



Los Angeles County African American Employees Association
A Century of Black History Commemorations
(Individuals/Organizations/Agencies)



The Los Angeles County African American Employees Association's (LACAAEA) 2026 Black History Month Black-Tie Gala & Fundraiser theme acknowledges the **100th anniversary of the creation of Black History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson**. It honors the ongoing efforts to celebrate and preserve Black history and culture throughout the decades. In the context of the [United States' 250th anniversary](#), the theme emphasizes the importance of telling an inclusive and accurate history.

Recognizing Transformative Service: 2026 Award Categories

Our 2026 Annual LACAAEA Black History Month Black-Tie Gala & Fundraiser will recognize individuals, organizations, businesses, and groups who demonstrate how they are instrumental or impactful in recognizing, celebrating, and uplifting Black history and the lives, cultures, and histories of Black Angelenos.

We are proud to introduce three distinct awards based on an entity's years of transformative service in the community, business, and social impact sectors:

AWARD NAME	MINIMUM YEARS OF SERVICE	DESCRIPTION & CRITERIA
The Legacy Award	25+ Years	<p>Description: Honors an individual, organization, business, or group that has had a significant, multi-generational, and systemic impact in the Black Los Angeles County community for a quarter-century or more. This award celebrates deep roots and enduring commitment.</p> <p>Criteria: Applicants must demonstrate sustained excellence, adaptability over time, a breadth of positive influence across multiple spheres, and the creation of lasting infrastructure or opportunities that benefit Black Angelenos. The service must be continuous, transformative, and widely recognized.</p>
The Staple Award	10–24 Years	<p>Description: Honors an individual, organization, business, or group that has firmly established itself as a crucial, consistent, and reliable resource within the Black Los Angeles County community. This award celebrates stability, reliability, and measurable mid-to-long-term impact.</p> <p>Criteria: Applicants must demonstrate a strong track record of measurable, high-quality programming or service delivery; a reputation as an indispensable pillar of the community; evidence of growth or expansion of impact over time; and consistent financial or communal support for Black initiatives.</p>
The Future Forward Award	2–5 Years	<p>Description: Honors a young organization, business, individual or group that has been in existence for less than five years but has already made an outstanding, innovative, and immediate impact on the Black Los Angeles County community. This award celebrates vision, momentum, and exceptional early success.</p> <p>Criteria: Applicants must demonstrate a clear and innovative mission, a high level of community engagement, evidence of rapid and measurable positive change (e.g., reaching underserved populations, policy wins, significant cultural contribution), and a strong vision for future sustainability and growth.</p>

Nomination and Selection Process

LACAAEA will monetarily award recipients via a rigorous selection process. The awards recognize how nominees favorably impact lives in multiple labor settings throughout Los Angeles County and are integral to preserving Black history and culture.

Award Recipients will be determined through a County-approved selection process where each completed Nominee Form (attached) will be evaluated, scored, and ranked against the criteria outlined above. The highest-ranking nominees will be recommended to become an Award Recipient and will be acknowledged at LACAAEA's Annual Black History Month Black-Tie Gala & Fundraiser, on **Saturday, February 28, 2026**, at the Omni Hotel, Downtown Los Angeles.

We invite and encourage all interested parties to complete the attached Nominee Form and email it to socialimpactcommunitysupport@lacaaea.org on or before **Saturday, December 13, 2025**. No late submissions will be accepted.

Please email all inquiries to the Social Impact and Community Support (SICS) Committee at socialimpactcommunitysupport@lacaaea.org.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Dorsey, Chair
SICS Committee

Attachment - Nominee Form

Please Note: Gala 2025 Awardees may not apply for a Gala 2026 monetary award except and unless the application is for a separate organization/agency with a different Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) from the Gala 2025 submission.



Los Angeles County African American Employees Association
2026 Black History Month Annual Black-Tie Gala &
Fundraiser



NOMINEE FORM

(Individuals/Organizations/Agencies)

Nominee Form Submission Deadline: Saturday, December 13, 2025, to
socialimpactcommunitysupport@lacaeea.org

Name of Individual/Agency &
Contact:

Street Address:

City, State and Zip Code:

Email Address:

Telephone /Mobile:

PLEASE PROVIDE RESPONSES FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- I. Do you provide impactful ways directly to individuals/families in underserved and all communities of Los Angeles County to shape lives, cultures, and histories through any of the following categories:

Yes ☐ **No** ☐

Check all applicable categories:

- ☐ The Military
- ☐ Government Agencies
- ☐ Public Service
- ☐ Labor Factories
- ☐ Private Homes
- ☐ Social Justice Activism
- ☐ Volunteerism serving others
- ☐ Institution building in Churches, Community Groups, or Social Clubs and Organizations
- ☐ Other

- II. If yes, please describe the activity(ies)/service(s) you provide directly to individuals/families in underserved and all communities of Los Angeles County in the categories you checked above in Section I. Include the following in your response:

- a. The frequency you provide the activity/service (daily, weekly, monthly, etc.)
- b. The area within the Los Angeles County you service
- c. The number of individuals/families you believe your service impacts
- d. The number of people who work/volunteer with you to accomplish your activity/service

(Please use an additional page to complete Section II)

- III. Do you currently receive funding/financial assistance from private donors, city, county, state, federal or any other source to assist you in providing your service/activity described in Section II?

Yes ☐ **No** ☐

- IV. What percentage of your revenue/donations go directly for services or activities described in Section II?



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**NOMINEE FORM
(Individuals/Organizations/Agencies)**

AWARD RECIPIENT AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Grant LACAAEA the right, without obligation, unless prohibited by law, to use the contents of nomination form, name, voice, picture and likeness, without compensation, which may include, but not be limited to, Gala Program, advertising, public advertising, etc. in any medium in perpetuity.
2. Submit a 30 second to one (1) minute video to socialimpactcommunitysupport@lacaaea.org which must:
 - a. Briefly describe the services/activities you provide for which you're being awarded
 - b. Kindly thank LACAAEA for the Award
3. Attend the Annual Black History Month Black-Tie Gala & Fundraiser on **Saturday, February 28, 2026.**
4. Support LACAAEA's Fundraising efforts by encouraging supporters to attend or support the event by inviting friends, and family to purchase tickets.
5. Promote the fundraiser with their networks, including but not limited to social media platforms.

A representative of the LACAAEA SICS Committee may contact you for additional information.

**Submission Deadline for Nominee Form is
Saturday, December 13, 2025 to socialimpactcommunitysupport@lacaaea.org**

Nominee Forms submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.