

2013 Award of Merit Recipient

June Biber Freeman



As an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, I attended a lecture by Frank Lloyd Wright. Long drawn to the vacant Robie house, on the edge of the school's campus, hearing him opened my eyes to architecture and its possibilities. The University, high on academics, sadly gave short shrift to art and architecture, save for their history. After earning a B.S., I completed two years of graduate study at the University toward a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, an effort put aside when I moved to Pine Bluff with my husband of a year.

In 1959, as a volunteer, I was instrumental in establishing Pine Bluff's first arts center, the Little Firehouse Community Arts Center. In response to my invitation as its then director, Fay Jones said he was happy to show a selection of his drawings in the Center's gallery, formerly the firemen's sleeping-quarters. (He always claimed it was his first exhibition.) There was a great turnout for the talk he gave in conjunction with the exhibit. (The Center morphed into the Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, whose board I served as member and chair.)

Currently, as director of the Architecture and Design Network, I oversee a series of free, public lectures by architects and design professionals. Now in its tenth season, the program I conceived and have run as a volunteer, is supported in part by the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Fay Jones School of Architecture and the Arkansas Arts Center.

Among the exhibitions I have curated are "Printmaking: The Art of Multiples" and "Fiber, Fabric, Form" (both for the Arkansas Arts Center Artmobile). Conferences I have conceived and organized include "Major Art/Minority Artists" (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff), "A Conference on Creativity: Women and the Arts" (Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas), "Person, Place and Space (Arkansas Arts Center) and "The University and the Community" (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff).

Employment

1975-1980 Director of State Services, Arkansas Arts Center
1982-1984 Director of the Arkansas Artists Registry, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
1986-1995 Writer of ARTLINE, a weekly column about the arts for the Pine Bluff Commercial

Affiliations

I am a long serving member of the advisory board of the UAMS Psychiatric Institute. I am an honorary member of the Dean's Circle of the Fay Jones School of Architecture. Current memberships include the American Alliance of Museums and the Association of Architectural Organizations.

Boards

I have served on include those of the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the Arkansas Arts Center, the Arkansas Arts Council, Friends of Contemporary Craft, the UAMS School of Public Health advisory board, the Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas, the Pine Bluff Symphony Orchestra, Pine Bluff Sister Cities, the Arkansas Commission on the Status of Women, Arkansas Japan Society and the UAPB Development Council

Publications

In addition to writing for the Pine Bluff Commercial, I have written for for the Christian Science Monitor and other publications as well.

Personal

I was born in Newark, New Jersey. My husband Edmond Freeman and I have lived in Little Rock since 1995. We have four children and six grandchildren.

Special Interests

Japanese art and architecture

*AIA Arkansas is proud to present
June Biber Freeman
as the 2013 Award of Merit Recipient.*