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**CHARLOTTE MUSEUM OF HISTORY ANNOUNCES 2026 CHARLOTTE GEM
AWARD WINNERS**

*Annual awards ceremony on May 14 celebrates excellence in historic preservation and
education history across the region*



The following is a [link to images](#) of the 2026 Gem Awards winners and honorable mentions, and event graphic courtesy of the Charlotte Museum of History.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – April 1, 2026 – The Charlotte Museum of History will honor the winners of the annual Charlotte Gem Awards at the museum’s premier fundraising event on **Thursday, May 14**. The awards celebrate the preservation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as excellence in history education, across the greater Charlotte region.

Dorothy “Dot” Counts-Scoggins will be the featured speaker and recipient of the 2026 Charlotte Gem Award in recognition for her lifelong dedication to enriching the lives of others. She began her journey in 1957, at age 15, as one of four African American students to desegregate Charlotte Schools, helping to change the inequality of education locally and across the country. Following that experience, she committed her life to ensuring that all children receive a quality education, regardless of their race, religion and culture.

The museum will also honor District III of the Daughters of the American Revolution with their second annual Keystone Award. Knowing that the museum does not operate alone with this important work, this award acknowledges other organizations who have made a commitment to preservation and history education and compliment the museum’s mission. The museum itself quite literally would not exist if not for the efforts of DAR members nearly a century ago, and through multiple generations their volunteerism and donations have helped mold the museum we are today.

2026 Gem Award winners:

PRESERVATION

- Commercial Preservation Award: The Carolina Theatre

- Residential Preservation Award: The Mayor of Myers Park
- Preservation Special Project Award: Tommy Warlick, “Cemetery Headstone Cleanings Special Project”

EDUCATION

- Excellence in Public History Education Award: Professor Jasmine Corbett-Warren, Johnson C. Smith University, “Community-Engaged Public History Education in the Classroom and Beyond”
- Rising Scholar in Public History Award: Michelle Lemere, “Garinger High School: A History”
- Excellence in Public History Honorable Mention: Dr. Hasan Crockett, Livingstone College, “Community Voices, and Future Implications”
- Rising Scholar in Public History Honorable Mention: Peter J. Ferdinando, “UNC Charlotte: Growth to R1”

KEYSTONE AWARD

- District III, Daughters of the American Revolution

CHARLOTTE GEM AWARD

- Dorothy “Dot” Count-Scoggins

“By shining a light on successful preservation projects and educational efforts that tell the story of who we are, the Charlotte Gem Awards inspire our community to value, protect, and invest in our shared history,” said Terri L. White, president and CEO of the Charlotte Museum of History. “These honorees demonstrate how preserving places and amplifying stories can strengthen community identity, foster connection, and encourage others to save our historic built environment. We are proud to celebrate our winners’ impact and invite the community to join us in supporting this important work.”

The Charlotte Gem Awards will take place from 6-9 p.m. at the Charlotte Museum of History (3500 Shamrock Drive). Tickets are \$150 and are on sale at charlottemuseum.org/events/gem.

Proceeds from the event support the museum’s mission to save and share Charlotte’s history. This includes the preservation of Charlotte’s oldest home, the 1774 Alexander Rock House, and its Revolutionary-era homesite, plus preservation of the historic Siloam School, one of Mecklenburg County’s oldest remaining African American schoolhouses and the only Rosenwald-era school in the county interpreted as a historic site.

About the Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, exists to save and share the Charlotte region’s history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the oldest home in Mecklenburg County, the [1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite](#), as well as the [historic Siloam School](#), both of which are on the National Register of

Historic Places. Visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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