper along with Louvenia Johnson and Luther Golden. The publishing team launched the newspaper's Black Excellence awards program and a scholarship fund for students pursuing journalism degrees. With a lifelong interest in politics and community affairs, Conyers served on boards of many community organizations including Pastor United, Discovery World, Independence First, the Milwaukee Urban League, and the Ride for the Arts.
2021	Crowley, David	First African American elected to serve as Milwaukee County Executive, sworn into office on May 4, 2020. Crowley was born and raised in Milwaukee, worked with several local community organizations, and served two terms in the Wisconsin State Assembly before being elected County Executive
2021	Daniels, Kathryn (Mother Daniels)	Mother Kathryn Daniels, a charter member of Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ (founded by her son, Bishop Sedgwick Daniels), was a historic social justice advocate who championed outreach activities that brought food pantries, elderly centers and other important services to the community. She exuded excellence, positivity, strong leadership, and limitless compassion and humanity.
2017	Daniels-Carter, Valerie	Founder and president of V&J Holdings Co., Inc., a family-run business that owns over 130 Burger King, Pizza Hut, and other restaurant franchises, making it the nation's largest female-owned restaurant chain; has served as the president of Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.; first African-American woman elected to the board of the Green Bay Packers; recognized by Essence magazine as one of the 50 most admired African-Americans in the United States.
2020	Davis, Dr. Robert	In September 2019 Dr. Davis was named the new President and CEO of America's Black Holocaust Museum. A doctor of veterinary medicine, Davis previously was President and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, where he had impressive success as a fundraiser.
2022	Dowell, Mary	Mary Dowell, who died in January 2022, was a prominent corporate executive in the Milwaukee area. She was founder and CEO of MJ Dowell & Associates, and worked for 19 years at Johnson Controls, retiring as a vice president in 2015. Dowell also chaired or served on the boards of many local organizations, including the Milwaukee Urban League, Professional Dimensions, Visit Milwaukee, TEMPO Milwaukee, Milwaukee Women Inc and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. She also co-founded the United Performing Arts Fund's Notable Women Initiative, and was an award-winning author of the 2016 book "Playing Through the Fence," which featured stories of mostly Milwaukee-area women.
2017	Driver, Darienne	First female superintendent of MPS
2018	Dumas, Tyrone	First African-American Director of Milwaukee County Dept. of Public Works
2022	El-Amin, Khalif	Khalif El-Amin is the 2012 Co-founder of the Young Enterprising Society (YES), a program that provides training and technology assistance to Milwaukee-area youth and adult entrepreneurs.
2022	El-Amin, Que	El-Amin is a real estate developer and entrepreneur who focuses on Milwaukee's needs for both affordable housing and oppurtunities for startup businesses. Besides running his real estate company, he also leads the Young Enterprising Society with his brother Khalif. Their organization runs accelerator and education programs for new businesses.
2022	Ellis, Andre Lee	Founder of "We Got This" mentoring and employment program for Milwaukee youth, Founder & Managing Dir. of the Andre Lee Ellis & Company theatre group
2020	Evans, Roy B.	A Milwaukee native who grew up in Bronzeville, Evans has served his hometown as an MPS teacher, a lawyer, a mentor, and as a member of various government boards and commissions. In 2019 the Common Council honored him with a Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award.
2021	Fessahaye, Makda	Makda Fessahaye is making history the first African American Director of Employee Relations for the City of Milwaukee. Fessahaye previously served as an appointed member of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' administration as the Administrator for the Division of Adult Institutions for the State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Fessahaye received her Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies from Northwestern University and went on to earn her Juris Doctor from the Marquette University Law School. Fessahaye currently serves as a board member of Women in Focus, Inc. and a member of the Urban League of Greater Madison Young Professionals.
2019	Finlayson, Dr. Willam	Milwaukee obstetrician and gynecologist. He established is own private practice in Milwaukee in 1958, which he ran for forty years until 1997. He also taught at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin Medical School. In 1971, Finlayson founded the first black-owned bank in Milwaukee, North Milwaukee State Bank where he serves on the board of directors and is the bank's chairman. In founding the bank, Finlayson's mission was not profit based. Rather, he intended to add stature and viability to underserved communities by offering full-service banking to individuals and businesses. North Milwaukee State Bank's mission is to facilitate community development and economic growth, personal and business advancement, home ownership growth, and financial education. Finlayson is also a member of the Urban League and a lifetime member of the NAACP.
2020	Freeman, Martha 'Mama'	Beloved community activist in the historic Garden Homes neighborhood, where she has lived since 1969 and is seen as a mother to that community by the local residents; retired from Milwaukee County after working for 20 years at the Milwaukee County House of Correction.
2019	Fuller, Howard	Former MPS Superintendent, education reform advocate, Marquette Professor
2017 & 2018	Gallimore, Vernice	In 1946 became the first African-American MPD policewoman; Not allowed to return to the MPD after the birth of her first child in 1955, she later became a probation officer with the Children's Court
2023	Gallmon, Rev. Dr. Joy	"Pastor Joy" has been the leader of St. Mark AME, Milwaukee's oldest African-American church, since 2017, but she wasn't always focused on the religious life. Her first college degree was in marketing, and she had some success in the business world, but her call to ministry was stronger. Her devotion to serving others fits well with St. Mark's ongoing outreach to the Milwaukee community.
2023	Gatson, Frank Jr.	A graduate of North Division High School, Mr. Gatson is an award-winning choreographer, director, and dancer who got his big break when he was hired to dance in Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" video. He has gone on to work with other musical superstars including Beyonce, Usher, Brandy, En Vogue, and Jennifer Lopez. Recently, he has partnered with the Milwaukee YWCA to help turn the building at 1915 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. into an intergenerational arts center.
2020	Gillespie, Ezekiel	In 1866, Gillespie won a landmark case when the WI Supreme Court unanimously ruled that African-American men had the right to vote, making Wisconsin one of the first states to grant suffrage to men of African descent. In fact, the legislature had passed a law to that effect in 1849, subject to referendum. The results of the referendum were disputed and black voters were disenfranchised until the Supreme Court's ruling over a decade later.
2022	Gilmer, Gloria	Pioneering mathematician and a longtime Milwaukee resident, educator and community leader; Ms. Gilmer was the first African American to teach high school math at MPS, the first African American on the math faculty at MATC, the first African American math lecturer at UWM, and the first African American to earn a doctorate from Marquette University's School of Education. She spent her later years working in the field of ethnomathematics both nationally and internationally, and started the educational research and development company Math Tech Inc. in Milwaukee. After her death in 2021, the Library of Congress' Manuscript Division added her papers to its collection, making her the first Black woman mathematician so honored.
2020	Givens, John	In the 1960's, Givens was the co-founder and chair of the city's CORE--Congress of Racial Equality and also was active with the Youth Council and NAACP. In 1965, CORE won a case in the WI Supreme Court, which ruled that protestors had a right to demonstrate peacefully without being arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. In 1968, Givens accepted Mayor Maier's offer to join his staff and head the Model Cities program, which secured federal funds to build and rehab housing units and make other public improvements.
2018	Goggans, Irene	Unofficial "historian" and griot of Milwaukee's African American community, compiling over 60 years' worth of newsclippings, photographs and letters chronicling African American life in the city; awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Human Letters from UW-Milwaukee in 2015 in recognition of her life's work
2020	Goins, Melissa	founder and President of Maures Development Group LLC and a Vice-President of J. Jeffers & Co. Notable building projects that she has overseen include The Griot Apartments/America's Black Holocaust Museum and the Mill Road Library redevelopment.
2019	Gordon, Grant	First African-American school principal in MPS and served as president of Milwaukee chapter of the NAACP
2018	Gordon, Lucinda	Founder of the Lady Pitts School for unwed mothers; first female president of the Milwaukee Branch of the NAACP; started an arts group that worked to include African and African-American art at the Milwaukee Art Museum
2020	Gore, Cecelia	Executive Director of the Brewers Community Foundation, the official charitable entity of the Milwaukee Brewers, which provides financial support to nonprofits that provide quality programming in the areas of health, education, recreation and basic needs, with a particular focus on low-income and disadvantaged youth and their families.
2021	Green, William T.	Born in Canada, Green came to Wisconsin in 1887, attended UW Law School, and became Milwaukee's first African American lawyer. He worked to enact the WI Civil Rights Act of 1893, which prohibited racial discrimination in public facilities.
2022	Hall, Joyce A.	For most of her 36 years as an MPS faculty member, Hall dedicated herself to teaching reading. After her retirement in 1994, she continued her mission for more than 20 years, volunteering as a reading tutor. In 2021 she was honored by George Washington Carver Academy, which renamed its school library after her.
2017	Halyard, Ardie and Wilbur	Co-founded Columbia Savings & Loan to help African-Americans purchase homes; Halyard St., Halyard Park neighborhood namesakes
2020	Hardy, Kristen	An attorney currently working as in-house legal counsel at Briggs & Stratton Corp., a position she also held at Rockwell Automation; Hardy has also served as president of the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers (WAAL) and is a board member of the Milwaukee Bar Association.
2018	Harpole, Mildred and Reuben	Education advocates, "community connectors"; honorary street namesake (Reuben)
2023	Haughton, Dr. Gina	Dr. Haughton has served in many places in her career as an educator, from various roles with Milwaukee Public Schools to Cardinal Stritch University, where she was a member of their graduate school faculty and chaired master's-level programs in teaching, inclusive education, and higher education student affairs leadership. In 2019 she was hired by University School of Milwaukee as its director of student success, and in November 2022 she was named head of its Upper School, becoming USM's first division leader who identifies as a person of color.
2019	Haywood, Kaylan Jr.	Rep. Kalan Haywood represents the 16th District in the Wisconsin Assembly. Elected in November 2018, the 19-year-old Cardinal Stritch University student is the youngest legislator in the state and perhaps the country. During his high school years he served on Milwaukee's Youth Council and was elected President of that body for his last two years before he graduated in 2017.
2021	Hebert, Stanley P.	First African-American to attend Marquette University High School (class of 1940), US Navy deputy general counsel, member of Kerner Commission
2019	Henningsen, Margaret	Margaret Henningsen is one of three co-founders of Legacy Bank, which was the only bank in the country organized and run by African American women. Beginning in 1999, it provided financial services and business loans to Milwaukee's central city until the economic downturn forced its sale to Seaway Bank in 2011. Committed to social causes, she also worked at the Social Development Commission and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, retiring as its executive director in 2016.
2022	Hill, Raynetta "Ray"	In October 2021, Raynetta "Ray" Hill was appointed to be the executive director of the Historic King Drive Business Improvement District and is the first African American woman to hold that position. She served as the district's associate director from 2016-18 and has also worked as the regional manager of property management and advancement services at Common Bond Communities Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing developer.
2020	Hill, Valarie	First elected to the Milwaukee Municipal Court in 2004, Judge Hill spearheaded the "Warrant Withdrawal Wednesdays" program in 2016 as a way for citizens with outstanding warrants to see a judge and address their legal issues without fear of arrest.
2023	Hines, Willie Jr.	Mr. Hines is the first African American to lead the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, to which he was appointed the Executive Director in early 2022. Prior to working at the Housing Authority, he served on the Milwaukee Common Council from 1996 to 2014, and was the Common Council President from 2004 to 2014.
2023	Hodges, Anna Marie	In November 2022, Hodges was elected as the 30th Clerk of Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, becoming the first woman and woman of color to hold the post. She previously served as the Acting Clerk of Circuit Court in early 2022, Chief Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court from 2018 to 2022, and Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court and Civil Division Administrator from 2006 to 2018. Ms. Hodges has worked in public service for over 30 years, having also served as Court Coordinator and Deputy Director of Litigation Services for the First Judicial Administrative District, Deputy Director of Governor Tommy Thompson's Milwaukee office, and Constituent Services Specialist in the office of Milwaukee County Executive F. Thomas Ament.
2022	Holley, Rosemary	Rosemary Holley was a community activist and longtime member of the Social Development Commission's Board of Commissioners, having served as chairperson in 1996, 1998, and 1999. She began her involvement with the SDC after it was first created in 1966, working as a teacher's aid and supervisor in the organization's Head Start Program. Holley was also involved with the SDC's Inner City Devleopment Project from 1972 to 1985, serving as executive director of that agency from 1976 to 1985. She passed away in December 2021.
