



About

The Mississauga Arts Awards (The MARTYS) are the Mississauga Arts Council's (MAC) annual celebration, recognizing outstanding individual and organizational contributions to the arts and cultural activities in Mississauga. Each year, we acknowledge honourees whose work helps transform and advance artistic communities through Artistic Excellence and Community Arts Awards. Learn more: macarts.ca/martys

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links to nomination forms

PLEASE READ THE FULL MARTY AWARD GUIDELINES BEFORE SUBMITTING NOMINATION MATERIALS.

Nomination Form - Artistic Excellence Awards:

https://form.jotform.com/Mississauga_Arts/MARTYS26ArtisticExcellence

Nomination Form - Festival of the Year & Community Arts Group/Collective of the Year Awards:

https://form.jotform.com/Mississauga_Arts/MARTYS26Festival_ArtsGroup

Nomination Form - Lifetime Achievement, Hazel McCallion Volunteer of the Year Awards: https://form.jotform.com/Mississauga_Arts/MARTYS26CommunityArts

information session

The Mississauga Arts Council will be hosting a MARTY Awards Nomination Information Session via Zoom on Thursday, January 22, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM ET.

Register for the Information Session here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Pqto5FJ0SmycoCWqeQOa5w>

When you register, you will receive an email from Zoom with your link to attend the information session.

Can't attend the information session?

The information session will be recorded and made available on [MAC's YouTube channel](#).

important dates & deadlines

MARTY Awards Nominations Open: Thursday, December 4, 2025

MARTY Awards Nomination Info Session: Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 1 PM EST

MARTY Awards Nominations Close: Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5 PM EDT.

Please note that there will be no deadline extensions. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted or considered. We encourage applicants to ask any questions about their nominations early, allowing ample time for assistance with their application. Questions can be forwarded to martyawards@macarts.ca.

MARTY Awards Finalists Announced: April 2026 (date to be confirmed)

MARTY Finalists Cocktail Party: May 2026 (date to be determined)

MARTY Awards Show: June 18, 2026

eligibility

The 2026 MARTY Awards are open to all professional artists who are residents of the City of Mississauga, have a significant connection to Mississauga, or have made a major contribution to the arts within Mississauga.

Please read these guidelines carefully, as each award has its own set of requirements and eligibility criteria.

You do not need to be a member of the Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) to submit a nomination. However, if you are selected as a Finalist, you will be required to join MAC as a member; individual memberships start at \$40/year. Learn more: macarts.ca/membership

If you received a MARTY Award or Certificate of Excellence in any of the following three MARTY Award years: **2025, 2024, or 2023**, you are NOT ELIGIBLE to be nominated for a 2026 MARTY Award.

If you were a finalist but did not receive a MARTY Award or a Certificate of Excellence in 2025, 2024, or 2023, we encourage you to submit a nomination for the 2026 MARTY Awards.

New This Year: You can receive an award in an Artistic Excellence category a **maximum of three times**. (For example, if you have received three Established Artistic Excellence Awards, you can no longer submit a nomination for that category).

The deadline for 2026 MARTY Award nominations is **Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:00 PM EDT. There will be no deadline extensions. No late submissions or incomplete submissions will be accepted or considered.** Only submissions through the webform application will be accepted; no email or mail submissions will be accepted or considered.

If you require assistance completing the MARTY Award application web form, please email martyawards@macarts.ca, and we will contact you to discuss accessibility support.

artistic excellence awards

Recognizing that excellence can be achieved at any stage in an artist's career, Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) celebrates Artistic Excellence Awards in both Established and Emerging Categories. An independent jury of experts selects the finalists and winners in each artistic discipline.

For more details about the breakdown of artistic disciplines, please see the Artistic Excellence Award Disciplines section below.

Artistic Excellence Award for Established Artists

Recognizing the recent outstanding achievement of a Mississauga artist or performer in an artistic discipline, actively working in the arts and culture sector. An established artist is an individual who has been practicing professionally for **more than five years** and:

- Demonstrates strong activity within the Mississauga arts community with a history of public exhibition, performance, or publication.
- They are recognized by their peers as a professional in their artistic discipline.

