3RD ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Knoxville History Project's third Annual Luncheon in April 2019 was a major success, not only meeting our fundraising goal but also growing attendance by one third. Our special honoree, recognized for significant contributions to Knoxville history, was UT Prof. Emeritus Bruce Wheeler, who regaled the crowd with memorable stories. 260 attendees contributed more than $27,000 towards KHP's operating budget, an increase of $5,000 over 2017’s event. The previous year, KHP recognized historian Bob Booker for his considerable accomplishments concerning the history of our black communities.

UT 225TH ANNIVERSARY STORIES

KHP is helping the University of Tennessee celebrate its 225th anniversary. KHP has written eight historical stories, three of which are already online with the rest to follow throughout the fall.

Stories include: UT on the Map, The Birth of Volmania, How Alumni Memorial Hall Changed Knoxville, UT’s Educators, The Carousel Theatre, Teaching the Teachers, Crowded Years, and The Tennessee Acropolis.

Illustrated stories will be posted online throughout summer and fall 2019 at https://225.utk.edu/
In 2019 so far, KHP has presented 34 community programs serving 1,511 program participants, including:

- "Knoxville: The City as Setting" for Knoxville Writer's Guild
- "Hill Avenue Blues" for Blount Mansion
- "Burlington and Chilhowee Park" for Town Hall East
- "The Evolution of East Tennessee Literature" for the Rose Glen Literary Festival
- "Knoxville and New Music" at Maple Hall
- "The Dixie Highway" with Jennifer Montgomery
- "Edward Terry Sanford: A Tennessean on the U.S. Supreme Court" with Stephanie L. Slater, Attorney
- "Knoxville's Civil Rights Era” and "1919 Race Riots" with Bob Booker
- "How UT Became UT: Tales from the Hill" with UT Prof. Bob Hutton

Other groups served in 2019: Church of the Ascension, Sertoma Club, Kiwanis Club, Bearden Rotary Club, John T. O'Connor Center, North Knoxville Business and Professional Association, Women's Construction Workers, Women's Council of Realtors, and Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, Visit Knoxville, Maryville College, Catholic Diocese of Knoxville, and Intro Knoxville.
1,725 copies of the first edition sold in the first eight months!

200 full-color pages featuring historic homes, museums, collections, downtown buildings and statues, cemeteries, parks, neighborhoods, UT campus, and Civil War sites with visitor-friendly maps. Available from KHP direct and 20+ local retail outlets.
Hardback versions of the above titles, all produced since 2017, are available for the public to read through the Knox County Public Library.

Total library circulations for all titles from January-July 2019 = 242 circulations. Each title was checked out a minimum of 11 times, and the most popular title, *Historic Knoxville* guidebook was checked out 128 times. According to the downtown library, “KHP titles circulate as well, if not better, than some of the popular (mid-list) genre authors we carry.”
NEW DOWNTOWN ART WRAPS IN 2019

"Red-Tailed Hawk" by Earl O. Henry on Main Street at Locust Street.

"Lawson McGhee" by John Kelley on W. Church Avenue at Locust Street.

"Staub's Theatre" by Russell Briscoe on Gay Street at Cumberland Avenue.

Currently in production: "Morning" by Catherine Wiley at Broadway and W. Jackson Ave.

For a map and details of all 18 Downtown Art Wraps go online to knoxvillehistoryproject.org/downtown-art-wraps/
Knoxville's most comprehensive online source for Knoxville history available, featuring stories, image galleries, videos, podcasts, maps, and oral history conversations.

Online at knoxvillehistoryproject.org/portal/
Community members are helping KHP create a new digital archive of photographs, postcards, brochures, and ephemera that enhance our programs and publications. The undisputed highlight so far has been a series of rare photographs of the legendary Louis Armstrong concert at Chilhowee Park’s Jacob Building in 1957. (Courtesy of Martin Lang.) TA selection of these photographs and other selections from KHP’s collection featured in a special "Knoxville Shoe Box Sampler" made especially for supporters at the 2019 annual Luncheon.
A new collection of freshly researched narratives will be published in late 2019. Chapters will include new stories on Professor Ijams' (above left) legacy at the Tennessee School for the Deaf following the Civil War, strange accounts of “Human Flies” who came here in the early 1920’s to climb the city’s tallest buildings, how a local filmmaker secured the interest and approval of Walt Disney himself which inspired a unique retelling of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* showcasing multiple Knoxville landmarks, and ultimately watched by more than 30,000 school children, plus playwright Tennessee Williams’ complicated local family.

**THE MAYORS OF KNOXVILLE**

A new illustrated collection of short biographies on all the 81 mayors who have served the city since its founding for the City of Knoxville will be produced in late 2019.

Bearden is one of Knoxville's oldest and best-known communities with an economically and racially diverse background and deep roots in the 19th century. It remains a popular place to live, work, and shop, and includes multiple landmarks of more than local significance. As a companion title to our local bestseller, *Historic Knoxville: The Curious Visitor's Guide to its Stories & Places*, this new full-color guide will highlight the founding settlement of Erin, and the growth of Bearden, including historic buildings, churches, cemeteries, schools, businesses, industries, parks, and neighboring communities.

**DOWNTOWN LITERARY GUIDE**

A new user-friendly guide exploring the city’s rich literary heritage, highlighting important works by Nikki Giovanni, Frances Hodgson Burnett, James Agee, Cormac McCarthy, and others will be produced in 2020. The guide will be designed to complement the highly popular *Downtown Knoxville Walking Tour*, a guide of Knoxville's historic building and architecture produced by our partner, Knox Heritage.