2019	Holloway, Lee	Milwaukee County supervisor for 20 years; first African American Chair of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and first African American to serve as County Executive; led efforts to create a county general assistance medical program — a health safety net — that subsequently was expanded statewide as Badger Care
2017	Holton, Douglas	First African-American Chief of MFD
	Howell, Dr. Jacqueline	First African-American pediatrician in Milwaukee; she received her medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.
2020	Hughes, Louis	Author of the 1987 memoir Thirty Years a Slave: From Bondage to Freedom, which was published in Milwaukee, Hughes is considered to be Milwaukee's first African American author. He lived in Milwaukee for over 40 years, working in the local hotel industry.
	Izard, Dr. Tito	President and CEO of Milwaukee Health Services, a group of clinics that include the MLK Heritage Health Center on King Drive and the Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center on W. Silver Spring Drive.
2017 & 2018	Jackson, Gwen T.	Chair Emeritus of the American Red Cross, SE WI; also active with the YWCA and Milwaukee Urban League; MPS school namesake
	Jackson, Reggie	Local historian who assists in curating and hosting events at America's Black Holocaust Museum; also co-founded Nuturing Diversity Partners, which offers lectures and workshops on issues involving race relations.
2018	Jarreau, Al	Born in Milwaukee in 1940, graduated from Ripon College in 1962; award-winning singer who recorded jazz, pop, and R&B songs and won six Grammys across all three categories; best know for the 1981 hit "We're in This Love Together" and the theme song from the hit TV series "Moonlighting"
2017	Johnson, Ben	First African-American Common Council President
2018	Johnson, Clarence and Cleopatra	Opened one of the city's first African-American-owned businesses (Ideal Tailor Shop), helped found a branch of the YMCA and Columbia Savings & Loan; Johnsons Park namesakes
2021	Johnson, Joan	First African American to be name Director of the Milwaukee Public Library; born in Milwaukee, grew up in the Concordia neighborhood, attended West Division High School (now Milwaukee High School of the Arts). Worked in the Seattle Public Library System for 15 years before returning to Milwaukee in 2006 for a position in administration at MPL Central.
2023	Johnson, Nadiyah	After jobs in tech roles for big companies such as We Energies and GE Healthcare, Ms. Johnson launched her own software development firm, Jet Constellations, in 2017 with a focus on serving Milwaukee companies led by people of color. In 2018, she started the Milky Way Tech Hub, an organization that works to ensure that a diverse population is represented in Wisconsin's growing technology sector. By attracting partnerships and grants from local corporations and universities, Milky Way has nurtured entrepreneurs and students to build businesses and pursue tech jobs, assuring them that there is a place for them in the tech industries.
2023	Johnson, Torre "ToeJo"	Mr. Johnson is the founder of X-Men United, an organization designed to provide a platform for ex-offenders and others to motive and uplift the community by leading by example. He currently works with Wisconsin Community Services, providing a variety of services for individuals involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Mr. Johnson is a former Social Development Commissioner and a long time contributor to Milwaukee's annual Juneteenth Day Celebration. He now uses his experience to counsel others on how to live positive and productive lives.
2017	Johnson-Odom, Marlene	Common Council member from 1980-2004, making her the longest-serving female Council member to date; sponsored renaming of 3rd St. to M. L. King Drive and the creation of the Minority Business Enterprise Program; championed developments throughout her district, particularly in Brewers Hill
2021	Jones, Arlis	Owned and operated numerous jazz/nightclubs in Milwaukee starting in the 1970s; focused on entertainment by and for African Americans in Milwaukee; received a Wisconsin Area Music Industry Award in 2004 for best live entertainment venue in Wisconsin
2017	Jones, Arthur	First African-American Chief of MPD
2020	Jordan, Sharon	Community Relations Director at Direct Supply in Milwaukee; serves on the board of the Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation, and is the current Secretary of the Board of Directors for Community Advocates.
2023	Jude, Willie Sr.	Mr. Jude's long career with Milwaukee Public Schools put him in important leadership roles, including serving as a Deputy Superintendent and as principal of three large high schools—North Division, James Madison, and Custer (now named Barack Obama). Though he retired in 2005 from MPS after 32 years there, his devotion to education has not stopped, and he has led or advised charter schools in the city. His son, Willie Jude II, who is a Vice Chancellor for UW-Parkside, has said of his father, "He has always been a problem solver. He's always been consistent, he's always been fair. He taught me about being a lifelong learner."
2019	Kaepernick, Colin	Colin Kaepernick is a former quarterback of the National Football League. He played with the San Francisco 49ers from 2011-2016. He is known for his civil rights activism, expressed by kneeling during the national anthem prior to games as a protest against racial injustice and systematic oppression, especially of African Americans. He was born in Milwaukee in 1987.
2021	Kane, Eugene	Kane was a renowned writer for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. His column, "Raising Kane" consistently challenged readers to confront racial issues throughout Milwaukee's politics, culture, business, and media. Unafraid of challenges, Kane also made a committed effort to engage with those whose opinions differed from his. He won many national awards for his work and in 2014 was inducted into both the Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame and the Milwaukee Press Club Hall of Fame. In 2017 we was honored by the Wisconsin Black Media Association.
2021	Kelly Hamilton, Dasha	Named poet laureate of Wisconsin in January 2021. Also currently serving as poet laureate of Milwaukee, and is only the second person to hold both positions. She is also a performer, novelist and has appeared on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam." In addition to her poetry honors, Kelly Hamilton has served as an arts envoy for the U.S. Embassy, assigned to cultural exchange programs in several countries around the globe.
2021	Kelly, William	Led the Milwaukee Urban League for 31 years, from 1928-1959 & was devoted to fighting discrimination in employment
	Kendrix, Ossie	President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin, a board member of Employ Milwaukee, and was part of an advisory council that assisted Gov. Evers' transition team.
2019	Kowalik, Jeanette	Dr. Jeanette Kowalik is the first African-American female Commissioner of Health for the City of Milwaukee. She earned a Ph.D. in population health from UW-Milwaukee and worked at the Milwaukee Health Department from 2002 through 2008. She has also worked in health departments in Wauwatosa, Chicago and Madison, in addition to colleges and non-profits. Most recently she served as the Associate Director of Women's and Infant Health at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs in Washington D.C.
	Lang, Angela	Lang is Executive Director of Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC), a community advocacy group working to empower people of color in Milwaukee politically and economically.
2022	Lanier, Rev. Walter	Son of Milwaukee Bucks Hall of Fame player Bob Lanier, Rev. Lanier serves as a pastor at Progressive Baptist Church and as chairman of the MICAH's religious leaders caucus. He is also the director of community engagement and student resources at MATC, as well as leader of the school's Men of Color Initiative, which aims to improve the retention, graduation and other academic outcomes for MATC's men of color. He holds a law degree from the University of Michigan, and taught courses related to constitutional law at UW-Milwaukee while working at his own private law practice. He also serves on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board, and previously served on the Milwaukee County Pension Board.
2019	Lanier, Shirley J.	Shirley J. Lanier is one of three co-founders of Legacy Bank, which was the only bank in the country organized and run by African American women. Beginning in 1999, it provided financial services and business loans to Milwaukee's central city until the economic downturn forced its sale to Seaway Bank in 2011.
2022	Leary, Rev. Dr. James E.	A pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Leary was one of the founders of Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) and served as its first president. When the group was looking to hire a community organizer, Leary interviewed a young man named Barack Obama.
2021	Lena's Food Market	Lena's Food Market is an African American owned grocery store chain, employs more than 300 people across the Milwaukee area. The owner of Lena's, Bezelee Martin, started his first business at the age of 14 and in 1950, became the first Black licensed car dealer in Wisconsin. Mr. Martin was recognized for his accomplishments in 2013, when he was inducted into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame. Family owned, Lena's Food Market, continues to serve its community as it has for more than 51 years.
2023	Lewis, Rev. Greg	Reverend Lewis is an Assistant Pastor at St. Gabriel Church of God and Christ on Milwaukee's north side, and the founder of Souls to the Polls, a local community organization that works to increase voter turnout in Milwaukee's central city, particularly among Black voters. He is also involved in advocating for fair and affordable housing, and through his church community works to increase the rate of Black homeownership in Milwaukee.
2020	Lindsay, Bernice	Bernice Lindsay – Community activist who lived in Milwaukee from the late 1920s until her death in 1985. She was often referred to as "the mother of the black community" and was an original member of the Milwaukee Commission on Human Rights, formed in 1944. The Lindsay Heights neighborhood was named in her honor.
2023	Little Africa	In the early years of the 20th century, Little Africa was the name given to the area of Milwaukee where the majority of Black residents were consigned to live due to strict patterns of residential segregation enforced at that time. The area was bounded by State Street, North Avenue, 3rd Street (now MLK Drive), and 12th Street, and was also referred to as Bronzeville, the name by which much of the area is currently known.
2017	Lovelace, Ester	First female African-American deputy court clerk for Milwaukee County; Elder Emerita at Christian Faith Fellowship Church; director and CEO of The Buck Stops Here Minstry, Inc. an organization helping individuals to become self-sufficient, self-supporting, and productive.
2023	Lucas, Earnell	Mr. Lucas was elected Milwaukee County Sheriff in November 2018, and was sworn into office January 7, 2019, stepping down from that position at the end of 2022. He is a 25-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department, retiring at the rank of captain. He holds a bachelor's degree cum laude in criminology and law studies from Marquette University. Sheriff Lucas is a product of the Milwaukee Public Schools system, graduating from Rufus King High School. He also served as Major League Baseball's Chief Liaison of Security & Investigations for the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues.
2018	Lyles, Vincent	President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, also a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee and the Milwaukee Cultural and Entertainment Task Force
2019	Malone, Glorious	Glorious Malone was a food industry entrepreneur in Milwaukee's Bronzeville neighborhood, along with her husband George and her father Sterling Williams. They started out by opening a grocery store together in 1961 that specialized in produce from the American south and featured George's personal recipe for headcheese, which differed greatly from the European-style headcheese that was common around the city. After George's death in 1971, Glorious incorporated the business as Malone's Fine Sausage, Inc. She was the first African American woman in the U.S. to obtain meat inspection accreditation from the USDA and to own and run a federally inspected plant. After Glorious died in 2007, her daughter Daphne Jones added her mother's first name to the company name.
2021	Martin, Bruce	Bruce Martin helped bring King's Fresh Market, a full-service grocery store with fresh produce and hot food at 2730 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr., to the Harambee neighborhood. This store allowed for fresh, whole food access in what was previously a food dessert. In addition, Bruce and his wife Tami aim to provide food education and improve wellness within the community.
2019	Milwaukee Community Journal	Est. 1976; An African-American-focused weekly newpaper, one of three in Milwaukee
2019	Milwaukee Courier	Est. 1964; the oldest African-American-focused weekly newpaper of the three in the city; Owned by Courier Communications, which also owns radio station WNOV
	Milwaukee Times	Est. 1981; An African-American-focused weekly newpaper, one of three in Milwaukee. It began as the Chirstian Times, a paper focused on news from area churches, but soon broadened its scope to general stories.
	Milwaukee United School Integration Committee (MUSIC)	Formed by Lloyd Barbee in 1964; a coalition of civil rights, religious, labor, and political groups dedicated to changing the de facto segregation in public schools.
2019	Milwaukee Urban League	Social agency offering programs that are designed to help African-Americans and other people of color achieve civil rights and social and economic equality so they can become more self-reliant members of society. Milwaukee affiliate est. 1919
2017	Moody, Calvin	Had a 25-year career with the MPD, where in 1949 he became one of the two first African American detectives in the department. He was elected to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in 1964. He and Isaac Coggs were the first African-American County Supervisors, and due to redistricting had to run against each other in 1968, a race Moody won. He served on the Board until 1972, and Moody Park is named in his honor.
2017	Moore, Gwen	WI's first African-American member of the U.S. Congress; also the first African-American woman elected to the WI state Senate in 1992, having previously served in the WI state Assembly
2020	Moore, Reggie	Director of the City of Milwaukee's Office of Violence Prevention, Moore is also the founder and former Executive Director of the Center for Youth Engagement, a local service agency for under-served youth.
2023	Morgan, Michael	Michael Morgan was the first African American to be appointed as Commissioner of Milwaukee's Department of City Development, and served in that capacity from 1993 to 1998. He also spent a number of years as a member of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's cabinet, first as Secretary of Revenue, and later as Secretary of the Department of Administration. He went on the work for the University of Wisconsin System as Senior Vice President for Administration and Fiscal Affairs. He has a BA in Communication Arts (1978), and a Law Degree (1984) from UW-Madison.
