sport, arts & culture
Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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LIST OF AWARDS

The National Arts & Culture Awards comprise of seven (7) categories and thirty Awards (25)

1. The Heritage Site Category (x3 Awards)
2. The Visual Arts & Craft Category (x4 Awards)
3. The Literary Works Category (x4 Awards)
4. The Audio Visual & Interactive Media Category (x6 Awards)
5. The Design & Creative Services (x4 Awards)
6. The Performing Arts Category (x6 Awards)
7. The Ministry (Discretionary Category) (x3 Awards)

LIST OF AWARDS PER CATEGORIES	
HERITAGE SITE	1. OUTSTANDING MUSEUM AWARDS 2. OUTSTANDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SITE AWARDS 3. OUTSTANDING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AWARDS
VISUAL ARTS & CRAFTS	1. OUTSTANDING VISUAL ARTIST AWARDS 2. OUTSTANDING CURATOR AWARDS 3. OUTSTANDING CRAFTER AWARDS 4. OUTSTANDING ART GALLERY AWARDS
LITERARY WORKS	1. OUTSTANDING CHILDREN'S FICTION BOOK 2. OUTSTANDING BOOK, FICTION AWARDS 3. OUTSTANDING BOOK, NON-FICTION AWARDS 4. OUTSTANDING PUBLISHER AWARDS: PUBLISHERS

PLEASE ENSURE TO THOROUGHLY READ ELIGIBILITY CRITRIA AND REQUIRED SUPPORTING MATERIAL. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CRITERIA WILL LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION

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NATIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS

LIST OF AWARDS PER CATEGORIES	
AUDIO VISUAL & INTERACTIVE MEDIA	1. OUTSTANDING FILM FICTION AWARDS 2. OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTARY FILM OR TV SERIES AWARDS 3. OUTSTANDING TV DRAMA AWARDS 4. OUTSTANDING ACTOR TV AND FILM AWARDS 5. OUTSTANDING ANIMATION AWARDS 6. OUTSTANDING GAMING AWARDS
DESIGN & CREATIVE SERVICES	1. OUTSTANDING FASHION AND TEXTILE DESIGNER AWARDS 2. OUTSTANDING GRAPHIC & MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER AWARDS 3. OUTSTANDING PRODUCT AWARDS 4. OUTSTANDING ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGNER AWARDS
PERFORMING ARTS CATEGORY	1. OUTSTANDING THEATRE PRODUCTION AWARDS 2. OUTSTANDING DANCE PRODUCTION AWARDS 3. OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN AWARD 4. OUTSTANDING ACTOR IN THEATRE AWARDS 5. OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS - POET 6. OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS - COMEDIAN
MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS (DISCRETIONARY AWARDS)	1. INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ARTIST/GROUP AWARDS 2. ARTIST WITH DISABILITY AWARDS 3. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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DEFINITION OF AWARDS

THE HERITAGE SITE CATEGORY	
1.Oustanding Museum Awards	Awarded to a South African museum rendering outstanding service to society, local and national community through researching, conserving, and exhibiting tangible and intangible heritage and making this accessible and inclusive to a diverse audience.
2.Outstanding Archaeological & Historical site Awards	Awarded to a South African archaeological and historical site that excels in the preservation of evidence of past/ancient cultural activity and its contribution to research and the interpretation of tangible and intangible heritage.
3.Outstanding Cultural Landscape Awards	Awarded to a South African cultural landscape, space or area that reflects and represents cultural identity excellently and significantly contributes to our current understanding and use of spaces of culture in South.
THE VISUAL ARTS & CRAFT CATEGORY	
1.Outstanding Visual Artist Awards	Awarded to a South African contemporary visual artist of substantial standing, has held at least 5 annual exhibitions or has been part thereof, has national and/or international recognition, whose work showcases excellent technical experimentation, craftsmanship, pushes boundaries, has aspects of new media technology and conceptual accomplishment significant to the South African context. For outstanding achievement in the overall aspects of a visual artists, this may include photography, painting, sculpture, printmaking, murals, graphic art, film and ceramics. The work should reflect a level of artistic achievement that is both distinguished and meaningful within the South African context.
2.Outstanding Curator Awards	Awarded to South African influential curators who have made the best attempt to reflect the state of the country/world, to pre-empt new directions in the art sector, to give a voice to a diverse scope of artists, and to play a part in critically addressing the social and political realities of South Africa and the wider world, and contributes meaningfully to cultural dialogue. The exhibition should have anticipated emerging directions within the art sector, amplified a diverse range of artistic voices and perspectives, and challenged audiences to think more deeply about the issues, ideas, and conditions defining our time.
3.Outstanding Crafter Awards	Awarded to a South African craft artist who has consistently produced and exhibited outstanding craft object d'art, whether traditional, contemporary, or a

