



HENRY LOUIS GATES

INAUGURAL NATIONAL LUMINARY AWARD

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. An Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, journalist, cultural critic, and institution builder, Gates has authored or co-authored more than twenty books; has created more than twenty documentary films; and is the recipient of several honorary degrees. Among his many awards and recognitions, Gates was a member of the first class awarded a Genius Grant by the MacArthur Foundation in 1981, and in 1998 he became the first African American scholar to be awarded the National Humanities Medal. A native of Piedmont, West Virginia, Gates graduated summa cum laude from Yale University, and earned his MA and PhD in English literature from Clare College at the University of Cambridge in 1979. In 2011, his portrait, by Yuqi Wang, was hung in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.