2022	Morris, Amos	Appointed in 2021 by county Executive David Crowley, Morris is the newest director of the Milwaukee County Zoo and the first Black person to fill that position.
2023	Morrison, Marco	Mr. Morrison, a Milwaukee native, is the Executive Director of College Possible Milwaukee, an organization that works with local high school students from under-represented communities helping them with the college admissions process and providing them support throughout their college education. He also worked for a number of years with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, as well as Operation DREAM, an organization that provides mentoring and workforce development to young men of color.
2023	Mr. Perkins Family Restaurant	Started over 50 years ago by Tennessee native Willie Perkins, Sr. and wife Hilda, their restaurant at 2021 W. Atkinson Ave. is a Milwaukee institution. Southern-style and soul food favorites have been its specialty since its founding in 1969, drawing loyal diners from all over Milwaukee, as well as visiting celebrities and professional athletes. Throughout its history, the restaurant has been a family business. Willie Perkins, Jr. and his wife Cherry Welch-Perkins took it over in 1999, and despite Willie Jr. passing away in 2010, Cherry continues to run it today.
2018	NAACP Youth Council	Founded in 1947 by Ardie Halyard. In the 1960s, organized and participated in civil rights demonstrations against job discrimination and for fair housing.
2023	Neal, Tony	A Milwaukee native, Neal has worked with Diddy and Ludacris, hosts a Sirius XM radio show and stages DJ seminars through his Core DJs organization. In 2008 he moved from WKKV-FM (100.7) to become program director of WNOV-AM (860), according to allaccess.com. He's a co-owner of Radio Multi Media, the station's new owner.
2022	Newell, Kevin	Founder and President of Royal Capital Group, a company focused on urban development, mainly multi-family housing. Royal Capital is a co-developer of the Mill Road Library, is building the 550 Ultra Lofts in the Bucks Arena District, and also will build @North Beach, an apartment complex on Racine's lakefront and the largest residential housing development in the city in a generation.
2019	Oliver, Joe	First recorded black settler in Milwaukee, hired in 1835 as a cook for Milwaukee founding father and first mayor Solomon Juneau. Also cast a vote in a city election in September, 1835.
2020	Patterson, Dana World	CEO of Foundations for Freedom, a Milwaukee organization that works with area women and girls at risk of being caught up in human trafficking; she is also chairwoman of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee.
2023	Pattillo, Patricia O'Flynn	Ms. Pattillo is the founder, CEO, and publisher of the Milwaukee Community Journal, the largest African-American newspaper in Wisconsin since 1976. In 1987 she became the first female president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association-Black Press of America. After losing her 29-year-old son Terence to an asthma attack in 1991, she set up the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than $1 million in stipends to low-income students and students of color in Milwaukee. In 2015 she was inducted into the Milwaukee Press Club's Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame.
	Payne, Lucy (Mother Lucy)	Philanthropist and foster mother of 60 children; honorary street name
2017	Payne, Ulice	Member of Marquette's 1977 championship basketball team, first African-American managing partner at Foley and Lardner law firm, first African-American to be president of a Major League Baseball franchise (Milwaukee Brewers)
2019	Perkins, Willie Sr.	Started Mr. Perkins Family Restaurant, a Milwaukee culinary institution, along with his wife Hilda. The restaurant, known for its soul food menu, opened in 1969, and will celebrate its 59th anniversary in 2019. Its customers come from around the city to share good food and conversation, and it has also attracted a number of celebrities such as Danny Glover and Michael Jordan.
2022	Phelps Brothers	James, Jalin and Clifton Phelps are the co-owners of JCP Construction, which they founded in 2009 and have worked to make it one of the top black-owned commercial contracting companies in Milwaukee. They have worked on some of the most high-profile building projects in the city including the Bader Philanthropies headquarters, Northwestern Mutual's downtown office tower, and the Fiserv Forum.
2017 & 2018	Phillips, Vel	First woman and first African-American on Common Council, first African-American judge in WI and first to win statewide office (Sec. of State); Main sponsor of the city's open housing ordinance and active in civil rights marches
2017	Pitts, Orville	First African-American man elected to Common Council, champion amateur boxer turned lawyer and civil rights activist; family started Pitts Funeral Home
2022	Powell, Deneine	First president and CEO of the African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee, a nonprofit focused on turning Milwaukee into a top ranking region of choice for Black by helping the region's business community retain, nourish and advance the careers of local Black professionals.
2017	Pratt, Marvin	Council President, first African-American to serve as Milwaukee Mayor, only person to serve as both Mayor and Milwaukee Co. Exec.; school namesake
2020	Prince, Dr. Joan	Vice Chancellor of global inclusion and engagement at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Prince was the first African American recipient of a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology and Masters in Clinical Laboratory Sciences at UWM, where she also earned a doctorate in urban education. Along with leadership positions in education, medicine, and civic groups, Prince served as an alternate representative to the United Nations during the Obama administration and is currently a board member of the Milwaukee host committee for the Democratic National Convention.
2021	Purifoy-Smoots, Sharon	Purifoy-Smoots was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Milwaukee Fire Department in December, 2020. She is the first African American woman to hold that position. In May 2022, Purifoy-Smoots became the first Black female to achieve the rank of Assistant Chief in the MFD.
2022	Purvis, Nikki	First African American woman to lead the City of Milwaukee's Office of Equity and Inclusion; also serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Social Development Commission and the Urban Economic Development Association, and is a past board member of the African American Leadership Alliance and Select Milwaukee.
2020	Pyles, Robert	owner of numerous McDonald's franchises and one of the largest African American employers in Wisconsin; began Magnolia Realty in an effort to help his employees find nearby affordable housing; serves as a minister at Abundant Faith Church of Integrity.
2019	Raimey, Mabel Watson	First African-American woman to: graduate from UW-Madison, attend Marquette Law School, and be admitted to the WI State Bar
2021	Ramey, LaNelle	LaNelle Ramey worked for years for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and was the director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Office of Black and Latino Male Achievement (BLMA). Mr. Ramey now serves as the executive director of MENTOR Greater Milwaukee (MGM), and for more than 26 years he has been a mentor to hundreds of kids formally and thousands informally, and he sees his role as pushing the importance of being a mentor to a larger platform and with greater visibility.
2021	Reed, Reginald	LaNelle Ramey worked for years for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and was the director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Office of Black and Latino Male Achievement (BLMA). Mr. Ramey now serves as the executive director of MENTOR Greater Milwaukee (MGM), and for more than 26 years he has been a mentor to hundreds of kids formally and thousands informally, and he sees his role as pushing the importance of being a mentor to a larger platform and with greater visibility.
2020	Ridley, John	Born in Milwaukee, Ridley is a film and television director and screenwriter, who won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for the film "12 Years a Slave." He is also a novelist, whose book Spoils of War was adapted into the movie "Three Kings."
2019	Robeson, Paul	Paul Robeson was an African American bass baritone concert artist, and stage and film actor who became famous both for his cultural accomplishments and for his political activism. While working on his law degree at Columbia University in 1922, he was recruited to play for the NFL's Milwaukee Badgers.
2021	Robinson, Alonzo	As the first African American registered architect in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, Alonzo Robinson was a trailblazer in his field as he overcame adversity to open doors for future architects and engineers of color in the city and state. Mr. Robinson designed many buildings in downtown Milwaukee including the Milwaukee Fire Department headquarters at N. 7th and W. Wells Streets (poised to be renamed in his honor by the Common Council), central-city churches, the former YMCA (now a Marquette University facility) at N. 10th and W. Wisconsin Ave., the Doyne Park shelter house and the Vel Phillips YWCA.
2023	Robinson, Sharon	Sharon Robinson was the first black woman Director of the City of Milwaukee's Department of Administration for over 20 years. Ms. Robinson was previously the Director of the Washington, D.C. office of the William Davidson Institute, an international nonprofit headquartered at the University of Michigan and focused on promoting economic growth in emerging market economies. She also worked for 20 years on Capitol Hill beginning in the 1980s in the U.S. House of Representatives where she eventually became former U. S. Congressman Tom Barrett's Chief of Staff.
2018	Rodgers, ReDonna	Community leader who's efforts focused on youth leadership, training and coaching; she co-founded the Center for Teaching Excellence in 1991, which has helped dozens of local business owners 24 years of age and younger; received a 2010 Fellowship Open Community Leader Award, which is given to individuals whose efforts are focused on improving children's lives in their community
2023	Rogers, Dr. William	Dr. Rogers was a local activist, educator, and historian whose work focused on Black community empowerment and celebration of African American history and culture. He worked as an instructor at UW-Milwaukee's Department of Africology, and also served as host of The Black Reality Think Tank, a local radio program. Dr. Rogers was well-known for his inspirational public speaking, and having a positive influence on those who encountered him, especially his students.
2022 & 2023	Rogers, Sister Patricia	Sister Patricia Rogers is the former executive director of the Dominican Center, a neighborhood organization that serves Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood and focuses on housing, safety, and economic development initiatives. During her tenure the center worked to address community needs by hosting neighborhood cleanups, mobile food pantries and the resident-led Moody Park revitalization. Sister Rogers previously worked for Safe & Sound, where she managed the day-to-day operations of the $2.5 million nonprofit.
2017	Rose, Bernice and Clinton	Clinton served on the Milwaukee County Board from 1968 until his death in 1977, Bernice the first African-American woman elected to same, in a 1977 special election after Clinton died. County park and senior center namesakes.
2018	Rose, Harold	Pioneer in urban geography, wrote several books on race, segregation, and violence; one of the first tenured African-American professors at UWM
	Rule, Brandon	President of Rule Enterprises LLC, developers of Seven04 Place, an apartment building at 704 W. National Ave. Based on the success of that project, Rule is looking to redevelop city-owned, tax-foreclosed properties in the 1300 block of W. National Ave into new housing units. Both Seven04 Place and the proposed new development reserve a portion of the apartments for lower-income renters.
2020	Sabir, Joanne and Maanaan	Husband and wife owners of The Juice Kitchen juice bar located in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood; Joanne is also co-developer of the Sherman Phoenix, a new business and wellness hub in the Sherman Park neighborhood.
2018	Sanders, Welford	Economic development icon of Milwaukee's central city; former director of the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation, which has made significant contributions to the revitalization of the Harambee neighborhood; also a professor of architecture at UW-Milwaukee
2021	Scales, Harvey	Scales, "Milwaukee's Godfather of Soul," was a prolific entertainer and songwriter, and played with his band the Seven Sounds well into his 70s. Early in his career he was a popular opening act for many big-name artists, including Chubby Checker, Stevie Wonder, and The Commodores. Scales co-wrote the 1976 hit song "Disco Lady" for Johnnie Taylor, the first song to be certified platinum.
2021	Sias, Thelma	Retired in January 2017 after 32 years of employment at WE Energies, where her title was vice president of local affairs; served or is serving on the boards of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Foundation, the Sojourner Family Peace Center, Cardinal Stritch University, and was appointed in 2019 by Gov. Evers to the WEDC Board. She mentors young professionals and started making investments in central city redevelopment projects.
2019	Sims, Delores	One of three co-founders of Legacy Bank, which was the only bank in the country organized and run by African American women. Beginning in 1999, it provided financial services and business loans to Milwaukee's central city until the economic downturn forced its sale to Seaway Bank in 2011. Legacy Bank opened in a former Firstar Bank building where Sims had worked for most of her career up to that point, and she was Legacy's first president and CEO.
2019	Smith, Dr. Clifford V. Jr.	Dr. Clifford Smith Jr. served as chancellor at UW-Milwaukee (1986-1990) and has the distinction of being the first African-American chancellor of a four-year college in the UW System. He came to UWM from Oregon State University where he was head of the Radiation Center and the Department of Nuclear Engineering. He continued to encourage UWM's efforts to expand its research and also helped expand the campus, overseeing construction of the Architecture and Urban Planning and School of Business Administration buildings. He nurtured the nationally acclaimed Professional Theatre Training Program at the School of the Arts and supported UWM's move into NCAA Division I athletics.
