



GUAM COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

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Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” for Traditional and Folk Arts Nomination Packet

I. GUAM MASTERS AWARD – “GUAM NATIONAL TREASURE”

The Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” created through Public Law 30-139 was established to recognize master practitioners of Guam’s Traditional and Folk Arts. The award gives due recognition to these master practitioners for their artistry, craftsmanship, and their continuing efforts to preserve Guam’s rich history and cultural traditions through the practice and perpetuation of their arts. The award acknowledges artists whose contributions, primarily through teaching, advocacy, organizing and preserving important repertoires, have greatly benefited their artistic tradition; and whose efforts have significantly increased opportunities for and public visibility of traditional and folk arts.

FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS

The terms “traditional” and folk may be used interchangeably to refer to those aspects of learned behavior (culture) that are transferred through word of mouth and/ or by following an example set within a cultural group. Traditional art is learned from family or community members and is passed along through generations, with each artist remaining true to time-honored methods or techniques, yet free to add personal creativity to the process. Folk or traditional artists are highly trained, and it is the manner of their training that earns them the designation of “folk”.

The following information is provided by Georgine Clarke and Joey Brackner of the Alabama State Council on the Arts (www.arts.alabama.gov).

Folk arts are defined as artistic expressions that have grown through time within a group or community that shares a common location, occupation, religion, language, or culture. These “grass roots” arts can be found in every culture and are passed on from one generation to the next, usually through oral tradition, often by observing a master. Traditional arts is a broad term for the artistic activities that are passed down from one generation to the next. These can include traditional music, dance, crafts, and local architectural styles. Traditional arts include folk arts, a term that more specifically refer to grass roots community traditions.

Folk Arts ARE:

1. Living traditions passed down over time and through space. Since most folklore is passed down through generations, it is closely connected to community history.
2. Shared by a group of people who have something in common: ethnicity, family, region, occupation, religion, nationality, age, gender, social class, social clubs, school, etc. Everyone belongs to various groups; therefore, everyone has folklore of some sort.
3. Learned informally by word of mouth, observation, and/or imitation.
4. Made up of conservative elements (motifs) that stay the same through many transmissions, but folklore also changes in transmission (variants). In other words, folk traditions have longevity, but are dynamic and adaptable.
5. Usually anonymous in origin.

Folk Arts are NOT:

1. Learned primarily through workshops, classes, books, or magazines.
2. Something that is necessarily old or an antique; in fact, it is often contemporary and dynamic.
3. Written history, nor historical re-enactment (re-creating the past with actors).

II. ELIGIBILITY

Nominees must be permanent residents of Guam. Must be individuals worthy of recognition and have a record of continuing artistic accomplishment. They must be **actively participating** in their art form, either as practitioners or as teachers and must be **actively engaged** in perpetuating the folk and traditional arts **for more than 20 consecutive years**. This award recognizes an artist whose contributions, primarily through teaching, advocacy, organizing, and maintaining important repertoires, have greatly benefited their artistic tradition and whose efforts have significantly increased opportunities for and public visibility of traditional arts and artists.

III. MAKE A NOMINATION

To honor and preserve Guam's indigenous cultural heritage, the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities (CAHA) awards the Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” once every four (4) years to master folk and traditional artists. These awards recognize lifetime achievement, artistic excellence, and contributions to Guam's traditional arts heritage.

Nominees must be worthy of recognition and have a record of continuing artistic accomplishment. Guam Masters of Traditional and Folk Arts are selected according to the criteria of artistic excellence, significance within the particular artistic tradition and contributions to a living cultural heritage.

IV. HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

- A. An individual may submit one (1) or more nomination(s) in each round of the Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” for Traditional and Folk Arts. Each nomination should have a separate nomination package..
- B. No one may nominate him/ herself.
- C. Nominations packets must include the following:

1. Nomination Statement/Letter

A statement/ letter that details the reasons that the nominee(s) should receive a Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure”. Describe the nominee's contributions to his or her particular artistic tradition and explain why this individual or group deserves recognition.

2. Work Samples

Nominations must include work samples such as photographs, press clippings, performance programs or flyers, phonograph records, tape recordings, CDs, DVDs, digital recordings, web links, other forms of documentation, or actual samples of the individual's work in support of the nomination are highly encouraged. **Please limit support materials to no more than 20 items.** The nomination package will not be considered complete without these items. All materials must be labeled with the name of the nominee and the nominator's name. Work samples are a critical part of the nomination package and are considered carefully during review. Work samples should include recent, concise, and high quality examples of the nominee's work.

Note: Please refer to letter “E” below for detailed information regarding work samples including audio and video samples, digital images and publications and catalogs, etc.

