

THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BLACK EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2022

On Tuesday 18 October 2022 Charlene White and Jay Blades took to the Boisdale of Canary Wharf stage to host the first annual London Chamber of Commerce Black Excellence Awards 2022, to celebrate the inspirational contribution of the British black community to the cultural and economic development of the United Kingdom.

Tonight, saw a host of VIP guests attend the inaugural London Chamber Black Excellence Awards. Acantha Lang opened the show before hosts Jay Blades and Charlene White took to the stage to give out the Awards. There were some impromptu performances from winners, including poet Ryan Matthew-Robinson and General Levy. Highlights included Big Narstie, who won the Cultural Influencer of the Year and Patrick Hutchinson who took home the Community Spirit award. As Jay Blades noted when opening the show, The Black Excellence Awards marks an important moment in Black History month and a unique event that will only grow in years to come.

WHAT THEY ATE & DRANK:

Guests kicked off the evening with Boisdale Premier Cru NV Champagne and a selection of Port Royal Patties & My Tee Sauces, accompanied by music from the legendary Saxon Sound DJs

Guests enjoyed a three-course Jamaican inspired dinner of spicy Caribbean Prawn Cocktail accompanied by Chemin de la Serre Marsanne-Viognier 2021 Languedoc IGP. A main course of France Free Range Jerk Chicken Jamaican rice and peas, plantain, mango & cucumber salsa, with Cigar Box Malbec 2019 Mendoza, Argentina, Before finishing dinner with an Appleton Rum & Dark Chocolate Baked Cheesecake Pineapple & lime, vanilla & tonka bean, and Chantilly Dona Paula Estate Malbec 2021, Uco Valley, Argentina

THE AWARDS:

Following the dinner, Charlene White and Jay Blades took to the Boisdale of Canary Wharf stage, to announce the winners of this year's Black Excellence Awards. The full list of winners can be seen below:

Outstanding Entrepreneur - Swiss
Outstanding Contribution to Business - Louise Broni-Mensah
Outstanding Contribution to Professional Services - Sandra Wallace CBE
Outstanding Contribution to Community Spirit - Patrick Hutchinson
Outstanding Male Contribution to Sport - Paul Canoville
Outstanding Female Contribution to Sport - Tessa Sanderson
Outstanding Contribution to Literature - Professor David Olusoga OBE
Outstanding Contribution to Spoken Word - Ryan Matthews-Robinson
Outstanding Contribution to Fashion - Samuel Ross
Outstanding Contribution to Stage & Screen - Fredi Nwaka
Outstanding Male Contribution to Music - General Levy
Outstanding Female Contribution to Music - Emeli Sande
Outstanding Contribution to Comedy - Eddie Nestor MBE
Cultural Influencer of the Year - Big Narstie
Posthumous Special Recognition Award - Jamal Edwards
Lifetime Achievement Award - Terry Jervis

SPONSORS: The London Chamber of Commerce Black Excellence Awards 2022 were in association with Moody's and founded by Boisdale. Sponsors also included Procera Gin, Vina Carmen, Mi-Soul, The Wren Press, The Color Company, Jay Rae Productions, Music & Arts Events and Sphere Hospitality.

Menelik Shillingford, Sector Account Manager of LCCI's Black Business Association, said: "LCCI's Black Business Association was delighted to partner with Boisdale Group for the inaugural London Chamber Black Excellence Awards. The BBA is dedicated to championing ethnic minority businesses, and we are proud to collaborate with Boisdale Group to host awards founded to celebrate the inspirational contribution of the British black community to the UK's cultural and economic development. On behalf of LCCI's Black Business Association, I would like to congratulate all award winners and nominees, and to thank everyone who made it such a memorable evening!"

Richard Burge, CEO of London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), said: "The inaugural London Chamber Black Excellence Awards was a fantastic evening which celebrated and championed the inspirational contributions of the UK's diverse black community to the our economic and cultural landscape. We are incredibly proud to have partnered with Boisdale for the inaugural awards and what proved to be a pivotal and unique evening. The awards were a resounding success, and it is vital that we continue to honor individuals who have the determination and commitment to succeed. On behalf of everyone at LCCI, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all the winners and nominees."



HOSTS

CHARLENE WHITE is a television presenter, journalist, and newsreader, best known for presenting ITV News programmes. She was the first black woman to present ITV News at 10 and is the first black anchor of popular ITV daytime show Loose Women.



