

# Governor's Arts Awards 2017

## Nomination Application Criteria

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Please read **all** instructions before completing this form.

**Join Us as We Celebrate Excellence** – Whether the late bluesman, Pinetop Perkins, the amazing actress Sela Ward, or the outstanding writer, John Grisham, Mississippians contribute to the arts like no one else. The Governor's Arts Awards honors outstanding artists and organizations while celebrating Mississippi's vast cultural heritage. Presented by the Mississippi Arts Commission, in collaboration with the Governor's Office, the Governor's Arts Awards recognizes significant contributions to the arts and cultural life of Mississippi. A panel of distinguished judges, including past Governor's Awards honorees, will select the recipients. The 2017 recipients will be notified by fall 2016 and **must agree to receive the award in person** at the ceremony to be held in February 2017 (no posthumous nominations will be accepted).

**Send Us Your Nomination** - Nominating an individual or organization for this prestigious award requires a few simple steps. Judges consider only the current year's nominees. Those who have been nominated in past years may be nominated again. However, a new form must be filled out each year and resubmitted with supporting materials. Please note that judges may, at their discretion, make a special award to any one of the nominees. Awards are given once, so if your nominee is a previous recipient, they are ineligible.

### **Five Easy Steps**

#### **1. Consider the achievements of your nominee.**

Are you nominating a Mississippi artist who has made an outstanding contribution to the cultural life of the nation? Or perhaps you are nominating a Mississippi organization or partnership that has used the arts to address community needs. Maybe your nominee has enhanced education in and through the arts. Does your nominee celebrate Mississippi's diverse cultural heritage? Do you know an artist whose work represents the best of the state's cultural traditions or an individual or corporation that has enhanced Mississippi through funding, support or exemplary service? These are just a few of the possibilities in which individuals and organizations across the state have made lasting and significant contributions to our artistic legacy.

#### **2. Complete the attached nomination form.**

This is **required** and will be considered page one of your nomination packet. Nominations that do not include the form will not be considered.

#### **3. Compile support materials for your nomination, being sure to include the following:**

- On one 8½” x 11” sheet of paper with one-inch margins, provide a one and one-half-spaced, single page narrative outlining reasons for making the nomination (this is not a signed recommendation letter, please do not attach additional pages to the narrative and do not use a font size less than 12). This is required and will be considered page two of your nomination packet. **The narrative is mandatory for consideration of the nomination.**
- Materials may also include news clippings, DVDs, CDs, photographs and no more than five letters of support. It is important to be selective in the materials you include. DVDs and CDs are played only at the judges’ request.
- In order to have the nomination packet returned, **adequate postage and self-addressed packaging is required** upon submission. The Mississippi Arts Commission will be happy to enclose the packets in an appropriately sized, self-addressed, postage-paid package to be returned, but will otherwise not be responsible for these materials. If self-addressed packaging is not included, materials will be discarded after February 2016.
- Also, for nominations of individuals, submit a bio or résumé of that individual.

4. Assemble the materials in a three-ring binder and label the binder with nominee’s name on cover and spine.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED MATERIALS.

5. Mail or hand-deliver to:

Governor’s Arts Awards  
Mississippi Arts Commission  
Attn: Melia Dicker, Communications Director  
501 North West Street, Suite 1101A, Woolfolk Building  
Jackson, MS 39201

The deadline for submitting nomination packets is **Monday, August 15, 2016**. All materials must be either hand-delivered to the Commission or postmarked no later than that date, *no exceptions*.