

# Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association

Annual Report 2022



***The Collins Story - Connecting The Moon To The Earth: Steps To The Moon***  
Received the Prestigious Bronze Telly Award

## President's Letter

### To: AACLA Volunteers and Collins History Enthusiasts

The Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association (AACLA) has experienced another exciting year. We thank each of you for your support of both time, energy and funding this past year. Some accomplishments include:

**1) January 10, 2022, AACLA presented to Collins Aerospace a Museum Relocate/Upgrade**

**proposal.** Presented to the Presidents of Mission Systems and Avionics business units, it will allow no-badge access to the general public, and upgrade and expand the museum displays. The new building has been identified and vacated. It is conveniently near AACLA's storage of our hundreds of historical artifacts.

**2) September 2022, Collins Aerospace and AACLA Museum Collaboration Agreement agreed;**

provides structure to support documenting the legacy of Arthur A. Collins, Collins Radio, etc. Signature is planned for December 2022. The Agreement includes (a) transfer of ownership to AACLA of historical artifacts currently located in the museum, (b) Collins Aero grants AACLA authorized access to other historical documents (Kenwood Storage) to facilitate digitization, (c) allows avenues of support from Collins Aerospace employees in support of the museum and related STEM initiatives (K-12 education, not just in Cedar Rapids), (d) AACLA involvement in enhancing employee loyalty/employment recruiting, (e) etc.

**3) May 18, 2022, AACLA presented at the Collins Aero Engineering Tech Talk** a history presentation to 650+ engineers world-wide, which included participation by two (2) individuals who worked directly with Arthur A. Collins (Don Beall and Mike Wilson; they were introduced by former Rockwell Collins and Collins Aerospace CEO, Kelly Ortberg. Don Beall is also the former CEO of Rockwell International and was instrumental in the transition of Collins Radio to North American Rockwell (aka Rockwell International) in 1971. This presentation was sponsored and attended by Collins Aerospace Engineering executive leadership. Collins Engineering reported to AACLA that this was the highest attendance of any tech talk to date (attendance is normally 150 engineers), and received a score of 98% by participants. It was exciting to be part of this significant event that Collins Aerospace initiated.

**4) October 2022, AACLA made a Collins manufacturing history film and discussion presentation** to 450+ production operations employees as part of Collins Manufacturing Appreciation Week.

**5) September 2022, AACLA completed a short documentary, "E" Award** and its five (5) stars which award was presented to Collins Radio Company by the Department of Defense for manufacturing excellence during World War II (1942-1945).

**6) AACLA/Busbee Communications initiated the script for the "Internet Development"**

**documentary** film which will explain Collins Radio's role/contribution to the establishment of the Internet. This documentary has been requested by former Rockwell International CEO Don Beall; it will be a significant addition our previous five (5) documentaries of Collins Radio's world shaping accomplishments. Watch for it in 2023.

**7) AACLA continues to receive significant donations of key historical artifacts** from various individuals and estates. This happens about once every 6 to 8 weeks. Example: AACLA received the Warren Bruene papers collection (via Jim Stitzinger); Mr. Bruene was a key contributor to Collins Radio's early technological advancements.

## **Obituaries**

AACLA is sad to report the loss of two (2) AACLA Directors this past year. Terry Lamb, former AACLA President and Collins Avionics expert passed away in May 2022. Lonnie Duncan, former leader of the Collins' organizations in Cedar Rapids and Richardson, Texas passed away in June 2022. Both were instrumental in the growth and influence of AACLA. They will be greatly missed and hard to replace, both as Directors and as Collins Radio and Collins historical experts.

## **Recognition Awards Received**

AACLA received several awards from film festivals in Australia, US national, and local Iowa.

A few awards include:

- \* Telly Award – Bronze - Steps to the Moon
- \* Australia Space Film Festival: Theme Winner for Rocket Science - Moon Talk.
- \* Iowa Film Festival – Award of Excellence for a Documentary – Steps to the Moon
- \* Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival – Gold Eddy Award – Live From the Moon
- \* Some lower level recognition from Film Festivals in California (near Hollywood)

## **Going Forward**

AACLA will continue to direct its efforts to preserving/documenting the legacy of Arthur Collins and Collins Radio, including the hundreds of stories of the individual historical assets in Building 134, and expand our efforts in key research areas (white papers/short videos for streaming on Vimeo, YouTube) and public presentations.