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	blend of both. The recipient demonstrates exceptional craftsmanship, technical expertise, creativity, and mastery of materials and techniques, creating works that are both visually compelling and functional. Eligible candidates must have a sustained exhibition record, having held or participated in at least five annual exhibitions. The award also recognises national and/or international achievements and acknowledges significant contributions to advancing, promoting, and elevating South African craft. Categories of craft include pottery, beadwork, woodwork, basket weaving, wood carving, sculpting with clay, glass blowing, and stained glass. wood, etc.), product type (home ware, giftware, Jewellery accessories etc.), technique (beading, weaving, carving,) design style (traditional, contemporary, experimental etc.) or production type.
4.Outstanding Art Gallery Awards	Awarded to a South African art gallery that has consistently delivered impactful exhibitions, maintained a strong and focused curatorial vision, and made a significant contribution to the career development of artists. The gallery's influence should extend beyond South Africa, demonstrating meaningful global reach and recognition. Applicants must provide clear evidence of these achievements, including but not limited to: critical press reviews, collector acquisitions, curatorial collaborations, participation in art fairs, market success, and institutional recognition.
THE LITERARY WORKS CATEGORY	
1. Outstanding Children's Fiction Book Award	Awarded to South African Children's fiction book that is creative and imaginative and must be written and published by a South African author or publisher. It can be presented in any of the 11 South African languages.
2. Outstanding Book, Fiction Award	This is awarded to any book that is Fiction (Poetry, or Young People's Literature are eligible) and must be written and published by a South African author or publisher. It can be presented in any of the 11 South African languages.
3. Outstanding Book, Non-Fiction Award	This is awarded to any book that is Nonfiction (Poetry, or Young People's Literature are eligible) and must be written and published by a South African author or publisher. It can be presented in any of the 11 South African languages.
4. Outstanding Publisher Award	This is to any independent publishers, traditional publishers, university presses, self-publishers and independent authors throughout South Africa, as well as authors who publish books in all 11 South African languages.
THE AUDIO VISUAL & INTERACTIVE MEDIA CATEGORY	

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1. Outstanding Film Fiction Awards	Awarded to the South African producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the overall realization, production, and success of a full-length film or short film with a running time of a minimum of 60 minutes (full - length) and or a duration of no more than 40 minutes (Short-length) across fiction- nonfiction and animation.
2. Outstanding Documentary Film/TV series Awards	This is awarded to a South African documentary film or TV series that demonstrates exceptional storytelling, research and impact.
3. Outstanding TV Drama Awards	Awarded to the South African producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the overall realization, production, and success of a serialized drama programme, episodic and daily show and a scripted programme aimed at light entertainment. Includes: Mini-Series, Full Length drama series, Soaps, Telenovela's and Comedy
4. Outstanding Actor-TV & Film Awards	Awarded to a South African actor (Male/Female) in television or film, who delivers an exceptional performance that captivates, moves and resonates with the audience.
5. Outstanding Animation Awards	Awarded to a South African director and / or producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the realization, production and overall success of an animated film, or programme including traditional 2D, 3D, clay animation, or any other form of animation, done shooting frame by frame, created entirely in the digital domain on computer, or a combination of techniques to create an animated character and/or performance.
6. Outstanding Gaming Awards	Awarded to a South African electronic game or interactive entertainment software that is played on various gaming platforms, including consoles (e.g., PlayStation, Xbox), personal computers (PC), mobile devices (smartphones and tablets), and other gaming devices.
THE PERFORMING ARTS CATEGORY	
1. Outstanding Theatre Production Awards	Awarded to South African "Best production of a play". For outstanding achievement in the overall aspects of the production.
2. Outstanding Dance Production Awards	Awarded to South African "Best Production: Traditional African Dance, Contemporary Dance, Ballet and IsiPantsula etc. For outstanding achievement in the overall aspects of a dance productions, this may include traditional dance production e.g. indlamu, contemporary dance, isiPantsula, ballet etc.) key elements of the production must include storytelling through dance/ensemble with a clearly articulated choreography.

