

City of Fort Pierce Naming of Public Facilities Nomination Form

This Nomination Form is to establish a systematic and consistent approach for the official naming of public facilities in the City of Fort Pierce including parks, facilities, recreational areas, streets, municipal buildings, and specialized areas. The criteria for nomination are explained in the document "Guidelines for the Naming of Public Facilities".

Nominator

Name Melanie George on behalf of the Sunrise Theatre Advisory Board

Address, City, State, Zip 714 Quincy Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34951

Phone 863-669-8649 Email mgeorge13081@gmail.com

Nomination

The nominator must answer the following questions and submit this form to the City Clerk by _____

Name being nominated Mr. Earl Little

If a person:

A. Address, City, State, Zip (or former if deceased) 1402 N. 29th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34947; 208 Courtland Dr, Dothan AL 36301

B. Date of Death (if deceased) N/A

C. List specific years of involvement (Example - 01/10-12/17) 1955-2019

D. Identify the general area of contribution made by the nominee.

a. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other) _____

Civic and Education Contributions to the City of Fort Pierce and its citizens in the area(s) of Music and the Theatrical Arts.

E. Summarize the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (more detail in #1 and #2) _____

Instructed, promoted, and performed Theatrical and Music Arts in the City of Fort Pierce for over 45 years. Transformed a community and youth to love it

a. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

If other than a person:

A. Summarize the reason for this nomination (more detail in #3) N/A-Nominee is a person.

N/A-Nominee is a person.

E. Summarize the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (more detail in #1 and #2)

Mr. Little instructed, promoted, and performed Theatrical and Music Arts in the City of Fort Pierce for over 45 years. He transformed a community and its youth to love and appreciate Theatre and the Musical Arts during his long tenure in our community.

1. Identify in detail the area of contribution made by the nominee and be specific – name either facilities or specialized areas. (Example - Health, Education, Business, Environment, Civic, Other).

Mr. Earl Little made enormous contributions to the City of Fort Pierce throughout his sixty-eight years of educating, directing, and performing in the field of musical arts. Mr. Little began his love for music and theatre while attending Lincoln Park Academy in the 1930's. He continued his education and training while attending then Hampton Institute (University) and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. Mr. Little served his country as a member of the Army Medical Corp. from 1945-1951. Mr. Little began his teaching career in Baton Rouge, LA at Southern University as an Instructor from 1951-1955. He returned to his beloved hometown of Fort Pierce, Florida in 1955, where he spent his lifelong career teaching music and the arts. He continued to support the Fort Pierce community with his many years of volunteer and civic contributions. Serving in leadership roles and directing area performances, his continuous commitment to introducing the world of the arts to our community and the surrounding Treasure Coast areas shaped a culture in his followers that created a lasting appreciation and advancement of musical theatre. Mr. Little's impact on with his students, exposing them to the various cultural events during a time of segregation and his dedicated recordings of the many events, performances, awards, and honors during his tenure only prove the enormous influence he left on generations to appreciate the arts and its many different forms and cultures. Earl continued his lustrous career with St. Lucie Public Schools until his retirement in 1991.

2. Describe the type of contribution (accomplishments and community involvement) that the nominee made. (Examples – Neighborhood or geographic; Natural or geological features; National, State, and local leaders; Historical figure, place, or event; Individuals who have made significant monetary contributions or have contributed outstanding service to the community).

Mr. Little's Impact to the learning and lives of his students and citizens of the Fort Pierce Community through his talents as an educator is exemplary. His love for the musical arts and his appreciation of service, which he was so heavily involved in throughout his career, made an enormous impact to this community from 1955-2019. His Operettas were renown county-wide at

Lincoln Park Academy in Fort Pierce in the 1960-1970's bringing people from all areas to enjoy. Many of Mr. Little's students both at Lincoln Park Academy and Fort Pierce Central High School have returned to our community as musical arts educators themselves, while others credit Mr. Little for enabling them to travel throughout the world empowered to succeed because of his teaching and exposure to various cultural events. Mr. Little established a Performing Arts Scholarship in 2016. Currently two (2) local area recipients are attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL.

3. Describe in detail why the name being nominated is related to this facility, including any background, details, or other relevant information.

Mr. Little's interest and love for drama and opera started at Lincoln Park Academy in the 1930's when he was in the 3rd grade. Mr. Little recounts that during segregation his instructor would take students to musical productions in West Palm Beach, FL, Coconut Grove Theatre in Miami, FL, and Passion Plays in Lake Wales Florida. This exposure to the theatre, musical productions and choral performances cemented his love of music and the arts that remained with him throughout his life and career in educating others in his hometown of Fort Pierce, FL. In his youth, Earl would save his money to buy tickets to see shows at the Sunrise Theatre whenever possible. He would take the back stairs that led up to the balcony seating area to watch and listen to the musical performances being shown. When asked if having to visit the Sunrise Theatre during segregation and being forced to sit upstairs away from the stage and others, created a sadness in him, he responded that he would "get lost in the performance and that is where his focus has always been." Mr. Little is honored in this request to seek approval to rename a portion of the Balcony area of the Sunrise Theatre where he grew his passion for the arts as the Earl Little Mezzanine respectfully recognizing his contributions to our Community and the Theatrical and Musical Arts.

- Master Instructor/Educator with St. Lucie Public Schools, 1955-1991.
- Led the first only Black African American chorus to appear in the All-State Choral Convention, 1965.
- Fort Pierce Lincoln Park Academy Alumni Class of 1943.
- 1st Black African American Choral Director and Judge for St. Lucie County Choral Competitions.
- State Approved Adjudicator for Choral Music, State of Florida.
- Served as both the Florida Vocal Association District Chairman and President.
- St Lucie Public Schools- Teacher of the Year 1983.
- Associate Master Teacher Award, Florida Department of Education.
- National Association of Negro Musicians Inc. Award Recipient.

- Inducted into the Florida Vocal Association Hall of Fame 2012.
- Active member Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church.
- St Lucie Opera Society Choral Director -1976.
- Arranged and Directed Christmas performances on the Treasure Coast since 1951-2019.
- Established a Performing Arts Scholarship in 2016. Currently two (2) recipients are attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL.

Signature of Nominator



Return the completed forms by email or mail to:

Email: lcox@cityoffortpierce.com

Mail: Linda Cox, City Clerk, City of Fort Pierce, 100 N US Highway 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950