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CONTACT: Pamela Thomas, Chairperson
Glyph Comics Award
ECBACC, Inc.
E-mail:
pamela.thomas@ecbacc.com

Black Comic Book Awards Celebrates 10 Years of Service

The 10th Annual Glyph Comics Awards (GCA): On Friday evening, May 15, 2015, from 6:30p.m. – 9p.m., for its 10th consecutive year, the Glyph Comics Awards (GCA) will recognize the best in comics made by, for, and about Black people from the preceding calendar year. While it is not exclusive to Black creators, it does strive to honor those who have made the greatest contributions to the comic book medium in terms of both critical and commercial impact. The goal of the Glyph Comics Awards is to encourage more diverse and high quality work across the board and to inspire new creators to add their voices to the field. The Award is named for the blog Glyphs: The Language of the Black Comics Community (<http://glyphs.popcultureshock.com>) started in 2005 by comics journalist Rich Watson as a means to provide news and commentary on comics with Black themes, as well as tangential topics in the fields of Black sci-fi, fantasy and animation.

Glyph Comics Awards (GCA) and Chairperson Have Staying Power: Thomas returns to the 2015 GCAs and considers it an honor to be facilitating the award ceremony's 10th anniversary in only her 3rd year as Chairperson. Thomas herself has over a 10 year history as the Curator of The Museum of UnCut Funk. Being an expert on Black culture of the 1970's, with an extensive collection of Black memorabilia that features: Vintage American and European advertising that depicts Black characters; Vintage Black Cast Movie Posters; 1970's American and European Black Cinema Movie Posters; Original Animation Production Cells; and Drawings from 1970's Saturday Morning Cartoons that depict Black characters, and other funky goodies, Thomas is no stranger to collecting and continually preserving things of value. Thomas states, "The GCA awards program having reached 10 years of continued service to the public marks not only a great accomplishment for our organizers, but also an achievement for a segment of the comic book entertainment industry that for years many knew very little about. The GCA not only increased awareness of the existence of Black themed books, their creators and fans, but also that this cultural slice of the comic book industry is no fad and will be here to stay for future generations." Thomas succeeds Glyph Awards founder and founding host Rich Watson, owner of the comic book focused blog The Glyph. www.museumofuncutfunk.com

12th Annual Pioneer / Lifetime Achievement Award: In 2004 ECBACC, Inc. inaugurated the Pioneer / Lifetime Achievement Award to honor those men and women, many unsung, who have made innovative, dynamic and lasting contributions to the cartoon, comic book & sci-fi industry and who have paved the way for others. The list of these trailblazers includes: political cartoonist Mr. Samuel Joyner of Philadelphia Tribune fame who received the very first ECBACC Pioneer Award in 2004; Mr. Bertram Fitzgerald, Creator of "Golden Legacy Comics," (1966) who received the honor in 2005; Mr. Tony Tallarico, of "Lobo" fame (1965), who received the honor in 2006, as did Mr. Turtel Onli, the "Father of the Black Age" concept; Mr. Larry Fuller, "One of the Kings of Underground Comix," who received the honor in 2007; and Lady Nichelle Nichols ("Lt. Nyota Uhura") of "Star Trek" fame who honored ECBACC with her presence in 2008.

There were no recipients in 2009 or 2010. However, in 2011, ECBACC, Inc. honored Philadelphia brothers Mr. Orrin Evans and Mr. George Evans (both posthumously) for their creation of All-Negro Comics #1 in 1947, the first independently produced African American comic book in the U.S.; and also in 2011, Mr. Dwayne McDuffie (posthumously), co-Founder of Milestone Media, co-Creator of Static Shock, Producer and Writer for Ben 10: Ultimate Alien, Writer for Marvel Comics' Fantastic Four, and many more, whose untimely passing in 2010 sent shockwaves through all facets of the industry; In 2012 ECBACC honored Mr. Morrie Turner, of "Wee Pals" fame (1965), for creating the first multi-ethnic syndicated comic strip in the U.S. In 2013 Ms. Zelda "Jackie" Ormes (née Zelda Mavin Jackson) of "Torchy Brown" fame (1937), and the first nationally syndicated [African American](#) woman [cartoonist, will be recognized for her achievements.](#) Ms. Ormes' character appeared in the Black-owned Pittsburgh Courier in 1937 as the first independent career woman in a comic book / comic strip (Pre-Brenda Starr - 1940).

Contact:

Ms. Pamela Thomas Chairperson
Glyph Comics Awards
ECBACC, Inc.
908.334.1793
pamela.thomas@ecbacc.com

For more information, visit: www.ecbacc.com