THIS CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE A MARTY AWARD

Artistic Excellence Award for Emerging Artists

The Emerging Artist Award recognizes and encourages Mississauga's valued (minimum 18 years of age) emerging artists who, in the early stages of their careers (**less than five (5) years of experience in their artistic discipline**), have demonstrated exceptional talent and accomplishments, as well as a unique artistic expression and commitment to their art.

Nominees will:

- Have produced a modest, independent body of work and have shown sustained commitment to the development of their artistic skills.
- Have increasingly demonstrated activity within the Mississauga arts community and have a history of public exhibition, performance, or publication.
- Be committed to their practice as a career and recognized as an excellent artist by others working in the same artistic genre.

THIS CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE A FRAMED CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Each year, MAC accepts nominations for both Established and Emerging Artists for outstanding work in the following artistic disciplines listed below. Nominations in the following disciplines are open to individuals/groups representing a body of work produced in the last one to two years.

Categories are subject to change. Each category requires a minimum number of nominations; if this threshold is not met, MAC may cancel the category at its sole discretion. **MAC also reserves the right to select no winner in any category if there are insufficient nominations or if the jury determines that the nominees do not meet the required criteria.**

2026 ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES

^ Denotes new discipline for 2025

Dance

Including dance and choreography (all genres).

Film/Video Arts

Film/Video productions that are screen-based works* (can include key talent, directors, producers, cinematographers, and actors). Films/Videos can be short or long-form.

**Screen-based works are defined as any media that is produced or distributed via the screen, including the entire spectrum of what constitutes 'the screen': the cinematic screen, the television screen, the computer screen, and the small screens accessed on a smartphone and other handheld devices.*

Literary Arts - Fiction & Non-Fiction^

Including short-form and long-form structured written works, such as novels, novellas, creative nonfiction, memoirs, essays, written journalism, playwriting, scriptwriting, and publishing projects.

Literary Arts - Poetry^

This category recognizes original poetry that showcases creativity, expression, and mastery of language.

**Submissions should be standalone works.*

Music - Group

Including vocal or non-vocal performance, composition, and/or songwriting by a group or ensemble in any genre of music.

Music - Instrumental

Including non-vocal performance, composition and/or songwriting by an individual, or group/ensemble in any genre of music.

Music - Solo Vocalist

Including vocal performance, composition and/or songwriting by an individual performer in any genre of music.

Theatre Arts

Public live performances, including spoken word, opera, theatre and illusion, puppetry, stand-up comedy, and improv. Exceptional Directing or Production may qualify based on accomplishments demonstrated in the nomination submission.

Visual Arts - Multimedia Arts

Including digital illustration, web-based arts, digital installation, graphic design, animation, 2D/3D models, media art installation, video-game development, new media, or any fusion thereof.

Visual Arts - Traditional Forms

Including all forms of painting, collage, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, photography, graffiti art, gallery exhibitions, glass blowing, pottery, and fine craft.

award winner selection process

All Established and Emerging Artist nominations will be evaluated by an independent jury composed of discipline-specific artists, arts professionals, and community leaders involved in the arts and culture landscape in Mississauga. To ensure consistency and fairness, each jury (one jury per artistic practice/discipline) uses the same scoring criteria and a non-voting member of MAC will audit each jury session to ensure a fair and transparent process.

Submitting a nomination does not guarantee you will be selected as a finalist.

Nominations must achieve a minimum benchmark score from the jury to be considered for an Award. The jury will select a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of five (5) finalists and the winner in each category. The decision of the jury is final and confidential.

Artistic Excellence Award Nomination Eligibility

Multi-disciplinary artists may only be nominated in one (1) artistic category. Nominees can only submit to one (1) artistic category. Please ensure all submission materials reflect the category of the nomination. (Ex. An artist is both a writer and a visual artist. If they are nominated in the visual arts category, their submission materials should reflect their body of visual artwork, not their literary achievements.)

