

TRUIST 

PRIDE AWARDS 2023

◆ CELEBRATING



A Journey of Inspiration & Innovation

WESTIN CHARLOTTE

DAY BALL | 3:30 - 7:30PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

*"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way."*

# TRUIST

## PRIDE AWARDS 2023



A Journey of Inspiration & Innovation

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# We're Celebrating Thirty Years!

A Blast from the Past

Did you know that Pride Magazine originated at the Charlotte Observer and debuted in 1993 as "Community Pride Magazine?" Yep, it was originally owned by the Observer, and I was a sales person for the magazine when the first issue published. That was a long time ago and it's been quite an interesting journey, to say the least. To shorten a long story, I purchased the magazine in 2001, launching my career as an entrepreneur as the CEO of my small business Pride Communications, Inc./DBA Pride Magazine.

We started with two signature events, the Pride Sunset Jazz Festival and the annual Pride Awards. The latter remains and has played an integral role in the success of the magazine over the years, recognizing the outstanding contributions and accomplishments of local African Americans. The Pride Awards began as a themed-black-tie gala during Martin Luther King weekend, raising funds for worthy causes. In recent years, the event moved to a successful luncheon experience, but in 2023 with Truist as our title sponsor, it's time to

## CELEBRATE

our 30-year journey with an unprecedented "Day Ball!"

**DEE DIXON**  
CEO/Publisher

**To be a part of this historic occasion and for updates, log on to [www.prideawards.net](http://www.prideawards.net) or call 704-375-9553. Sponsorships, tickets and tables are still available.**



2000 Sunset Jazz Festival



Diana Floss, a.k.a. Dee Dixon performs at Pride Awards 2010.

# The Pride Inspiration Award



**Natalie Frazier Allen, J.D.**

Founder | CEO The Arts Empowerment Project

**The Arts Empowerment Project ("TAEP")** was started by CEO and Founder, Natalie Frazier Allen, in 2011. Its mission is to break the cycles of violence and trauma through arts opportunities that ignite change in vulnerable youth by providing access and exposure to arts and culture for children who have experienced trauma and lack such opportunities. By using the arts as a vehicle, students learn resiliency, coping skills, social problem solving, conflict resolution, and important life lessons.

Programs include **Encounters**, which engages students in 6th to 12th grades in artmaking and facilitated discussion with arts educators and guest artists;

**Free Art**, brings arts experiences to underserved K-5 students enrolled in after school programs; **HeART Packs**, art care packages containing age-appropriate art supplies, drawing pads, coloring books, educational games, comfort and creative toys, healthy snacks, gift cards and a message of hope for children who are at-risk; **Culinary Camp**, assisted by professional chefs, teaches teens who are court-involved, particularly those aging out of the foster care system - to develop skills in healthy eating, nutrition, shopping and cooking skills; **Promoting Peace and Justice**, brings 6th to 12th grade students who are at-risk and court-involved together with members of local law enforcement to help breakdown stereotypes and explore implicit bias and social justice issues through collaborative art; **Arts Access**, students benefit from full tuition sponsorship of unique focused camps, interactive trips to museums, attendance at theater performances, one-on-one lessons, and group lessons from a wide range of collaborating arts organizations.

# The Pride Technology Award



**Jalen Hampton**

High School Senior |  
Phillip O. Berry  
Academy of Technology

Jalen Hampton is a senior at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology in Charlotte, NC. He currently has a 4.35 GPA, and is one of the top 20 students in his graduating class. Mr. Hampton is witty, ambitious, intelligent and a fast learner. In addition to his many accomplishments, Jalen is active in the Road to Hire Apprenticeship Program, the school swim team, Code2College, and an employee at a local Chick-Fil-A. Jalen's ultimate goal is to become a video game programmer. He believes that it combines his skills in coding and desire to bring his characters to life.



# The Pride Innovation Award



Lowe's Tech Hub in South End signifies their commitment to Charlotte and underscores the importance of technology at Lowe's. The organization is on a journey to become the world's most customer-centric omnichannel retailer and the Hub is helping accelerate this transformation.

Built to foster collaboration and innovation, Lowe's Tech Hub was designed around four key pillars: to build an environment that promotes innovation; to attract and retain top tech talent; to prove that technology advancements truly evolve the Lowe's brand; and to energize the community by sharing Lowe's commitment, passion, and culture. Flexible "pods," amenity areas, and dedicated space for Lowe's Innovation Labs are among the many features this space has to offer.

Technology remains mission-critical at Lowe's and the Hub is an engine for future alignment with Lowe's culture and commitment. The Hub also helps Lowe's attract and retain the best talent in technology in order to continue to solve real-world issues. "Our biggest asset remains our associates," said Seemantini Godbole, Lowe's Executive Vice President, Chief Digital and Information Officer. "And what the building does is enable them to do their best work."

**"Our biggest asset remains our associates. And what the building does is enable them to do their best work."**

**Seemantini Godbole**  
Lowe's Executive Vice President,  
Chief Digital and Information Officer



**Journell Joseph**  
Lowe's Senior Director  
of Technology



# Pride Awards 2023

Folks, get your gowns and tuxedos ready for an innovative experience that is being planned to enlighten, engage and entertain you. Three Awards will be presented this year:



1. **The Pride Inspiration Award:**  
The Arts Empowerment Project
2. **The Pride Innovation Award:**  
Lowe's Companies, Inc.
3. **The Pride Technology Award:**  
Jalen Hampton, Student  
Phillip O. Berry Academy  
of Technology

## What You Need to Know

**Theme:** Pride Awards 2023:  
A 30-year Journey of Inspiration  
and Innovation

**What:** A "Day Ball" Celebration  
(A "Day Ball" is simply a gala that  
begins during the day)

**Date:** Saturday, February 25

**Time:** 3:30pm – Reception  
4:30pm – Dinner/Program  
6:30pm – Entertainment  
7:30pm – Event Ends

**Location:** The Westin Charlotte

**Attire:** Black Tie

Log on to [www.prideawards.net](http://www.prideawards.net)  
for seating or call 704-375-9553

## Special Entertainment: Natural Woman

A theatrical tribute to Aretha Franklin by Blake Entertainment

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