



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PART A (You are not required to return this section when you submit your nomination)

The National Heritage Council (NHC) of South Africa will honour champions who work selflessly to make the country proud of its African heritage. Winners will be selected from public nominations in the various categories. The ceremony will be held during the South African Heritage Month.

The closing date for the submission of the nomination/entries is the **14th of August 2026**.

The objective of the awards is to recognise the contribution of individuals, groups, or organisations/academic institutions towards preserving South African heritage. The award recipients and the projects that reflect best practice in promotion, preservation, conservation and/or interpretation of our heritage will be considered.

Selection criteria

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- a) Individuals, groups or organisations that have made worthwhile contributions to the preservation and promotion of the country's cultural and natural heritage;
- b) Nominees (Individuals / organisation / institutions which may include municipalities, management authorities, conservancies, academia, institutes, etc.) must still be active, or have left an unforgettable mark/record within the heritage sector, through promoting and protecting heritage, etc.
- c) Contribution can be through active physical promotion, preservation and protection of cultural heritage or it could be through financial support;
- d) Nominees may or may not be South African citizens however their contribution should be that of promoting, protecting and preserving the South African Heritage.

Terms and conditions

- a) Nominations from individuals, organizations, corporations, congregations, institutions, municipalities, and others deemed eligible by the NHC will be accepted excluding NHC employees/Councillors and projects of their immediate relatives.
- b) Candidates may be nominated by a different person and self-nomination is acceptable. Two traceable references will be required.
- c) Nominees should be reachable by telephone and cell phone. An email will be an added advantage.
- d) Should nominees be contacted by the NHC and not answer their phones, a voice message will be left and the nominee should return the call within 24 hours during working hours on weekdays.
- e) Pictures of the work produced should be submitted with the nomination form.
- f) Completed nominations should be sent to the NHC Golden Shield Heritage Awards at 2nd Floor

Building 3, Summit Place Business Park, 221 Garsfontein Road, Menlyn, Pretoria or emailed to gosha@nhc.org.za. Enquiries should be directed to The Living Heritage Unit on Tel: 012 748 3910 or on the same email address.

g) No late nominations will be accepted.

h) The NHC will not be held responsible to return any material that is submitted with the nomination form

i) The NHC reserves the right to make any amendments to the process and procedures

j) The judges' decision will be final.

The adjudication

After the closing date for the submission of applications, a special committee will adjudicate the applications. Finalists will be informed and invited to the ceremony. Winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony.

Categories

Entries/nomination are accepted in the following categories:

1. Preferred Heritage Destination (National and Provincial)

- Nominees in this category can, for example, be a heritage site, museum, leisure facility, interpretation centre, etc., at the provincial or national level that offers visitors an exceptional experience of cultural heritage and the history of South Africa. It will be an added advantage for the 'Preferred Heritage Destination' to be an example of an ever-evolving, popular and effective tourism product that engages people of all ages.
- The nominees must indicate the level of the destination that is being nominated for consideration.

2. Young Heritage Activist

Young persons of not older than 35 years can be nominated in this category. The person must have a proven track record of passionately contributing to heritage awareness of a greater community or even nationally. The work of the nominee for which he/she is nominated must make the nation proud of the rich cultural heritage of this country and its people. The person must be an active community activist who is recognised in the area where he/she operates.

3. Voice of Heritage

This category recognises any person or institution who publishes books, articles, magazines, websites or produces videos, documentaries, songs, digital games etc. to document heritage and make it accessible to the public. The final product may be for sale or free to the public. Evidence of an established record of making the material available to the public must be available as proof, for example, a copy of the product.

4. Heritage Journalism

This category recognises journalists and media houses in print, broadcast, online or digital media that reports about heritage and culture in South Africa. The Journalists/Reporters eligible for the award may be working for the media company or be a freelancer. The reports must have been published in print or broadcasted on other platforms of formally recognised media houses. The content of the published stories may should be specific on current heritage and culture matters that affect and/or benefit society. Stories may be about community event and their significance, issues that were raised by communities, violations of cultural heritage, justice in cultural or natural heritage and promoting heritage. Copies of articles, link to digital media stories or clips on news stories should be used as evidence.

5. Corporate Heritage Management

Any private business that has incorporated heritage into part of their business is eligible to be nominated for this category. This may for example include the way the company preserves its history or history of products, the company's commitment to fund heritage projects of communities, made other resources available to heritage development, protection and promotion, etc. The size of the business does not matter nor does the scale of the project.

