



Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” For Heritage Arts Nomination Packet - 2024

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 Heritage Arts. 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 traditional artists. 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 artistic practices, have greatly benefited their artistic tradition; and whose efforts have significantly increased opportunities for and public visibility of traditional practices and heritage arts.

HERITAGE ARTS

Heritage arts refer to those aspects of learned behavior (culture) that are transferred through word of mouth and/or by following an example set within CHamoru cultural practices. Heritage arts are learned from family or community members and passed along through generations, with each artist remaining true to time-honored methods or techniques, yet free to add personal creativity to the process. These artists are highly trained, and it is the manner of their training and passing on their practice that earns them the designation of Guam Master.

CHamoru heritage arts are artistic expressions that can be traced back through the rich history and culture of the people of Guam and the Mariana Islands. They are reminders of values such as *Ageftao* (to be giving) and *Afamaolek* (to make things good). They reflect connections to nature, often using natural resources of the Mariana Islands. CHamoru heritage arts express meanings and ideas inspired by CHamoru culture seamlessly connecting heritage and traditional culture to the present, while also advancing CHamoru art within the global art scene.

Heritage Arts ARE:

1. Living traditional practices and knowledge passed down over time and through space. Since most heritage arts are passed down through generations, CHamoru heritage arts are closely connected to CHamoru history, culture, and values.
2. Inspired by life in the Mariana Islands.
3. Learned informally by word of mouth, observation, and/or imitation.
4. Represent a traditional CHamoru practice of art while still capable of expressing ideas from dynamic cultural shifts.
5. Usually anonymous in origin.

Heritage Arts are NOT:

1. Learned primarily through classes, books, social media, or magazines.
2. Kept by an individual who avoids passing them down.

II. ELIGIBILITY

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

Individuals or groups who meet the eligibility requirements may be nominated for the award by the submission of a nomination packet as described in Section IV of this document. In general, recognized Masters nominate individuals for the award within their artistic discipline. However, should a particular discipline not have a recognized Master, an individual may still be nominated if they demonstrate a record of 20+ years of continuing artistic accomplishment in their art form, and actively participate as a practitioner or teacher.

Nominees must represent the CHamoru cultural values of *U Gairespetu* (to have respect), *U Gaikonsensia* (to have a conscience), and *U Adahi* (to take care and look out for others) and be of upstanding moral character.

III. HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

- A. A recognized Master of the discipline for which the individual or group is being nominated should be the primary nominator.
- B. Masters may submit one or more nomination(s) in each round of the Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” for Heritage Arts.
- C. No one may nominate him/herself unless there is no recognized master.
- D. Each nomination should have a separate nomination package.
- E. A complete package should not exceed 20 pages in length. Excess pages will be removed and not reviewed.
- F. Support material in the nomination package shall become the property of CAHA and will not be returned unless a nominee does not receive the Master designation and requests the materials back. Please do not send originals or the only existing copy.
- G. Posthumous nominations will not be considered.

IV. NOMINATION PACKETS

Nomination packets must include the following:

A. 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, especially considering teaching, advocacy and perpetuation, and explain why this individual or group deserves recognition.

B. Recommendation/Support Letters

Five (5) letters of recommendation or letters of support that demonstrate expert and/or community support of the nomination.

C. Work Samples

Work samples should include recent, concise, and high-quality examples of the nominee’s work. This may include 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.

Please limit support materials to no more than 20 items. Use only binder clips, paper clips and rubber bands to fasten your material. Do not bind or staple material.

1. Audio Samples: Submit no more than five (5) selections, one copy each OR a single CD, USB or Thumb Drive containing all 5 audio selections. Each selection should not exceed five minutes.
2. Digital images: Submit no more than 20 digital images, one copy each OR a single DVD, CD, USB or Thumb Drive containing all 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.
3. Video Samples: Submit no more than three (3) selections, one copy each OR a single DVD, USB or Thumb Drive containing all 3 video samples. Each selection should not exceed five minutes.
4. Publications and catalogues: Submit no more than three (3) publications, one copy each OR a single CD, USB or Thumb Drive containing all 3 selections.

D. Work Sample Index

All materials must be labeled with the name of the nominee and the nominator’s name. Provide the information below as relevant to the nomination:

- Each sample should have a letter designation. Start with “A.” List your samples in the order in which you want them reviewed (e.g., A for the first sample, B for the second, C for the third, etc.).
- Make sure that the letter on the Work Sample Index corresponds to the letter on the sample work itself. Each different USB/ thumb drive, CD, DVD-R, DVD-ROM, etc., should be considered

one work sample. For digital images on a CD, each set (not each image) should be considered one sample. The works sample index should include a script that identifies each image separately.

