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## **The Black Heritage Council honors Dr. Yvonne Phillips with the Idella Childs Distinguished Service Award**

The Black Heritage Council (BHC) of the Alabama Historical Commission has awarded a 2009 Idella Childs Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Yvonne Phillips of Opelika. The award is given annually to individuals and groups whose contributions demonstrate excellence in historic preservation.

This award recognizes the contributions of Dr. Phillips to the restoration of the Darden House in Opelika. The Darden House is named after Dr. John W. Darden, who was the first black physician in Opelika. Dr. Phillips worked with a strong coalition of individuals and groups to preserve the historic property on Auburn Street. The house served as Dr. and Mrs. Darden's home, as well as being a medical office. Dr. Phillips worked to get the house listed to the National Register of Historic Places, and it is currently a museum and a community health center.

The BHC presented the award October 9 during this year's Alabama Preservation Conference in Auburn.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.***

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