

The objectives of the *Innovation & Inclusion Awards* are to: Showcase the contributions of diverse tech professionals; inspire the digital media and tech industries to foster a culture of diversity and inclusion; facilitate networking among diverse tech professionals, hiring companies and tech investors; and inspire future generations to pursue STEAM careers, regardless of socio-economic background.

A total of 14 honorees were selected in five categories from among a field of more than 100 entries and will be feted during a reception and awards ceremony to be hosted at Civic Hall on the evening of Wednesday, September 28th in conjunction with DDN's 4th Annual New York City Conference, *AI: Access & Ingenuity*.

The honorees are:

Codebreakers

- Majora Carter, CEO, StartUp Box
- Matthew Fields, President & CEO, Redbird Advanced Learning
- Jon Gosier, Co-founder & CEO, AuDigent

Change Agents

- Trymaine Lee, National Reporter, MSNBC
- Marlon Nichols, General Partner, Cross Culture Ventures
- Jason Towns, Managing Partner, The Towns Group

Culture Catalysts

- Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, Founder & Editor-In-Chief, Muslim Girl
- Lili Gangas, Chief Technology Community Officer, Kapur Center for Social Impact
- Mauricio Mota, Co-president & Executive Producer, Wise Entertainment

Inventor/Innovators

- Lindsay Grace, Associate Professor & Founding Director, American University Game Lab & Studio
- Kishore Raja, Director, R&D Strategic Programs, Boingo Wireless

Social Entrepreneurs

- Roslyn Daniels, President & Founder, Black Health Matters
- Tiffany Pham, Founder & CEO, Mogul
- Dr. Jarvis Sulcer, Director of Education, STEMBoard

Awards celebration attendees will also have an opportunity to meet writer, researcher and entrepreneur, Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* (Fall 2016, HarperCollins). A highly anticipated film based on her book will be released in January 2017. It stars Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kirsten Dunst and Kevin Costner.

Set against the backdrop of WWII, the Civil Rights Era, the Space Race and the burgeoning fight for gender equality, *Hidden Figures* shows us the surprising ways that women and people of color have contributed to American Innovation while pursuing the American Dream.

Dr. Christine Darden, one of the “human computers” featured in the book, will also be on hand for the celebration, along with family members of some of the other heroines who used math to change their lives and our country’s future.

For *Innovation & Inclusion Awards* tickets, as well as more information about Digital Diversity Network’s 4th Annual NYC Conference, *AI: Access & Ingenuity*, visit <http://digitaldiversitynetwork.com/event/save-the-date-2/>. Pre-registration is required for both events.