- Work samples should be presented in a usable or readable format. For example, CD (audio), CD (data), DVD-R, DVD-ROM, printed material, as well as static images (e.g., pictures) are acceptable.
- Identification of the artist or artist’s work featured should be as detailed as possible (e.g., CHamoru gentleman wearing brown *såde’* standing in front of a traditional CHamoru hut).
- Include a Title or Description of the work or activity.
- Include any special instructions for reviewing the sample, and, where relevant, specific selections on that sample. Include, as relevant:
 - The relevant track or chapter numbers, in priority order.
 - Real elapse time or cue information indicating the start of different selections, in priority order. Note your first cue as 0:00. If your second selection starts five minutes later, note the start of that as 5:00, etc.
 - Samples should be cued to the segment to be reviewed.
 - Any other information necessary to guide reviewers easily to the selections that you want.

E. Additional Information

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

1. 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 apprenticing, practicing, teaching and advocating their art form.
 2. Nominee’s Mailing Address
 3. Nominee’s Home Address
 4. Nominee’s Contact Phone Numbers: Work, home and cell phone number
 5. Nominee’s Email Address
2. List of major public appearances, publications, or exhibitions by the nominee(s) OR testimony regarding the nominee’s display and sharing of art;
3. Titles of published works, if any.

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., Friday, August 30, 2024.**

B. Nomination packets **must be submitted directly to** the Offices of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities located at DNA Building, Ste. 202, 238 Archbishop Flores Street in Hagåtña to the Attention of the Director. **No mailed or email submissions will be accepted.**

VI. REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS

Complete nomination packets submitted to the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities by the deadline are reviewed by an advisory panel of heritage arts experts to verify authenticity and merit and to narrow the pool of nominees. Advisory Panel recommendations are forwarded to the CAHA Board of Directors to determine the final recipients of the Guam Masters Award – “Guam National Treasure” based on the following selection criteria:

- (a) Exemplary and active practice of a heritage art form.
- (b) Apprenticeship, consummate skill and longevity in the promotion and perpetuation of a heritage art form.
- (c) Contributions to the heritage 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 heritage arts.
- (k) Increase in opportunities for public visibility of traditional arts and artists through the nominee’s efforts.

The Review Process comprises the following:

1. Nominations are open on May 30, 2024, and will close on August 30, 2024.
2. Nominations are received at the Guam CAHA offices, and time-stamped as received.

3. Nomination packets are reviewed by CAHA staff only to ensure completeness. Should any packet be incomplete, it will not move to the next phase of review. Nominators will be notified if their packet is incomplete.
4. Packets are forwarded to an “Advisory Panel” comprised of the following members:
 - a. Representative of the Department of CHamoru Affairs or the *Kumision I Fino CHamoru Yan I Fina'nâguen I Historia Yan I Lina'la' I Taotao Tâno* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam)
 - b. Representative of the Mayors Council of Guam
 - c. Representative of the University of Guam – CHamoru Studies, appointed by the University of Guam President
 - d. Cultural Practitioner
 - e. Master in respective discipline, if available.
5. Within 45 days from the close of the submittal date, the Panel Review Committee will determine four (4) nominees worthy of recognition as a Master.
6. The list of 4 nominees will be submitted to the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Board of Directors for approval and ratification at their Board Meeting.
7. The CAHA Board will certify that the nomination process was followed and that the nominee meets the criteria described.
8. Announcement and Recognition of the nominees will be made during Arts and Humanities month in October 2024.

VII. CHECKLIST

Did you include the following?

(**Please refer to pages Section IV for detailed information.)

	1. Nomination Statement/Letter
	2. Recommendation / Support Letters (Maximum of five)
	3. Work Samples (Maximum of twenty items)
	4. Work Sample Index <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter designation. • Format, e.g., CD (audio), CD (data), DVD-R, DVD-ROM, USB, Thumb Drive or printed material. Static images (e.g., pictures) are acceptable. • Identification of the artist or artist’s work featured • Title or Description of the work or activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any special instructions for reviewing the sample, and, where relevant, specific selections on that sample.
	5. Additional Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resume or short biography that outlines a career of the nominee(s), and includes the number of years the nominee has been apprenticing, teaching and advocating their art form, nominee’s mailing address, home address, e-mail 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.