It’s only human to celebrate those who make a difference

It’s the basis behind what we do every day. We’re proud to celebrate the hard work, commitment, and skill of those helping to make the world a better place.

Chevron is proud to sponsor the Africa-America Institute’s 38th Annual Awards Gala. Congratulations to all of tonight’s distinguished awardees!
On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Africa-America Institute (AAI), it is our pleasure to welcome you to AAI’s 38th Annual Awards Gala. After two consecutive years of virtual celebrations, we are honored that you have joined us in person for our annual celebration.

Our mission is to promote enlightened engagement between Africa and America through education training and dialogue. Our purpose, the reason that we pursue this mission, is to enrich the social fabric of humanity by transforming the way we all understand Africa and its Worldwide Diaspora.

It is your support that allows us to continue this vital work. We are honored to be on this journey with you.

Yours in Partnership,

Kofi Appenteng  
President  
The Africa-America Institute

Christal M. Jackson  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
The Africa-America Institute
Christal M. Jackson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Bob McCarthy
Vice Chair & Chair of the Finance Committee

Rebecca Lowell Edwards
Vice Chair & Chair of the Development Committee

Kofi Appenteng
President

Dr. Ousseina Alidou

Nik Amarteifio

Mamadou Beye

Amb. Michelle Gavin

Humble Lukanga

Peter McKillop

Khumo Shongwe
The Africa-America Institute (AAI) strives to enrich the social fabric of humanity by connecting students and leaders across sectors, facilitating access to reliable information about Africa, and transforming the way we understand Africa and its worldwide diaspora.

Among our principal co-founders were Horace Mann Bond and William Leo Hansberry, two pioneering African-American scholar-activists whose work straddled the divide between African and African diaspora studies.

AAI continues to embrace the philosophy of education for liberation that Bond and Hansberry espoused through a variety of education programs that affirm the humanity and cultivate the intellectual aspirations and excellence of all people.

Since it’s founding in 1953, AAI has administered advanced educational and professional scholarships to over 23,000 Africans. Our esteemed network of alumni includes leaders and influencers across public, private, and governmental sectors in Africa and globally. Among them are current Heads of State, H.E. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire; H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger; and H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa. Many AAI alumni, such as the late Wangari Mathaai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and the late Barack Obama, Sr., father of the first black US president, have left an indelible impact within and beyond the African continent.
CONNECTED IN PURPOSE. CONNECTED IN POWER.

NAACP honors the activists and advocates whose tireless effort have far reaching impacts. This is power.

NAACP.ORG | @NAACP
BENEFIT COMMITTEE

HONORARY MEMBERS

Congresswoman Barbara Lee
House Committee on Appropriations

Congressman Gregory Meeks
Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze
African Union Ambassador to the United States of America

Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young Jr.
Former Mayor of Atlanta & Ambassador to the United Nations

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ousseina Alidou
Rutgers University

Mamadou Beye
Chevron

Leslie Beyer
Energy Workforce & Technology Council

Kuseni Dlamini
Massmart /Aspen Pharmacare

Becky Edwards
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Chinonso T. Emehelu
ExxonMobil

Christal Jackson
Head & Heart Philanthropy/Mosaic Genuis

Robert E. McCarthy
Dentons US LLP

Peter McKillop
Climate and Capital Media

Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab
The Africa-America Institute

Witney Schneidman
Covington & Burling LLP

Khumo Shongwe
Tashline Red Investments

Donna Sturgess
Carnegie Mellon University

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza
Case Western Reserve University
Empowering Care Anytime, Anywhere

Axxess is the leading technology innovator for healthcare at home, providing a complete suite of innovative, cloud-based software solutions, empowering home health, home care, hospice and palliative care providers to grow their business while making lives better.

axxess.com
Greetings! My name is Hilda Suka-Mafudze, I am the African Union Ambassador to the United States. In my capacity as one of the Honorary Members of the AAI’s 38th Annual Awards Gala, it is my honor to welcome you all to this annual gathering.