2019	St. Mark AME Church	On January 9, 1869, Reverend Theodore Crosby and a small group of community members formed St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first African American church established in Milwaukee. The congregation had its first home at Fourth and Cedar (now Kilbourn) Streets. The church worshiped at another building further north on Fourth St., then underwent two more moves in the 1960s forced by freeway construction. The church finally settled in its current location near 16th and Atkinson Ave.
2018	Stamper, Virginia Grant	Participated in the civil rights movements—marched in Milwaukee, in Selma, and in Washington; earned a bachelor's degree in exceptional education, and a master's degree and doctorate in linguistics; a master educator during her years teaching at Marian College, Marquette University, and UW-Milwaukee; in 1988 she served as principal at Urban Day School and later joined MPS as administrator for the Chapter 220 integration program in 1991; she believed it was important for African-American students to know about their culture, to be very positive about themselves.
2020	Stanford, Greg	Journalist who had a long career at the Milwaukee Journal and Journal Sentinel, first as a reporter, then as an editorial writer and columnist for 19 years before retiring in 2007. He often wrote about racial segregation and other social justice issues, and in the 1970s he and Joanne Williams organized the Wisconsin Black Media Association, a local chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.
2019	Starms, Frances Brock	Educator in MPS and at UWM, first Director Of MPS Head Start, namesake of 2 MPS schools, poet
2022	Stone, Nyesha	Nyesha Stone founded local media company, Carvd N Stone, in 2017 with the intention of bringing a more positive approach to news stories about Milwaukee's African American community. Stone has also worked for the Milwaukee Courier as an editor and reporter, and has worked for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Waukesha Freeman, Shepherd Express and CNN. She graduated from UWM in 2018 with a degree in journalism.
2018	Sykes, Donald	Dedicated his life to fighting poverty at the local, then national level; longtime executive director of the Social Development Commission (1968-1988), Milwaukee County's largest anti-poverty agency; served as Dirctor of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Office of Community Relations during the Clinton Administration; led the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (now Employ Milwaukee) from 2007-2014
2019	Taylor, Carolyn Stanford	Appointed the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in January 2019, succeeding Tony Evers after his election as governor. She is the first African American to hold that post in Wisconsin, and previously was the first female African American to serve as an assistant State Superintendent. In her earlier career at the Madison Metropolitan School District, she became the first African American President of the local teachers union.
2021	Thomas, Dr. Terence N.	Milwaukee-born doctor for whom the "Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Fund" is named. The fund was established in 1992 to provide financial assistance to low-income and students of color in Milwaukee. Common Council President Cavalier Johnson is a scholarship alumnus.
2020	Thornton-Bias, Kathy	President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, Thornton-Bias is just the second woman (and first woman of color) to lead the organization since it was founded by Annabell Cook Whitcomb in 1887.
2021	Thurman, Bradley	Bradley Thurman, who was born and raised in the Brewers Hill
	Tisdale, William	President and CEO of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council; has been on staff with the agency since 1978.
2022	Turrentine, Ellis	played basketball at Milwaukee Lincoln High School, 1965-1969, helped them to win state titles as a freshman and sophomore in 1966 and '67. He started on a state championship teams as a sophomore and earned all-state recognition as a junior and senior before playing at Drake. He scored 1,608 points, including 781 as a senior. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2015 in the "Boys Players" category.
2018	Von, Eric	Milwaukee radio and TV journalist for over 25 years, best known for his morning program "The Eric Vonn Show" on WNOV 860 AM; also worked for the local NPR station, WUWM 89.7 FM, and was a co-host for Milwaukee Public Television's "Black Nouveau and WISN 12's "It's Your Vote"
2023	Washington, Ranell	Mr. Washington, a proud UW-Milwaukee alum, is partnership development advisor at American Family Insurance, where he assists in the company's community outreach and talent development. Previously he worked as vice president of business banking at Town Bank. Since 2020 he has also served on the board of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), and Gov. Evers appointed him as its chairman in 2021. He also co-founded the young professional group Social X and has been involved with several of Milwaukee's business, educational, and arts groups.
2022	Wells, Della	African American folk artist and was born in Milwaukee 1951, though she grew up in North Carolina. Her colorful collages are inspired by her life experiences and current social issues in the United States. Della recently exhibited her work at Loyola University in Chicago, "Her Story, My Dreams: Images by Della Wells" and was the recipient of the City of Milwaukee's Artist of the Year award for 2016.
2020	White, Maxine	First appointed to the Milwaukee County bench in 1992, Judge White has most recently served as Chief Judge of the first judicial district, responsible for the administrative, fiscal, and personnel oversight of Milwaukee County Circuit Court and its 47 judges. In January, Governor Evers promoted her to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, making her the first woman of color to serve there.
2023	White, Wallace	White, who passed away in July 2022, was the first African American to be hired as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District in 1989. He later served as a commissioner and chairman. While head of the MMSD, White was instrumental in increasing the number of minority employees there, as well as contracting with local minority-run businesses. He was also a successful local businessman, and an instructor as Cardinal Stritch University's College of Business and Management.
2021	Wigley, Terri Lynn	Terri Lynn's Soul Food is a family-owned business that offers southern recipes and warm hospitality. Owner Terri Lynn Wigley has been feeding the
2018	Williams, Annette Polly	Longest-serving female in WI Legislature, "Mother of school choice"
2020	Williams, Venice	Executive Director of Alice's Garden, an urban farm on N. 21st St. that teaches food cultivation and preservation to Milwaukee families. The garden has blossomed through the years as a neighborhood hub that, in addition to vegetable beds, offers yoga classes, a meditation labyrinth, and hosts community events with Williams as its "cultural and spiritual midwife." In 2019 the Common Council honored her with a Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award.
2019	Wilson, Nellie	Pioneering labor union leader at A.O. Smith; as a union steward, she filed numerous grievance on behalf of women workers, which ultimately led to the removal of workplace barriers for women at that company; first woman elected to her union's executive board, and a founding member of the women's committee for the Wisconsin chapter of the AFL-CIO; also served as a spokesperson for the Minority Affairs Institute of the AARP.
2022	Winbush, Marna	Marna Winbush, who died in January 2022, co-founded Mothers Against Gun Violence after her son was fatally shot in 2003 by an ex-felon who legally purchased a gun. She and her organization lobbied the Wisconsin State Legislature for stricter laws on private gun sales and purchases. Winbush also worked with other community groups to assist families affected by gun violence.
2018	Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum	Founded by Clayborn Bension and opened in 1987 with the mission of documenting and preserving the history of African Americans in the State of Wisconsin; became an affiliate of the State Historical Society in 1988.
2019	WNOV	Radio station est. 1967; "The Voice" of Milwaukee's African-American community
2020	Woods, Mattiebelle	Noted journalist who wrote for many publications centered on the African American community, including Ebony and Jet magazines and newspapers in Chicago and Milwaukee. Her career at the Milwaukee Courier spanned 40 years. Woods died at age 102 on Feb. 17,
	Young, Lavelle	Founder and CEO of Young Development Group; born and raised in Milwaukee, Young interned at Legacy Redevelopment Corp. prior to forming his own company; chosen as lead developer for the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Library mixed-use redevelopment project.

Year used	Name/Entity	Significance
2017	Artison, Richard	First African-American appointed and elected Milwaukee County Sheriff
2017	Barbee, Lloyd	Civil rights activist, WI Assembly member, led efforts to desegregate MPS
2017	Bronzeville	A neighborhood bounded by North Ave., State St., 3rd St. and 12th St. that became densely populated by African-American in the early 20th century, particularly with the migration of laborers from the south seeking factory jobs.
2017	Butler, Louis	First African-American on the WI Supreme Court
2017	City Hall construction workers	A photo from 1896 shows that several African-Americans worked on building Milwaukee's City Hall, at a time when they were only about .3% of the city's population
2017	Coggs, Isaac	Served as WI Assemblyman from 1953-1964. After trying twice before, elected to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in 1964. He and Calvin Moody were the first African-American County Supervisors, and due to redistricting had to run against each other in 1968, a race Moody won. The Isaac Coggs Heritage Health Center is named for him.
2017	Daniels-Carter, Valerie	Founder and president of V&J Holdings Co., Inc., a family-run business that owns over 130 Burger King, Pizza Hut, and other restaurant franchises, making it the nation's largest female-owned restaurant chain; has served as the president of Milwaukee World Festival, Inc.; first African-American woman elected to the board of the Green Bay Packers; recognized by Essence magazine as one of the 50 most admired African-Americans in the United States.
2017	Driver, Darienne	First female superintendent of MPS
2017	Halyard, Ardie and Wilbur	Co-founded Columbia Savings & Loan to help African-Americans purchase homes; Halyard St., Halyard Park neighborhood namesakes
2017	Holton, Douglas	First African-American Chief of MFD
2017	Johnson, Ben	First African-American Common Council President
2017	Johnson-Odom, Marlene	Common Council member from 1980-2004, making her the longest-serving female Council member to date; sponsored renaming of 3rd St. to M. L. King Drive and the creation of the Minority Business Enterprise Program; championed developments throughout her district, particularly in Brewers Hill
2017	Jones, Arthur	First African-American Chief of MPD
2017	Lovelace, Ester	First female African-American deputy court clerk for Milwaukee County; Elder Emerita at Christian Faith Fellowship Church; director and CEO of The Buck Stops Here Minstry, Inc. an organization helping individuals to become self-sufficient, self-supporting, and productive.
2017	Moody, Calvin	Had a 25-year career with the MPD, where in 1949 he became one of the two first African American detectives in the department. He was elected to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in 1964. He and Isaac Coggs were the first African-American County Supervisors, and due to redistricting had to run against each other in 1968, a race Moody won. He served on the Board until 1972, and Moody Park is named in his honor.
2017	Moore, Gwen	WI's first African-American member of the U.S. Congress; also the first African-American woman elected to the WI state Senate in 1992, having previously served in the WI state Assembly
2017	Payne, Ulice	Member of Marquette's 1977 championship basketball team, first African-American managing partner at Foley and Lardner law firm, first African-American to be president of a Major League Baseball franchise (Milwaukee Brewers)
2017	Pitts, Orville	First African-American man elected to Common Council, champion amateur boxer turned lawyer and civil rights activist; family started Pitts Funeral Home
2017	Pratt, Marvin	Council President, first African-American to serve as Milwaukee Mayor, only person to serve as both Mayor and Milwaukee Co. Exec.; school namesake
2017	Rose, Bernice and Clinton	Clinton served on the Milwaukee County Board from 1968 until his death in 1977, Bernice the first African-American woman elected to same, in a 1977 special election after Clinton died. County park and senior center namesakes.
2018	Allen, Will	Growing Power founder, MacArthur "Genius Grant" winner, expert in urban agriculture
2018	Anderson-Watson family	The Andersons, William H., his wife Anne Watson Anderson, and their daughter Emily, are considered the first African-American family to settle permanently in Milwaukee. More Watsons (Anne's parents and siblings) followed. Mabel Watson Raimey was a descendent of Anne's brother William.
2018	Brooks, Beechie O.	Well-known real estate developer, one of a group of black realtors to form United Realty and served as its president; helped create and develop the Halyard Park subdivision; was one of the first minorities in Milwaukee to be accepted to the National Association of Real Estate Brokers; awarded the first Frank Fitzpatrick Development Award by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
2018	Chaney, Felmers	Milwaukee's first African-American police sergeant, president of NAACP and Milwaukee Urban League, co-founder and president of North Milwaukee State Bank
2018	Coggs, Marcia	American Democratic politician; served in the Wisconsin State Assembly (1977-1993); graduated from UW-Milwaukee
2018	Dumas, Tyrone	First African-American Director of Milwaukee County Dept. of Public Works
2018	Goggans, Irene	Unofficial "historian" and griot of Milwaukee's African American community, compiling over 60 years' worth of newsclippings, photographs and letters chronicling African American life in the city; awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Human Letters from UW-Milwaukee in 2015 in recognition of her life's work
2018	Gordon, Lucinda	Founder of the Lady Pitts School for unwed mothers; first female president of the Milwaukee Branch of the NAACP; started an arts group that worked to include African and African-American art at the Milwaukee Art Museum
2018	Harpole, Mildred and Reuben	Education advocates, "community connectors"; honorary street namesake (Reuben)
2018	Jarreau, Al	Born in Milwaukee in 1940, graduated from Ripon College in 1962; award-winning singer who recorded jazz, pop, and R&B songs and won six Grammys across all three categories; best know for the 1981 hit "We're in This Love Together" and the theme song from the hit TV series "Moonlighting"
2018	Johnson, Clarence and Cleopatra	Opened one of the city's first African-American-owned businesses (Ideal Tailor Shop), helped found a branch of the YMCA and Columbia Savings & Loan; Johnsons Park namesakes
2018	Lyles, Vincent	President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, also a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee and the Milwaukee Cultural and Entertainment Task Force
2018	NAACP Youth Council	Founded in 1947 by Ardie Halyard. In the 1960s, organized and participated in civil rights demonstrations against job discrimination and for fair housing.
