



**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**

**OCTOBER 20, 2012  
SOFITEL MINNEAPOLIS**

**Dear Friend of the Givens Foundation,**

In October 2012, the **Givens Foundation for African American Literature** will celebrate 40 years of service to the Twin Cities community by hosting an inaugural gala at the Hotel Sofitel Minneapolis. The gala will feature a Harlem Renaissance theme, live jazz music, an awards ceremony honoring the Foundation's founders and the Givens Collection's Patron Families, a silent auction, dinner and dancing.

Forty years ago, the Givens Foundation was established to provide scholarships in support of the academic success of African American students who wanted to go on to higher education. Then, in 1985, the Foundation's mission took on a literary focus when twelve community families partnered with the University of Minnesota to purchase a 3,000 piece-collection of African American Literature from a collector in New York. Now known as the *Archie Givens, Sr. Collection of African American Literature* at the University of Minnesota, this Collection has grown to have more than 18,000 African American literary works and cultural objects representing more than 230 years of African American literature and life.

Today, the **Givens Foundation for African American Literature** remains the only organization in Minnesota exclusively dedicated to advancing and celebrating black literature and writers. Our literary arts education residencies, African American author series, community reading campaigns, and programs for writers illuminate the cultural resources and creative imagination found within African American literature to enrich cultural understanding for diverse audiences of all ages. In 2012, our Inaugural Gala will raise funds to sustain the mission and programs of the Givens Foundation as we look forward to another 40 years of service.

***We invite you to support the Givens Foundation's inaugural gala by becoming a sponsor!*** Please review the attached sponsorship package levels, let us know at what level we can expect your support, and then plan on joining us to celebrate on October 20, 2012 at the Sofitel Minneapolis, 5601 West 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, MN 55439. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to tell you more about this worthwhile event or for more information you may also visit our website at [www.givens.org/gala](http://www.givens.org/gala). Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,**

**Archie Givens, Jr.  
President**

**Herman Milligan, Jr.  
Gala Chair**

**Arleta Little  
Executive Director**

**HONORARY CO-CHAIRS**

Josie Johnson  
Gary Cunningham

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