I would like to commend the leadership of the Africa-America Institute for their vision of strengthening human capacity of Africans and promoting the continent’s development through higher education and skills training, by providing scholarships and fellowships to African students. As you are aware, around 60% of Africa’s population is younger than 25 years and it is projected that by 2100, Africa should still have the youngest population worldwide with a median age of 35. Africa’s young demographic could provide a powerful opportunity for development and beyond and it is our responsibility to pave the way and channel all efforts and good intentions towards skill development and job creation on the continent.

The African Union Agenda 2063, the African long-term strategic plan, with the vision of “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena,” in its Aspiration: “An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children”, underscores the importance of human capacity building for the development of Africa. The Mo Ibrahim report recognizes that the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, one of the flagships projects of the African Union Agenda 2063, is creating a more conducive environment for Africa’s youth to thrive.

For the African youth to drive the development of Africa and build the Africa We Want, I invite our partners to work with the African Union in creating employment opportunities for youth and to consider how the potential of youth for innovation be linked with the needs of the agricultural sector or the fight against COVID-19 in terms of research, development and new technology.

I would like to close my message by congratulating the 2022 Honorees. African Union applauds you for your leadership. Welcome to the Africa-America Institute’s 2022 Awards Gala!
MESSAGE FROM ERIC ADAMS, MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone as the Africa-America Institute (AAI) hosts its 38th annual awards gala.

New York is the proud home to a diverse and growing population of African immigrants who contribute so much to the fabric of our civic, cultural, and economic life. Established in 1953, AAI works to increase educational and career development opportunities for young Africans and to promote dialogue and knowledge exchange between professionals in the public, private, and non-governmental sectors of Africa and the United States. Held annually during the United Nations General Assembly, AAI’s awards gala benefits its educational, training, and scholarship programs while also recognizing the accomplishments of individuals who share in its important mission. I applaud everyone associated with AAI for their efforts to empower the next generation of African leaders and invest in the boundless potential of their vibrant continent. I look forward to the many ways our thriving African community will further invigorate the five boroughs as we take bold steps to rebuild, renew, and reinvent our global city. On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to all of this year’s distinguished honorees. Please accept my best wishes for an inspiring evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

Eric Adams
Mayor
Reception
Presented by the NAACP

Welcome from AAI President
Kofi Appenteng

In Memoriam

AWARD CEREMONY

The Ambassador for African Cinema Award
Mahen Bonetti, Founder & Executive Director
African Film Festival, Inc.

The Science and Technology Leadership Award
Dr. Solomon Assefa, Vice President
IBM Research

The Distinguished Alumna Award
Betty Wambui Kibaara, Director
Food Initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation

The National Achievement Award
The People of the Republic of Botswana,
Accepted by H.E. President Mokgweetsi Masisi
on behalf of the People of the Republic of Botswana

Music
Abiodun Koya
Classical Singer, Poet & Humanitarian

Closing Remarks
Christal M. Jackson, Chair
Board of Trustees, AAI
BOZOMA SAINT JOHN

Bozoma Saint John is a Hall of Fame Inducted Marketing Executive, Author, and Entrepreneur who is worthy of the Harvard Business School case study written about her career, titled “Leading with Authenticity and Urgency.” Her brilliant career has spanned various industries and includes roles as the Global CMO of Netflix, CMO of Endeavor, CBO of Uber, Head of Marketing of Apple Music & iTunes and Head of Music and Entertainment Marketing at PepsiCo. Bozoma’s work has been lauded and awarded with notable recognition including induction into the American Advertising Federation Hall of Achievement, Billboard’s Women in Music Hall of Fame, the Marketing Hall of Fame; and being crowned as The World’s Most Influential CMO by Forbes in 2021.

