

Leah Chase

June 2016 Calendar

Known as the “Queen of Creole Cuisine,” Leah Chase is a chef, author and advocate for African American Art.

As executive chef of Dooky Chase’s Restaurant, Leah Chase has fed notable civic and international leaders, legendary entertainers, United States presidents and countless others. She was the inspiration for the character Princess Tiana in Disney’s movie *The Princess and the Frog*.

After completing high school, Ms. Chase waited tables in the French Quarter, and developed her love for food and feeding others. In 1946, she married local musician Edgar “Dooky” Chase, Jr. and joined him in operating Dooky Chase’s Restaurant, one of the few public places in New Orleans where mixed race groups could meet to discuss the Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Chase has received many awards and honors from numerous organizations, including the NAACP, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, National Conference of Christians and Jews, National Council of Negro Women, National Restaurant Association, Southern Foodways Alliance, Distinguished Restaurants of North America, and Southern Food and Beverage Museum.



In 2010, Ms. Chase was inducted into the James Beard Foundation’s Who’s Who of Food & Beverage. She has received honorary degrees from Tulane, Dillard, Loyola, and Johnson & Wales universities; and Our Lady of Holy Cross and Madonna colleges. She has served on many boards, including the Arts Council of New Orleans and the New Orleans Museum of Art; and is a current member of Women of the Storm and International Women’s Forum.