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3. Outstanding Musician Awards	Awarded to South African "Best Solo Musician". For outstanding achievement as a solo performer. With a body of work that includes an officially released single or album. The single or album must be available for purchase (Online or Registered music outlets). Must be registered with legislated South African Music Rights Organisations.
4. Outstanding Actor in Theatre Awards	Awarded to South African "Best leading actor in a play (Male or Female) for outstanding achievement as an actor in a theatre play portraying a leading role on the opening night.
5. Outstanding Performance Awards-Poet	Awarded to South African "Best performance in a Solo or an ensemble poetry show. For outstanding achievement in the overall presentation of the poetry show. The content must be authentic and original and should not be a presentation of somebody else work.
6. Outstanding Performance Awards-Comedy	Awarded to South African Best performance in a solo stand-up Comedy show for outstanding achievement in the overall presentation of the stand-up comedy show. The content must be authentic and original and should not be a presentation of somebody else work. To be considered the solo performer present a duration of one hour or more.
THE DESIGN & CREATIVE SERVICES CATEGORY	
1. Outstanding Fashion & Textile designer Awards	This is awarded to South African Fashion Designs that are original, innovative, aesthetic as well as functional and ergonomic. They take their aesthetic roots from African design, yet compete equally on international stages.
2. Outstanding Graphic & Multimedia designer Awards	This is awarded to South African graphic designers who have made a recognizable contribution to South African graphic design through exemplary work, service to the country and communities, and/or the enablement of young up-and-coming designers entering the industry.
3. Outstanding Product Awards	This is awarded to South African member of a creative team for the most effective creation of a physical atmosphere and visual look that conveys the story and its characters. This includes set design, choice of location, props, textures, and colors. Production designers and Art Directors will be considered within this category.
4. Outstanding Architecture and Interior designer Awards	This is awarded to South African architect/architects firm/architects studio with exceptional interior design, who has made a recognizable contribution to the South African built environment through exemplary work, service to the country, communities they live and work in, environmental rehabilitation, and sustainable architectural solutions. The Award further recognizes

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	originality, innovation, and architectural solutions that are best in its class.

ENTRY GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBILITY: GENERAL

- **The NACA's** are open to all legal South African citizens and official permanent residents of the Republic of South Africa in accordance with the South African Citizenship Act, 1995.
- **The NACA's** are open to all companies registered in accordance with the laws of the Republic of South Africa, whose majority shareholding is held by South African citizens.
- Content and works of art must be submitted for consideration to be eligible for the **NACA's**. Only South African content and works of art will be considered for the **NACA's**. Content and works of art will be eligible based on the eligibility date/ period of 1 April 2025 till 31 March 2026.
- The NACA Nominees need to abide by the pillars in the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics, (2009). Each nominee is required to have at least one (1) of the three (3) requirements. Namely:
    - Education & Training
    - Archiving & Preserving
    - Equipment & Supporting Materials

In case of single category Awards, the primary Producer and or content creator must have South African permanent residency or South African citizenship, to qualify.

ELIGIBILITY: HERITAGE SITE CATEGORY

●Museums: All museums (including virtual museums), privately owned or public entities, that are not-for-profit, permanent institutions (building or web space, functioning as a museum for at least one year), in the service of society that research, collect, conserve, interpret and exhibit tangible and intangible heritage. They should be open to the public, accessible and inclusive, and foster diversity and sustainability.

●Archaeological & Historical Sites: All archaeological and historical sites (or a group of physical sites), privately owned or public entities, in which evidence of past activity is preserved (either prehistoric or historic or contemporary). The site should be in the service of society and should contribute to research and the interpretation of tangible and intangible heritage. At least some areas should be open and accessible to the public.

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●Cultural Landscapes: All cultural landscapes that are landscapes or spaces that embody associations and uses that reflect cultural identity over a period of time. They can be landscapes or spaces that are still in use and functional for significant cultural activities, living traditions, and events. All currently functioning areas, institutions that can be defined as cultural landscapes, are eligible for nomination.

CRITERIA

- Education & Training: The nominated sites or historic places should have the capacity to educate and train their personnel to undertake all their duties with the utmost diligence; to educate the population of South Africa about their own heritage resources (site), and to share and pass on the knowledge they have acquired about the heritage site or historic places this can take the form of innovative displays, knowledgeable guides, outreach programmes and/or literature about the displays or site The nominated sites or historic places should be accessible to all including the disabled community. Does the museum or heritage site have adequate signage and information for visitors (online, brochures etc)? Are exhibitions relevant to broad sections of the population, including those with disabilities? Is information presented in more than one official language?
- Archiving & Preserving: The nominated sites or historic places should practice the best-known procedures according to international standards to conserve the heritage or historic site, preserve the heritage collections/objects from these sites, as well as those curated at museums; and archive all records of these heritage resources. Does the museum have a clear curatorial vision that guides acquisitions, research and exhibitions? Does the museum or historical site have an active research programme, including staff who publish peer reviewed research?
- Equipment & Supporting Materials: The nominated museums, heritage sites or historic places should have the necessary equipment and supporting materials to fulfil the above two criteria

NB: The museums, heritage sites or historic places will be ineligible to be nominated if they fail to meet any of the requirement(s) above.

ELIGIBILITY: THE VISUAL ARTS & CRAFT CATEGORY

- All visual art and craft productions submitted under the Visual Art and Craft category by curators, visual artists and crafters- must have been produced within the Republic of South Africa between 1 April 2025- 31 March 2026. (compulsory)

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- Productions submitted must have been produced in relation to local and/or international exhibitions, fairs, biennials, and festivals of national and international significance. (Compulsory)
- Productions must have been publicly exhibited and supported by documentation such as artist or curatorial statement, media coverage, scholarly articles, catalogues, monographs and/or published books. (Compulsory)
- Evidence of activity to be attached as supporting material e.g. exhibition invitations, installation images, press coverage, or reviews. (Compulsory)
- Where multiple iterations of an exhibition (e.g. touring exhibition) are presented, the version that achieved the widest reach and critical acclaim during the eligibility period should be submitted.
- Entries must be accompanied by a letter from the exhibitor confirming the exhibition dates. (Compulsory)
- Intellectual property and/or ownership of the production must be clearly defined. If the production includes contributions from other artists or collaborators, their roles and level of involvement must be explicitly stated and supported by a written agreement. **Letter confirming ownership of work to be attached (Compulsory)**
- If an artwork is inspired by or incorporates photography or images created or sourced from others, this must be clearly declared and all copyright issues must be properly/legally resolved (e.g. visual art that relies on another's photography, or image usage releases) (Compulsory)
- AI Generated productions will not be eligible.
- Consideration to the commercial success [SM1] of the production such as sales or other relevant metrics must be made.
- Cultural Impact and Community Engagement: Visual art and Craft productions that have had a meaningful cultural contribution, sparked critical dialogue, raised awareness on important social issues, or positively influenced the creative sector and broader society may be considered for qualification.
- Outstanding gallery: A gallery that has consistently presented impactful exhibitions, significantly contributed to the career development of artists, and whose influence is felt globally, must provide clear evidence of these achievements: e.g press reviews, collector acquisition, curatorial collaborations, presentation at art fairs, market and institutional recognition.

ELIGIBILITY FOR LITERARY WORKS CATEGORY

Submission Requirements: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's Books

- The full text of the book must be submitted in pdf format. Partial texts will be ineligible
- If the book contains illustrations or graphics of any kind, these must be included in the submission
- The book must be published for the first time between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026
- A valid ISBN number must be included as part of the submission process.
- The author must be a South African citizen
- Authors may make their own submission to the Awards for consideration

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NB!! All books submitted must have an ISBN number, ensure to include ISBN nr on the application portal.