LUVVIE AJAYI JONES

Abiodun Koya (Abi) is a Nigerian-born classical singer, poet, and humanitarian who has performed for the likes of US Presidents (Barack Obama, George W. Bush), Nigerian Kings, and World Ambassadors. The youngest of five children, Abiodun grew up in southwest Nigeria where she started her music career at age six playing violin and singing at church and birthday celebrations. She’s since gone on to perform in such iconic settings as The White House, Madison Square Garden, and the Democratic National Convention. Abiodun remains one of the very few female African singers classically trained in opera while also being well versed in jazz, oldies, Broadway, and gospel.

Through her non-profit, The Abiodun Koya Foundation, Abiodun mentors at-risk children in Nigeria and the United States utilizing her Music Literacy Program Initiative. Part of her work in Nigeria also includes visiting female inmates in prison, encouraging them through music, gifts, motivational speeches, and raising funds to help female inmates start small businesses once released.
THE AMBASSADOR FOR AFRICAN CINEMA AWARD

Mahen Bonetti
Founder & Executive Director,
African Film Festival, Inc.

PRESENTED BY

Humble Lukanga
AAI Trustee

&

Ekwa Msangi
Filmmaker, Producer & Screenwriter

WITH REMARKS FROM

Tsitsi Dangarembga
Novelist, Playwright & Filmmaker

Angélique Kidjo
Singer, Songwriter, Actress & Activist

Jeffrey Wright
Actor

Nikyatu Jusu
Writer, Director & Professor

Alain Gomis
Director and Screenwriter

Abderrahmane Sissako
Director and Producer
MAHEN BONETTI

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL, INC.

@AfricanFilmFest
africanfilmny.org

In the 21st Century, people of the African diaspora are still recovering from centuries of brutal colonization and enslavement. They’re not only reclaiming land, resources and their cultures, but their ability to tell their own stories. Mahen Bonetti has devoted her life’s work to creating opportunities for Black storytellers to tell their stories through film – a medium which she believes offers unrivaled opportunities for healing and connection. She is the founder and executive director of African Film Festival, Inc. (AAF), a film and cultural arts organization that presents year-round programming, including the internationally renowned New York African Film Festival (NYAFF).

Born in Sierra Leone, Bonetti is a film/media consultant, community organizer and former print editor. Prior to founding AFF, Bonetti worked at Young and Rubicam and at Newsweek’s editorial and advertising division. As the founder of African Film Festival, Inc. and the Executive Director of the New York African Film Festival, she curates and facilitates all AFF programming in conjunction with AFF staff and participating partners. These days, Bonetti’s influence on the film industry spans the globe. She is deeply committed to mentoring emerging generations of film curators and arts organization leaders, and has served on juries and panels for the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council of the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, several United States universities, Africa’s U.S. diplomatic offices, among many others. Bonetti is the recipient of France’s Chevalier De L’Ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres and she is also a Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP AWARD

For advancing purpose-driven global innovation to enable a sustainable future.

Solomon Assefa
Vice President,
IBM Research

PRESENTED BY

Rebecca Edwards
AAI Trustee

Prof. Phillip L. Clay
Former Chancellor, MIT

WITH REMARKS FROM

Dr. Arvind Krishna
CEO, President & Chairman, IBM

Dr. Dario Gil
Senior VP & Director of Research, IBM

H.E. Ms. Paula Ingabire
Minister of ICT, Rwanda

Ambassador Jessica Lapenn
U.S. Mission to the African Union

Prof. Zeblon Vilakazi
Vice Chancellor, Wits University

Prof. Yuriii Vlasov
Founder Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Prof. Jeffrey Grossman
Head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT

Dr. Loza Tadesse
Incoming Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT
Dr. Solomon Assefa is a Vice President at IBM Research, leading the global effort at IBM Research focused on developing core technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, healthcare and life sciences, computing and nanotechnology. Under Dr. Assefa’s leadership, hundreds of researchers from IBM’s global labs are pioneering disruptive and commercially viable technologies such as sustainable hybrid cloud, AI-enabled material discovery for carbon capture, carbon footprint optimization and reduction, AI-driven climate risk and impact modelling, and user-centric decision support systems. Dr. Assefa is responsible for IBM’s Africa labs, located in Kenya and South Africa, fostering local innovation ecosystems by forming new models for partnership with government, industry, academia, non-profits and start-ups. Under his leadership, the labs have developed scalable technology solutions for emerging markets, have been instrumental in the development of climate and sustainability technology - contributing towards solving Africa’s grand challenges and serving as a global model.