6. Liberation Heritage Steward

The liberation struggle history of South Africa is a critical part of how our people's freedom was taken away and the democracy was gained. It now helps us a country to reconstruct this history as our heritage of a rainbow nation. Many citizens, organisations and companies have voluntarily taken the responsibility to protect the South African flag from being auctioned, the original Freedom Charter from being shipped out of the country and may other credible initiatives. Persons and organisations that have done such exceptional work to preserve our liberation heritage even in the unknown corners of our communities will be acknowledged in this category.

7. Heritage Education

This award will recognise persons in all professions as well as organisations and/or academic institutions. The work may include research on any subject of heritage that educates other people about South African heritage and culture. It may be formal workshops, tours, educational programmes, special lessons or similar programmes that aim at making the public more aware and prouder about the heritage, culture and history of South Africa. All academic research should demonstrate outstanding scholarship and excellence. The work must be unique and done in South Africa. All public and private tertiary institutions that offer academically accredited qualifications and are based in South Africa will be considered in this category.

8. Heritage Social Media Influencer

This category recognizes any individual who selflessly promotes and influences his/her social media followers about SA culture and heritage through any of the following platforms: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Instagram or YouTube.

The Influencer should be imparting positive, constructive, affirming and/or entertaining knowledge about our heritage, culture and traditions to a wide range of followers through video, pictures, music, dance, and written content.

Social media handles of the Influencer together with at least 10 posts shared with their followers should be submitted as evidence.

9. National Living Treasure

Nominees for this award should be individuals who actively promote and preserve heritage through community events, volunteerism, leadership, and mentorship. They should demonstrate a sustained commitment to encouraging community participation and fostering appreciation for cultural heritage. Eligible nominees must be 65 years of age or older, in recognition of the invaluable knowledge, wisdom, and lived experiences they have accumulated and continue to share with present and future generations. This knowledge need not be derived from formal scholarly work but may be rooted in indigenous knowledge systems, cultural practices, oral traditions, and community service.

HONORARY CATEGORIES

The NHC will honour distinguished citizens in the following categories that are not for public nomination:

10. Lifetime achievement award

11. Ubuntu Honour

ENTRY FORM
This section of the form should be returned

CHECKLIST: Please ensure that you have provided the following documents by ticking the appropriate box(es):

Completed and signed nomination form **YES NO**

ID copy of the nominee **YES NO**

Pictures of the work produced by the nominee **YES NO**

OPTIONAL: Samples of the work that motivates for the nomination, e.g. book, CD, links to Digital platforms Magazine, Newspaper, etc. **YES NO**

Do you give the NHC permission to use personal contact details of all in this form for future correspondences on its programmes? **YES NO**

PART B (This section should be fully completed and returned before the closing date)

Choose by ticking the category for which you want to nominate your preferred candidate. NB! Applicants should **complete one form per nomination/entry.**

CATEGORIES

select a category

Where did you hear about the awards?

Personal details of the nominee

Title

Gender

Cel.

Name & Surname

Email

Village/Township/Suburb

Nearest Town/City

Province

Postal address

Personal details of the nominator (if not nominee) -

Title

Gender

Cel.

Name & Surname

Email

Province

Provide a comprehensive motivation of why the nominee deserves the award in this category. (TIPS: describe what the person or project does and its relevance to heritage, how many people are reached, what are the benefits, etc.)

PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE

Please describe the material evidence that supports your motivation for the nominee.

The material described should be submitted with this form. This can be pictures, news articles or the actual work that is produced by the nominee such as a book, video, etc.

Do you agree that the material submitted can be used by the NHC to promote heritage and access to information by making it available to the public at no cost? (please tick) **YES** **NO**

REFERENCES

Provide details of two contactable references who know the nominee and can confirm the motivation.

REFERENCE 1

Title

Name & Surname

Email

Cell phone

REFERENCE 2

Title

Name & Surname

Email

Cell phone



I (nominee names & surname) accept the nomination (voluntarily enter myself) and confirm that the nominator has consulted me to provide truthful information (and I declare that the information provided in this form is truthful and accurate).

Signatures: Nominee
(write your own name if you nominated yourself)

Nominator
(write your own name if you nominated yourself)

Date: