

School Naming Initiative: Louis Agassiz

Submitted Names and Rationale



Proposed Name Submissions

- Louis Stokes
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- Benjamin Wade
- George Washington Williams
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- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
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- Neil Armstrong
- John Patterson Green
- Jean Murrell Capers
- Linda Eastman
- John D. Rockefeller
- Carl B. Stokes

Louis Stokes

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born in Cleveland in 1925
- Graduated from Central High School, CWRU, and Cleveland Marshall College of Law
- Served in the Army during World War II
- Attorney, civil rights pioneer, and politician
- Argued Terry v. Ohio, famous “stop and frisk” case in front of the U.S. Supreme Court
- Served 15 terms in the US House of Representatives representing the east side of Cleveland
- First African-American congressman elected in the state of Ohio, served 30 years, and retired in 1999

Arnold Pinkney

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born in Youngstown
- Political strategist and civil rights activist
- Helped elect Ohio's first black congressman, Louis Stokes, in 1968
- Managed Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign
- Advised Jesse Jackson, Carl Stokes, and Governor Richard Celeste
- Special adviser to the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus
- Co-founded Pinkney-Perry Insurance Agency, Ohio's oldest and largest minority-owned insurance company

Benjamin Wade

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- 19th century senator
- Ardent abolitionist, support of women's and African-American suffrage, and a Northeast Ohio resident
- Within one vote of becoming President of the United States during the impeachment of Andrew Johnson
 - Members of his own party did not vote to remove President Johnson because they thought Senator Wade's ideas about universal suffrage were too radical for the time

George Washington Williams

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Late 19th century African-American journalist, lawyer, minister, and historian who wrote the first comprehensive history of African-Americans from their own point of view
- Authored the two-volume History of the Negro Race in America from 1619 to 1880
- Founded a respected black national newspaper (The Commoner)
- First black member of the Ohio state legislature

Niagara

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Oghema Niagara (aka Chief Thunderwater) "was a NATIVE AMERICAN entertainer, businessman, and political activist who worked to protect the rights and cultures of Indigenous peoples, improve their welfare and promote their image among non-Native people in the United States and Canada." The quoted material is from -- <https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/chief-thunderwater> -- which has an outstanding biography on his work in northeast Ohio and beyond. The article can also be accessed by typing Chief Thunderwater into a search engine....and it will appear as an Encyclopedia of Cleveland History entry. There is also an excellent bio from Cleveland Historical (available online), which has photos and additional info.

Larry Doby

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- His place in MLB and US history should merit strong consideration in this process.

Bosworth Elementary School

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Named for the current school location as opposed to a person.

Einstein Academy

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Albert Einstein was a physicist who developed the general theory of relativity. He is considered one of the most influential scientists of the 20th century.
- In 1921, he won the Nobel Prize for physics for his explanation of the photoelectric effect.

Jesse Owens

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Attended East Tech High School and Ohio State University
- A gifted athlete who excelled in the 100m, 200m, long jump and relay, Owens' track record speaks for itself.
- In 1936, Jesse became the first American in Olympic Track and Field history to win four gold medals in a single Olympiad.
- In 1976, Jesse was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Gerald R. Ford, the highest award bestowed upon a civilian.
- Owens was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1990 by President George H. W. Bush.

Abraham Lincoln

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Abraham Lincoln became the United States' 16th President in 1861, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy in 1863.

Harriet (Tubman) Academy

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- A lifelong humanitarian and civil rights activist
- Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in 1849 and spent the next ten years making about 13 trips into Maryland to rescue family and friends from slavery. She also gave instructions to about 70 more who found their way to freedom independently.
- In 1863 she joined Colonel James Montgomery and his 2nd South Carolina Infantry in an assault on several plantations along the Combahee River. This raid rescued more than 700 enslaved people.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- A poet, author, and lecturer
- The first African American woman to publish a short story.
- She was also an influential abolitionist, suffragist, and reformer that co-founded the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

Mary Church Terrell

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Mary Eliza Church Terrell was a well-known African American activist who championed racial equality and women's suffrage in the late 19th and early 20th century.
- Her words—"Lifting as we climb"—became the motto of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), the group she helped found in 1896.
- Terrell attended the Antioch College laboratory school in Ohio, and later Oberlin College, where she earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees.
- Terrell spent two years teaching at Wilberforce University.