The Collins Museum continues to be open to Collins employees and the general public. Tours are available by appointment, and we hope to have it open regularly on Wednesdays 11:30-1:30pm.

STEM activities and teacher training modules are planned. We need volunteer assistance in this area.

AACLA is dedicated to the heritage of Collins Radio Company and its founder. We are dedicated to preserving, honoring, and interpreting the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and Collins Radio and the profound contributions that shaped world events in communications, navigation, aerospace, avionics, and defense technologies. This heritage is important to inspire the youth of today to build a better world, a better future. In addition to exciting students in the areas of math, science, and technology, our work consistently promotes the message of optimism, doing your best, and the rewards of working together during difficult times.

We urge you to visit <https://arthurcollins.org> and <https://collinsaerospacemuseum.org> to learn about our mission, events and accomplishments.

## **Want to join AACLA?**

The AACLA Board of Directors invites you to be a part of this great work. We have exciting plans to continue producing documentary short films, research to be done, publications to be written, artifacts to be collected, preserved, restored, stored and displayed, and presentations to be made at Collins Aerospace and public events.

Sincerely,  
Mike Dupree  
President, AACLA

# **The Arthur A Collins Legacy Association**

## **FY-2022 Annual Report**

### **AACLA Purpose**

This report documents for our donors and volunteers the Fiscal Year 2022 (Oct. 1, 2021 to Sep. 30, 2022) activities and accomplishments of the AACLA. The AACLA was incorporated in the State of Iowa on January 3, 2014 and became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in October 2014.

The purpose of the AACLA is to preserve, honor, and interpret the legacy and memory of Arthur A. Collins and the significant contributions he and Collins Radio Co. made in the world of communications, aerospace and defense technologies. In carrying out this purpose, the AACLA has a special focus on education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The organization works to inspire and teach future generations by the preservation, interpretation and display of artifacts, conducting educational events, and by producing historical documentation in various media.

### **AACLA Personnel**

The organization consists of a board of directors (who elect the officers) and a cadre of dedicated volunteers. The board meets quarterly with its annual meeting held in November of each year. Current officers and members of the board were elected to continue in FY 2023.

#### **The FY 2022 Officers and Board of Directors are:**

**Mike Dupree**, President – Retired Rockwell Collins (1975 - 2019)

**Michael Collins**, Vice-President - Eldest son of A. A. Collins & Collins Radio employee (1964-1967)

**Rod Blocksome**, Secretary - Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1968 - 2010)

**\*Cornelis van der Linden**, Treasurer – Current employee Collins Aerospace

**\*\*Loney Duncan**, Member – Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1959 – 1999)

**\*\*Terry Lamb**, Member - Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1961 - 1996)

**Rebecca Woodward**, Member – Retired, Rockwell Collins & Collins Aerospace (2005 – 2020)

**Mike Wilson**, Member - Retired, Collins Radio & Rockwell Collins (1951 - 1990)

**H. Keith Erickson**, Member – Retired, Head of Linn County Public Health (1980 - 2008)

**Jim Stitzinger**, Member - Businessman, Director Collins Collectors Association

**Don Stulken**, Member – Retired, Rockwell Collins (1975 - 2015)

**Larry Tjaden**, Member – Retired, Rockwell Collins (1973 - 2003)

\* indicates non-board member officer

\*\* We are sad to report the recent passing of two AACLA board members; Terry Lamb and Loney Duncan. Both were dedicated to the AACLA and were strong supporters of promoting the legacy of Arthur Collins and the Collins Radio Company.

**Terry Lamb** died on May 7, 2022 at age 88 of complications following surgery on his neck vertebrae. Terry joined Collins Radio Company avionics engineering in 1960 for a 36-year career. You can find his obituary at:

<https://www.thegazette.com/obituaries/terald-terry-lamb>

**Loney Duncan** died on June 5, 2022 at age 89 from cancer. Loney joined Collins Radio Company in 1959 for a 40-year career retiring as an executive. You can find his obituary at:

[https://www.turrentinejacksonmorrow.com/obituaries/loney\\_duncan](https://www.turrentinejacksonmorrow.com/obituaries/loney_duncan)

### **AACLA Volunteers and Their Primary Work:**

Since February 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has severely curtailed the work of AACLA dedicated volunteers compared to previous years. Never-the-less we recognize the following (in alphabetical order) for their continued work this year:

Rod Blocksome (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & artifact collection/sorting/inventory.