JAY BLADES MBE TV presenter Jay is the nation's favourite furniture up-cycler and much-loved host of BBC1's primetime heart-warming show The Repair Shop, which inspires individuals, companies and charities to transform old furniture into works of contemporary design. Aside from presenting, Jay spends a large amount of his time working on furniture projects for commercial and individual clients, running workshops and motivating disadvantaged people in the community.

PERFORMANCES - Acantha Lang



Acantha Lang is a Soul artist born & raised in New Orleans. After moving to London, Lang built a name for herself on the live circuit while also songwriting for the GRAMMY-nominated Robert Randolph & The Family Band. Acantha's debut EP, Sugar Woman was selected by Soul Tracks as their featured album of the month upon its August release & also earned her The New Artist of the Year Award for the 2021 Soul Tracks Readers' Choice Awards. Her debut single, He Said/She Said gained praise from Craig Charles (BBC 6Music Funk & Soul Show) who distinguished Acantha as "brilliant... an independent artist destined for world domination" in a recent interview for Blues & Soul Magazine. The single also appears on his recent compilation album, The Craig Charles Trunk of Funk Volume 2. Her music has over 1 million streams (and counting) and has been playlisted on top Spotify playlists including earning a spot on Spotify's Best Retro Songs of 2021 playlist.

Outstanding Entrepreneur – Nominees

SWISS

KIKE ONIWINDE

ALEXANDER AMOSU

TRINA NICOLE

Winner – Swiss



Swiss is the founder of Black Pound Day - the UK's biggest economic movement that supports Black-owned businesses. He is a cultural influencer, business leader, and author. As well as being a highly-acclaimed musician and member of The So Solid Crew. Alongside his passion for music, Swiss founded the Black Pound Day movement to support the growth and awareness of the Black businesses and economy in the UK and global diasporic communities. Black Pound Day's vision is to promote long-term financial growth, infrastructure stability, and empower Black communities and businesses. Launched on 27th June 2020, Black Pound Day encourages everyone to spend locally and online with Black-Owned businesses. More recently, Swiss opened the first permanent retail store in Europe's biggest shopping centre - Westfield London and continues to actively support hundreds of businesses across the country.

Outstanding Contribution to Business - Nominees

DR YVONNE THOMPSON CBE
LOUISE BRONI-MENSAH
DAME SHARON WHITE DBE
TIM CAMPBELL MBE

Winner - Louise Broni-Mensah



Louise Broni-Mensah is the award winning CEO of Shoobs, the number one event booking and discovery platform for Urban events in the UK. Louise is officially recognised as one of Britain's most influential Black people under 40 by Powerful Media. Louise has been selected to participate in the most prestigious and world renowned accelerator programmes including Y Combinator, Ernst & Young Winning Women Programme and most recently the Morgan Stanley Innovation Lab. Louise holds a Mathematical Economics BSc Degree from Birmingham University. Louise is really passionate about building an impactful global company but ultimately her mission is to promote urban culture and be part of that success story.

Outstanding Contribution to Professional Services - Nominees

DR GRACE ONONIWU CBE
SANDRA WALLACE CBE
PROFESSOR MIRANDA BRAWN
DAME VIVIAN HUNT DBE

Winner - Sandra Wallace CBE



Sandra Wallace, CBE, is Joint Managing Director, UK & Europe and Employment Partner at DLA Piper, a global law firm. Sandra was interim Co-Chair on the Social Mobility Commission, which monitors progress towards improving social mobility in the UK, from 2018 to 2021. Sandra works to drive social mobility within the legal sector and beyond, and seeks to drive diversity and inclusion strategies in professional services. Sandra sits on the DLA Piper Diversity and Inclusion Board; last year, became a Pro-Chancellor of Social Mobility at Wolverhampton University; and co-chairs a Government sponsored taskforce looking to improve diversity at senior levels in the financial services sector.