Highlights of Dr. Assefa’s work include his pioneering innovation on spin torque Magnetic Random Access Memory (MRAM) technologies. In addition, he has co-authored over 150 publications, has over 70 patents granted, and has appeared as a guest speaker at numerous high-profile forums and conferences worldwide, including Davos. Dr. Assefa is a recipient of several awards including the Technical Accomplishment Award, Corporate Recognition Award, and Invention Achievement Awards from IBM. He was named one of the World’s Top Young Innovators under 35, received the TR35 awarded by MIT’s Technology Review and was honoured by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader in 2013. He is an Honorary Professor at University of Witwatersrand, a member of the Industrial Advisory Board of the MIT Climate and Sustainably Consortium and a member of the World Economic Forum Global Futures Council. Dr. Assefa is also a member of IBM CEO’s Acceleration Team, where members are key senior executives who drive IBM’s innovation and growth strategy.
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD

Betty Wambui Kibaara
Director, Food Initiative,
The Rockefeller Foundation

PRESENTED BY

Ousseina Alidou
AAI Trustee

William Asiko
Vice President, Africa,
The Rockefeller Foundation

WITH REMARKS FROM

Mehrad Ehsani
Vice President, Africa, Food Initiative,
The Rockefeller Foundation

Dr. Chrysantus M. Tanga
Senior Scientist, and Head of Insects for Food,
Feed and Other Uses, ICIPE

Gerald Masila
Executive Director, CEO
Eastern African Grain Council
Betty Wambui Kibaara is a Director, Food Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation, Africa Regional Office, based in Nairobi Kenya. She serves as the regional champion for the Foundation’s initiatives in strengthening food security, agribusiness, and resilience to the devastating effects of climate change; including investments in regenerative agriculture to enable real, sustainable, and equitable economic growth. Betty leads The Rockefeller Foundation’s investments in the implementation of the Good Food Strategy, whose goal is to improve dietary quality through an equitable and regenerative food system. In particular, she, supports School Feeding Programs to transition from highly refined flour to the more nutritious foods such as fortified whole grain and high iron/zinc beans.

A highly innovative individual, Betty has pioneered and developed the *Smart food markets of the future*, led the YieldWise Initiative to reduce food loss and the Foundations investments and innovation in insect-based feed as an alternative protein. This year, Betty is serving as a co-lead at the 17 Rooms Working Group on SDG 2 for Zero Hunger, focusing on advancing targeted actions to create a continental strategy for insect-based food, feed and fertilizers for the African Union; to adopt and promote across the continent. Before joining the Rockefeller Foundation in 2009, Betty worked as a Research Fellow at the Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University where she generated evidence to inform agricultural policies in Kenya. She holds a Master of Science degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, USA (administered through AAI, then the African American Institute) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Management, Egerton University, Kenya. She is an alumnus of Tuck Business School Executive Leadership and Strategic Impact, Dartmouth College, USA. She serves in a number of boards of management including the Innovative Academic Placement Solutions.
NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The People of the Republic of Botswana
Accepted by H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi,
President of the Republic of Botswana

PRESENTED BY

Mamadou Beye
AAI Trustee

Prof. Benedict Oramah
President & Chairman, Afreximbank

WITH REMARKS FROM

Florizelle Liser
President & CEO,
The Corporate Council on Africa

Dr. Paul Klotman
President & CEO, Executive Dean,
Baylor College of Medicine

Anthony Carroll
Former Peace Corps Volunteer Botswana
1976-78, Development Committee Board member, Global HOPE