Outstanding Book Award: Children's Fiction

- The Best Book Award in this sub-category is awarded to any independent publishers, university presses, self-publishers and independent authors throughout South Africa. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.
- The Best Book Award is awarded to any book that is creative and imaginative fiction and must be written and published by a South African.
- The book must have been published for the first time between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026. A valid ISBN number must be included as part of the submission process.
- The book should meet the highest standard in terms of grammar, spelling, copy editing, the structure of thought and ideas, and style.
- An Award book should also be more significant compared to the other books in its category. Significance includes insightfulness, unique and original contribution to its field of study or interest and reader impact.
- The categories are open to books in all 11 South African Languages.

Outstanding Book Award: Fiction

- The Best Book Award in this sub-category is awarded to any independent publishers, university presses, self-publishers and independent authors throughout South Africa. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.
- The Best Book Award is awarded to any book that is Fiction (Poetry, or Young People's Literature are eligible) and must be written and published by a South African.
- The book must have been published for the first time between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026. A valid ISBN number must be included as part of the submission process.
- The book should meet the highest standard in terms of grammar, spelling, copy editing, the structure of thought and ideas, and style.
- An awarded book should also be more significant compared to the other books in its category. Significance includes insightfulness, unique and original contribution to its field of study or interest and reader impact.
- The categories are open to books in all 11 South African Languages.

Outstanding Book Awards: Non-Fiction

- The Best Book Awards in this sub-category is awarded to any independent publishers, university presses, self-publishers and independent authors throughout South Africa. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.
- The Best Book Awards is awarded to any book that is Nonfiction (Poetry, or Young People's Literature are eligible) and must be written and published by a South African. (Compulsory)
- The book must have been published for the first time between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026 A valid ISBN number must be included as part of the submission process.

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- The book should meet the highest standard in terms of grammar, spelling, copy editing, the structure of thought and ideas, and style.
- An awarded book should also be more significant compared to the other books in its category. Significance includes insightfulness, unique and original contribution to its field of study or interest and reader impact.
- The categories are open to books in all 11 South African Languages.

Outstanding Publisher Awards

●The Best Publisher is Awarded to any independent publishers, traditional publishers, university presses, self-publishers and independent authors throughout South Africa, as well as authors who publish books in all 11 South African languages. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.

●The publishing house must have evidence of supporting indigenous languages and local authors

Submission Requirements: Publisher

● A PowerPoint or equivalent presentation of your publishing company, your personnel, your publications and industry achievements

● If a copy of your book is available at the National Library of South Africa please indicate this in your submission.

- 6 copies of all books to be considered to be sent to DSAC by 10 July 2026. **Address: 202 Madiba Street Pretoria 0001 ATT Ms Ntombizamambo Mkhize**

● Screenshots of book covers showing titles, authors and languages.

● The book/s must be published for the first time between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 20256

- Valid ISBN numbers for all books must be included as part of the submission process.

NB: Applicants will be ineligible to be nominated if they fail to meet any of the requirement(s) above

ELIGIBILITY: AUDIO VISUAL & INTERACTIVE MEDIA CATEGORY

Film, television and Animation

●In the case of a South African Co-production, all the Producers involved must consent/submit for the work to be eligible.

●All submissions in which intellectual property rights are jointly owned must be submitted with the full written consent of all joint rights holders concerned.

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●Official Co-productions shall only be eligible if they have been certified by the National Film and Video Foundation and can be eligible for the NACA category.

●Co-productions with Foreign Producers shall only be eligible if at least 50% of the copyright is held by a South African owned company. This clause is subject to review by the judging committee.

●Foreign talent and crew featured in or participating in a qualifying co- production submitted for consideration shall not be eligible for a NACA.

●All content must be submitted on an online submission platform.

