



PRESS RELEASE

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Update

Ybor City Museum Society

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Ybor City Museum Society Announces 39th Annual Legacy Awards Recipients

TAMPA, FL—The Ybor City Museum Society has announced the recipients of the 2023 Legacy Awards, who were selected for their significant contributions to the heritage and culture of Ybor City.

The Legacy Awards celebrate the achievements of visionaries who have made lasting impacts on Ybor City, Tampa's National Historic Landmark District.

Louis "Lou" Piniella has been selected to receive the Ybor Award for his contributions to the community, his dedication to Tampa, and his part in preserving the 135 years of Tampa's baseball history. Mr. Piniella has been an asset to the Tampa Baseball Museum since its inception and has promoted the community of baseball players who started their careers in Tampa schools and Little League fields, many of whom still call Tampa their home.

Thomas "Tom" DeGeorge has been selected to receive the Pizzo Award for his contributions to the community and to music. During the pandemic of Covid-19, Mr. DeGeorge was an advocate for independent music venues locally and on a national level, including lobbying Congress for a special grant to venues that were forced to shutter due to the pandemic. He worked tirelessly to navigate federal and local guidelines to ensure patrons a safe and accommodating way to enjoy performances. Mr. DeGeorge is a strong advocate of Ybor as a safe, enjoyable, and culturally relevant destination for both performers and audiences.

Jill Wax has been selected to receive the Adela Gonzmart Award. Mrs. Wax has been supporting the local artists and the community since her arrival in Ybor City in the 70s. After meeting the daughters of B.F. Marcos, Mrs. Wax opened her first retail store on the Southside of the 1600 block of 7th Avenue and called it Rivendell, the mythical Elvin city of the Hobbit. After a successful run with Rivendell, Mrs. Wax moved across the street and opened a larger boutique called La France. Mrs. Wax has worked tirelessly giving back to the community that she never lost faith in or abandoned. She has served on countless boards, given to numerous charities, and supported new and upcoming community members and their endeavors to make Ybor City a safe and enjoyable place to live and work.

Lisette Campos, Mistress of Ceremonies, will be serving as emcee to help honor the recipients and commemorate the 39th annual Legacy Awards. The Legacy Awards Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2023, from 11:30am-1:30pm, in the Siboney Room of the Columbia Restaurant. Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, contact the Ybor City Museum Society at 813.247.1434 or visit www.ybormuseum.org.

All proceeds benefit the Ybor City Museum Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is preserving, promoting and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park.

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