



Nomination Guidelines and Procedures 2026

About the Awards

The Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities honor outstanding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through service to the humanities or excellence in the arts.

Presented by the Office of the Governor in partnership with the Georgia Council for the Arts and Georgia Humanities, the Governor's Awards recognize the value of the arts and humanities in the creation of a thriving economy and their contributions to innovation and growth.

The Governor's Awards pay tribute to the most distinguished citizens and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to work in these fields.

Nomination Guidelines

Any individuals or organizations that have previously received the Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities are not eligible to be nominated.

Self-nominations will not be accepted. This includes:

- Nominating a family member
- Board or staff members nominating their own organization or fellow staff members

Individuals/Artists:

Nominations will be accepted for living individuals (posthumous awards will not be given) who have made significant and substantial contributions to Georgia's cultural heritage through impactful work in the arts or humanities. Examples of eligible nominees include, but are not limited to, artists, advocates, scholars, philanthropists, legislators, educators, folklorists, volunteers, and authors.

Organizations (Not-for-Profit, Business, or Philanthropic):

Nominations will be accepted for organizations that have demonstrated historical and ongoing support for the arts or humanities in Georgia. Examples of notable activities by an organization include, but are not limited to, the use of the arts or humanities to address an acute community need, innovative programs in support of or utilizing the arts or humanities, and long-term financial commitment to supporting the sustainability and growth of the arts and humanities sector in Georgia.

Who Can Nominate

Nominations may be made by any resident of Georgia, excluding current members of the boards and staff of the Georgia Council for the Arts, Georgia Department of Economic Development, and Georgia Humanities.

Selection Criteria & Process

A panel of judges composed of community members and representatives from the sponsoring organizations and the Office of the Governor will evaluate the total body of work or contributions of the nominee and the impact of the nominee's work on the cultural climate and vitality of Georgia.

Nominations must include:

- A complete **nomination form**:
- https://www.cognitofrms.com/GDECD1/_2026GovernorsAwardsForTheArtsHumanities
- A complete **nomination package (4 pages max)**, including a narrative summary, two letters of support and a bio/history of the nominee's work.

What to include in the narrative summary: A description of the nominee's achievements that highlights 1) unique and significant contributions to enriching lives and strengthening communities in our state through the arts or humanities; 2) the impact of the nominee's work at the local, state, or national level; 3) a brief history of the individual's or the organization's commitment to and participation in the arts or humanities.

Optional: Nominators may also provide links to three pieces of digital supporting material, which may include photographs, links to videos, artwork samples, music, or documentation of an individual's or organization's contribution to the arts or humanities.

Award Recipients

Award recipients will be notified in August. A ceremony to honor recipients will be held in October.

Submitting a Nomination

Key Dates:

Nomination Deadline	June 26, 2026
Recipient Notification	August

Nominations must be submitted through the online nomination form:
https://www.cognitofrms.com/GDECD1/_2026GovernorsAwardsForTheArtsHumanities

Please note that hard copies of nominations or supporting materials will not be accepted.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Nomination Form Preview

Individual Nomination

Name of nominee:
Organization affiliation (if any):
Title (optional):
Individual's field of work/discipline (if applicable):
Artist's medium (if applicable):
Nominee's address:
Georgia county:
Number of years lived in Georgia:
Phone:
Email:

Organization Nomination

Name of organization:
Contact person for the organization:
Title (optional):
Nominee's address:
Georgia county:
Number of years organization has existed:
Phone:
Email:

Nominator Information

Name of nominator*:
Organizational affiliation (if applicable):
Title (optional):
Nominator's address*:
Georgia county*:
Nominator's email*:
Nominator's phone*:

**Required fields*

Nomination Package

Upload **one PDF file (4 total allowed pages)** including:

- A narrative from the nominator explaining why they nominee should be honored, two letters of support and a bio/history of the nominee's work.
- *Optional:* include up to 3 links to digital supporting materials such as photographs, videos, artwork samples, music, or other documentation of the

If you have questions, please contact:

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