●Next of kin may submit content or works of art on behalf of a deceased relative, provided that the deceased relative is the copyright owner of the submitted content or work of art. Proof of relation, proof of ownership or consent of copyrights owner and a death certificate is to accompany the submission.

●NB: all content of art must be submitted by the owner or permission must be given by the content owner.

Submission requirements

●Film: Full original film, with subtitles and the original and translated script if its content is non-English.

●Actor: Performer showreel which shows variety and range of the actor/actress. 3-6 mins per performer. For feature film performer submission, the full film should be submitted for performer consideration.

●NB: Performers may make their own submission into the Awards for consideration.

●Actors -Television or Series :1 full showreel inclusive of Lead actors/actresses from one show/production

●NB: Actor submissions should be released from content within the qualifying time.

●Drama: 3 full episodes to be submitted from each show for consideration. If not in English, subtitles are required, supported by an original script matching each submitted episode. Scripts not in English must be accompanied by a translated script.

●Non-Fictional Film or Programme: Full original film, with subtitles and the original and translated script if its content is non-English. Episodic content, 3 episodes to be submitted for consideration.

●Animation: Full original film, with subtitles and the original and translated script if its content is non-English. Episodic content, 3 episodes to be submitted for consideration.

Outstanding Gaming Awards

●Release Date: The game must have been released or made available to the public (festival and markets included) within a specific timeframe- 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026.

●Playable Platforms: The game must be available on certain platforms, such as PC, console, mobile, or VR

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●Local Content or Themes: Games that incorporate South African culture, history, or themes might receive special recognition.

●Originality and Creativity: The game may need to demonstrate a high degree of originality, creativity, and innovation.

●Commercial Success: The game that has achieved a specific level of commercial success, which could be measured by sales, downloads, or other relevant metrics.

●Cultural Impact: Games that have had a significant cultural impact, raised awareness of certain issues, or had a positive influence on the gaming industry or society might qualify.

●Age Rating: The game must meet specific appropriate age rating criteria to be considered for the Awards. Pornographic content will be disqualified.

●Technical Excellence: The game should demonstrate technical proficiency, including graphics, sound, gameplay mechanics, and other technical aspects.

●Accessibility and Inclusivity: Games that are accessible to a wide range of players and promote inclusiveness may be recognized.

●Community Engagement: Games with active and engaged player communities or that contribute positively to the gaming community may qualify.

NB: Applicants will be ineligible to be nominated if they fail to meet any of the requirement(s) above.

Theatrical and non-theatrical:

●Films must have been exhibited publicly to a paying audience in a commercial cinema in South Africa for a minimum of 7 consecutive days (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)

●It is the intention that the contents submitted for consideration should have been screened to the widest possible paying South African audience prior to the ceremony.

●Qualifying content should not be screened purely to qualify them for the NACA's.

●VOD platforms such as Netflix, Showmax, Hulu, and Amazon as well as the DSTV Box office shall be considered.

●Films which are filmed versions of theatre or other live performances shall not be eligible.

●Where multiple versions of a film (e.g. extended or reduced cuts) are released, the version which had the widest theatrical release within the eligibility period should be submitted.

TV - Broadcast/Streamers

●All South African television content submitted for consideration for a NACA must be produced and broadcast on a nationally- accessible television channel (e.g. SABC, ETV, DStv) in the Republic of South Africa between 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

●Television content can only be entered once in its lifespan except for a new season or a sequel as per eligibility dates. No re-runs will eligible.

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●The content exhibited via subscription-based streaming services (S-VOD, subscription video on demand) in South Africa (e.g Netflix, Showmax, Amazon) for the first time between 01 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 are eligible for entry.

Actor

Any actor can enter if it is for a lead role in a Film or TV Drama that has been produced and released in the qualifying period.

The script should accompany the entry alongside the full film or 3 episodes of a TV series.

Animation – Criteria

- There must be local artists and animators. In the event of co-production, only work created and produced by SA will be eligible.
- Entries submitted must be from productions that were released or aired in SA between 01 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.
- Must be for completed material – broadcast or released
- In event of Animation & Live footage – animation needs to be a minimum of 75%
- No AI generated animation will be considered at this stage
- The script must accompany the entry.

