



Paul Laurence Dunbar

1872 – 1906

Inducted 1996

Paul Laurence Dunbar was the first internationally renowned African American poet and writer. Although both of Mr. Dunbar's parents were illiterate, his mother strongly encouraged him to get an education. Paul became the president of the Literary Society at Dayton Central High School and the editor of the school paper. After graduation, he collaborated with his schoolmate Orville Wright on the Dayton Tattler, a black neighborhood newspaper printed by the Wright Brothers on their West Third Street presses. Over his tragically short lifetime, Paul Laurence Dunbar produced a body of work which included novels, plays, short stories, newspaper articles, essays, and over 600 poems. His work contributed to a growing social consciousness and cultural identity for African Americans of the period. He is associated with the early civil rights leaders W.E.B. Du Bois, Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington.

The Dayton Region Walk of Fame is located on both sides of West Third Street between Shannon and Broadway streets and on Williams Street in the Wright Dunbar Historic District of Dayton, Ohio.

More information can be found at daytonregionwalkoffame.org



Historically Inspired...Culturally Vibrant!