Outstanding Contribution to Community Spirit – Nominees

KELLY OYEBOLA
DARYL HARPER
PATRICK HUTCHINSON
DR MARK PRINCE OBE
ANDREZ HARRIOTT

Winner – Patrick Hutchinson



Patrick Hutchinson became a public figure and role model for many globally when he rescued a far-right white protester from serious harm during the 2020 protests in London following the killings by US police of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Propelled into the spotlight, Patrick has embraced his role as an ambassador for positive change, helping others and seeking to end racism. Patrick delivers programmes to schools and engages with businesses to promote positive change, DEI and “doing the right thing”. He is a regular speaker and interviewee on television and radio, and at corporate events. Patrick will soon be launching the Patrick Hutchinson Foundation, which will focus on education.

Outstanding Male Contribution to Sport - Nominees

PAUL CANOVILLE
MIKE EDWARDS
ADEBAYO AKINFENWA
BUKAYO SAKA
LENNOX LEWIS

Winner - Paul Canoville

On 12 April 1982, Paul became the first black player ever to play in a Chelsea shirt. His ability on the field, quick feet and pace along the wing, should have instantly made him a fan's favourite. However he was to suffer arguably the worst racial abuse suffered by any player in that era from the very fans he played for. His story, which is documented in his book *Black and Blue*, is of challenges and triumphs on and off the field. In recent years Paul has taken his story, lessons and encouragement to disadvantaged youths all over the world through The Paul Canoville Foundation.

Outstanding Female Contribution to Sport - Nominees

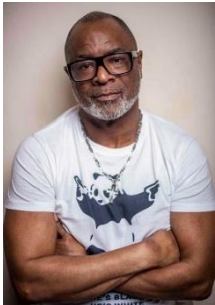
TESSA SANDERSON
MICA MOORE
CHARLOTTE LYNCH
ALEX SCOTT MBE
DAME KELLY HOLMES
DAME JESSICA ENNIS-HILL

Winner - Tessa Sanderson

On the 6th August 1984 at the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles Tessa Sanderson won the Gold in the Women's Javelin and became the first black woman to win a Gold for Great Britain. She remains today the only British person, man or woman to ever win a throwing Gold Medal, a record that has been maintained for over 37 years. Tessa competed in six Olympic Games from 1976 to 1996, and in addition to the Olympic Gold, won three Commonwealth Golds and a World Cup Gold in Cuba in 1990. In total Tessa made 61 appearances at Internationals, and it was her sixth appearance at the Games that she again made history, equaling that of any Olympic woman and becoming the only Briton to achieve such a landmark. Tessa also held the British heptathlon record in 1980/81.

In March 2004 New Years Honours list Tessa Sanderson was awarded the CBE by Her Majesty the Queen, in recognition of her services to sport and her role as Vice Chairman of Sport England. Prior to the CBE she was the recipient of an OBE in December 1997 for her work with various charities and in 1985 was awarded the MBE for winning her Olympic Gold Medal for Great Britain in Los Angeles.

Outstanding Contribution to Literature - Nominees



ROMEO BREMMER
PROFESSOR DAVID OLUSOGA OBE
CANDICE BRAITHWAITE
SOPHIA THAKUR
AKALA

Winner - Professor David Olusoga OBE

David Olusoga is a British-Nigerian historian, broadcaster and film-maker. His most recent TV series include Empire (BBC 2), Black and British: A Forgotten History (BBC 2), The World's War (BBC 2), 4 seasons of A House Through Time (BBC 2) and the BAFTA winning Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners (BBC 2). David is also the author of Black & British: A Forgotten History which was awarded both the Longman-History Today Trustees Award and the PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize. His other books include The World's War, which won First World War Book of the Year in 2015, The Kaiser's Holocaust: Germany's Forgotten Genocide and the Colonial Roots of Nazism and Civilizations: Encounters and the Cult of Progress. David was also a contributor to the Oxford Companion to Black British History and writes for The Guardian and is a columnist for The Observer and BBC History Magazine. He is also one of the three presenters on the BBC's landmark Arts series Civilizations. In 2020 he held an exclusive interview with former President of the United States, Barack Obama. David's most recent book Black and British: A Short, Essential History won the Children's Illustrated & Non-Fiction book of the year at the 2021 British Book Awards.

