

2024 OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAME HONOREE BIOS

ANITA ARNOLD – TECUMSEH

From Tecumseh, **Anita Arnold** has devoted her life to opening the doors for others. She was one of only a few Black employees hired by Western Electric while still in her 20s. With the U. S. Postal Service, where she created and maintained national database systems, she became the second-highest ranking female in the country. As an employee of what is known today as AT&T, Arnold took up the fight to ensure the jobs of Black employees were protected during the dissolution of the former Bell System. She was the founder and president of a national organization within AT&T that not only retained, but attracted Black employees to the company. Today the organization boasts more than 10,000 members.

For more than three decades she has served as the executive director of the Black Liberated Arts Center, commonly known as BLAC, Inc. Through her work at BLAC, Inc. she has focused her energy on elevating the arts in Oklahoma's Black communities. From platforms for Black artists to securing funding to ensure a wide range of programming is available, Arnold is focused on providing opportunities. She founded the Charlie Christian International Music Festival, annually bringing thousands to the Oklahoma City metro.

Arnold has authored six books and countless articles for magazines and newspapers celebrating and chronicling the history of the communities she serves. Her honors include induction to the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame and Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, the Delta Kappa Gamma State Creative Woman of Oklahoma Award, and the Oklahoma Governor's Arts in Education Award.

GREG BURNS – OKLAHOMA CITY

From Oklahoma City, **Greg Burns** was receiving recognition for his artistic talent long before graduating from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. In addition to multiple local honors, during his senior year he earned the top award at the International Art Show in Chicago. Known for detail and rich color, Burns' work has preserved Oklahoma landmarks, commemorated state and family milestones, and been an invaluable gift of choice.

After earning his degree from the University of Oklahoma, Burns entered into a partnership with his mother—in a shared space she operated a gift shop and he set up his first art studio. Already a member of multiple art guilds and a regular at popular arts festivals, Burns officially was a working artist and has never looked back. For two decades, with his wife he operated an art studio and frame shop in northwest Oklahoma City. Regardless of the workspace, Burns always has invited those interested into the process.

Born with Arthrogyrosis, a rare condition that affects the joints, early life for Burns included surgeries, treatments, and hospitalizations. However, from a young age art provided enjoyment and solace. It also provided the realization of what his future would hold. Well versed in a wide range of mediums, Burns honed in on ink and watercolor. He has used his art for the betterment of the world around us, allowing multiple nonprofit organizations and worthy causes to benefit from his talent and generosity.

BENTON C. CLARK III – OKLAHOMA CITY

Born and raised in Oklahoma City, **Benton C. Clark III** developed an early interest in science. At Classen High School he thrived in those studies, while his brother prepared to lead the family jewelry business. At the University of Oklahoma, Clark majored in physics and earned summer internships at Los Alamos and IBM. With a Master of Science from University of California, Berkeley, he served three years in the United States Air Force, designing instruments for space exploration while interacting with astronauts. His pioneering experiment flew on Gemini missions.

With a subsequent doctorate in biophysics from Columbia University, he joined Avco in Tulsa. Then, with Martin aerospace in Denver, his proposed instrument was selected for NASA's upcoming lander mission to Mars as part of the Viking program. For the first time in history, scientists learned what Mars was made of.

During five decades with Lockheed Martin, Clark rose to chief scientist and director for concepts for deep space exploration. Working with prominent scientists and his team of broad-based engineers to develop designs for innovative new missions for NASA resulted in spacecraft flown to the Moon, Mars, and Jupiter. His group also developed missions that achieved the first-ever robotic returns of samples from a comet, the solar wind, and asteroid Bennu. National and international recognition of Clark includes the Nova, Masursky, Wright Brothers, and Stellar awards. As an octogenarian scientist, he

continues to participate in NASA's Mars rover missions through the Space Science Institute and co-authors books on Astrobiology.

TIM DUBOIS – GROVE

From Grove and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, **Tim DuBois** was writing songs while still in high school. With a Master's Degree in Accounting from Oklahoma State University, he accepted positions with Arthur Anderson and The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. He returned to OSU for postgraduate work and, with Scott Hendricks, began recording music he had written and visited Nashville for the first time. He accepted a teaching position at Vanderbilt University and relocated to country music's capital, teaching at the university to pay the bills and shopping his songs. In 1980, he landed a writer's deal that resulted in three #1 songs in a twelve-month period, including "Love in the First Degree" by Alabama and "She Got the Gold Mine" by Jerry Reed.