2018	Rodgers, ReDonna	Community leader who's efforts focused on youth leadership, training and coaching; she co-founded the Center for Teaching Excellence in 1991, which has helped dozens of local business owners 24 years of age and younger; received a 2010 Fellowship Open Community Leader Award, which is given to individuals whose efforts are focused on improving children's lives in their community
2018	Rose, Harold	Pioneer in urban geography, wrote several books on race, segregation, and violence; one of the first tenured African-American professors at UWM
2018	Sanders, Welford	Economic development icon of Milwaukee's central city; former director of the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation, which has made significant contributions to the revitalization of the Harambee neighborhood; also a professor of architecture at UW-Milwaukee
2018	Stamper, Virginia Grant	Participated in the civil rights movements—marched in Milwaukee, in Selma, and in Washington; earned a bachelor's degree in exceptional education, and a master's degree and doctorate in linguistics; a master educator during her years teaching at Marian College, Marquette University, and UW-Milwaukee; in 1988 she served as principal at Urban Day School and later joined MPS as administrator for the Chapter 220 integration program in 1991; she believed it was important for African-American students to know about their culture, to be very positive about themselves.
2018	Sykes, Donald	Dedicated his life to fighting poverty at the local, then national level; longtime executive director of the Social Development Commission (1968-1988), Milwaukee County's largest anti-poverty agency; served as Dirctor of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Office of Community Relations during the Clinton Administration; led the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (now Employ Milwaukee) from 2007-2014
2018	Von, Eric	Milwaukee radio and TV journalist for over 25 years, best known for his morning program "The Eric Vonn Show" on WNOV 860 AM; also worked for the local NPR station, WUWM 89.7 FM, and was a co-host for Milwaukee Public Television's "Black Nouveau and WISN 12's "It's Your Vote"
2018	Williams, Annette Polly	Longest-serving female in WI Legislature, "Mother of school choice"
2018	Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum	Founded by Clayborn Benson and opened in 1987 with the mission of documenting and preserving the history of African Americans in the State of Wisconsin; became an affiliate of the State Historical Society in 1988.
2019	Aaron, Henry ("Hank")	Baseball legend who played for both Milwaukee Braves and Brewers; his Chasing the Dream Foundation awards scholarships through the Boys & Girls Clubs, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and UW-Madison; State Trail namesake
2019	Barnes, Mandela	The first African American to serve as Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor and only the second to be elected to a statewide office. (The first was Vel Phillips, who was elected Secretary of State in 1978.) He represented the 11th Assembly District in the state legislature from 2013-2017, and was defeated in a race for state Senate in 2016. Before his career as an elected official he worked as an organizer for Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (M.I.C.A.H.).
2019	Benson, Clayborn	Founded the Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum in 1987. He currently serves as the organization's Executive Director. The Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum is the only institution in the state that collects and preserves African-American history specific to Wisconsin. Benson also worked at WTMJ-TV as a photojournalist for 39 years.
2019	Coggs, Spencer	After a long term of service in the WI Assembly and Senate, became the first African-American to be elected Milwaukee city treasurer (and first African-American elected to any city executive branch office)
2019	Finlayson, Dr. Willam	Milwaukee obstetrician and gynecologist. He established is own private practice in Milwaukee in 1958, which he ran for forty years until 1997. He also taught at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin Medical School. In 1971, Finlayson founded the first black-owned bank in Milwaukee, North Milwaukee State Bank where he serves on the board of directors and is the bank's chairman. In founding the bank, Finlayson's mission was not profit based. Rather, he intended to add stature and viability to underserved communities by offering full-service banking to individuals and businesses. North Milwaukee State Bank's mission is to facilitate community development and economic growth, personal and business advancement, home ownership growth, and financial education. Finlayson is also a member of the Urban League and a lifetime member of the NAACP.
2019	Fuller, Howard	Former MPS Superintendent, education reform advocate, Marquette Professor
2019	Gordon, Grant	First African-American school principal in MPS and served as president of Milwaukee chapter of the NAACP
2019	Haywood, Kaylan Jr.	Rep. Kalan Haywood represents the 16th District in the Wisconsin Assembly. Elected in November 2018, the 19-year-old Cardinal Stritch University student is the youngest legislator in the state and perhaps the country. During his high school years he served on Milwaukee's Youth Council and was elected President of that body for his last two years before he graduated in 2017.
2019	Henningsen, Margaret	Margaret Henningsen is one of three co-founders of Legacy Bank, which was the only bank in the country organized and run by African American women. Beginning in 1999, it provided financial services and business loans to Milwaukee's central city until the economic downturn forced its sale to Seaway Bank in 2011. Committed to social causes, she also worked at the Social Development Commission and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, retiring as its executive director in 2016.
2019	Holloway, Lee	Milwaukee County supervisor for 20 years; first African American Chair of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and first African American to serve as County Executive; led efforts to create a county general assistance medical program — a health safety net — that subsequently was expanded statewide as Badger Care
2019	Kaepernick, Colin	Colin Kaepernick is a former quarterback of the National Football League. He played with the San Francisco 49ers from 2011-2016. He is known for his civil rights activism, expressed by kneeling during the national anthem prior to games as a protest against racial injustice and systematic oppression, especially of African Americans. He was born in Milwaukee in 1987.
2019	Kowalik, Jeanette	Dr. Jeanette Kowalik is the first African-American female Commissioner of Health for the City of Milwaukee. She earned a Ph.D. in population health from UW-Milwaukee and worked at the Milwaukee Health Department from 2002 through 2008. She has also worked in health departments in Wauwatosa, Chicago and Madison, in addition to colleges and non-profits. Most recently she served as the Associate Director of Women's and Infant Health at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs in Washington D.C.
2019	Lanier, Shirley J.	Shirley J. Lanier is one of three co-founders of Legacy Bank, which was the only bank in the country organized and run by African American women. Beginning in 1999, it provided financial services and business loans to Milwaukee's central city until the economic downturn forced its sale to Seaway Bank in 2011.
2019	Malone, Glorious	Glorious Malone was a food industry entrepreneur in Milwaukee's Bronzeville neighborhood, along with her husband George and her father Sterling Williams. They started out by opening a grocery store together in 1961 that specialized in produce from the American south and featured George's personal recipe for headcheese, which differed greatly from the European-style headcheese that was common around the city. After George's death in 1971, Glorious incorporated the business as Malone's Fine Sausage, Inc. She was the first African American woman in the U.S. to obtain meat inspection accreditation from the USDA and to own and run a federally inspected plant. After Glorious died in 2007, her daughter Daphne Jones added her mother's first name to the company name.
2019	Milwaukee Community Journal	Est. 1976; An African-American-focused weekly newpaper, one of three in Milwaukee
2019	Milwaukee Courier	Est. 1964; the oldest African-American-focused weekly newpaper of the three in the city; Owned by Courier Communications, which also owns radio station WNOV
2019	Milwaukee Urban League	Social agency offering programs that are designed to help African-Americans and other people of color achieve civil rights and social and economic equality so they can become more self-reliant members of society. Milwaukee affiliate est. 1919
2019	Oliver, Joe	First recorded black settler in Milwaukee, hired in 1835 as a cook for Milwaukee founding father and first mayor Solomon Juneau. Also cast a vote in a city election in September, 1835.
2019	Perkins, Willie Sr.	Started Mr. Perkins Family Restaurant, a Milwaukee culinary institution, along with his wife Hilda. The restaurant, known for its soul food menu, opened in 1969, and will celebrate its 59th anniversary in 2019. Its customers come from around the city to share good food and conversation, and it has also attracted a number of celebrities such as Danny Glover and Michael Jordan.
2019	Raimey, Mabel Watson	First African-American woman to: graduate from UW-Madison, attend Marquette Law School, and be admitted to the WI State Bar
2019	Robeson, Paul	Paul Robeson was an African-American bass baritone concert artist, and stage and film actor who became famous both for his cultural accomplishments and for his political activism. While working on his law degree at Columbia University in 1922, he was recruited to play for the NFL's Milwaukee Badgers.
2019	Sims, Delores	One of three co-founders of Legacy Bank, which was the only bank in the country organized and run by African American women. Beginning in 1999, it provided financial services and business loans to Milwaukee's central city until the economic downturn forced its sale to Seaway Bank in 2011. Legacy Bank opened in a former Firstar Bank building where Sims had worked for most of her career up to that point, and she was Legacy's first president and CEO.
2019	Smith, Dr. Clifford V. Jr.	Dr. Clifford Smith Jr. served as chancellor at UW-Milwaukee (1986-1990) and has the distinction of being the first African-American chancellor of a four-year college in the UW System. He came to UWM from Oregon State University where he was head of the Radiation Center and the Department of Nuclear Engineering. He continued to encourage UWM's efforts to expand its research and also helped expand the campus, overseeing construction of the Architecture and Urban Planning and School of Business Administration buildings. He nurtured the nationally acclaimed Professional Theatre Training Program at the School of the Arts and supported UWM's move into NCAA Division I athletics.
2019	St. Mark AME Church	On January 9, 1869, Reverend Theodore Crosby and a small group of community members formed St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first African American church established in Milwaukee. The congregation had its first home at Fourth and Cedar (now Kilbourn) Streets. The church worshiped at another building further north on Fourth St., then underwent two more moves in the 1960s forced by freeway construction. The church finally settled in its current location near 16th and Atkinson Ave.
2019	Starms, Frances Brock	Educator in MPS and at UWM, first Director Of MPS Head Start, namesake of 2 MPS schools, poet
2019	Taylor, Carolyn Stanford	Appointed the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in January 2019, succeeding Tony Evers after his election as governor. She is the first African American to hold that post in Wisconsin, and previously was the first female African American to serve as an assistant State Superintendent. In her earlier career at the Madison Metropolitan School District, she became the first African American President of the local teachers union.
2019	Wilson, Nellie	Pioneering labor union leader at A.O. Smith; as a union steward, she filed numerous grievance on behalf of women workers, which ultimately led to the removal of workplace barriers for women at that company; first woman elected to her union's executive board, and a founding member of the women's committee for the Wisconsin chapter of the AFL-CIO; also served as a spokesperson for the Minority Affairs Institute of the AARP.
2019	WNOV	Radio station est. 1967; "The Voice" of Milwaukee's African-American community
2020	Allen, Debbie	PhD in Business Administration; owned and operated several local McDonald's restaurants; established DNA Network, a local consulting firm for female entrepreneurs; has appeared on the "Project Pitch It" television show.
2020	Baldwin Florists	First African American floral shop in Milwaukee, established in 1983, located at 3825 N. Teutonia Avenue
2020	Butler, La Keisha	Municipal attorney for the City of Milwaukee who in 2018 was appointed Executive Director of the Fire and Police Commission, the first African American to hold that position.
2020	Coggs, Elizabeth	Daughter of trailblazing politicians Isaac and Marcia Coggs, Elizabeth carried on her family's tradition of public service, first on the Milwaukee County Board from 1998-2008, and then in the Wisconsin Assembly.
2020	Colas, Faithe A.	Colas' 30-year career in media and public relations began with the Milwaukee Courier and contiues today as she hosts the weekly radio talk show "There's Always Something Good to Talk About." In 2019 she joined the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office as director of public relations and community engagement.
2020	Cole, Preston	held several leadership positions with the City of Milwaukee, most recently as Commissioner of Neighborhood Services; currently serves as the Wisconsin Secretary of Natural Resources, and was a previous Chair of the State Natural Resource Board and the first African American elected to that position.
2020	Davis, Dr. Robert	In September 2019 Dr. Davis was named the new President and CEO of America's Black Holocaust Museum. A doctor of veterinary medicine, Davis previously was President and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, where he had impressive success as a fundraiser.
2020	Evans, Roy B.	A Milwaukee native who grew up in Bronzeville, Evans has served his hometown as an MPS teacher, a lawyer, a mentor, and as a member of various government boards and commissions. In 2019 the Common Council honored him with a Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award.