Dr. David Poplack
Director, Global HOPE

David H. Barron
Founder and Chairman, The ICCF Group

Mark A. Wallace
President & CEO,
Texas Children’s Hospital

Dr. Richard Marlink
Director, Rutgers Global Health Institute

Vusi Ndaba
Telehealth Coordinator, Botswana-Rutgers Partnership for Health

Dr. Neal Piper
Executive Director, Presidential Precinct

Dr. Giovanni Caforio
Chairman and CEO,
Bristol Myers Squibb Company

Dr. Refeletswe Lebelonyane
Program Manager,
Botswana-Rutgers Partnership for Health
His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi was sworn-in as the fifth (5th) President of the Republic of Botswana on 1st November 2019. This followed his party’s, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), victory in the country’s General Elections which took place on 23rd October 2019.

Before assuming his substantive five-year first term, President Masisi succeeded former President Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, on 1st April 2018, at the conclusion of President Khama’s two five-year terms in office. Prior to this, President Masisi served as Botswana’s eighth (8th) Vice President from 2014-2018. In this capacity, he oversaw Government programmes, and was the Leader of the House of the National Assembly.

Preceding the Vice Presidency role, President Masisi held a number of Ministerial positions. These included, the Minister of Education and Skills Development (2014) and Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration (2011). President Masisi also served as the Member of Parliament for the Moshupa-Manyana Constituency. In this capacity, among others, he contributed towards the enhancement of livelihoods and household food security through initiatives such as, the Moshupa Constituency Development Show.

Additionally, President Masisi worked in other capacities nationally, particularly in the education sector. From 1995-2003 he was an Education Project Officer with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) office in Botswana. In this role, he was responsible for initiating educational policy and program reforms. This included developing and implementing education programmes for youth living in remote areas and supporting continued education for pregnant students.

There are other portfolios that President Masisi held in his effort to contribute towards the country’s national development agenda. In this regard, he served with a number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Boards, including the Kalahari Conservation Society. On regional and international platforms, President Masisi has held various leadership positions, including representing Botswana as the Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (2020-2021).

President Masisi was born in Moshupa on 21st July 1962. He is married to Neo Jane Masisi (nee Maswabi), and the two have a daughter, Atsile Masisi. He is a Graduate of Florida State University where he attained a Master of Science Degree, and the University of Botswana where he obtained a Diploma in Secondary Education. He also undertook graduate studies in Economics and Social Policy at Manchester University in the United Kingdom, under the Commonwealth Chevening Scholarship programme.
Creating Pathways to Prosperity for Communities Across Africa

USADF’s investments increase incomes, revenues, and jobs by promoting self-reliance and market-based solutions to poverty. USADF creates pathways to prosperity for marginalized populations and communities across Africa.
AAI’S SCHOOL SERVICES PROGRAM

The AAI School Services Program aims to support educators in their efforts to both: eliminate the pervasive K-12 educational practice of introducing students to Africa solely through the lens of European domination; and improve student educational and life outcomes, particularly among Black students. Through collaborative partnerships with districts and schools, the program provides resources to support improvements in curriculum, teaching, and student achievement.

AAI initially launched School Services in the late 1960s as Africa was decolonizing and students across the United States were demanding courses on Black history and Black experiences. Together with AAI’s Educators to Africa travel program for teachers, School Services served K-12 school districts, teachers, principals, and professional associations.

In the United States School Services works with K-12 communities to ensure that students have the educationally enriching and transformative experience of learning about Africa and its worldwide Diaspora. The program provides a comprehensive array of supports that enable districts and schools to successfully: design curricular content on Africa and African diaspora that is scholarly and free of bias and misinformation; and deliver classroom instruction that supports student learning, self-leadership, and academic achievement and excellence.

A distinctive feature of AAI’s approach to infusing schools’ curricula and classroom instruction with quality content on Africa is that raising students’ achievement levels is an integral goal. In 2021 AAI partnered with the University Preparatory Schools (UPrep) in Detroit, Michigan to complement and support their existing equitable curriculum and culturally responsive instructional practices.

