The Historic Resources Champion Award is given by the Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County each year to an individual or individuals in the community who by word or deed has kindled among the citizenry of Asheville and Buncombe County an appreciation for the history or historic resources of the area.

Until 2021, the award was named for Forster Sondley. Dr. Sondley was born in South Carolina in 1857 but spent his later childhood and his adult life in his mother's native Buncombe County. Dr. Sondley was a prominent local attorney, bibliophile, and a scholar of state-wide reputation. He was awarded two honorary doctorates during his lifetime and in 1927 was elected official Historian of Buncombe County by the Buncombe County Board of Education. Dr. Sondley wrote a two-volume history of Buncombe County, which was published in 1930. Upon his death in 1931, Dr. Sondley willed his extensive library to the City of Asheville and it became the nucleus of Pack Library's North Carolina collection. However, the library collection was willed with the stipulation that it be accessible to whites only.

In 2021, the Historic Resources Commission was pleased to have an opportunity to honor Andrea Clark, for not only her role in documenting local African American history through her photography, but also for her role in facilitating important conversations around inclusivity and honoring our collective community history. As a result of the conversations initiated by Ms. Clark, as well as historical information on Forster Sondley's racist legacy provided by Buncombe County Special Collections staff, the Historic Resources Commission elected to change the name of their annual award from the Sondley Award to the Historic Resources Champion Award.

Previous HRC Award Winners

2021 Andrea Clark, George Gibson and George Taylor
2022 Anne Chesky Smith, Skyview Golf Tournament Caddies (Matthew Bacoate accepted on behalf)

Previous Sondley Award Winners

1988 Robert Fortune
1990 Sarah Upchurch
1991 William A.V. Cecil
1992 John H. Killian
1993 Johnny Baxter
1994 Marie Colton
1995 Marge & Jake Michel
1996 Marge Turcot
1997 Robert Griffin
1998 Jim & Pam Turner
1999 Robert Orr
2000 Mitzi Tessier
2001 Ron Holland
2002 Julian Price
2003 Maggie O'Connor
2004 Eleanor Brown Hall
2005 Zoe Rhine & Ann Wright
2006 Steve Hill
2007 Mary Jo Brezny
2008 James H. Coman

2009	Grace Pless
2010	Bill Alexander
2011	Helen Wykle
2012	Martha Walker Fullington
2013	John Cram
2014	Jeff Futch
2015	Stacy Merten
2016	Betty Lawrence
2017	Jeanne Warner
2018	John W. “Bill” Bell
2019	David Nutter
2020	Andrea Clark