3. Recommendation / Support Letters

Five (5) letters of recommendation or letters of support that demonstrate expert and/ or community support of the nomination with **one (1) letter specifically from a Master in the relevant discipline.**

If the art form has no awarded Master, the nomination and letters of support must give evidence of grass roots recognition of the newly-established or re-established practice that represents the indigenous way of life for the Chamorro people.

4. Additional Information

If the information is not included on nomination statement or letter, please attach:

- a. a resume or short biography that outlines a career of the nominee(s) and includes the following information:
 1. Number of years the nominee has been practicing, teaching and advocating their art form.
 2. Nominee's Mailing Address
 3. Nominee's Home Address
 4. Nominee's Contact Numbers: work, home and cell phone number
 5. Nominee's email address
- b. a list of major public appearances or exhibitions by the nominee(s);
- c. and the titles of published works, if any.

D. Submitting Work Samples

The nomination package will not be considered complete without these items. All materials must be labeled with the name of the nominee and the nominator's name. Work samples are a critical part of the nomination package and are considered carefully during review. Work samples should include recent, concise, and high quality examples of the nominee's work for one or more of the following categories.

a. Audio Samples

Submit no more than five (5) selections, one copy each OR a single CD containing all 5 audio selections. Each selection should not exceed five minutes.

b. Digital images

Submit no more than 20 digital images, one copy each OR a single DVD or CD containing all 20 digital images. Image size should be consistent; 800 x 600 pixels are suggested. Each image/file has a size limit of 5 MB. Acceptable file types are jpeg, gif, and tiff.

c. Video Samples

Submit no more than three (3) selections, one copy each OR a single DVD containing all 3 video samples. Each selection should not exceed five minutes.

d. Publications and catalogues

Submit no more than three (3) publications, one copy each OR a single CD containing all 3 selections.

E. Use only paper clips and rubber bands to fasten your material. Do not bind or staple material.

F. Support material/ Work samples will NOT be returned.

G. A complete package should not exceed 20 pages in length. Excess pages will be removed and not reviewed.

H. *Posthumous nominations* will not be considered.

V. DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS and WHERE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS

- A. Deadline to submit nomination packets with supporting materials to the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities is **4:00 p.m., Day, Date.**
- B. Nomination packets must be submitted directly to the Office of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities located at Terlaje Professional Building, 1st Floor, 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue in Hagåtña. **No fax, mail or email submissions will be accepted.**

VI. REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS

Nominations submitted to the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities by the deadline are first reviewed by staff to screen them for eligibility according to the checklist. If items are missing, the packet will NOT be forwarded to the panel. Within 30 days following the awards of selected Masters, the nominator(s) will be notified by CAHA in writing of the ineligibility, noting the missing items, and encouraged to complete the packet to be eligible for the next round of nominations.

An advisory panel of folk and traditional arts experts, including a master in the relevant discipline will review the packets to verify authenticity, merit, and to narrow the pool of nominees. Advisory panel recommendations are then forwarded to the CAHA Board of Directors to determine the four (4) final recipients of the Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” based on the following selection criteria:

- (a) Exemplary and active practice of a traditional art form.
- (b) Expertise, consummate skill, and longevity in the promotion and perpetuation of a traditional art form.
- (c) Contributions to the traditional art form in areas of appreciation, knowledge, teaching, advocacy and advancement.
- (d) Evidence of high artistic quality of work and mastery of traditional art form via support materials.
- (e) Continuing artistic accomplishment.
- (f) Participation in one’s form via practicing or teaching.
- (g) Artistic excellence.
- (h) Benefit to artistic tradition through contributions such as teaching, advocacy, organizing and preserving important repertoires.
- (i) Contributions to living cultural heritage.
- (j) Active engagement in preserving the folk and traditional arts.
- (k) Increase in opportunities for public visibility of traditional arts and artists through the nominee’s efforts.

VII. CHECKLIST

Did you include the following: *Please refer to pages 1 and 2, Section III, Subsection D for detailed information.*

- 1. **Nomination Statement/ Letter**
- 2. **Work Samples**
- 3. **Recommendation / Support Letters** (Maximum of five – **MUST** include at least one (1) recommendation letter from a master in the relevant discipline)
- 4. **Additional Information**
 - A resume or short biography that outlines a career of the nominee(s); and includes the number of years the nominee has been practicing, teaching and advocating their art form, nominee's mailing address, home address, email address and contact numbers; work, home and cell phone.
 - A list of major public appearances or exhibitions by the nominee(s); and
 - The titles of published works, if any.