AAI is building on this work by engaging with K-12 education scholars and expanding collaborations with school-based initiatives and after-school programs. A signature feature of our approach is that we listen to our partners, center their articulated needs, and work closely with them to support their goals for student success.

As an additional resource for K-12 educators who want to expose students to Africa in world history before colonization and the enslavement of Africans in the Americas, AAI plans launch a webinar series developed with content provided by widely-respected scholars in African area and African Diaspora studies.

LEARN MORE AT  
AAIONLINE.ORG/SCHOOL-SERVICES
Thank you to the Africa-America Institute

For your partnership in supporting our staff in their culturally responsive teaching practices and strengthening their content knowledge, and supporting our students in deepening their understanding of Africa and its global Diaspora.

University Preparatory Schools
Detroit, Michigan

We value your partnership

Denise J. Lewis
U Prep Board Member
OUR SPONSORS

THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE EXPRESSES ITS SINCEREST

LEADERSHIP SPONSOR

Catalyst Sponsors

INNOVATION SPONSOR

Champion Sponsors

Scholars Sponsors

Carnegie Mellon University College of Engineering

Rutgers Global

Bristol Myers Squibb

Synergos Building trust works

The Rockefeller Foundation Making Opportunity Universal and Sustainable

Dentons

IBM Research

ExxonMobil
AND PARTNERS

GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & PARTNERS

CUSTOM SPONSORSHIPS

AFRICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT
PEMBROOK
CSS
ARDENT
aspen PHARMA CARE

MEDIA PARTNERS

africa.com
africa
allAfrica
Afropop Worldwide

SUPPORTERS

Kofi & Stephanie Appenteng
R. Miller Adams
Moaiz Daya
Carol Deane
Peggy Dulany

Rebecca Edwards
Robert Higgins
Christal M. Jackson
Ghebre Selassie Mehreteab
Jourden & Dorian Warren
AFRICA, THE WORLDWIDE AFRICAN DIASPORA & THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE

8th Annual State of Education on Africa Conference

LEAH NAMUGERWA, A 15-YEAR-OLD CLIMATE ACTIVIST. PHOTO BY SIMY SADURNI

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, 1.20.2023
1pm-5:45pm EST

MORE COMING SOON AT:
AAIonline.org/SOE

@AAIAfrica
The Awards Gala helps support AAI as it strives to enrich the social fabric of humanity by connecting students and leaders across sectors, facilitating access to reliable information about Africa, and transforming the way we understand Africa and its worldwide diaspora. For the past six decades, AAI has provided over 23,000 scholarships and fellowships to African Students. Proceeds from the Annual Awards Gala will fund AAI’s programs and initiatives including AAI Scholarships, its School Services Program and the State of Education on Africa Conference.

EXECUTING A DONATION OR SPONSORSHIP

Text to Donate:
Step 1: Send Text to 41444
Step 2: Text: “GalaText Amount Name”
Step 3: Click the link in the reply

Online:
To execute a sponsorship or donation online visit
www.aaionline.org/gala

Checks, Corporate Match or Other Gifts:
Please make checks payable to
The Africa-America Institute
Mail Code: 7967
P.O. Box 7247
Philadelphia, PA 19170- 0001

Wires/Direct Deposit:
The Africa-America Institute
Account Number: 679 653 0054 Routing/ABA: 021 0000 89
SWIFT Code: CITIUS33
Address of the Bank:
Citibank N.A.
399 Park Avenue, NY 10022
212-681-4503

AAI is a registered 501 (c)(3) charitable organization and all gifts are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by U.S. law.

For more information or inquiries, please contact Jourden Warren, AAI’s Chief Development Officer: jwarren@aaionline.org / +1(646) 645-7286
Congratulations on your 38th Annual Awards Gala.

Continued Success,
Christal M. Jackson
WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE

AAL’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2023
We’re inspired by a single vision:
Transforming patients’ lives through science™

Visit bms.com to see how we’re bringing a human touch to everything we do.

