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## **THE AUTOMOTIVE HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2023 INDUCTEES**

**DEARBORN, MICH. – February 10, 2022** – The 2023 Automotive Hall of Fame’s Induction & Awards Ceremony on July 20, 2022, will recognize a collection of mobility pioneers from around the globe. Widely considered the single greatest honor an individual can receive in the automotive industry, induction into the Automotive Hall of Fame is reserved for noteworthy individuals whose efforts have helped shape the automotive and mobility market.

“This year’s class of inductees continues to recognize the breadth of contributions to this industry,” said Sarah Cook, president of the Automotive Hall of Fame. “This group includes trailblazing innovators and leaders who have left an impact globally on the automotive industry and we couldn’t be more pleased to recognize their achievements and welcome them into the Hall of Fame.”

### **2023 Automotive Hall of Fame Inductees**

The inductees of this year’s class include:

**Mary Barra** became the first female CEO of an automotive OEM in January 2014. As Chair and CEO of General Motors, Barra envisions a world with zero crashes, zero emissions, and zero congestion. She is focused on improving the customer experience and strengthening GM’s core vehicle and services business, while also working to lead the transformation of personal mobility through advanced technologies like connectivity, electrification, and autonomous driving.

**Fred Bauer** is a successful serial entrepreneur whose contributions have significantly advanced automotive components. In 1974, he founded Gentex, a manufacturer of auto-dimming rearview mirrors and automotive electronics. When Gentex first announced the electrochromic mirror in 1986, it was hailed as a technological breakthrough. During his career spanning nearly 40 years as Chair & CEO, Gentex grew from a small startup to a company that employed over 6,000 people globally with a market capitalization of \$6 billion. Under Bauer’s remarkable leadership, Gentex became widely recognized as an industry leader in technology and innovation.

**Juan Manuel Fangio** is widely considered the greatest race car driver in the history of motorsports. During the 1940s and 50s, he overcame the barriers of age, geography, and the highest mortality rate ever in racing. Fangio’s mastery of the Nürburgring race course - considered the most challenging course in the world - earned him the nickname El Maestro. A five-time Formula One Champion, he created the Juan Manuel Fangio Foundation to support his charitable work and spent the final years of his life as a

proponent for the rights of senior drivers. Born and raised in Argentina, Fangio is the Automotive Hall of Fame's first inductee from South America.

**Takeo Fujisawa** has an extensive business history. Honda has long considered Takeo Fujisawa to be the co-founder of the Honda Motor Co. He matched Automotive Hall of Fame inductee Soichiro Honda's engineering acumen and vision for mobility with marketing savvy, strong business sense, and a keen ability to chart unique paths to growth. This included the decision to establish Honda's first overseas subsidiary in America. These two powerful personalities made a perfect combination.

**McKinley Thompson** is a 1956 graduate from Art Center College of Design and made history by becoming one of the first African American automotive designers. Upon graduation, he landed a dream job at Ford's legendary Advanced Design Studio, and went on to spend the next 28-years of his career as a designer for Ford. He was pivotal in shaping some of the company's most iconic consumer products ever— including the Thunderbird, Mustang and Bronco. His acumen and aesthetic left an indelible mark on the automotive world and his timeless designs have been studied by generations of automotive designers.

**Larry R. Wood**, is known widely as “Mr. Hot Wheels”. Starting at Mattel in 1969, he joined the line of diecast cars one year after the line was launched. He went on to a 50-year career designing some of the most well-known and unique Hot Wheels cars. Hot Wheels completely upset the small diecast car model industry and forced competitors to completely rethink their concepts. Wood's designs inspired generations of automotive enthusiasts.

### **Event Details**

The Automotive Hall of Fame Induction & Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at The Fillmore Detroit. Event sponsorships are available and can be [purchased here](#).

For additional questions, please contact: Margarite Fourcroy at [mfourcroy@thedrivingspirit.org](mailto:mfourcroy@thedrivingspirit.org) or 313-240-4000, ext. 102.

### **About the Automotive Hall of Fame**

Automotive Hall of Fame (AHF) is a non-profit organization that honors and celebrates the automotive/mobility industry's leaders and innovators through awards and programs that challenge young and old alike to higher levels of personal achievement. Founded in 1939, the Automotive Hall of Fame has honored 755 awardees from around the world, who have impacted and influenced the automotive and mobility industries.

The Automotive Hall of Fame is located at 21400 Oakwood Blvd in Dearborn, Michigan and is open to the public Thursdays – Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. You can also visit the Automotive Hall of Fame online at [automotivehalloffame.org](http://automotivehalloffame.org) or on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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