- ***New This Year:*** You can receive an award in an Artistic Excellence category a **maximum of three times**. (For example, if you have received three Established Artistic Excellence Awards, you can no longer submit a nomination for that category).
- Previous nominees will be considered; however, winners from the past 3 MARTY Awards (2025, 2024, 2023) are not eligible for nomination.

Artistic Excellence Award Judging Criteria

Submissions will be judged on artistic merit, quality of accomplishments, contribution to arts and culture in Mississauga, and quality of application materials.

community arts awards

Mississauga's arts sector is a robust ecosystem, and MAC also celebrates the contributions of outstanding volunteers, patrons, lifetime achievers, community arts groups/collectives, and occasionally jury-recommended special recognition awards. The Community Arts Awards are evaluated and scored using similar criteria to the Artistic Excellence Awards.

A jury of local Mississauga media representatives determines the winner of the Festival of the Year Award category. The Volunteer of the Year Award, the Laurie Pallett Patron of the Arts Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award are determined and selected by the Board of Directors of the Mississauga Arts Council who seek nominations from stakeholders.

The Laurie Pallett Patron of the Arts Award does not accept nominations from the public and will be determined by the Board of Directors of Mississauga Arts Council.

MAC reserves the right to select no winners in a category in any given year if there are not enough nominations in a category or if the jury deems that nominees are not qualified.

Community Arts Group/Collective of the Year

This award is for a Community Arts Group/Collective* that has made an outstanding impact on the public through its creative endeavours over the past 2 years that contribute to shaping the arts and culture landscape in the city. Ideally, the nomination submission materials will demonstrate measurable quantitative public impact and outline the group/collective's accessible activities, events, or performances that are available to the public.

THIS CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE A MARTY AWARD

Eligibility:

- Any resident can nominate a registered or unregistered community arts group/collective that has made an impact in Mississauga.
- The award is based on the community arts group/collective's contribution to the city regardless of artistic practice.

**Community Arts Group/Collective is defined as a registered or unregistered community or cultural group that makes a difference in artists' lives and the public in their respective communities.*

Please note: The Community Arts Group/Collective of the Year award is not open to Festivals. If you are looking to nominate a festival, we encourage you to submit a nomination for Festival of the Year.

Festival of the Year Award

This award is for an arts or cultural festival that features Mississauga artists and presents various art forms to a large and diverse audience. The award is presented to the festival's organizing group for its outstanding quality and impact. The deserving festival must:

- have operated for at least three (3) years
- take place in Mississauga
- be open to public audiences

THIS CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE A MARTY AWARD

Eligibility:

- Any resident can nominate a worthy group that organizes a recurring festival which adheres to the criteria. For example, a cultural or music festival which features artists as a part of their programming can be nominated.
- This category recognizes in-person festivals only.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is for an individual's total body of work and overall career achievement in the arts scene in Mississauga. The deserving nominee should have demonstrated exceptional creative leadership and be a recognized and awarded talent in their art practice with a career history of 20 or more years. Ideally, there is evidence of their influence and inspiration for others in their artworks.

THIS CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE A MARTY AWARD

Eligibility:

- Any resident can nominate a worthy artist who may or may not live in Mississauga but who has had a significant relationship with Mississauga during their creative career.
- Individuals may only win this award once during their lifetime.
- This award is based on the individual's total contribution and body of work, regardless of artistic practice.

Hazel McCallion Volunteer of the Year Award

The nominated individual will demonstrate exceptional volunteerism in the arts. This could be as an administrator of a creative event or arts group, or a contributor of time

and resources in support of an impactful creative event, organization, or movement in a way that brings honour to the arts and themselves. As a much-valued contributor, they deserve our heartfelt congratulations and recognition for their generous, dedicated service to an arts event or organization that makes a difference in their community.