Langston Hughes School

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Langston Hughes was a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance, the flowering of black intellectual, literary, and artistic life that took place in the 1920s in a number of American cities.
- Although best known for poetry, Hughes also wrote novels, short stories, essays, and plays.
- He attended famed Central High School in 1916-17.
- Hughes also attended classes at the Karamu House African-American theater and settlement house in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bruce Lee

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Bruce Lee was a child actor appearing in more than 20 films. At the age of 13, Bruce took up the study of wing chun gung fu.
- Bruce taught gung fu in Seattle and opened his first school, the Jun Fan Gung Fu Institute. Two more schools followed in Oakland and Los Angeles. Bruce's art was steeped in a philosophical foundation and did not follow long held martial traditions. Instead it had at its core the ideas of simplicity, directness, and personal freedom.
- Today Bruce Lee's legacy of self expression, equality, and pioneering innovation continues to inspire people all around the world.

Halloran

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Halloran Park is very identifiable and provides a great deal of enrichment to the community.
- Park Address: 3550 West 117th St. (0.5 miles from the school)
- Features: Roller Skating, Outdoor Pool, Organized sports activities, Ice Skating

Robert Lockwood, Jr.

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Robert Lockwood, Jr. is a famous African-American blues musician from Cleveland, Ohio. As a middle school teacher at Willson Middle School, I knew Robert, so I was able to take some of my students to his home so he could meet them. He was very gracious and caring about the young students showing them some of his guitars and playing checkers with them. I believe naming a school after Robert Lockwood, Jr. would be a great tribute to him. His daughter, Laura Cowan, is also very involved as an advocate against domestic violence. Jay Westbrook--former City Councilman and community leader helped the city name a street for Robert in the Flats--Robert Lockwood, Jr Way. Robert is also a member of the Blues Hall of Fame and a Grammy Award winning recording artist.

Neil Armstrong

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born in 1930 in Ohio
- Awards: 1969 - Presidential Medal of Freedom among many others
- He was a NASA astronaut and an aeronautical engineer.
- On July 20,1969, he became the first person to walk on the moon during Apollo 11.
- Naval aviator from 1949 -1952 and served in the Korean War. He flew in many space missions.

John Patterson Green

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Born April 2, 1845, Patterson is known as the "Father of Labor Day".
- His family moved to Cleveland in 1857. He attended Central High School (1866-69), and in 1870 graduated from Union Law School, moved to South Carolina, and was admitted to the bar.
- Green returned to Cleveland in 1872 and was elected Republican justice of the peace, the first black elected to office in Cleveland. He held the post for 9 years (1873-82). In 1881 he won election to the Ohio House of Representatives. He was elected to the Ohio legislature in 1890, there introducing the bill that established Labor Day as a state holiday; the U.S. Congress made it a national holiday in 1894.

Jean Murrell Capers

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- Ms. Capers was the first black woman elected to Cleveland City Council. She taught briefly in the Cleveland school district. After her ten-year stint on Council, she became an assistant Ohio Attorney General in 1959. After her retirement, she became an activist for several issues in Cleveland and continued her activism well into her 90's. It was an extreme honor to know and work with this outstanding activist.

Linda Eastman

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- She was the first woman to head a major library system. She was head librarian in the Cleveland system from 1918 - 1938. Our local library branch is Eastman.

John D. Rockefeller

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. ***Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!***
- John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937), founder of the Standard Oil Company, became one of the world's wealthiest men and a major philanthropist.
- He entered the then-fledgling oil business in 1863 by investing in a Cleveland, Ohio refinery.
- During his life, Rockefeller donated more than \$500 million to various philanthropic causes.

Carl B. Stokes

- The following is the rationale provided for this submission. *Please note: this information has not been checked for accuracy!*
- Carl B. Stokes (June 21, 1927 - April 3, 1996) born in Cleveland, Ohio, he became the first **AFRICAN-AMERICAN** mayor of a major U.S. city when he was elected mayor of Cleveland in November 1967 and was reelected in 1969.
- He graduated from **CLEVELAND-MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL** in 1956.
- Elected the first black Democrat to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1962.

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