



Royal  
Astronomical  
Society

## **The 2023 Annie Maunder Medal is awarded to Black in Astro**

Black in Astro is a grassroots organization and community that was founded by Ms. Ashley Walker after the police violence upon Black people within the United States of America, including Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and countless others. It focuses on inspiring, developing, and enriching Black space scientists in these related fields. Their dedication to fostering joy and authenticity for all Black people interested in STEM sets it apart from most outreach initiatives. Participants benefit from new professional connections, mentorship, representation, and safe spaces for networking. Therefore, this work brings together outreach and community empowerment, beyond a model of recruitment: communicating astronomy to the public, diversifying early career researcher cohorts, and building a true community. In a field where Black researchers are under-represented, and the challenges that this group faces everyday are significantly greater than for many others, Black In Astro is an exciting, powerful and important voice.

For these reasons, the Black In Astro team led by Ms. Ashley Walker, Ms. Caprice Phillips, Dr. Ronald Gamble, Jr, AJ Link, Esq., Mr. KeShawn Ivory, Ms. Cheyenne Polius, Ms. Bryné Hadnott, Mr. Dakotah Tyler, Mr. Robert Washington, and Ms. Naia Butler-Craig are awarded the RAS Annie Maunder Medal 2023.