THIS CATEGORY WILL RECEIVE A MARTY AWARD

Eligibility:

- Nomination is open to any arts group or organization utilizing volunteers, and the nominee should reside in Mississauga.
- Previous nominees will be considered; however, winners from the past 3 MARTY Awards (2025, 2024, 2023) are not eligible for nomination.

nomination requirements

Nominee Requirements:

- One (1) nomination form per nominee is required.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- A Nominee can only be considered in one (1) category each year.
- Previously nominated candidates and finalists are eligible to be re-nominated. However, previous winners cannot be nominated in any category if they received an award at the following MARTY Awards in 2025, 2024, and 2023.
- ***New This Year:*** You can receive an award in an Artistic Excellence category a **maximum of three times**. (For example, if you have received three Established Artistic Excellence Awards, you can no longer submit a nomination for that category).
- **Only nominations submitted through the online form** will be accepted. No nominations will be accepted by mail or email. (Note: if you require accessibility support, please contact martyawards@macarts.ca)
- All nominations must include contact information from one (1) reference who can vouch for the nominee.
- Nominees must be residents of the City of Mississauga, have a significant connection to Mississauga, or have made a major contribution to the arts within Mississauga.
- Posthumous nominations (except the Lifetime Achievement Awards) will not be accepted.
- Late or incomplete nominations will not be accepted or considered. The deadline to apply is **Monday, March 9, 2025, at 5 PM EDT**.

Requirements if the nominee is chosen as a Finalist:

The jury will select two (2) to five (5) finalists in each category from the nominee submissions. All finalists will be required to:

- Be members of the Mississauga Arts Council in good standing.
- Attend the MARTY Awards ceremony on June 18, 2026.

Nominee Restrictions:

- The current Board of Directors and staff of the Mississauga Arts Council, and the MARTYS Jurors are not eligible to be nominated.

submission requirements

Nominations will only be accepted through the web forms. **Please note, that submissions should be sent by the artist with one (1) reference contact information.** If you need assistance completing the web form, please email martyawards@macarts.ca and we will contact you to discuss accessibility support.

Before submitting your nomination, please ensure:

- You have the correct contact info for yourself and your reference
- You have all the nomination requirements/documents prepared (see below)

Submissions for the Artistic Excellence Awards:

To submit a 2026 MARTY nomination for the Artistic Excellence Awards (Established or Emerging Category), please complete the nomination form here:

form.jotform.com/Mississauga_Arts/MARTYS26ArtisticExcellence

Nomination Requirements:

Contact Information for Artist:

Name/ Artist Name (if applicable)

Artist Address

Artist Email

Artist Phone Number

Is the nominee a member of MAC? Y/N

Nominee's Birthdate (must be 18 years of age or older)

Award Category

Experience Level

Contact Information for Reference:

Reference Name

Reference Email

Reference Phone

Submission Requirements for Nomination:

Briefly describe your connection to Mississauga (under 50 words)

Short Artist Biography for Promotional Purposes (under 50 words)

Full Artist Biography (upload as a PDF or Word Document)

Artist CV/ Resume (upload as a PDF or Word Document)

Artist website/social media links

Headshot/band photo (upload 1 feature image, jpg or png)

3-5 links or documents of work examples demonstrating best work or key achievements.

**For Literary Arts (Poetry & Fiction & Non-Fiction), please limit each written work sample to no more than 10 pages. For Film/Video Arts, please include excerpts of films (not full-length clips).*

Description of Works presented, describing the approach to artistic practice in the category selected and works presented (upload as a PDF or Word Document)

Submissions for the Community Arts Group/Collective and Festival of the Year Award:

To submit a 2026 MARTY nomination for the Community Arts Group/Collective and the Festival of the Year, please complete the nomination form here:

form.jotform.com/Mississauga_Arts/MARTYS26Festival_ArtsGroup

Nomination Requirements:

Community Arts Group/Collective or Festival Information:

Name

Point of Contact Name

Point of Contact Email

Point of Contact Phone

Point of Contact Address

Is the organization a member of MAC? Y/N

Contact Information for Reference:

Reference Name

Reference Email

Reference Phone

Reference Address

Submission Requirements for Nomination:

One-Page Nomination Statement (upload a PDF or Word Document)

Mandate/Mission Statement for Promotional Purposes (under 50 words)