Outstanding Contribution to Spoken Word - Nominees

RYAN MATTHEWS-ROBINSON
FLOETIC LARA
SOPHIA THAKUR

Winner - Ryan Matthews-Robinson

Ryan J. Matthews-Robinson better known as Ragz-CV is a Poet from Brixton, South London. Known for his amazing work raising significant awareness and thousands of pounds for 'Alzheimer's Society' charity through his music and events between 2012-2016. The Spoken Word Artist now 34 years old runs his own registered charity 'Poetic Unity' which he founded in 2015. The Brixton based charity provides support and services for young people across the UK. Poetic Unity uses poetry as a tool to support young peoples mental health, education, personal development, community cohesion and physical health. Poetic Unity has provided over 1,000 services and has supported more than 30,000 young people since its inception. Ryan is passionate about giving a voice to young people and providing safe spaces for them to grow and excel. Ryan intends to keep expanding Poetic Unity to support more marginalised young people throughout the country. Find out more about Ryan's important work with Poetic Unity here: www.PoeticUnity.org.uk

Outstanding Contribution to Fashion - Nominees

PRIYA AHLUWALIA
SAMUEL ROSS
ROHAN CLARKE
BIANCA SAUNDERS

Winner - Samuel Ross

In 2015, at just 25-years-old, Ross self-funded his label, A-COLD-WALL*– renowned for its material investigation and innovation, married with incisive explorations of Brutalist and abstract forms and precise

execution. Through this holistically pioneering approach, Ross' A-COLD-WALL* is credited as redefining the parameters of streetwear and high fashion.

Ross' accolades include being named the British Fashion Awards' Emerging Menswear Designer (2018) and receiving the Hublot Design Prize (2019). In 2020, he was named as one of Forbes' 30 under 30 [Europe] and won both the GQ USA Fashion Award (2020) and People of the Year British Fashion Award (2020), the latter specifically for his philanthropic endeavors. Most recently he was awarded the Established Changemaker Soho House Award (2022), Leader of Change British Fashion Award (2021) and an Honorary PHD appointed by the University of Westminster for 'Doctor of Arts' (2021). He has also been a finalist for both the LVMH Prize and ANDAM Award.

Outstanding Contribution to Stage & Screen - Nominees

ORIS ERHUERO
FREDI NWAKA
BRIAN BOVELL
MATT HENRY
GEORGE AMPONSAH
ADRIAN GRANT
NAOMIE HARRIS
LETITIA WHITE
KWAME KWEI-ARMAH OBE



Winner - Fredi Nwaka

Fredi Nwaka is an award-winning producer, Writer and Director. No stranger to the arts he started his career as an MC under the pseudonym 'Fredi Kruga' winning numerous music awards and earning a reputation as a notable UK Hip Hop artist. Fredi later went into acting, working alongside the likes of Curtis '50 CENT' Jackson, Noel Clarke, Ashley Walters to name a few. He then set up his own production company and has produced over 11 movies. Fredi also works as a mentor and runs workshops for hard to reach youth steering them away from criminal activity.

Outstanding Male Contribution to Music – Nominees

OMAR
ANDREW LEVY
LEE JOHN
GENERAL LEVY
LEMAR



Winner - General Levy

General Levy is a true veteran of the UK music scene, and still one of the most in demand MC's in the country.

Levy started his career working with various UK labels such as Justice Records owned by hip-hop DJ Tim Westwood, also Fashion Records in which he released his second album 'Wickeder General' which was voted best reggae album for 1992. The album track 'Heat' was voted best single and General himself was voted best reggae DJ/MC by the British reggae industry in which Levy was presented with three gold awards in one night at the London Hippodrome by Frank Bruno amongst other celebs. Levy was also voted best UK singer the following year at a The Black Music Awards which confirmed Levy as the UK premiere MC.

Known for 'Incredible' a track that went on to become one of the most iconic Jungle tracks of a generation, Incredible inspired many genres, MC's and generations over the years and still does seeing Levy perform nearly a hundred shows a year across the world from touring Australia and Europe to headlining festivals he has maintained

Levy's legendary MC status has seen him take Jungle, D&B and Reggae all over the world over his 30yr career working with some of the most iconic artists across multiple genres. His music and to camera dubs have racked up millions of plays and views and notoriety.