2020	Freeman, Martha 'Mama'	Beloved community activist in the historic Garden Homes neighborhood, where she has lived since 1969 and is seen as a mother to that community by the local residents; retired from Milwaukee County after working for 20 years at the Milwaukee County House of Correction.
2020	Gillespie, Ezekiel	In 1866, Gillespie won a landmark case when the WI Supreme Court unanimously ruled that African-American men had the right to vote, making Wisconsin one of the first states to grant suffrage to men of African descent. In fact, the legislature had passed a law to that effect in 1849, subject to referendum. The results of the referendum were disputed and black voters were disenfranchised until the Supreme Court's ruling over a decade later.
2020	Givens, John	In the 1960's, Givens was the co-founder and chair of the city's CORE--Congress of Racial Equality and also was active with the Youth Council and NAACP. In 1965, CORE won a case in the WI Supreme Court, which ruled that protestors had a right to demonstrate peacefully without being arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. In 1968, Givens accepted Mayor Maier's offer to join his staff and head the Model Cities program, which secured federal funds to build and rehab housing units and make other public improvements.
2020	Goins, Melissa	founder and President of Maures Development Group LLC and a Vice-President of J. Jeffers & Co. Notable building projects that she has overseen include The Griot Apartments/America's Black Holocaust Museum and the Mill Road Library redevelopment.
2020	Gore, Cecelia	Executive Director of the Brewers Community Foundation, the official charitable entity of the Milwaukee Brewers, which provides financial support to nonprofits that provide quality programming in the areas of health, education, recreation and basic needs, with a particular focus on low-income and disadvantaged youth and their families.
2020	Hardy, Kristen	An attorney currently working as in-house legal counsel at Briggs & Stratton Corp., a position she also held at Rockwell Automation; Hardy has also served as president of the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers (WAAL) and is a board member of the Milwaukee Bar Association.
2020	Hill, Valarie	First elected to the Milwaukee Municipal Court in 2004, Judge Hill spearheaded the "Warrant Withdrawal Wednesdays" program in 2016 as a way for citizens with outstanding warrants to see a judge and address their legal issues without fear of arrest.
2020	Hughes, Louis	Author of the 1987 memoir Thirty Years a Slave: From Bondage to Freedom, which was published in Milwaukee, Hughes is considered to be Milwaukee's first African American author. He lived in Milwaukee for over 40 years, working in the local hotel industry.
2020	Jordan, Sharon	Community Relations Director at Direct Supply in Milwaukee; serves on the board of the Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation, and is the current Secretary of the Board of Directors for Community Advocates.
2020	Lindsay, Bernice	Bernice Lindsay – Community activist who lived in Milwaukee from the late 1920s until her death in 1985. She was often referred to as "the mother of the black community" and was an original member of the Milwaukee Commission on Human Rights, formed in 1944. The Lindsay Heights neighborhood was named in her honor.
2020	Moore, Reggie	Director of the City of Milwaukee's Office of Violence Prevention, Moore is also the founder and former Executive Director of the Center for Youth Engagement, a local service agency for under-served youth.
2020	Patterson, Dana World	CEO of Foundations for Freedom, a Milwaukee organization that works with area women and girls at risk of being caught up in human trafficking; she is also chairwoman of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee.
2020	Prince, Dr. Joan	Vice Chancellor of global inclusion and engagement at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Prince was the first African American recipient of a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology and Masters in Clinical Laboratory Sciences at UWM, where she also earned a doctorate in urban education. Along with leadership positions in education, medicine, and civic groups, Prince served as an alternate representative to the United Nations during the Obama administration and is currently a board member of the Milwaukee host committee for the Democratic National Convention.
2020	Pyles, Robert	owner of numerous McDonald's franchises and one of the largest African American employers in Wisconsin; began Magnolia Realty in an effort to help his employees find nearby affordable housing; serves as a minister at Abundant Faith Church of Integrity.
2020	Ridley, John	Born in Milwaukee, Ridley is a film and television director and screenwriter, who won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for the film "12 Years a Slave." He is also a novelist, whose book Spoils of War was adapted into the movie "Three Kings."
2020	Sabir, Joanne and Maanaan	Husband and wife owners of The Juice Kitchen juice bar located in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood; Joanne is also co-developer of the Sherman Phoenix, a new business and wellness hub in the Sherman Park neighborhood.
2020	Stanford, Greg	Journalist who had a long career at the Milwaukee Journal and Journal Sentinel, first as a reporter, then as an editorial writer and columnist for 19 years before retiring in 2007. He often wrote about racial segregation and other social justice issues, and in the 1970s he and Joanne Williams organized the Wisconsin Black Media Association, a local chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.
2020	Thornton-Bias, Kathy	President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, Thornton-Bias is just the second woman (and first woman of color) to lead the organization since it was founded by Annabell Cook Whitcomb in 1887.
2020	White, Maxine	First appointed to the Milwaukee County bench in 1992, Judge White has most recently served as Chief Judge of the first judicial district, responsible for the administrative, fiscal, and personnel oversight of Milwaukee County Circuit Court and its 47 judges. In January, Governor Evers promoted her to the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, making her the first woman of color to serve there.
2020	Williams, Venice	Executive Director of Alice's Garden, an urban farm on N. 21st St. that teaches food cultivation and preservation to Milwaukee families. The garden has blossomed through the years as a neighborhood hub that, in addition to vegetable beds, offers yoga classes, a meditation labyrinth, and hosts community events with Williams as its "cultural and spiritual midwife." In 2019 the Common Council honored her with a Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award.
2020	Woods, Mattiebelle	Noted journalist who wrote for many publications centered on the African American community, including Ebony and Jet magazines and newspapers in Chicago and Milwaukee. Her career at the Milwaukee Courier spanned 40 years. Woods died at age 102 on Feb. 17,
2021	African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee	Local network of African American community leaders and partners founded in 2017 to encourage the development and retention of Milwaukee's African American professsionals, and to promote Milwaukee as a top-ranking city for African American to live and work in.
2021	Banks, Jimmy	Jimmy Banks, a Milwaukee native, was an accomplished soccer player who graduated from Custer High School and went on to play at UW-Milwaukee. He made history as one of the first African Americans to play for the U.S. Men's National Team and played a pivotal role during the USA's 1990 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign. As the head coach of the Milwaukee School of Engineering men's team, Mr. Banks won 198 career games and appeared in two NCAA Division III Tournaments. Jimmy Banks was a cherished family member, friend, coach and mentor who will be remembered for his lasting impact on the community and U.S. Soccer.
2021	Barnett, Vic and Dawn	Victor Barnett was 19 when he founded Running Rebels to help mentor young people (mostly African Americans) who were in danger of being pulled into the street life of gangs, crime, and violence. He used basketball as the tool to engage, mentor and guide youth toward an alternative path that would ensure their future success. From this vision and action, Running Rebels Community Organization was born, and today Victor and his wife, Dawn, have turned Running Rebels into a history-making mentoring organization that serves 2,500 youth annually.
2021	Broadnax, John R.	Broadnax was a noted civil rights attorney who was involved in settling Milwaukee's landmark school desegregation case in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He and his law partners founded their firm, Wilson, Broadnax, and Owens in 1956, making it the oldest minority-owned law firm in Wisconsin. Broadnax was also a lifetime member of the NAACP and served as president of its Milwaukee chapter, and in 2002 was recognized by the State Bar of Wisconsin for his outstanding contributions to the legal profession.
2021	Brown, Chytania	President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee, the first African-American female to hold that post.
2021	Carter, Lester	Long-time local pharmacist and owner of Carter Drug Store (now a Hayat Pharmacy), "Dr. Carter" was recognized for his service to the community with an honorary street sign at his pharmacy's location on N. 24th St. and W. Burleigh St. in 2018
2021	Conyers, Nathan	Conyers was a journalist and co-founder of The Milwaukee Times weekly newspaper along with Louvenia Johnson and Luther Golden. The publishing team launched the newspaper's Black Excellence awards program and a scholarship fund for students pursuing journalism degrees. With a lifelong interest in politics and community affairs, Conyers served on boards of many community organizations including Pastor United, Discovery World, Independence First, the Milwaukee Urban League, and the Ride for the Arts.
2021	Crowley, David	First African American elected to serve as Milwaukee County Executive, sworn into office on May 4, 2020. Crowley was born and raised in Milwaukee, worked with several local community organizations, and served two terms in the Wisconsin State Assembly before being elected County Executive
2021	Daniels, Kathryn (Mother Daniels)	Mother Kathryn Daniels, a charter member of Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ (founded by her son, Bishop Sedgwick Daniels), was a historic social justice advocate who championed outreach activities that brought food pantries, elderly centers and other important services to the community. She exuded excellence, positivity, strong leadership, and limitless compassion and humanity.
2021	Fessahaye, Makda	Makda Fessahaye is making history the first African American Director of Employee Relations for the City of Milwaukee. Fessahaye previously served as an appointed member of Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' administration as the Administrator for the Division of Adult Institutions for the State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Fessahaye received her Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies from Northwestern University and went on to earn her Juris Doctor from the Marquette University Law School. Fessahaye currently serves as a board member of Women in Focus, Inc. and a member of the Urban League of Greater Madison Young Professionals.
2021	Green, William T.	Born in Canada, Green came to Wisconsin in 1887, attended UW Law School, and became Milwaukee's first African American lawyer. He worked to enact the WI Civil Rights Act of 1893, which prohibited racial discrimination in public facilities.
2021	Hebert, Stanley P.	First African-American to attend Marquette University High School (class of 1940), US Navy deputy general counsel, member of Kerner Commission
2021	Johnson, Joan	First African American to be name Director of the Milwaukee Public Library; born in Milwaukee, grew up in the Concordia neighborhood, attended West Division High School (now Milwaukee High School of the Arts). Worked in the Seattle Public Library System for 15 years before returning to Milwaukee in 2006 for a position in administration at MPL Central.
2021	Jones, Arlis	Owned and operated numerous jazz/nightclubs in Milwaukee starting in the 1970s; focused on entertainment by and for African Americans in Milwaukee; received a Wisconsin Area Music Industry Award in 2004 for best live entertainment venue in Wisconsin
2021	Kane, Eugene	Kane was a renowned writer for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. His column, "Raising Kane" consistently challenged readers to confront racial issues throughout Milwaukee's politics, culture, business, and media. Unafraid of challenges, Kane also made a committed effort to engage with those whose opinions differed from his. He won many national awards for his work and in 2014 was inducted into both the Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame and the Milwaukee Press Club Hall of Fame. In 2017 we was honored by the Wisconsin Black Media Association.
2021	Kelly Hamilton, Dasha	Named poet laureate of Wisconsin in January 2021. Also currently serving as poet laureate of Milwaukee, and is only the second person to hold both positions. She is also a performer, novelist and has appeared on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam." In addition to her poetry honors, Kelly Hamilton has served as an arts envoy for the U.S. Embassy, assigned to cultural exchange programs in several countries around the globe.
2021	Kelly, William	Led the Milwaukee Urban League for 31 years, from 1928-1959 & was devoted to fighting discrimination in employment
2021	Lena's Food Market	Lena's Food Market is an African American owned grocery store chain, employs more than 300 people across the Milwaukee area. The owner of Lena's, Bezelee Martin, started his first business at the age of 14 and in 1950, became the first Black licensed car dealer in Wisconsin. Mr. Martin was recognized for his accomplishments in 2013, when he was inducted into the Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame. Family owned, Lena's Food Market, continues to serve its community as it has for more than 51 years.
2021	Martin, Bruce	Bruce Martin helped bring King's Fresh Market, a full-service grocery store with fresh produce and hot food at 2730 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr., to the Harambee neighborhood. This store allowed for fresh, whole food access in what was previously a food dessert. In addition, Bruce and his wife Tami aim to provide food education and improve wellness within the community.
2021	Purifoy-Smoots, Sharon	Purifoy-Smoots was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Milwaukee Fire Department in December, 2020. She is the first African American woman to hold that position. In May 2022, Purifoy-Smoots became the first Black female to achieve the rank of Assistant Chief in the MFD.
2021	Ramey, LaNelle	LaNelle Ramey worked for years for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and was the director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Office of Black and Latino Male Achievement (BLMA). Mr. Ramey now serves as the executive director of MENTOR Greater Milwaukee (MGM), and for more than 26 years he has been a mentor to hundreds of kids formally and thousands informally, and he sees his role as pushing the importance of being a mentor to a larger platform and with greater visibility.
