

ARNOVA

Presents the

2023 Peter Dobkin Hall History of Philanthropy Prize

to

Tyrone Freeman

for

*Madam C. J. Walker's Gospel of Giving: Black Women's Philanthropy during Jim
Crow*

Madam C.J. Walker's Gospel of Giving invites us to rethink how we understand and define philanthropy.

Drawing on new archival sources, Freeman moves beyond the traditional bibliographic format to reevaluate the roots of twentieth-century philanthropy. Madame C.J. Walker's life, from charity recipient to business leader, serves to uncover how the nation's first self-made female millionaire leveraged the structures of her church, social networks, and business to empower her community in the context of racial and gender oppression. Freeman convincingly demonstrates how people of color and women -- and not only the elites among them -- shaped modern philanthropy and that we cannot understand the diversity of America's philanthropic traditions without moving beyond the traditional image of the successful white, male philanthropist.

By challenging our assumptions about the who, what, and how of philanthropy, the book invites us to broaden the source materials and subjects for our examination of the past.