DuBois built a career combining his business training and musical talents, managing artists, writing songs, and producing records. He formed and managed the band Restless Heart and co-produced their first album. In 1989 he started the Nashville division of Arista, signing Alan Jackson, Pam Tillis, Diamond Rio, Brad Paisley, and countless others. At Arista, he introduced Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, resulting in the most successful country music duo of all time. As a writer, he has five #1 songs, two Grammy nominations, and he and Vince Gill's "When I Call your Name" won CMA's Song of the Year in 1992. As a producer, he has more than 30 #1 and top #5 credits and over a dozen Gold and Platinum albums. Named one of the 101 most powerful people in the music industry twice by *Entertainment Weekly*, DuBois' contributions to the music industry are unmatched.

DREW EDMONDSON – MUSKOGEE

A true "Okie from Muskogee", **Drew Edmondson** has dedicated his life to the service of others. Edmondson graduated from Northeastern State University and The University of Tulsa College of Law before joining the United States Navy and serving a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Edmondson worked as a teacher before being elected to the Oklahoma Legislature and then Muskogee County District Attorney. In 1994 he was elected Oklahoma Attorney General, an office he held for 16 years. He used his time during this period to make a generational impact.

In 1998 he joined seven other attorneys general to negotiate a \$206 billion national settlement that would forever change the way tobacco companies market their products. In Oklahoma, the settlement led to the creation of the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust—TSET—a constitutionally protected fund championed by Edmondson to guarantee the tobacco settlement proceeds would be spent on public health in perpetuity. Today, TSET contains more than \$1 billion and has helped make Oklahoma a hub for cancer research.

Edmondson also championed sustainable clean water, successfully filing suit against a dozen poultry companies for polluting the Illinois River. The lawsuit led to remediation of the watershed, even as the state awaits a final, court-approved remediation plan.

During his time in office, Edmondson fought public corruption and Medicaid fraud, protected victim's rights, and enforced the Open Meetings Act. He served as president of the National Association of Attorneys General and was given its highest award. Since 2010 Edmondson has been in the private practice of law.

ANNE MORRIS GREENWOOD – CARNEGIE

After a 30-year corporate accounting career with major Fortune 500 companies, **Anne Morris Greenwood** of Carnegie retired and turned her lifelong passion—philanthropy—into her vocation. Growing up in a small farming community, Greenwood experienced firsthand the importance of philanthropy daily as she witnessed neighbor helping neighbor, deeply rooting “service to others” as the guiding principle of her life. She began her philanthropic journey in the 1970s, supporting major national charities. Over time she developed her focus on improving access to higher education and the performing arts. As a result, she has touched thousands of students spanning five decades.

She began by establishing an endowed scholarship at Oklahoma State University for students from her alma mater—Carnegie High School. Over the next two decades she established and supported multiple scholarships, eventually spanning all disciplines of study. Greenwood believes that every student, regardless of their situation, should have access to higher education. She also has funded several major

facility updates on the OSU campus to better serve students, including the Edmon Low Library Greenwood Reading Room, Wesley Center Student Activity Hall, Greenwood Center for Online Excellence, Greenwood Tennis Center, and, to improve performing arts access, the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts and the Greenwood School of Music.

Greenwood's awards and honors include induction to the OSU Hall of Fame and the OSU Spears School of Business Hall of Fame, an OSU Honorary Doctor of Letters degree, and named Philanthropist of the Year by Women for OSU.

AMBER VALLETTA – TULSA

A Tulsa native, **Amber Valletta** is one of the most celebrated supermodels of the modern era. She has achieved remarkable success across multiple industries, including fashion, acting, entrepreneurship, and activism. As a prominent figure in the fashion world, she has represented numerous luxury brands and graced the covers of more than 100 international editions of *Vogue*. Valletta's influence extends beyond modeling, as she transitioned into acting with notable roles in *What Lies Beneath* and *Hitch*, as well as television series including *Revenge* and *Blood and Oil*.

A pioneer in sustainable fashion, Valletta founded Master & Muse, an online platform promoting ethically made fashion. She co-founded A Squared Films LLC, producing films with progressive social and environmental themes. In partnership with KARL LAGERFELD, she has created sustainable capsule collections and served as the brand's Sustainability Ambassador since 2021. She is also the first Contributing Sustainability Editor at *British Vogue*.

A passionate advocate, Valletta lends her voice to critical initiatives, speaking at international summits like the Copenhagen Fashion Summit and hosting the United Nations' World Oceans Day conference. She serves as FIT's First Sustainability Ambassador, mentoring future fashion industry leaders, and sits on the boards of various organizations, including the Environmental Media Association. She is a proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation and sits on the advisory board of the Cherokee Film Institute. Valletta's activism extends to supporting worthy causes, including Jane Fonda's Fire Drill Fridays with Greenpeace. Her multifaceted contributions have cemented her status as an industry icon and a leading voice for sustainability and social change.