Michael Collins (Arthur Collins' son) – Public relations & documentary research

Mike Dupree (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Contracts, insurance definition

Loney Duncan (Retired Rockwell Collins) – History support and fund raising

Alan Erickson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – E-book project, Museum Historian

Keith Erickson (Retired Linn County Health) – Documentary research

Gordon Fabian (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Indexing Collins publications

Jim Jones (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Collins 233D transmitter restoration

Terry Lamb (Retired Rockwell Collins) – AACLA organization & artifact collections

Eric Miles – Facilitator of the Marion Rotary Project that set up the Echo Hill monuments

Bob Ocken (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentation support & VIMEO archiving

Larry Pinkston (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Museum artifact restoration & replication

Jim Pruitt (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & video editing

Charley Snodgrass (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Museum Historian  
Don Stulken (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & donation  
implementation  
Larry Tjaden (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Web site content & documentary research  
Steve Tyson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Documentary research & public relations  
Coen van der Linden (Collins Aerospace) – Volunteer Treasurer for AACLA  
Mike Wilson (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Artifact support and donation advisor  
Becky Woodward (Retired Collins Aerospace) – Legal advice & museum coordinator  
Christina Wright (Collins Aerospace) – Artifact and documentation support  
Jules Yoder (Retired Rockwell Collins) – Collins 233D transmitter restoration

## **AACLA Projects**

AACLA Projects fall into five broad categories summarized below for Fiscal Year 2022:

### **1. Collins Historical Documentaries**

Since 2015 the AACLA has been engaged in writing, producing, and distributing professional-grade video documentaries on the history and legacy of Arthur Collins and the Collins Radio Company. Our first documentary entitled “***The Arthur Collins Legacy – A Culture of Innovation***” premiered at Coe College Sinclair Auditorium on October 9, 2015 and has since received many excellent reviews.

In 2018, the AACLA undertook a much more ambitious project to produce a trilogy of videos telling the little known story of Collins Radio’s contribution to the success of the American Space Program to land a man on the Moon. It was titled “**The Collins Story – Connecting the Earth to the Moon**”. Three episodes were produced.

**Episode #1 – “Steps to the Moon”**, tells the story of early research and innovation at Collins radio in the 1950s and early 60s that put the company in position to win significant NASA contracts for the Apollo program. We started work on this episode in September 2019 with a planned release in April 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress and then the widespread destruction from the August 10<sup>th</sup> Derecho Storm further delayed progress. The documentary was completed and premiered at the Collins Road Theatres on May 5, 2021.

**Episode #2 – “Moon Talk”**, focused on Collins’ role in the early Apollo missions culminating with Apollo 8, which was the first time man left the confines of earth gravity and traveled to the Moon at Christmas time 1968. This episode premiered at the Collins Road Theatres with free admission on December 24, 2018 – exactly on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 8 famous broadcast over Collins equipment while orbiting the Moon.

**Episode #3 - “Live from the Moon”** was completed in time to premier at the Collins Road Theatres on July 21, 2019 – exactly on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

## Collins History Documentaries Entered in Independent Film Festivals

In FY-2022 we continued to enter independent film festivals whose entry criteria was a good match with our documentaries. The entry fees are evenly split between Wired Production Group and AACLA. To date, we have submitted our documentaries (#1 “Steps to the Moon”; #2 “Moon Talk”; #3 “Live from the Moon”) to the following film festivals with results indicated:

