Michigan Traditional Arts Program

HERITAGE AWARDS

The Michigan Heritage Awards are presented each year to honor master Michigan tradition-bearers who have dedicated themselves to continuing the folk traditions of their families or communities through practice and teaching. Awards are also presented to individuals who are recognized as outstanding community leaders in the maintenance, documentation, or presentation of traditional arts. A community can be described as a group of people who share the same ethnic or tribal heritage, language, occupation, religion, cultural identity, geographic area, or traditional art form. Awards are made in two categories: arts (performance or material culture) and community leadership. Nominations are reviewed and awardees selected by an invited panel of subject specialists. The Michigan Heritage Awards is an activity of the Michigan Traditional Arts Program (a partnership of the Michigan State University Museum and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs).

Please include the following with your nomination:

[ ] portrait-style photograph of the nominee
[ ] samples of nominee’s work (objects, photograph(s), audio, video)
   Note: links to YouTube, Vimeo, Bandcamp, Soundcloud, or other video/audio hosting sites are accepted. Please include descriptions and timestamps where necessary.
[ ] three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the nominee’s work that reflect different perspectives.

Use additional pages or attached documents/materials if necessary. All of the above must be received by December 1st for the nomination to be considered.

Information about the nominee

Name __________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code ____________________________________________

Telephone(s) ______________________ E-mail: ______________________

Date and Place of Birth __________________________________________

Nominee’s principal ethnic group or tribal membership (if applicable)

______________________________________________________________

Family's country or countries of origin, and how long family has been in U.S. (if applicable)

______________________________________________________________

History of nominee’s occupations

______________________________________________________________

Primary place(s) of residence

______________________________________________________________
Nominee’s work

Category of Nomination: [ ] Performance [ ] Material Culture

Primary traditional art form (in 5 words or fewer):
________________________________________________________________________

How did the nominee learn this traditional art form (from relatives, neighbors, classroom, books)? At what age did they first learn?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

How has the nominee continued to engage in this traditional art form?
________________________________________________________________________

What makes this person especially outstanding when compared to others who practice the same traditional art form?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Who else in the artist’s community or family practices this traditional art form? What are their names?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

To whom has the nominee taught this traditional art form? Are they still practicing?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What contributions has the nominee made to the community?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Other related skills and interests:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

MATERIAL CULTURE (fill out only if nominee is a visual artist)

Describe the process of creating this work (materials, tools, method, etc.):
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Is the work sold, given away, kept in the family, etc.?

Nomination submitted by:

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code __________________________________________________

Telephone(s) ________________ Email ________________________________

Relationship to person nominated

____________________________________________________________________

Nominations must be submitted each year by December 1st.

Send this nomination form and the three letters of support, photo, and audio/video recordings or samples of the nominee’s work to:

Michigan Heritage Awards
409 West Circle Drive
Michigan State University Museum
East Lansing, MI 48824

Or submit digitally:
Email completed nominations and support materials to:
Msum.mtap@gmail.com

For more information, call (517) 353-5526 or (517) 355-2370 or email us at msum.mtap@gmail.com.

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