

## **Willie J. McAllister, Jr. Biographical Information**

Willie J. McAllister, Jr. retired as Director of the Office of Fine Arts Education for the Detroit Public Schools Community District. A native Detroiter, he is a graduate of Northwestern High School and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Wayne State University.

As a music educator in both private and public schools for over 40 years, his teaching experience includes seventeen years as the Director of Bands and Orchestra at Renaissance High School in Detroit, Michigan, where he established the Jazz and Marching Band programs.

Mr. McAllister has served as a clinician at the Michigan Music Conference and as an adjudicator for Solo and Ensemble competitions. Mr. McAllister has been recognized as the Michigan Band and Orchestra Association Teacher of the Year and received the Detroit Public Schools Community District Administrator of the Year award. He was also recognized as the Detroit Public Schools Foundation Champion of Education and the Detroit Jazz Festival Guardian of Jazz.

Mr. McAllister is passionate in the support and educational development of fine arts students as well as the career paths of educators. Upon his retirement from the Detroit Public School Community District in July 2018, a scholarship was established in his name to assist graduating seniors involved in the arts pursue their goal to become arts educators in public school systems.

Mr. McAllister currently serves as a Board Member of the Detroit International Jazz Festival, and as a Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Orchestra Conductor and Scholarship Representative.