

## **Citizens' Committee of Recognition - Nominee Descriptions**

### **Citizen of the Year – Sharon Major-Hughes**

Prince to Kings is a non-profit organization headed by Sharon Major-Hughes. Prince to Kings provides free mentoring and an educational component for high risk boys.

The mission of Prince to Kings is to stand in the gap by providing tutoring, teaching life skills, imparting standards and principles needed to become successful, self-sustaining members of society.

Hughes has one major objective – to help young black males to achieve their future goals, whether that goal is attending college, trade school or joining the armed services. Prince to Kings simply wants to improve the quality of life for the youth of today and tomorrow and with the assistance from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, the future looks bright.

Prince to Kings activities include but are not limited to: Question and Answer Session with the Chief/visit to the police station, Black History Play, Anti-Bullying Forum, Bowling Day, and the Community Basketball Tournament.

Hughes recently began a sister organization – princesses to queens to work with hard to reach young ladies in the community. Her goal is the same as with Prince to Kings – to help them see themselves as beautiful, young women who God created.

Working with children is Sharon's passion. Building strong leaders is her mission.

### **Distinguished Citizen - Donald Singer**

Leafing through a firm history of Donald Singer Architect, one can't help but notice a common design thread. There's "a look," a disarming clarity, an essential ideal that reaches through the pages chronicling the firm's 30+ years. It is apparent, as colleagues and critics aptly note, that Donald Singer Architect shapes space; Don Singer has an eye. In project after project, the firm has created urbane, dynamic, harmonious, appealing modern spaces for living, learning, and working. It was in 1964, the year Don Singer established the firm, that he designed the four-family dwelling in Fort Lauderdale that earned him his first AIA Florida Honor Award and national attention. Like this project, most of the early commissions were modest residences, cleanlined and spare, with a common denominator of "orderly and meaningful space." Also like this project, they still are handsome, viable homes in the 1990s. Then as now, his was a modernist style laced with practicality.

#### **COMMUNITY AFFILIATION:**

Design Broward (Cultural Affairs Council)  
Chairman Fort Lauderdale Downtown Council  
President Broward County Art in Public Places Board  
Chairman Fort Lauderdale Sign Advisory Board  
Vice Chairman Fort Lauderdale Riverwalk Sub-Committee  
Vice Chairman Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board Museum of Art  
Board of Trustees Discovery Center  
Board of Trustees Design Critique Committee Dade County Aviation Authority Florida Atlantic University School of Architecture Advisory Council

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION: The 1998 American Architecture Awards Exhibit, hosted by the Chicago Athenaeum has selected Donald Singer's Star Island Residence as one of 40 works to be presented. The American Institute of Architects Florida Region awarded Singer Architects the Firm of the Year Award in 1997, recognizing over twenty years of dedicated service to the profession and the community leadership provided by himself and those established within his firm. In San Francisco, California in 1985, the American Institute of Architects inducted Donald Singer into the COLLEGE OF FELLOWS for his contributions to the profession of architecture in the area of design. The Broward Cultural Affairs Council presented Donald Singer with the Moretti Award for outstanding contributions to the Arts in 1985. In 1984 Donald Singer was awarded the AWARD OF HONOR FOR DESIGN by the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of the high quality and originality of his work over an extended period of time and his advancement of the cause of good architecture in the State of Florida. AWARDS Chicago Athenaeum Awards Exhibit.

American Architecture, 1998 Firm of the Year Award, AIA Florida, 1997 Award of Excellence in Architecture, AIA Florida, 1997 Test of Time Award, AIA Florida, 1996 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Excellence, 1996 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Merit, 1996 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Excellence, 1995 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Merit, 1995 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Merit, 1994 AIA Broward Chapter, Honorable Mention, 1992 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Excellence of Unbuilt Projects, 1991 Concrete Structure of the Year, Florida Concrete Association, 1990 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Excellence, 1990 South Florida Home of the Year, Florida Home & Garden, 1989 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Excellence, 1989 Concrete Structure of the Year, Florida Concrete Association, 1988 Award of Excellence in Architecture (2), AIA Florida, 1987 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Excellence (2), 1987 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Merit, 1986 Governor's Design Award, 1985 Award of Excellence in Architecture, AIA Florida, 1983 Concrete Structure of the Year, Florida Concrete Institute, 1983 AIA Broward Chapter, Award of Merit, 1983 Award of Excellence in Architecture (2), AIA Florida, 1981 AIA Broward Chapter, Honor Awards (2), 1979 Honor Award, Community Appearance Board, City of Ft. Laud., 1978 AIA Broward Chapter, Design Award, 1978 Record House of the Year, Architectural Record, 1978 AIA Broward Chapter, Design Award, 1977 AIA Broward Chapter, Design Award, 1976 Record House of the Year, Architectural Record, 1975 Concrete Structure of the Year, Florida Concrete Institute, 1975 Merit Award, AIA Florida, 1974 Honor Award, AIA Florida, 1974 AIA Broward Chapter, Design Award, 1973 Concrete Structure of Year, Florida Concrete Institute, 1972 Merit Award, AIA Florida, 1972 Record House of the Year, Architectural Record, 1971 Work included in U.S. Information Agency Traveling Exhibit—"Architecture U.S.A.," 1970 Record House of the Year, Architectural Record, 1969 Best Building Award, Miami Herald, 1965 Best Building Award, Miami Herald, 1965 Honor Award, AIA Florida, 1965.

### **Honored Founder – Stanford Smoker**

Smoker moved his wife and three children to Fort Lauderdale in the 1950s, trading an executive role at his family's Indiana manufacturing firm for a start in South Florida. Launching a career in construction materials and later in real estate, Smoker eventually became a prominent developer. When Broward's growing suburbs eclipsed Downtown, he saw the New River's potential to become the centerpiece of a thriving urban center. He gradually assembled land along the river's banks, and in the early 1970s, announced plans for Downtown's first high-rise-apartments. A sky bridge would connect residential towers on the north and south banks.

Friends with earlier Fort Lauderdale pioneers Ivy Stranahan and Annie Beck, he understood the importance of preserving historic structures on his property. He was responsible for saving the 1907 King-Cromartie House and the Annie Beck House, and with his family and friends preserved trees including the 130-year-old oak at the corner of East Las Olas Blvd. and Tarpon Drive.

While the County's need for land to expand the courthouse changed his high-rise plans decades ago, the parcels Smoker sold through the years have evolved into high-rise condominiums. The oak-shaded green space just west of the Henry Kinney Tunnel has officially been named Smoker Family Park.

### **Exemplary Former Employee – Greg Brewton**

You can see Greg Brewton in every building throughout this City. He has given the City of Fort Lauderdale over 35 years of dedicated and committed service. He has given back to his community, built bridges between communities, and helped establish this city as one that is on the rise in development.