Quantitative results (under 150 words)

Feature Image (high resolution, jpg or png)
Logo (high resolution, jpg or png)
Social media or website links
3-5 photos and video samples

Submissions for the Community Arts Awards:

To submit a 2026 MARTY nomination for the Community Arts Awards (Lifetime Achievement and Hazel McCallion Volunteer of the Year), please complete the nomination form here:

https://form.jotform.com/Mississauga_Arts/MARTYS26CommunityArts

Nomination Requirements:

Contact Information for Reference

Award Category
Reference Name
Reference Email
Reference Phone Number

Contact Information for Nominee:

Award Category
Nominee Name
Nominee Email
Nominee Phone
Nominee Address

Submission Requirements for Nomination:

Briefly describe the nominee's connection to Mississauga (under 50 words)
Nominee Bio for Promotional Purposes (under 50 words)
Nominee Resume (upload a PDF or Word Document)
Nominee headshot (1 image, jpg or png, high resolution)
Nominee social media or website links

frequently asked questions

What is a professional artist?

Mississauga Arts Council supports the definition of a professional artist from the Canada Council for the Arts: A professional artist is an artist who; has specialized training in the artistic field (not necessarily in an academic institution), is recognized as professional by his or her peers (artists working the same artistic tradition), is committed

to devoting more time to artistic activity (if possible financially), and has a history of public presentation or publication.

What if my artistic work falls into multiple categories? Which one should I choose?

We recognize that many artistic forms could fit into more than one category, and we recommend selecting one that you most identify with and have the most work samples for.

Who can be my reference?

A reference is an individual who can vouch for the artist's expertise and skill set. The reference can be from anywhere; we are looking for someone who can vouch for the nominee and speak to their accomplishments.

What should I include in my work samples?

Include your strongest and most relevant work samples for your nomination. We recommend adding a brief document explaining why you selected each sample to help provide clarity and context. Keep in mind that jurors have 10–15 minutes to review each nomination, so choose materials they can reasonably assess in that timeframe. For example, Literary Arts applicants should submit no more than 10 pages per sample, and Film/Video Arts applicants should provide an excerpt or short clip rather than a full film.

Will MAC review my nomination materials and give me feedback?

MAC will not give you constructive feedback on the quality of your nomination materials. MAC can provide you with information about how to complete your nomination form and what components are needed to complete the submission. We encourage you to submit any questions you may have to martyawards@macarts.ca. Please allow two business days for a response.

Will I receive feedback from the jury?

No. The jury decisions are confidential and final. No feedback will be given to nominees by jury members. MAC can provide feedback on the quality or scope of application materials, but not on the jury decisions or artistic merit of an application.

I was a previous finalist but did not receive a MARTY Award or Certificate of Excellence. Can I submit a nomination for the 2026 MARTY Awards?

Yes, absolutely! If you were a previous finalist but did not receive a MARTY Award or Certificate of Excellence in any of the following years: 2025, 2024, 2023, we encourage you to submit a nomination for the 2026 MARTY Awards.

I've received an Artistic Excellence Award three times. Can I submit a nomination for the 2026 MARTY Awards?

New This Year: You can receive an award in an Artistic Excellence category a **maximum of three times**. (For example, if you have received three Established Artistic Excellence Awards, you can no longer submit a nomination for that category).

Who should I contact regarding any questions and inquiries I have about my nomination?

If you have read the guidelines and still have questions, you can contact martyawards@macarts.ca, and we can answer any questions you may have. Please allow up to two business days for a response. MAC will not give you feedback on the quality of your nomination materials. MAC will provide you with information about how to complete your nomination form and what components need to be submitted.

Will I be contacted if I am selected as a finalist?

Yes, you will be contacted by MAC if you are selected as a finalist in April of 2026.

What happens if I am selected as a finalist?

You will need to complete the finalist acceptance form that will be sent to all finalists. If you are not already a member of MAC, you will need to join. For more information about MAC membership, please visit macarts.ca/membership. All finalists are required to attend the MARTY Awards ceremony on June 18, 2026.