FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAHA Announces Call for Nominations for the 2026 Maga'håga Art Awards

August 19, 2026 | Hagåtña, Guam — The Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA), in partnership with the Office of the Governor, is accepting nominations for the 2026 Maga'håga Art Awards, formerly known as the Governor's Art Awards.

The awards honor individuals and organizations whose work, leadership, and support have made a difference in Guam's arts and cultural community.

Previously called the Governor's Art Awards, the program was established in 1985 through a partnership between CAHA and the Office of the Governor. For decades, it served as Guam's highest form of public recognition for individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the island's cultural and creative industries.

In 1995, the program was renamed the Maga'låhi Art Awards, with fewer, more competitive categories designed to recognize outstanding achievement in the arts. After a 22-year hiatus, CAHA revived the awards in 2025 and renamed them the Maga'håga Art Awards in recognition of Guam's first woman Governor and honoring the island's artistic pioneers, cultural bearers, and emerging talents while paying tribute to Guam's matriarchal heritage. The 2026 awards mark the second presentation of the revived program.

"The Maga'håga Art Awards give us an opportunity to recognize the people who have dedicated their time, talent, and energy to the arts and culture of Guam," said CAHA Director Angie R. Taitague. "We encourage the community to take a look around and nominate someone whose work deserves to be recognized."

CAHA Board Chairwoman Monica Guzman said the awards are also an opportunity to recognize people whose contributions may not always receive public attention. "There are many people and organizations in our community who have supported the arts in different ways over the years," Guzman said. "This is an opportunity to bring attention to their work and acknowledge the difference they have made in our community."

Award Categories

Nominations are now being accepted for the following categories:

1. **Youth Artist** – Recognizes a talented youth, ages 15–24, who demonstrates overall artistic excellence.
2. **Literary Arts** – Recognizes overall excellence in literary arts.
3. **Visual Arts** – Recognizes overall excellence in the visual arts, including media and graphic arts.
4. **Performing Arts** – Recognizes overall excellence in music, dance, theater and other presentations.
5. **Heritage Arts** – Recognizes overall excellence in heritage, folk and traditional arts.
6. **Champion for the Arts (Individual)** – Recognizes an individual who generously supports the arts and culture through sponsorship, educational programming, or community effort.
7. **Champion for the Arts (Group/Organization)** – Recognizes a group or organization that generously supports the arts and culture through sponsorship, educational programming, or community effort.
8. **Champion for the Arts (Corporate)** – In recognition of outstanding corporate support of the arts within the community through funding and sponsorship of art projects which allow for educational enhancement of the arts.
9. **Posthumous** – Recognizes an individual who made a significant contribution to the arts and our island community and whose work has left a lasting impact.
10. **Lifetime Achievement** – Presented by the Governor for lifetime contribution in a particular art form which has benefited the people of Guam.
11. **Lifetime Cultural Contribution** – Presented by the Governor for the promotion and preservation of the CHamoru culture by bringing the practice of the arts and culture into the daily life of the people of Guam.

Categories #10 and #11 are awarded at the sole discretion of the Governor. It is possible that awards may not be given in all categories.

Nomination Deadline

Completed nomination packets and supporting materials must be submitted directly to the CAHA office by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

Nomination packets are available at the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, DNA Building, Suite 202, 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Hagåtña, beginning Wednesday, August 19, 2026. Packets may also be downloaded from the CAHA website, www.guamcaha.org.

Mailed, emailed, and late nominations will not be accepted.

Nominees will be invited to attend the 2026 Governor's Maga'håga Art Awards ceremony on Saturday, November 14, 2026, at the Leo Palace Resort, Guam.

Nominators should provide information about the nominee's background, accomplishments, involvement in the arts, and impact on the community. Supporting materials may include work samples, photographs, press clippings, programs, and letters of recommendation or support. The nomination packet should give the review panel a clear picture of why the nominee is deserving of an award.

Nominations will first be reviewed by an advisory panel of arts and culture experts. The panel's recommendations will then be forwarded to the CAHA Board of Directors for approval and ratification.

The Maga'håga Art Awards are part of CAHA's ongoing work to recognize the artists, cultural practitioners, organizations, and supporters who contribute to Guam's creative and cultural life.

For more information about the Maga'håga Art Awards or the nomination process, please contact Jackie Balbas, CAHA Program Coordinator IV, at **jacqueline.balbas@caha.guam.gov** or call (671) 300-7584 or (671) 456-5387.

Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency (CAHA)
Fostering creativity, preserving culture, and building community through the arts.

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