2021	Reed, Reginald	LaNelle Ramey worked for years for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and was the director of the Milwaukee Public Schools Office of Black and Latino Male Achievement (BLMA). Mr. Ramey now serves as the executive director of MENTOR Greater Milwaukee (MGM), and for more than 26 years he has been a mentor to hundreds of kids formally and thousands informally, and he sees his role as pushing the importance of being a mentor to a larger platform and with greater visibility.
2021	Robinson, Alonzo	As the first African American registered architect in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, Alonzo Robinson was a trailblazer in his field as he overcame adversity to open doors for future architects and engineers of color in the city and state. Mr. Robinson designed many buildings in downtown Milwaukee including the Milwaukee Fire Department headquarters at N. 7th and W. Wells Streets (poised to be renamed in his honor by the Common Council), central-city churches, the former YMCA (now a Marquette University facility) at N. 10th and W. Wisconsin Ave., the Doyne Park shelter house and the Vel Phillips YWCA.
2021	Scales, Harvey	Scales, "Milwaukee's Godfather of Soul," was a prolific entertainer and songwriter, and played with his band the Seven Sounds well into his 70s. Early in his career he was a popular opening act for many big-name artists, including Chubby Checker, Stevie Wonder, and The Commodores. Scales co-wrote the 1976 hit song "Disco Lady" for Johnnie Taylor, the first song to be certified platinum.
2021	Sias, Thelma	Retired in January 2017 after 32 years of employment at WE Energies, where her title was vice president of local affairs; served or is serving on the boards of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Foundation, the Sojourner Family Peace Center, Cardinal Stritch University, and was appointed in 2019 by Gov. Evers to the WEDC Board. She mentors young professionals and started making investments in central city redevelopment projects.
2021	Thomas, Dr. Terence N.	Milwaukee-born doctor for whom the "Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Fund" is named. The fund was established in 1992 to provide financial assistance to low-income and students of color in Milwaukee. Common Council President Cavalier Johnson is a scholarship alumnus.
2021	Thurman, Bradley	Bradley Thurman, who was born and raised in the Brewers Hill
2021	Wigley, Terri Lynn	Terri Lynn's Soul Food is a family-owned business that offers southern recipes and warm hospitality. Owner Terri Lynn Wigley has been feeding the
2022	Al-Amin, Shaykh Ayyub	Born Roscoe Simpson in Flint Michigan, Al-Amin was a leader in Milwaukee's Muslim community. He moved to Milwaukee in the early 1970s, and together with his wife, converted to Islam, and helped establish the Milwaukee Islamic Dawah Center, where he served as executive director. He was also the dawah chairman for the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Dawah is an invitation to individuals to join the Islamic faith. The Dawah Center has expanded to include a food pantry and re-entry services to those who have been incarcerated.
2022	Barnett, Victor	Founder & Exec. Director, Running Rebels youth services
2022	Bennett, Cheryl	General manager, 88Nine Radio Milwaukee
2022	Berrien, Lucille	Lucille Berrien is a 93-year-old welfare rights activist and was involved in Milwaukee's open housing marches during the 1960's working alongside James Groppi. She is a former member of the Black Panther Party and the first Black woman to run for the mayor of Milwaukee in 1972. She co-founded the Milwaukee Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression in 1973. Milwaukee County's Berrien Park is named for her.
2022	Brisco, Rev. Willie	President of MICAH, Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope; has spent the better part of his life fighting racism in the Milwaukee area, along with focusing on issues of inequality in transportation, employment and housing.
2022	Butts, Antonio	Executive Director of the nonprofit Walnut Way Conservation Corp., located in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood where he grew up. Through this organization, Butts works to bring economic development and opportunity to the local community.
2022	Clark, George Marshall	Clark was the victim of the only recorded lynching of a Black person in Milwaukee, dying on Sept. 8, 1861. He was buried in a unmarked grave in Forest Home Cemetery. After research by Tyrone Randle and America's Black Holocaust Museum located his final resting place, funds were raised for a headstone. In 2021, on the anniversary of his death, the stone was installed and bears the inscription, "Lest we forget."
2022	Community Within the Corridor	Formed by local developers in 2020, this group focuses on the rehabilitation of the former Briggs and Stratton industrial site on the north side of Milwaukee into affordable housing, community amenities, and commercial space. Team members include Mikal Wesley of Urbane Communities, Falamak Nourzad of Continuum Architects, Que El-Amin of Scott Crawford Inc., Jennifer Green of Commercial Realty Advisors, and Rayhaino Boynes of Sharp Creatives.
2022	Dowell, Mary	Mary Dowell, who died in January 2022, was a prominent corporate executive in the Milwaukee area. She was founder and CEO of MJ Dowell & Associates, and worked for 19 years at Johnson Controls, retiring as vice president in 2015. Dowell also chaired or served on the boards of many local organizations, including the Milwaukee Urban League, Professional Dimensions, Visit Milwaukee, TEMPO Milwaukee, Milwaukee Women Inc and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. She also co-founded the United Performing Arts Fund's Notable Women Initiative, and was an award-winning author of the 2016 book "Playing Through the Fence," which featured stories of mostly Milwaukee-area women.
2022	El-Amin, Khalif	Khalif El-Amin is the 2012 Co-founder of the Young Enterprising Society (YES), a program that provides training and technology assistance to Milwaukee-area youth and adult entrepreneurs.
2022	El-Amin, Que	El-Amin is a real estate developer and entrepreneur who focuses on Milwaukee's needs for both affordable housing and oppurtunities for startup businesses. Besides running his real estate company, he also leads the Young Enterprising Society with his brother Khalif. Their organization runs accelerator and education programs for new businesses.
2022	Ellis, Andre Lee	Founder of "We Got This" mentoring and employment program for Milwaukee youth, Founder & Managing Dir. of the Andre Lee Ellis & Company theatre group
2022	Gilmer, Gloria	Pioneering mathematician and a longtime Milwaukee resident, educator and community leader; Ms. Gilmer was the first African American to teach high school math at MPS, the first African American on the math faculty at MATC, the first African American math lecturer at UWM, and the first African American to earn a doctorate from Marquette University's School of Education. She spent her later years working in the field of ethnomathematics both nationally and internationally, and started the educational research and development company Math Tech Inc. in Milwaukee. After her death in 2021, the Library of Congress' Manuscript Division added her papers to its collection, making her the first Black woman mathematician so honored.
2022	Hall, Joyce A.	For most of her 36 years as an MPS faculty member, Hall dedicated herself to teaching reading. After her retirement in 1994, she continued her mission for more than 20 years, volunteering as a reading tutor. In 2021 she was honored by George Washington Carver Academy, which renamed its school library after her.
2022	Hill, Raynetta "Ray"	In October 2021, Raynetta "Ray" Hill was appointed to be the executive director of the Historic King Drive Business Improvement District and is the first African American woman to hold that position. She served as the district's associate director from 2016-18 and has also worked as the regional manager of property management and advancement services at Common Bond Communities Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing developer.
2022	Holley, Rosemary	Rosemary Holley was a community activist and longtime member of the Social Development Commission's Board of Commissioners, having served as chairperson in 1996, 1998, and 1999. She began her involvement with the SDC after it was first created in 1966, working as a teacher's aid and supervisor in the organization's Head Start Program. Holley was also involved with the SDC's Inner City Devleopment Project from 1972 to 1985, serving as executive director of that agency from 1976 to 1985. She passed away in December 2021.
2022	Lanier, Rev. Walter	Son of Milwaukee Bucks Hall of Fame player Bob Lanier, Rev. Lanier serves as a pastor at Progressive Baptist Church and as chairman of the MICAH's religious leaders caucus. He is also the director of community engagement and student resources at MATC, as well as leader of the school's Men of Color Initiative, which aims to improve the retention, graduation and other academic outcomes for MATC's men of color. He holds a law degree from the University of Michigan, and taught courses related to constitutional law at UW-Milwaukee while working at his own private law practice. He also serves on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board, and previously served on the Milwaukee County Pension Board.
2022	Leary, Rev. Dr. James E.	A pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Leary was one of the founders of Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) and served as its first president. When the group was looking to hire a community organizer, Leary interviewed a young man named Barack Obama.
2022	Morris, Amos	Appointed in 2021 by county Executive David Crowley, Morris is the newest director of the Milwaukee County Zoo and the first Black person to fill that position.
2022	Newell, Kevin	Founder and President of Royal Capital Group, a company focused on urban development, mainly multi-family housing. Royal Capital is a co-developer of the Mill Road Library, is building the 550 Ultra Lofts in the Bucks Arena District, and also will build @North Beach, an apartment complex on Racine's lakefront and the largest residential housing development in the city in a generation.
2022	Phelps Brothers	James, Jalin and Clifton Phelps are the co-owners of JCP Construction, which they founded in 2009 and have worked to make it one of the top black-owned commercial contracting companies in Milwaukee. They have worked on some of the most high-profile building projects in the city including the Bader Philanthropies headquarters, Northwestern Mutual's downtown office tower, and the Fiserv Forum.
2022	Powell, Deneine	First president and CEO of the African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee, a nonprofit focused on turning Milwaukee into a top ranking region of choice for Black by helping the region's business community retain, nourish and advance the careers of local Black professionals.
2022	Purvis, Nikki	First African American woman to lead the City of Milwaukee's Office of Equity and Inclusion; also serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Social Development Commission and the Urban Economic Development Association, and is a past board member of the African American Leadership Alliance and Select Milwaukee.
2022	Stone, Nyesha	Nyesha Stone founded local media company, Carvd N Stone, in 2017 with the intention of bringing a more positive approach to news stories about Milwaukee's African American community. Stone has also worked for the Milwaukee Courier as an editor and reporter, and has worked for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Waukesha Freeman, Shepherd Express and CNN. She graduated from UWM in 2018 with a degree in journalism.
2022	Turrentine, Ellis	played basketball at Milwaukee Lincoln High School, 1965-1969, helped them to win state titles as a freshman and sophomore in 1966 and '67. He started on a state championship teams as a sophomore and earned all-state recognition as a junior and senior before playing at Drake. He scored 1,608 points, including 781 as a senior. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2015 in the "Boys Players" category.
2022	Wells, Della	African American folk artist and was born in Milwaukee 1951, though she grew up in North Carolina. Her colorful collages are inspired by her life experiences and current social issues in the United States. Della recently exhibited her work at Loyola University in Chicago, "Her Story, My Dreams: Images by Della Wells" and was the recipient of the City of Milwaukee's Artist of the Year award for 2016.
2022	Winbush, Marna	Marna Winbush, who died in January 2022, co-founded Mothers Against Gun Violence after her son was fatally shot in 2003 by an ex-felon who legally purchased a gun. She and her organization lobbied the Wisconsin State Legislature for stricter laws on private gun sales and purchases. Winbush also worked with other community groups to assist families affected by gun violence.
2023	Ashe, Brother Booker T.	Brother Ashe was a Capuchin monk who founded the House of Peace in Milwaukee in 1967, a non-profit institution serving the poor. He ran it for over 25 years, until his retirement in 1995. In 1970, he was elected by the Capuchin order to a term as a provincial councilor, the first Black in the United States to be selected to that administrative post. Brother Ashe was also the first cousin of tennis legend Arthur Ashe. He died in 2000 at the age of 68.
2023	Baker, Dr. Rob "Biko""	After completing a degree at UW-Milwaukee in 2000, Baker moved to Los Angeles to attend graduate school at UCLA. There he studied history by day and witnessed history by night, working as a writer covering the thriving hip hop scene for The Source magazine. He blended the two interests by joining the League of Young Voters, encouraging youth to pursue social change through political and multi-media activism, and he served as the group's executive director for 10 years while completing his PhD. Violence in Milwaukee and the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri spurred him to more activism and creative output. He launched his digital storytelling company, Render, to help amplify social causes and nonprofits through web sites and social media.
2023	Ball, Dr. Denita R.	Dr. Ball is the first black woman to hold the post of Milwaukee County Sheriff, first on an interim basis after the resignation of Earnell Lucas, then elected in November 2022 to a full term. Sheriff Ball holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, a master's degree in criminal justice administration from the UW–Milwaukee, and a doctorate of philosophy in educational leadership from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Prior to her election, Sheriff Ball had served since 2019 as chief deputy sheriff/undersheriff of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, and before coming to the Sheriff's Office, she worked for the Milwaukee Police Department and retired at the rank of deputy inspector after 25 years of distinguished service. While a member of the police department, Sheriff Ball set up and was the first commander of the Neighborhood Task Force, a group of 200 officers whose efforts resulted in double-digit decreases in crime.
