

About The 2017 Black Women's Network Marva Smith Battle-Bey Empowerment Awards

by Gwendolyn Goodman BWN C-PR Director & Breakfast Forum Co-Event Planner 2017

On Oct 28, 2017 during the 37th Black Women's Network (BWN) Signature Event The Business Networking Breakfast Forum created in 1980 by Marva Smith Battle-Bey. We will memorialize, the BWN organizing Founder and Economic Urban Planning Expert and Empowerment Giant posthumously with awards named in her honor which will be awarded in 2-parts.

BWN pays homage to another community treasure's signature event Oprah Winfrey's Legend's Ball Awards in the naming of the awards categories. While BWN has a distance to travel to be even close to Oprah's league, we share the same vision. This morning of Edutainment has become an institution in the Los Angeles Women's Organizations Movement over its 38 year history. Like the Legends Ball and it's Awards, The BWN Breakfast Forum is a Quality, High-end experience and the awards celebrates those at the top of their chosen fields and excellence at the highest level. It's an event within our community that highlights business and those things and people that lift-up and inspire us in our lives in general; that looks like us, is run by us and ultimately is designed to unapologetically be about the success of black women in their work and family life.

We are Introducing in the spirit of Oprah Winfrey's Legends Ball. An Awards segment in our program we've titled, "The BWN Marva Smith Battle-Bey Honoring an Elder – Lifetime Achievement and The Raisin' a Young'un Awards." The acknowledgement awarded is focus on the honorees personal body of work's positive impact on the black community and black women in-particular. The 2nd part are The Political Giant and the Economic Power Partner Awards, which are based on their storied impact on black women and girls and the black economy and business community . We select those deserving of our acknowledgement across generational lines based on their contribution to making life better for black women and girls and or black business in

their chosen field of endeavor. We will use this moment annually to say, we see you and we appreciate you and give our attendees in the room an opportunity to do the same.

The 2017 BWN Marva Smith Battle-Bey Inaugural Award Recipients are:

1. Honor An Elder ‘Lifetime Achievement Award
Starletta DuPois - Actress
2. Raisin’ A Young’un Award
Naomi B – Now Generation Gospel Artist
3. Political Giant Award
The Honorable Senator Holly Mitchell
4. Economic Community Power Partner Award
Earl Skip Cooper, II President & CEO BBA

These awards acknowledge the positive contributions to inner city life and community made by each recipient. They are awarded based on the visible results the Nominee’s lived story reflects in the public square. Using a boat as an analogy for life these individuals have carried many people through the storms and to calmer higher seas of urban living. Ultimately those left in their wake live better lives because they crossed paths with our honoree in their circumstance. Through our honorees life of service, individuals are connected to resources and people and they are lifted higher.

BWN is a Business and Professional Women’s Organization founded in 1979. **Our Vision** States; "We believe in Networking- Networking as the vital linking of people with people and people with resources." **Our Mission:** We support the growth and development of black women, those which we believe includes all of us; in the business of living our best lives, as well as the professionals and entrepreneurs among us. We serve to enhance communication between black women, to encourage achievement, and further the economic and personal success of those inside and outside our organization.

BWN -Our Motto: ...” Sisters in Service to Enhance Resource Sharing”