Outstanding Female Contribution to Music - Nominees

YOLANDA BROWN
EMELI SANDE
CARROLL THOMPSON
BEVERLEY KNIGHT
REBECCA FERGUSON
CARLA-MARIE WILLIAMS

Winner - Emeli Sande

Emeli Sandé is a British singer and songwriter. She began writing songs at an early age and eventually delved into singing. Sandé later gave up her medical studies to pursue music and had already bagged a couple of record deals with premier labels by then. She went on to perform with several of the U.K.'s most successful artists before embarking on a solo career in 2010. The talented singer had already won a 'BRIT' award and a 'MOBO' award before releasing her debut album, 'Our Version of Events,' in 2012. 'Our Version of Events' consisted of four "Top Ten" pop singles. She made successful collaborations with Chipmunk (for 'Diamond Rings') and David Guetta (for 'What I Did for Love'). With several "Top Ten" entries as a featured artist, Sandé has written songs for Tinie Tempah, Leona Lewis, Alicia Keys, and rising U.K. artist Labrinth.

Outstanding Contribution to Comedy - Nominees

QUINCY BROMFIELD
EDDIE NESTOR MBE
DANE BAPTISTE
JUDI LOVE
KOJO ANIM

Winner - Eddie Nestor MBE

Eddie Nestor is a British actor, stand up comedian and TV & radio presenter, best known for his starring roles in award-winning shows The Real McCoy and Desmond's. Nominated for the 2022 speech broadcaster of the year, Eddie has hosted a show on BBC Radio London for the last 20 years. Awarded an MBE in the late Queen's 2017 New Years Honours List, Eddie is incredibly passionate about comedy and charity and is working hard to bring his online comedy news magazine show #NoJoke to the masses.

Cultural Influencer of the Year - Big Narstie

Tyrone Mark Lindo, known by his stage name Big Narstie, is a British MC, author, rapper, singer, songwriter, comedian and television presenter. He started his career in 2002 as a member of grime crew "N Double A," though he is better known for his solo work and as an internet personality performing comedy relating to grime music and the surrounding culture. He is also known for hosting his own chat show, The Big Narstie Show.





Posthumous Special Recognition Award - Jamal Edwards

Instrumental in launching music careers of the likes of Stormzy, Ed Sheeran and Jessie J - Jamal Edwards MBE was a British music entrepreneur, DJ and founder of the online R&B/Hip-Hop platform SB.TV. Edwards was an ambassador for the Prince's Trust, a youth charity which helps young people set up their own businesses - tonight's Award is to recognise the significant contribution Jamal made in his time with us.

Lifetime Achievement Award - Nominees

TERRY JERVIS
DAVID HAYE
ZEINAB BADAWI

WINNER - Terry Jervis



Business entrepreneur, Producer and director, Creative solutions thinker, Human "I do the best I can for the benefit of humanity", A stage 4 terminal cancer survivor. BBC department head and producer for 27 years, is a living embodiment of change thinking, survival against the odds and success in a world where the 'access code' of RACE has not just been broken, he defied it and cracked it under his own terms. Works with The Palace, RAF, Rolls Royce, Motown, Marvel/Disney, Harry Potter to name a few.

SPONSORS

About LCCI

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) is the hub of the capital's business community, connecting, supporting, and championing the interests of over 3,000 London businesses that make up LCCI's diverse membership. LCCI supports London's business community by providing a range of services, advocates on behalf of the capital's business community in the most important forums of policy debate and promotes 'Global London' as the best city in the world to do business – whether that is to trade, invest, learn, visit, or find new commercial partners.

LCCI's International Trade Advisory Service responds to thousands of enquiries from SMEs and large corporations seeking advice on all aspects of EU and wider international trade, and LCCI are the largest UK issuer of trade documentation services and the national guaranteeing authority for ATA Carnets.

The Chamber is the creator behind the bi-monthly London Business Matters magazine and provides flexible co-working and meeting spaces within its offices in the City of London. LCCI also offers expert arbitration and mediation services through The London Chamber of Arbitration and Mediation (LCAM). LCCI's Capital 500 Quarterly Economic Survey provides expert insight into the mood of the City, and the Chamber also provides backing for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for London as a Global City.

Black Business Association (BBA)

Established in 2020, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Black Business Association (BBA) is dedicated to supporting the effective business activity of Black entrepreneurs and Black employees in the capital. Our objective is to champion success within London's Black business community and provide a platform for Black owned businesses to network and address barriers to equality. The BBA brings together Black business owners and employees to create a purposeful outlet, enabling networking and promoting

Black entrepreneurs and business ownership in the capital. The BBA group also provides a forum to collectively address barriers to equality in London's economy.