Film Festival	Films Entered	Results
The Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, Apr. 20-24, 2022	#1	Accepted, no award
Spotlight Documentary Film Awards, Atlanta, Jan. 20-22, 2022	#1 & #3	<b>Gold Awards</b>
Wayne International Independent TV & Film Festival, Michigan, Jan. 13-15, 2022 <b>Festival postponed - TBD</b>	#1 & #3	Accepted, no award
DunedIn International Film Festival, FL, Jan. 10-16, 2022	#1, #2, & #3	#2 Accepted, no award
Space Faring Civilisation Film Festival, AUS , Jan. 22, 2022	#2	<b>Rocket Science category theme winner</b>
Raw Science Film Festival, Los Angeles, Online Aug. 2022	#1, #2, & #3	#2 accepted, no award
Ogeechee International History Film Festival, Statesboro, GA, Feb. 24-26, 2022	#1, #2, & #3	<b>#2 Accepted for screening. The trilogy received Certificate of Merit</b>
Dumbo Film Festival, Brooklyn, Feb. 12, 2022	#1 & #2	<b>Semi-finalist</b>
Standalone Film Festival & Awards Worldwide, Oct. 21-31, 2022	#1 & #3	<b>TBD</b>
Scinema International Science Film Festival - Adelaide, Australia, Jun. 8 – Aug. 30, 2022	#1	Accepted, no award
Iowa Independent Film Festival - Mason City/Clear Lake, Sep. 8-10, 2022	#1	Accepted, no award
Iowa Motion Picture Awards, May 14, 2022	#1	<b>Won best documentary, long form editing, voice over narration</b>
Interrobang Film Festival, Des Moines, Jun. 24-26, 2022	#1	Accepted, no award
International Brightlight Film Festival, LA, Apr. 13, 2022	#1	<b>Finalist in documentary category but didn't make the final group of seven</b>
Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival, Apr. 1 & 2, 2022	#3	<b>Winner of the Gold Award for Professional Documentary</b>
New Media Film Festival, LA, Jun. 1 & 2, 2022	#1	Accepted; no award; but received distribution offer
Only The Best Online Film Festival	#1	<b>Special award for feature documentary &amp; jury award for editing</b>
The Telly Awards	#1	<b><u>Bronze Telly Award</u></b> <sup>*</sup>



Imagine Science Film Festival, New York, Oct. 14-22, 2022	#1 & #2	TBD
Sound And Vision International Film & Technology Festival, NYC, Sep. 24-26, 2022	#1	<b>Won gold in the documentary category</b>
Santa Barbara Shorts Festival, Aug. 25, 2022	#2	<b>Certificate of Appreciation, Best Documentary</b>
Oneota Film Festival, Decorah, Mar. 2-5, 2023	#1	TBD
DOCVILLE - International Documentary Film Festival, Belgium, Mar. 22-30, 2023	#1	TBD
Edinburgh Docufest, Dec. 2023	#1	TBD
American Documentary & Animation Film Festival & Film Fund, Palm Springs, CA, <b>Festival Date TBD</b>	#1	TBD
Montreal Arthouse Film Festival, Jan. 13, 2023	#1	Selected - semi-finalist, Sept 2022

\* **The Telly Award** is the world's largest honor for excellence in video and television content across all screens. This year's edition received over 11,000 entries and saw an increase in global submissions from Australia, Mexico, across Europe and Asia. The levels of recognition are Gold, Silver and Bronze Telly Awards. *The Collins Story - Connecting The Moon To The Earth: Steps To The Moon* received a Bronze Telly Award.

All of the AACLA documentaries are available on DVD through the AACLA web site: [www.arthurcollins.org](http://www.arthurcollins.org) and by streaming over the internet.

These outstanding documentaries are made possible by contributions from our generous donors. The production quality is due to a carefully organized team:

- Dedicated volunteers who perform many functions, including:
  - Historical research
  - Meticulous fact checking
  - Locating historical film, photos, and artifacts
  - Organizing people to interview.
  - Fund raising
  - Publicity and promotion
- Hired professionals, including:
  - Writer/Producer
  - Video Editor
  - Digital Artist (animations)
  - Narrator, music composer, and sound mixer

**“The Collins Story – WWII Production Defending Liberty”** is our latest video documentary that we plan to publish on YouTube. The video reveals the incredible production accomplishments at Collins Radio during World War II. The 13-minute documentary features rare color film of the Army-Navy E-Award Ceremony that took place on the front lawn of Collins Main Plant on Sept. 19, 1942.

The nation's companies engaged in war production were evaluated against a demanding comprehensive set of standards in order to qualify for the "E-Award" for excellence. After the initial award of the E-flag, a star was added for each successive award. By the end of the war, Collins Radio had earned five stars on its E-flag. This was a level achieved by only one-half percent of the 85,000 U.S. Companies engaged in war production.