ELIGIBILITY: THE DESIGN & CREATIVE SERVICES CATEGORY

FASHION & TEXTILE DESIGNER

•The collection can be created by an individual or can be collaborative.

•Products could, for example, demonstrate a coherent design outcome from storyboarding, developing tech packs, and conceptualization to the final garment or range.

•Work must be original designs by the person or persons whose name/s appear/s in the “NOMINEE” section of the entry form found on the website.

•The submission should be well articulated with high-quality images of the work being submitted.

GRAPHIC & MULTIMEDIA DESIGNER

•Designs can be created by an individual, a creative team, or a collaborative.

•There is no limitation to the number of entries allowed per individual, company, or collaborative.

•There is no age limit.

•Relevant considerations for design submissions can, for example, focus on creativity, innovation, circularity, human-centeredness, and South African values and aesthetics.

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•Work must be original designs by the person or persons whose name/s appear/s

in the “NOMINEE” section of the entry form found on the website

•The submission should be well articulated with high-quality images of the work being submitted.

ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGNER

•This Awards is open to all firms and individuals in architecture whose buildings also embody outstanding interior design.

•Entries should show how they creatively transform mundane spaces into visually stunning and functional environments.

•Submissions should demonstrate a deep understanding of the latest trends in materials and technology whilst seamlessly integrating aesthetics and functionality.

•Designs can be created by an individual, a creative team, or a collaborative.

•There is no limitation to the number of entries allowed per individual, company, or collaborative.

•Entries are accepted from senior-level architecture students, young graduates and professionals.

•There is no age limit.

•Relevant considerations for submissions can, for example, focus on creativity, innovation, circularity, human-centeredness, and South African values and aesthetics.

•Work must be original designs by the person or persons whose name/s appear/sin the “NOMINEE” section of the entry form found on the website.

•The judging panel has the right to disqualify any entries that are deemed to not fit within the guidelines.

•The submission should be well articulated with high-quality images of the work being submitted.

PRODUCT DESIGN

•Designs can be created by an individual, a creative team, or a collaborative.

•There is no limitation to the number of entries allowed per individual, company, or collaborative.

•There is no age limit.

•Relevant considerations for design submissions can, for example, focus on creativity, innovation, circularity, human-centeredness, and South African values and aesthetics.

•Work must be original designs by the person or persons whose name/s appear/s

in the “NOMINEE” section of the entry form found on the website.

•The submission should be well articulated with high-quality images of the work being submitted.

PLEASE ENSURE TO THOROUGHLY READ ELIGIBILITY CRITRIA AND REQUIRED SUPPORTING MATERIAL. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CRITERIA WILL LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION

NB: Applicants will be ineligible to be nominated if they fail to meet any of the requirement(s) above.

ELIGIBILITY: THE PERFORMING ARTS CATEGORY

- An artist or artistic organization should have a substantial body of work.
- Active in the arts in the past 5 years
- Only South Africans are eligible for a nomination.

THEATRE PRODUCTION

- Only professionally staged productions will be considered between 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026.
- Submit a 15- 20 minute video or link to the video
- Requirements for a professionally staged production should comprise of a professional creative team.
- New and original works to be considered. (Re-staging of classical works will not be considered).
- Productions to be considered must be from South Africa.
- For productions to be eligible they need to have had a professional run with an official opening night attended by the public including a closing night.
- Productions are required to have presented 4 or more performances in a professional theatre.
- Productions must reflect South African stories which may have functional elements that appeal to different types of audiences.
- Collaborations between local and international productions will be considered but should reflect a balance of South African and International creatives
- Productions to be considered must have been presented in conventional spaces, theatres, including established local and international festivals.
- The production should show professional technical ability (merits).

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DANCE PRODUCTION

- A dancer / Dance organization must have a body of work, produced 01 April 2025 till 31 March 2026.
- Submit a 5- 10 minute video or link to the video
- The dancer or dance organization should have a track record which shows participation in national and international platforms.
- Previous works created should have an element of collaborative and solo creation.
- For indigenous dance pieces, the works should have a narrative of telling the indigenous stories of South Africa both locally and internationally.
- Productions to be considered must have been presented in conventional spaces, theatres, including established local and international festivals.

