2016 TORONTO ARTS FOUNDATION AWARDS DESCRIPTIONS & ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Award Descriptions

Arts for Youth Award – The Arts for Youth Award is a $15,000 cash prize established in 2007 by Martha Burns, Jim Fleck and Sandra and Jim Pitblado. The award celebrates an individual, collective or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging Toronto's youth through the arts and artistic creation. The winner of the Award will receive a $15,000 cash prize, with each finalist receiving $2,000 each.

The Toronto Arts and Business Award – The 2015 Toronto Arts and Business Award will celebrate a local business that has sponsored the arts for the first time and made an important contribution to the arts in Toronto through innovative, transformative and entrepreneurial partnerships. Established in 2006, this award is presented in partnership with Toronto Arts Foundation, Business for the Arts and The Toronto Star.

Emerging Artist Award – The Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award is a $10,000 cash prize, with finalists receiving $1,000. The award celebrates the accomplishments and future potential of an emerging Toronto artist working in any discipline. Established in 2006, the award is generously sponsored by Susan Crocker and John Hunkin to support the development or completion of new work. The award given to finalist honourees was established in 2014 through the generous donation of the Bulmash-Siegel Fund. (Eligibility details listed below).

The Roy Thomson Hall Award of Recognition - The Roy Thomson Hall Award of Recognition is a $10,000 cash prize presented to an individual, ensemble or organization to recognize creative, performing, administrative, volunteer or philanthropic contributions to Toronto's musical life. This award was established by the Volunteer Committee of Roy Thomson Hall in 1984 to recognize and thank the community that supported the conception, building and establishment of the new concert hall. Toronto Arts Foundation has managed the award since 2002 on behalf of the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall.

The William Kilbourn Award for the Celebration of Toronto's Cultural Life - The William Kilbourn Award for the Celebration of Toronto's Cultural Life is a $5,000 cash prize presented to an individual performer, teacher, administrator or creator in any arts discipline, including architecture and design, whose work is a celebration of life through the arts in Toronto. Established in 1996, this award is funded through an endowment made possible by private donors who wished to celebrate and remember the life of William Kilbourn who died in 1995. Kilbourn was a writer and teacher who spent seven years as a member of Toronto City Council, and served as Toronto Arts Council president from 1982 to 1984.

Basic Eligibility Requirements

Individuals:

- must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, who have demonstrated an ongoing association with Toronto and who have contributed significantly to the arts and culture of Toronto
- must be living at time of selection
- may not nominate him/herself for the award and may only receive the award once (this does not preclude a recipient from being considered for a different Toronto Arts Foundation award in the future)
- are not eligible to nominate or receive Toronto Arts Foundation awards while serving as board, co-chairs or committee members and staff of Toronto Arts Foundation or Toronto Arts Council.

Organizations and Collectives:

- must be headquartered in Toronto and have a significant portion of its activity taking place in the city and have contributed significantly to the arts and culture of Toronto.
- are only eligible to receive an award once (this does not preclude a recipient from being considered for a different Toronto Arts Foundation award in the future)

Emerging Artist Award:

* To be eligible for the Emerging Artist Award, candidates must be 35 years in age, or younger, and have completed basic training (not necessarily at a formal educational institution) in their discipline. Undergraduate & College students are not eligible to apply.

Toronto Arts and Business Award:

- open to businesses of any size operating in Toronto
- businesses, or a business foundation supported by corporate funds, sponsoring the arts for the first time may be nominated.
- may only receive this award once
- must be nominated by a representative of a Toronto based arts organization

No person or organization may be selected for more than one award within any given year.

Award Selection Process

A jury of up to 10 members will review candidate profiles and make a recipient recommendation for each award to Toronto Arts Foundation's Board of Directors, which will make final determinations. Jury members must have recognized expertise, prestige, credibility and experience along with a sense of history and perspective. Each jury is comprised of participants who are practitioners of the arts, organizers, programmers, producers, curators, critics, commentators and lay specialists. Toronto Arts Foundation will endeavor to ensure that the majority of jury members are arts and culture professionals. Nominations through this process are received from the public.

Policies and Procedures

Toronto Arts Foundation Awards are designed to heighten public awareness of arts and artists in Toronto by recognizing artistic excellence and achievement. Toronto Arts Foundation presents its awards annually at a gala ceremony. Each award honours prominent practitioners, supporters and organizers whose work has made a major contribution to the artistic and cultural life of Toronto. These awards are presented in recognition of a body of creative accomplishment, rather than for specific works or achievements.

Appointment of Jurors

A jury of up to 10 members will review candidate profiles and make a recipient recommendation for each award to Toronto Arts Foundation's Board of Directors, which will make final determinations. Jury members must have recognized expertise, prestige, credibility and experience along with a sense of history and perspective. Each jury is comprised of participants who are practitioners of the arts, organizers, programmers, producers, curators, critics, commentators and lay specialists. Toronto Arts Foundation will endeavour to ensure that the majority of jury members are arts and culture professionals. Nominations through this process are received from the public.

Jury members are determined by extensive canvassing and consultation of arts and culture representatives, the general public and Toronto Arts Foundation board of directors and stakeholders. The final list of jurors is made public in the form of a press release distributed to media, Council and Foundation stakeholders and arts service organizations. This information will be distributed in advance of commencement of the adjudication process.

Details of Nomination and Selection Process

Members of the arts community and general public are invited to submit names of individuals to be considered by the jury. Names must be submitted in writing with a biography and nomination rationale. Where appropriate, nominations may be illustrated by accompanying support material in the form of visual or text-based attachments. Jury members are precluded from participating in the nominating process.

In order to expedite adjudication, Toronto Arts Foundation and Toronto Arts Council staff will pre-evaluate award nominations and endeavour to produce a vetted long-list of candidates, to ensure the nominations are complete and eligible, for jury review and deliberations. Applications without support material will not be brought forward to the jury. The jury will select a shortlist and recipient for each award. This shortlist will be made public in advance of the official awards presentation with the recipient announced the day of the event.

The jury will be informed of the Toronto Arts Foundation's criteria and the unique aspects of each award and its' relationship to the Foundation's vision 'Creative City: Block by Block'. In addition to specific requirements for each award, deliberations will be guided by the following general assessment criteria: artistic strength and achievement of the candidate; strength of the candidate's artistic goals and objectives; contribution of the candidate to the development of arts and culture in Toronto; and the candidate's overall public impact including community engagement and animation.

The jury endeavors to reach unanimous decisions in its selection process. In the event that unanimity is not achieved, a decision may be reached by majority vote. All jury deliberations are strictly confidential and final results of the adjudication process are confidential until made public at the official awards presentation event.

All facets of the jury process are managed by Toronto Arts Foundation with support from the Toronto Arts Council.

Conflict of Interest

It is assumed that all persons chosen as jurors are of unimpeachable integrity, and strive to uphold this standard. Therefore, if in the course of a jury's deliberations, any juror becomes faced with a conflict of interest, that person is expected to declare such conflict and withdraw from the selection/voting process.

A conflict of interest refers to a situation in which private interests or personal considerations may affect a jury member's judgment in acting in the best interest of the awards adjudication process.

Specifically, a conflict of interest exists where a jury member: has a financial interest in the success or failure of a candidate; has a personal interest in a specific candidate other than what is normally expected of an interested member of the arts community; or has any other reason which makes him/her unable to evaluate the candidate objectively.

Toronto Arts Foundation reserves the right to amend these Policies and Procedures, without notice to any party.

Remuneration

Individuals receive an honorarium for sitting on the awards jury and one complementary ticket to the official awards presentation event.