## **2. AACLA Publications**

**AACLA Virtual Museum Improvement** – The AACLA has partnered with FUEL, Inc. in a joint project to improve and expand the AACLA presence on the Internet. This project begins with "Brand Development" and progresses through "Web Site Development". The project started in September 2021 and is expected to be completed by February 2023. At the end we will have a much enhanced web site that is easily found by our target audience using the various search engines and is geared to expanding the demographics of the target audience and retaining those visitors.

## **3. Collins Historical Exhibits**

**Echo Hill Historical Monument** – The Echo Hill Monument site at Lowe Park in Marion, provided by the Marion Rotary, was damaged by a wind gust in August of 2021. A new granite monument was procured to replace the center, broken one, and the site has now been returned to its original condition, but with stronger mounting provisions for the monuments.

## **4. Artifact Collection and Preservation**

The AACLA collection of artifacts and documentation continues in protected storage at Collins Aerospace (Building 134). Collins Aerospace is donating this climate controlled storage space to the AACLA..

**Jim Stitzinger Artifact Donations** – In November 2021 Rod Blocksome drove to Santa Clara, CA to pick up a large number of Collins Historical items that Jim Stitzinger donated to the AACLA. Significant was approximately 30 "banker's boxes" of Warren Bruene's papers, brochures, and books. Jim also donated a one-of-a-kind prototype Collins 30S-2 automatically tuned power amplifier for amateur radio along with numerous other Collins Radio artifacts.

**Merrill Ludvigson Estate Artifacts** – Merrill's son donated about 15 "banker boxes" of papers, photographs, brochures, and books of Collins historical nature.

## 5. Public Events and Presentations

**AACLA Volunteer Docents at Collins Aerospace Museum** – AACLA Volunteers do double duty working on AACLA projects and as volunteer museum Historians at the Collins Aerospace Museum located in building 120. The museum has artifacts dating from the very beginning of Collins Radio to 1983. The museum website is [collinsaerospacemuseum.org](http://collinsaerospacemuseum.org) and has a very large number of stories, documents and photos. One of the unique and outstanding features of this web site is the high resolution scans of Collins company magazines with a search tool that allows one to search all the publications by any of the following:

A Person's Name  
Collins Equipment Type Number  
Events and Places

There are currently **93,534** entries in the searchable data base of this on-line Collins historical library thanks to many years of dedicated volunteer work by Collins retirees Gordon Fabian and Larry Tjaden. This library of Collins Publications is available on the web site and includes:

The Collins Column, 1943 to 1957, 138 issues  
The Collins Signal, 1933 to 1971, 70 issues  
The Collins Pulse, 1961 to 1975, 139 issues  
The Collins Personnel Services, 1975 to 1977, 20 issues  
The Rockwell Pride, 1978 to 1985, 6 issues  
The Rockwell News, 1978 to 1989, 160 issues  
The Rockwell Vision, 1995 to 1996, 5 issues  
The Rockwell Millennium, 1997 to 2001, 14 issues  
The Rockwell Collins Horizons, 2001 to 2015, 63 issues

The Rockwell News issues are the most recent addition to the web site thanks to the efforts of Larry and Gordon.

## **Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Report**

The AACLA fiscal year is Oct. 1, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2022. Our Balance Sheet as of Sept. 30, 2022 shows:

### **ASSETS**

Savings Acct	\$2,251.83
Checking Acct	\$57,183.26
Paypal Acct	\$686.17
CCU Business Acct	\$6.00
CUNA Brokerage	\$15,506.38
Other Assets	\$800.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$76,433.64</b>

### **LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

VISA Credit Card	\$256.80
Retained Earnings	\$70,581.93
Net Income	\$5,594.91
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$76,433.64</b>

Our Profit and Loss Statement for FY2021 shows:

### **INCOME**

Direct Public Support	\$23,101.05
Investment	\$104.60
Misc. Revenue	\$1,551.96
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$24,757.61</b>

### **EXPENSE**

Documentaries	\$14,337.50
Artifacts	\$1,287.71
Facilities & Equipment	\$433.34
Operations	\$834.66
Other Expenses	\$1,346.99
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$19,162.70</b>

<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,594.91</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,594.91</b>

**AACLA Development (Funding)** – The AACLA relies on grants, donations, and sales of DVDs, posters, and books for operating funds. A number of grant requests have been written as well as ongoing general fund raising activities.

