

Access Arts Achievement Award 2026 – Guidelines

Award Overview

Amount	\$10,000
Nominations Open for Submission	Monday 21 September 2026
Free Online Nomination-Writing Workshop	Thursday 15 October 2026
Nominations Close for Submission	Friday, 30 October 2026
Award Winner Announced	Thursday, 3 December 2026

About

The Access Arts Achievement Award was established in 2014 by Life Member Peter Vance and is proudly supported by CPL – Choice, Passion, Life.

The Award recognises the achievements of Queensland artists and arts workers with disability or who are D/deaf, celebrating the artistic, creative and professional contribution they have already made.

The Award is \$10,000, awarded to the winner as a single amount. The Award can be self-nominated, or a nominee can be put forward by someone else – such as a mentor, colleague, presenting partner or arts organisation – who knows their work. Applicants working in all areas of the arts are eligible, including producers, writers and curators.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, the nominee must be:

- A practising artist, arts worker or producer who identifies as disabled and/or D/deaf, and is willing to be publicly recognised as such
- A Queensland resident
- An Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident
- 18 years of age or over
- Not a previous winner – previous applicants and nominees are encouraged to reapply
- You may only make one nomination for the Award each year, for yourself or for someone else.

How to Nominate

There are two ways to be considered for the Award:

- nominate yourself; or
- nominate someone else whose work you know and who meets the eligibility criteria

If you're nominating someone else, you'll confirm on the nomination form that the person you're nominating is aware of and consents to being nominated. If they're selected as a finalist, Access Arts may also contact them directly to confirm their consent and eligibility – including the disability or D/deaf declaration – before the Award is finalised.

Every nomination, whichever way it's made, needs one letter of recommendation from someone who knows the nominee's work. See more information in **Supporting Material**.

Selection Criteria

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria - each criteria map to one of the three questions below, so it's worth keeping these in mind as you write your answers:

Achievement and impact

- What has the nominee achieved, and what impact has this had – on their own practice, or more broadly on arts and culture in Queensland?

Significance of the Award

- How would this Award contribute to the nominee's artistic career, confidence or visibility as a disabled and/or d/Deaf artist or arts worker?

Contribution to community

- How has the nominee's work and achievement impacted their community?

About the Achievement

Please answer all three questions. Answers should be approximately 150 words per question, or 1–2 minutes per video.

1. Tell us about the nominee's achievements and impact. You may choose to tell us about a single project, a body of work, or the nominee's career in general.
2. Tell us how winning this Award would contribute to the nominee's artistic career, confidence or visibility as a disabled and/or d/Deaf artist or arts worker. What would it mean for them?

3. Tell us how the nominee has impacted the community with their work and achievements. ('Community' includes local area, disability, arts, disability arts, cultural groups, workplaces and organisations). Please give examples where possible to showcase who the nominee is.

Supporting Materials

Your supporting material is part of the nomination – please provide the highest quality where possible. We only assess the material listed below; additional items will not be reviewed.

Please note that where possible we prefer to receive website addresses or links, PDF or Word documents as support material. **The maximum file size for an email submission to Access Arts is 15MB. If your nomination exceeds 15MB it will not be eligible.**

Current CV (required) –

- up to 3 pages maximum
- Outlines the nominee's artistic background, experience and achievements.

Up to 3 web links showcasing previous work (required) –

- webpages, online articles, images, video or text.
- Links should be publicly accessible or set to 'unlisted' if hosted on YouTube or Vimeo.

One letter of recommendation (required).

- from individual or organisation who know you or the nominees work

Headshot photograph (required) –

- uploaded by whoever is submitting the nomination in .jpg or .png format
- Portrait orientation. Minimum 1500 pixels on the shortest side.
- Maximum file size 15MB.

Need help writing your nomination?

FREE - Online nomination writing Workshop

Thursday 15 October | 12:00 – 1:00pm – online via Teams

Learn how to put together a strong nomination, meet the selection criteria, and prepare supporting materials – including the nominee's approved photograph. Includes Q&A time.:

- Starting your nomination
- Framing and presenting the achievement

- Meeting selection criteria
- Preparing supporting materials
- Live Q&A

Register via this link here: [Free nomination writing workshop](#)

How to Nominate – Submitting Your Nomination

Head to the Access Arts website to nominate:

- [Here](#) OR via
- <https://accessarts.org.au/what-we-do-to-help/grants/access-arts-achievement-award/>

You can submit a nomination in one of the following ways:

Online

- Complete your nomination online and upload supporting materials via this link [Access Arts Achievement Award – Application form 2026](#)

Email

- Download and complete the nomination form (available in Easy Read, Black & White, Large Text, or additional Word formats).
- Email your completed form and supporting materials to info@accessarts.org.au and CC tim.brown@accessarts.org.au.
- Use the subject line '**Access Arts Achievement Award 2026**'.

Tip: aim to submit early in case of technical issues.

Need another format?

We welcome accessible formats such as audio, video, Auslan and more – just get in touch so we can support your needs.

If Successful

- The Award Winner will be announced publicly.
- An agreement will be drawn up between the winner and Access Arts.
- The \$10,000 Award is paid to the winner in full, as a single amount, against one invoice from the winner to Access Arts.
- Intellectual copyright remains with the artist.

- We'd love for the winner to mention their Access Arts Achievement Award win in their bio, CV or promotional materials.
- Access Arts reserves the right to share information about the winning nomination for media and promotional use.

Questions?

You can reach us by the following:

- Email us at: info@accessarts.org.au
- CC: tim.brown@accessarts.org.au
- Subject: 'Access Arts Achievement Award 2026'
- PH: 1800 275 753
- Office hours: Monday to Thursday | 9:00am – 5:00pm

Important Dates

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