© 2022 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. All rights reserved.

INTRODUCING THE
AFRETÉC NETWORK
LED BY CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

A pan-African collaboration of technology-focused universities to accelerate the digital transformation of Africa.

Some of the university partners in the network:
University of Lagos | Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar
University of Rwanda | American University of Cairo | University of the Witwatersrand

Learn more about the network and our partners: afretec.org

Carnegie Mellon University
College of Engineering
Let us work together to create a world that is just, equitable, peaceful, and regenerative.

Peggy Dulany and Synergos congratulate the People of the Republic of Botswana, Mahen Bonetti (Founder & Executive Director, African Film Festival, Inc.), Betty Wambui Kibaara (Director, Food Initiative, The Rockefeller Foundation), Dr. Solomon Assefa (Vice President, IBM Research), and the Africa-America Institute.
Dentons is proud to support the Africa-America Institute, and to sponsor the 38th Annual Awards Gala.

Congratulations to all of this year’s honorees.
Sacred Nile
By Chester Higgins, Text with Betsy Kissam

Nothing is more galvanizing than the sense of a cultural past. People of African descent are taught everybody's history, except their own.

Sacred Nile is visually compelling, emotionally healing — and celebrates the sacred agency of people of African descent and their influence on the foundation of Western religion. This visual portrayal of faith clarifies our spiritual beginning and recovers the sovereignty of African history.

Sacred Nile is a photography book — five decades in the making — about a river and how the ancient African people who lived along its banks were the first to worship a monotheistic God before Genesis. Records carved in stone 4,600 years ago in the tomb of King Unas in Ancient Egypt suggest that African people were the first to become aware of the Spirit world — and to create a conceptual system of divine belief and worship.

These 232 color images illustrate the faith that migrated up and down the River Nile from Ethiopia to Egypt, depositing vestiges of ancient rites and worship still practiced today.

Professional Troublemaker
By Luvvie Ajayi Jones

From the New York Times bestselling author of I’m Judging You, a hilarious and transformational book about how to tackle fear - that everlasting hater - and audaciously step into lives, careers, and legacies that go beyond even our wildest dreams

Luvvie Ajayi Jones is known for her trademark wit, warmth, and perpetual truth-telling. But even she's been challenged by the enemy of progress known as fear. She was once afraid to call herself a writer, and nearly skipped out on doing a TED talk that changed her life because of imposter syndrome. As she shares in Professional Troublemaker, she's not alone.

We're all afraid. We're afraid of asking for what we want because we're afraid of hearing “no.” We're afraid of being different, of being too much or not enough. We're afraid of leaving behind the known for the unknown. But in order to do the things that will truly, meaningfully change our lives, we have to become professional troublemakers: people who are committed to not letting fear talk them out of the things they need to do or say to live free.

With humor and honesty, and guided by the influence of her professional troublemaking Nigerian grandmother, Funmilayo Faloyin, Luvvie walks us through what we must get right within ourselves before we can do the things that scare us; how to use our voice for a greater good; and how to put movement to the voice we've been silencing - because truth-telling is a muscle.

The point is not to be fearless, but to know we are afraid and charge forward regardless. It is to recognize that the things we must do are more significant than our fears. This book is about how to live boldly in spite of all the reasons we have to cower. Let's go!
The Rockefeller Foundation is proud to support

THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE 38TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA
At IBM Research we invent what’s next in computing. With facilities in Kenya and South Africa, we engage with Africa’s innovation ecosystem to advance the frontier of science and technology, and to catalyse progress in global challenges such as climate, sustainability, and healthcare.

research.ibm.com
Salutes
The Africa-America Institute
On its
38th Annual Awards Gala
Africa In The World
And
Congratulations to all the Honorees

David R. Jones, Esq.  Mark A. Willis
President & CEO  Board Chairperson

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) has worked with and for New Yorkers since 1843 to promote economic opportunity and champion an equitable city and state. We power change through a strategic combination of research, services, and advocacy to make New York more livable for people facing economic insecurity. By expanding access to health care, affordable housing, employment, opportunities for individuals with conviction histories, debt assistance, and more, we make a tangible difference in the lives of millions. Visit us online at www.cssny.org. 633 3rd Avenue 10th Floor, New York, NY 10010-212-254-8900.