**AACLA Donations** of cash and/or Collins artifacts during the fiscal year 2021 were received from the following (in alphabetical order):

Beall Family Foundation Geoff Barrance Donna Butikofer Tom Brennom Alan Erickson Bob Erlandson Don & Marjorie Grimm Melvin Holubar	Vern Jackson Barbara Jensen Anna Kern Joe Knight Terry & Shirley Lamb James & Sharon Menke John Mosinski Isabel Plambeck	Paul & Maribeth Shanley Jim Spencer Jim Stitzinger Don Stulken John Thedens Phil Topf Chuck Wehage Cindy Wylie
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The following made donations to the AACLA in memory of Terry L. Lamb:

Shirley Alexander Rod Blocksom Annette Busbee A. J. & Dale Cotton Thomas & Pat Ervin Tasha K. Gould Mary Klehfoth Hayes Kimberly Hillyard	Mel Holubar Lori Huff Alicia Dee Jackson Vern & Rose Jackson Arlo & Joann Ledet David Nelson Elizabeth Ray Jan Russell	Charles & Betty Shafer Don Stulken Keith Sutherland Larry Tjaden Jane Upmeyer Chuck Wehage Helen Westcot Keith Williams
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The AACLA officers and board of directors sincerely thank all our past donors who have enabled our accomplishments to date. We would also like to thank the dedicated volunteers who have put in countless hours, the individuals and companies who did considerable pro-bono work, and Collins Aerospace for their continued support for providing facilities for our use and for providing a partner grant.

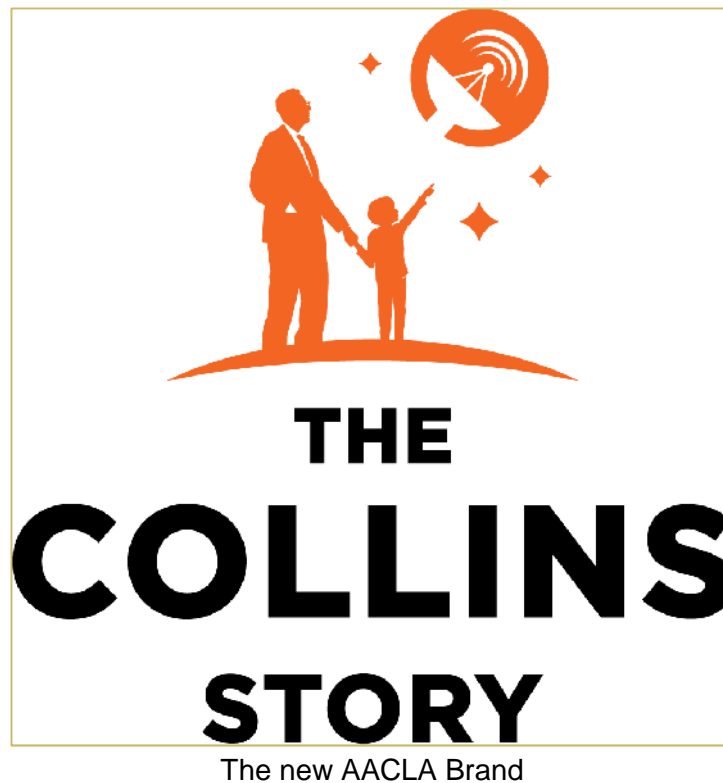
We also recognize and thank FUEL, Inc. of Hiawatha, Iowa who has been working closely with AACLA providing pro-bono professional services in developing a brand identity for our organization.

Meeting room accommodations are generously provided by Noelridge Christian Church in Cedar Rapids.

The AACLA officers and board of directors operate without pay and rely on donations of funding and in-kind goods and services to accomplish the goals and objectives. AACLA Board Members are also monetary donors of the organization. The AACLA encourages donations of Collins Radio artifacts such as equipment, documents, and media per our collection policy found on our web site: [www.arthurcollins.org](http://www.arthurcollins.org)

Your contribution will be gratefully accepted by contacting AACLA President Mike Dupree, 6920 Surrey Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402, [mike.dupree.aaccla@gmail.com](mailto:mike.dupree.aaccla@gmail.com) (319) 651-4666.

## Photos of AACLA Activities



Iowa Motion Picture Award for *Steps to the Moon*