



6/18/2026

With deepest sadness, I must share that we have lost Dr. Lee Ransaw, our friend, leader, and Executive Director of the National Alliance of Artists from HBCUs. I have been informed by Lee's wife Cheryl that he passed this morning on **June 18, 2026**. I will update you as I learn about arrangements.

For those of you who may not have known Lee, he was highly respected by NAAHBCU members, considered a friend and colleague. Lee recruited members and formed the NAAHBCU board; he was a fellow artist, art collector, and art professor.

While serving as dean of arts and letters and chair of the fine arts department at Morris Brown College. Early August, 1999, Lee sent a letter to HBCU art programs seeking people who might be interested in meeting in Atlanta to consider forming a network to promote one another and HBCU art programs. Thirteen artists from various HBCU art programs accepted the call, and, with Lee's guidance, a decision was made to start an organization. Lee and the 13 Charter members named the organization The National Alliance of Artists from Historical Black Colleges and Universities. Lee served as Chair of the organization from 2000 until 2005, and as Executive Board Chair until his passing.

Lee has many accomplishments as an educator, community leader, artist, and administrator. We will dearly miss our leader. We will honor his dream and vision for the organization and its goals. Please pray for Lee's loved ones during this difficult time.

Peggy Blood, PhD  
President, NAAHBCU