United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Region 1 - National Capital Area
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

July 30, 2021

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Ph.D.
President
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
301 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Suite 2204
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Higginbotham:

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's **Woodson Home Committee** on receiving the **National Capital Area's 2020 George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service** as a **Volunteer Group**. The Committee members' volunteer service to Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site exemplifies the grit, dedication, and heart advocated by George B. Hartzog.

This award was created in honor of Director Hartzog who led the National Park Service (NPS) from 1964 to 1972. He recognized the need to make it easier for citizens to donate their time and talents and advocated for legislation to create the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program. After his retirement, George and his wife, Helen, supported the VIP program with a generous donation to the National Park Foundation. This fund is still used to honor exceptional volunteers, groups, and VIP programs.

The Committee's work to ensure accurate content and develop exhibits – including securing the donation of over 140 original artifacts that belonged to Dr. Woodson – is crucial to the mission of the NPS. Their contribution will allow visitors to have deeply meaningful experiences for years to come. Further, the partnerships that the Committee has developed with local youth organizations promote even greater personal engagement and close ties to the surrounding community. Thank you for your partnership, commitment, and service.

Sincerely,

Kym A. Hall

Kym A. Hall
Area Director

cc: Tara D. Morrison, Superintendent, National Capital Parks-East