MUSICIAN

- Both male and female artist are eligible for this Awards
- Must have a body of work – e.g., official release of a song or album.
- Song or Album must be registered with the South Africa Music Rights Organization.
- Entries will be open to Recording Industry of South Africa (RISA) members and non- Risa members.
- Body of work to be accessible online including credited music outlets.
- The works should be owned by a South African artist, entity and have control of the master recordings relating to the considered entry.
- For verification processes artists may be required to submit their South African identification document.
- Only music released between 1April 2025 till 31 March 2026 will be considered.

ACTOR IN THEATRE

- Both male and female artists are eligible for this Awards
- To be eligible, the performer who is nominated must portray a lead role (Male/or Female in a Theatre play or Musical Theatre Play)
- Must have performed in South African including international stages between 1 April 2025 till 31 March 2026. (Festival, theatre, site –specific spaces).
- Portray the lead role during the opening night.

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PERFORMANCE POET

- Must have a body of work (Authentic original content) officially released.
- Performed a set (Duration 1hour or above).
- Must have performed in South African including international stages between 1 April 2025 till 31 March 2026. (Festival, theatre, site –specific spaces).

PERFORMANCE COMEDIAN

- Must have a body of work (Authentic original content) officially released.
- Performed a set (Duration 1hour or above).
- Must have performed in South African including international stages between 1 April 2025 till 31 March 2026. (Festival, theatre, site –specific spaces).

NB: Applicants will be ineligible to be nominated if they fail to meet any of the requirement(s) above.

Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Awards (Discretionary Awards)

These Awards are Awarded at the discretion of the Minister and will be announced at the Awards ceremony.

MINISTERIAL AWARDSS	DESCRIPTION
Internationally Recognized Artist / Group Awards **Ministry Discretion**	This Awards is presented to an artist or group that has received international recognition, exhibited and performed on international platforms for 5 years and more.
Artist With Disability Awards **Ministry Discretion**	This Awards is Awarded to a person with a disability who has achieved excellence in their craft.
Lifetime Achievement Awards **Ministry Discretion**	This Awards is presented to an individual with 20 years of documented achievements and outstanding contribution over the individual's whole career to the South African creative Industry and internationally.

HOW TO ENTER

1) 1.You will be required to utilize the NACAs website (www.naca.dsac.gov.za) to submit your entry or that of the person you wish to nominate.

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2) 2. You will be required to familiarise yourself with the rules and eligibility criteria (Found in this document.)
3) You will require a South African ID copy/ proof of citizenship/permanent residency
4) **You will be required to indicate date on when the body of work was produced.**
5) Producers need to submit signed indemnity when entering their body of work. If the artist has full ownership of the content, written proof needs to be submitted in a form of an affidavit, letter of confirmation from an approved entity or any other legal document that can prove ownership.
6) If you do not own the rights for the body of work, a letter of permission is required.
7) Uploading of video content is done on the submission portal.
8) Each Entry is required to be subtitled in English (applicable to film & TV). Content already in English does not require subtitles
9) All literary works must contain an ISBN number
10) Where content is released in more than one language, only one language version can be entered, and this should be the original language version.
11) For Film entries one full film must be submitted for consideration
12) For TV Programme 2 - 3 episodes per TV Programme must be submitted for consideration
13) For Gaming please note the following:
    a. Proof of concept. A feasible and well thought out video game concept.
    b. MVP or prototype a bonus (IP Implications).
    c. Proven record showing that they can develop and launch commercially viable or a prototype that illustrates first game.
14) Applicants will be ineligible to be nominated if they fail to meet any of the requirement(s)- Please refer to your category for specific requirements.

Deadlines and Submission Compliance

- Entrants are responsible for ensuring all required materials are uploaded correctly.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Incomplete entries may be disqualified.

Disqualification Conditions

Entries or participants may be disqualified for:

- Fraudulent submissions
- Plagiarism or copyright infringement
- Breach of rules or ethical standards
- Attempting to influence judges improperly
- Submission of false information

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sport, arts & culture

Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS

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