2023	Beckley, Maurice 'Doc B'	Doc B is one of Milwaukee's first hip hop DJs, and is the founder and owner of B-Boy Productions, a local company that provides music for public events. He was also the official Green Bay Packers DJ at Lambeau Field during their 2014-2015 season, and has participated in the 10,000 Fearless movement, a group of men and women working to stop the bloodshed in the Milwaukee community.
2023	Carrington, Keith	Mr. Carrington was serving as the principal at North Division High School, when he died unexpectedly at the age of 48 in August 2022. He had been working in that position since 2016. The two decades prior to that, Mr. Carrington worked as a paraprofessional, special-education teacher, assistant principal and principal at a number of other MPS schools. He was also a part-time security supervisor for first the Bradley Center and then the Fiserv Forum. He was admired and respected by his North Division students and staff for his positive presence and commitment to both the school and the neighboring community.
2023	Carter, Jackie	Ms. Carter was appointed Director of Port Milwaukee in January 2023, the first African American to be appointed to lead that enterprise. Prior to her appointment as director, she was the Finance and Administration Officer at the Port. Ms. Carter has also worked in the local non-profit and public sector for more than 20 years. She graduated with a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Public Administration from Concordia University, and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Alverno College, with a double major in Business & Management and Professional Communication.
2023	Chambers, Lula	In the late 1970's Lula Chambers was the Executive Director of the Highland Park Community Center, a city housing project, youth and family recreation center. She was also a caseworker in the family empowerment program of S.E.T. MINISTRY (SERVICE, EMPOWERMENT, and TRANSFORMATION), a Milwaukee non-profit agency that helps socially and economically disadvantaged people set and achieve goals that promote self-sufficiency and improve their lives. Her service with that organization included working with residents of the Milwaukee Housing Authority. She served in the office Mayor Henry Maier. Ms. Chambers passed away in 2007, and was the grandmother of newly elected Ald. Mark Chambers.
2023	Gallmon, Rev. Dr. Joy	"Pastor Joy" has been the leader of St. Mark AME, Milwaukee's oldest African-American church, since 2017, but she wasn't always focused on the religious life. Her first college degree was in marketing, and she had some success in the business world, but her call to ministry was stronger. Her devotion to serving others fits well with St. Mark's ongoing outreach to the Milwaukee community.
2023	Gatson, Frank Jr.	A graduate of North Division High School, Mr. Gatson is an award-winning choreographer, director, and dancer who got his big break when he was hired to dance in Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" video. He has gone on to work with other musical superstars including Beyonce, Usher, Brandy, En Vogue, and Jennifer Lopez. Recently, he has partnered with the Milwaukee YWCA to help turn the building at 1915 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. into an intergenerational arts center.
2023	Haughton, Dr. Gina	Dr. Haughton has served in many places in her career as an educator, from various roles with Milwaukee Public Schools to Cardinal Stritch University, where she was a member of their graduate school faculty and chaired master's-level programs in teaching, inclusive education, and higher education student affairs leadership. In 2019 she was hired by University School of Milwaukee as its director of student success, and in November 2022 she was named head of its Upper School, becoming USM's first division leader who identifies as a person of color.
2023	Hines, Willie Jr.	Mr. Hines is the first African American to lead the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, to which he was appointed the Executive Director in early 2022. Prior to working at the Housing Authority, he served on the Milwaukee Common Council from 1996 to 2014, and was the Common Council President from 2004 to 2014.
2023	Hodges, Anna Marie	In November 2022, Hodges was elected as the 30th Clerk of Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, becoming the first woman and woman of color to hold the post. She previously served as the Acting Clerk of Circuit Court in early 2022, Chief Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court from 2018 to 2022, and Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court and Civil Division Administrator from 2006 to 2018. Ms. Hodges has worked in public service for over 30 years, having also served as Court Coordinator and Deputy Director of Litigation Services for the First Judicial Administrative District, Deputy Director of Governor Tommy Thompson's Milwaukee office, and Constituent Services Specialist in the office of Milwaukee County Executive F. Thomas Ament.
2023	Johnson, Nadiyah	After jobs in tech roles for big companies such as We Energies and GE Healthcare, Ms. Johnson launched her own software development firm, Jet Constellations, in 2017 with a focus on serving Milwaukee companies led by people of color. In 2018, she started the Milky Way Tech Hub, an organization that works to ensure that a diverse population is represented in Wisconsin's growing technology sector. By attracting partnerships and grants from local corporations and universities, Milky Way has nurtured entrepreneurs and students to build businesses and pursue tech jobs, assuring them that there is a place for them in the tech industries.
2023	Johnson, Torre "ToeJo"	Mr. Johnson is the founder of X-Men United, an organization designed to provide a platform for ex-offenders and others to motive and uplift the community by leading by example. He currently works with Wisconsin Community Services, providing a variety of services for individuals involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Mr. Johnson is a former Social Development Commissioner and a long time contributor to Milwaukee's annual Juneteenth Day Celebration. He now uses his experience to counsel others on how to live positive and productive lives.
2023	Jude, Willie Sr.	Mr. Jude's long career with Milwaukee Public Schools put him in important leadership roles, including serving as a Deputy Superintendent and as principal of three large high schools—North Division, James Madison, and Custer (now named Barack Obama). Though he retired in 2005 from MPS after 32 years there, his devotion to education has not stopped, and he has led or advised charter schools in the city. His son, Willie Jude II, who is a Vice Chancellor for UW-Parkside, has said of his father, "He has always been a problem solver. He's always been consistent, he's always been fair. He taught me about being a lifelong learner."
2023	Lewis, Rev. Greg	Reverend Lewis is an Assistant Pastor at St. Gabriel Church of God and Christ on Milwaukee's north side, and the founder of Souls to the Polls, a local community organization that works to increase voter turnout in Milwaukee's central city, particularly among Black voters. He is also involved in advocating for fair and affordable housing, and through his church community works to increase the rate of Black homeownership in Milwaukee.
2023	Little Africa	In the early years of the 20th century, Little Africa was the name given to the area of Milwaukee where the majority of Black residents were consigned to live due to strict patterns of residential segregation enforced at that time. The area was bounded by State Street, North Avenue, 3rd Street (now MLK Drive), and 12th Street, and was also referred to as Bronzeville, the name by which much of the area is currently known.
2023	Lucas, Earnell	Mr. Lucas was elected Milwaukee County Sheriff in November 2018, and was sworn into office January 7, 2019, stepping down from that position at the end of 2022. He is a 25-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department, retiring at the rank of captain. He holds a bachelor's degree cum laude in criminology and law studies from Marquette University. Sheriff Lucas is a product of the Milwaukee Public Schools system, graduating from Rufus King High School. He also served as Major League Baseball's Chief Liaison of Security & Investigations for the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues.
2023	Morgan, Michael	Michael Morgan was the first African American to be appointed as Commissioner of Milwaukee's Department of City Development, and served in that capacity from 1993 to 1998. He also spent a number of years as a member of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's cabinet, first as Secretary of Revenue, and later as Secretary of the Department of Administration. He went on the work for the University of Wisconsin System as Senior Vice President for Administration and Fiscal Affairs. He has a BA in Communication Arts (1978), and a Law Degree (1984) from UW-Madison.
2023	Morrison, Marco	Mr. Morrison, a Milwaukee native, is the Executive Director of College Possible Milwaukee, an organization that works with local high school students from under-represented communities helping them with the college admissions process and providing them support throughout their college education. He also worked for a number of years with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, as well as Operation DREAM, an organization that provides mentoring and workforce development to young men of color.
2023	Mr. Perkins Family Restaurant	Started over 50 years ago by Tennessee native Willie Perkins, Sr. and wife Hilda, their restaurant at 2021 W. Atkinson Ave. is a Milwaukee institution. Southern-style and soul food favorites have been its specialty since its founding in 1969, drawing loyal diners from all over Milwaukee, as well as visiting celebrities and professional athletes. Throughout its history, the restaurant has been a family business. Willie Perkins, Jr. and his wife Cherry Welch-Perkins took it over in 1999, and despite Willie Jr. passing away in 2010, Cherry continues to run it today.
2023	Neal, Tony	A Milwaukee native, Neal has worked with Diddy and Ludacris, hosts a Sirius XM radio show and stages DJ seminars through his Core DJs organization. In 2008 he moved from WKKV-FM (100.7) to become program director of WNOV-AM (860), according to allaccess.com. He's a co-owner of Radio Multi Media, the station's new owner.
2023	Pattillo, Patricia O'Flynn	Ms. Pattillo is the founder, CEO, and publisher of the Milwaukee Community Journal, the largest African-American newspaper in Wisconsin since 1976. In 1987 she became the first female president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association-Black Press of America. After losing her 29-year-old son Terence to an asthma attack in 1991, she set up the Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than $1 million in stipends to low-income students and students of color in Milwaukee. In 2015 she was inducted into the Milwaukee Press Club's Wisconsin Media Hall of Fame.
2023	Robinson, Sharon	Sharon Robinson was the first black woman Director of the City of Milwaukee's Department of Administration for over 20 years. Ms. Robinson was previously the Director of the Washington, D.C. office of the William Davidson Institute, an international nonprofit headquartered at the University of Michigan and focused on promoting economic growth in emerging market economies. She also worked for 20 years on Capitol Hill beginning in the 1980s in the U.S. House of Representatives where she eventually became former U. S. Congressman Tom Barrett's Chief of Staff.
2023	Rogers, Dr. William	Dr. Rogers was a local activist, educator, and historian whose work focused on Black community empowerment and celebration of African American history and culture. He worked as an instructor at UW-Milwaukee's Department of Africology, and also served as host of The Black Reality Think Tank, a local radio program. Dr. Rogers was well-known for his inspirational public speaking, and having a positive influence on those who encountered him, especially his students.
2023	Washington, Ranell	Mr. Washington, a proud UW-Milwaukee alum, is partnership development advisor at American Family Insurance, where he assists in the company's community outreach and talent development. Previously he worked as vice president of business banking at Town Bank. Since 2020 he has also served on the board of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), and Gov. Evers appointed him as its chairman in 2021. He also co-founded the young professional group Social X and has been involved with several of Milwaukee's business, educational, and arts groups.
2023	White, Wallace	White, who passed away in July 2022, was the first African American to be hired as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District in 1989. He later served as a commissioner and chairman. While head of the MMSD, White was instrumental in increasing the number of minority employees there, as well as contracting with local minority-run businesses. He was also a successful local businessman, and an instructor as Cardinal Stritch University's College of Business and Management.
2017 & 2018	America's Black Holocaust Museum	Founded by James Cameron; opened on Juneteenth Day, 1988, closed July 31, 2008, online virtual museum launched Feb. 25, 2012. A new physical museum space will be constructed as part of a redevelopment project with the Garfield School Building, 2215 N. 4th St.
2017 & 2018	Cameron, James	Lynching survivor, founder of America's Black Holocaust Museum
2017 & 2018	Caulker-Bronson, Ferne Yangyeitie	Founder, Ko-Thi Dance Company; Professor Emerita of Dance, UWM
2017 & 2018	Gallimore, Vernice	In 1946 became the first African-American MPD policewoman; Not allowed to return to the MPD after the birth of her first child in 1955, she later became a probation officer with the Children's Court
2017 & 2018	Jackson, Gwen T.	Chair Emeritus of the American Red Cross, SE WI; also active with the YWCA and Milwaukee Urban League; MPS school namesake
2017 & 2018	Phillips, Vel	First woman and first African-American on Common Council, first African-American judge in WI and first to win statewide office (Sec. of State); Main sponsor of the city's open housing ordinance and active in civil rights marches
2022 & 2023	Rogers, Sister Patricia	Sister Patricia Rogers is the former executive director of the Dominican Center, a neighborhood organization that serves Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood and focuses on housing, safety, and economic development initiatives. During her tenure the center worked to address community needs by hosting neighborhood cleanups, mobile food pantries and the resident-led Moody Park revitalization. Sister Rogers previously worked for Safe & Sound, where she managed the day-to-day operations of the $2.5 million nonprofit.