

## **Irene Scott-King**

Irene Smith-King has been a life-long resident of Gary, Indiana and currently lives in the Miller community of Gary. She and her husband have been active in Gary and raised their three children in the community. (All graduates of Emerson Visual & Performing Arts School) She attended Roosevelt High School and Ball State University.

Mrs. Smith- King is a patron and advocate for the arts. She has spent the last 15 years dedicated to public service and the arts. In addition to serving as Gary's First Lady for 10 years she has been an active leader in the arts and arts education in the community. She is the founder of the non-for-profit organization Gary Art Works, an arts focused job training program for youth. Mrs. Smith-King is a member of the Indiana Arts Commission appointed by the Governor in 2007. She is currently in her second term and severed on the executive committee as Secretary 2009-2010 and volunteer grant review panel. She also served as co-chair for the capital campaign committee for the YWCA of Northwest Indiana which resulted in the brand new facility in Gary in 2000. In 2006 Mrs. Smith-King served as President of the Gary Centennial Celebration which resulted in over \$800,000 being raised and the installation of "Fusion" at Genesis Center Plaza. The 27-foot granite based sculpture by Omri Amrany, whose works include the statue of Michael Jordan at Chicago's United Center. Mrs. Smith-King currently serves on the board of South Shore Arts, Friends of Emerson, and South Shore Center for the Arts. In addition she is co-chair of Arts & Letters Committee for the Gary Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and committee member of the New Day Transition Task Force: Arts & Culture Committee for Democratic Mayor Nominee Karen Freeman Wilson. Member: Americans for the Arts, Indiana Coalition for the Arts.

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