

Heritage Gala features speakers, dinner and dancing for a good cause

BY SARA BEST

Fourth Annual Heritage Gala
Augusta Marriott Hotel
Saturday, February 6
6 p.m.
\$75
706-724-3576
lucycraftlaneymuseum.com

AUGUSTA, GA – The Lucy Craft Laney Museum will be hosting its Fourth Annual Heritage Gala this Saturday to benefit the museum’s preservation as well as its various historic and arts programs.

The evening offers two prominent keynote speakers, Dr. Ford Bell, president of the American Association of Museums, and Dr. Ron Bailey, professor of African-American studies and history at Northeastern University in Boston, said Christine Miller-Betts, executive director of the museum.

The night will also include a silent auction of artwork, jewelry and various baskets and an evening of dinner and live entertainment by Lynwood Holmes and Russell Joel Brown. Dress is formal black-tie attire, Miller-Betts said.

“It will be an opportunity of fellowship with sponsors and supporters while at the same time raising money for the museum,” Miller-Betts said. “Our mission is to promote the legacy of Lucy Laney and we want to re-emphasize the programs to the community and our children. That is why it is critical to raise funds for our operations and programs to continue.”

As the president of the American Association of Museums since June 2007, Bell is well known as a leading educator, nonprofit executive and Minneapolis civic leader who brings to the AAM an enthusiasm for conserving the learning and motivation museums instill in communities.

With more than 30 years experience, Bell has advocated for science learning, conservation and community health initiatives through his affiliation with a wide range of organizations, such as Project Earth Sense and JASON Advisory Committee, a public-private elementary and secondary school science education initiative.

In addition to his teaching duties, Bailey is also an author and a visiting distinguished professor at Savannah State University. In Savannah, he also directs a collaboration of African-American museums and has received many grants, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation and the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE).

“We just want everyone to come and share this experience with us,” Miller-Betts said. “We want people to see what we do to keep the Lucy Craft Laney Museum alive.” — Sara Best