We are a proud supporter of the 38th Annual Awards Gala. Your efforts bring the world together to accomplish so much.

Ardent Advisors
Owner Representatives  Project/Construction  Turnaround
Specialists  Strategic Commercial Real Estate Advisors

Visit our website: www.ardentadvisors.net

We represent owners in real estate and construction projects: providing expert strategy, cost control, and schedule accountability
THE AFRICAN DEMOCRACY PROJECT (ADP) IS PROUD TO BE A SPONSOR OF AAII AND ITS 38TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA!

ADP was started in 2008 by President Emeritus Dr. Irvin D. Reid of Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit. ADP was a 10-year exploration of African democracy by American students who traveled to Africa during national elections in Mozambique, Botswana, Liberia, Ghana, Namibia and Tanzania. Dr. Reid led multidisciplinary teams from a pool of 100 WSU students, faculty and staff who met with African government officials, ministers, educators and ordinary citizens in these six African countries. Through research and engagement ADP expanded into the making of a documentary on African democracy. The documentary features interviews with African presidents and other leaders including Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Amos Claudius Sawyer, and Moses Zeh Blah of Liberia; Presidents John Mahama, Jerry Rawlings, John Kufuor and Central Bank Economist Kwame Pianim of Ghana; Presidents Samuel Nujoma, Hifikepunye Pohamba, and Hage Geingob of Namibia; President Chissano and Civil War Leader Afonso Dhlakama of Mozambique; and President Festus Mogae of Botswana.

In addition to those from Wayne State, ADP was supported by personnel from the University of Liberia, the University of Botswana, University of Ghana, and Namibia University of Science and Technology. Financial support for ADP was provided by the Applebaum Family Foundation and its late founder and Detroit philanthropist, Mr. Eugene Applebaum. The documentary was featured in global film festivals and received 15 awards, including Best Documentary Feature at the New York International Film Awards.

The African Democracy documentary is viewable at: [youtubbe link]

Contact Dr. Reid/ADP at idrafrica@gmail.com
Investing in the world’s energy future.

When it comes to opportunity, the future is not predetermined. To ensure our growing world will have the energy to pursue new opportunities for decades to come, ExxonMobil employs a long-term approach, investing in the communities where we operate to bring good jobs, economic growth and opportunity.

ExxonMobil
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, congratulates the Africa-America Institute and this year's distinguished honorees. We join AAI in recognizing and celebrating the many successes of Africa, Africans, and the African Diaspora across the world.

Rutgers is honored to partner with President Masisi and Botswana on a range of health, education, research, and leadership initiatives.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Africa-America Institute would like to thank the following for making this year’s event possible

EVENT PRODUCTION & MANAGEMENT
Captivate Marketing Group

MUSIC
Afropop Worldwide

VIDEO PRODUCTION
Wide Iris

DESIGN
Kels Hyde

Special Thanks to:
Michael Johnston
Marème Harley-Guenego
Denise Lewis
Olivia Lynch
Mora McLean
Ghebre Mehreteab
Ambar Tavarez
Jourden Warren
Transforming Africa’s Trade

With an array of services and programmes, Afreximbank is championing Africa’s long-term growth and prosperity.

We innovate, we partner, and we intervene to diversify and transform Africa’s economies. Our trade finance services and programmes are helping make Africa a player in the global market.

Our Key Services:
- Trade and Project Financing Solutions
- Guarantee Solutions
- Trade Information and Advisory

New Initiatives:
- IATF – Intra-African Trade Fair
- FEDA – Fund for Export Development in Africa
- MANSA – Africa’s Due Diligence Data Platform

Discover more @ afreximbank.com