



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PART A

(For information only – this section is not required when submitting the nomination form)

The National Heritage Council (NHC) of South Africa will host the **Golden Shield Heritage Awards**, an initiative aimed at honouring individuals, groups, and institutions who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to promoting and preserving the country's diverse heritage. These awards celebrate heritage champions whose selfless contributions instil pride in South Africa's African identity and legacy.

The awards ceremony will take place during **Heritage Month** in September. Nominations are invited from the public across the specified categories.

The closing date for submission of nominations is 31 July 2025.

Objectives of the Awards

The primary goal of the Golden Shield Heritage Awards is to:

- Recognise individuals, groups, or organisations/academic institutions for their meaningful contributions to the preservation, promotion, conservation, and/or interpretation of South Africa's cultural and natural heritage.
- Highlight and reward best practices in heritage promotion and management.

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/organisations/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 must be South African citizens; however, their contribution should be that of promoting, protecting and preserving the South African Heritage.

Terms and Conditions

- a) Nominations may be submitted by individuals, organisations, corporations, religious institutions, academic entities, or municipalities, except NHC employees/Councillors and their immediate relatives;
- b) Candidates may be nominated by others or may nominate themselves. Each nomination must include **two traceable references**;
- c) Nominees must be contactable via telephone and/or mobile. An email address is advantageous;
- d) If a nominee does not answer calls, a voicemail will be left. Nominees must respond within **24 working hours** (excluding weekends);
- e) **Photographs** of the nominee's work must accompany the nomination form;
- f) Completed nomination forms must be delivered to:



NHC Golden Shield Heritage Awards

2nd Floor, Building 3, Summit Place Business Park,
221 Garsfontein Road, Menlyn, Pretoria

OR

Emailed to: gosha@nhc.org.za

Enquiries:

Living Heritage & Tourism Development Unit

Tel: 012 748 3910 | Email: gosha@nhc.org.za

- g) Late nominations will not be considered;
- h) Submitted materials will not be returned;
- i) The NHC reserves the right to amend processes and procedures where necessary;
- j) All decisions made by the adjudication panel are final and binding.

Adjudication Process

All nominations will be evaluated by an adjudication committee after the closing date. Selected finalists will be notified and formally invited to the award ceremony. **Winners will be announced during the ceremony.**



Award Categories

Entries/nominations are accepted in the following categories:

1. Preferred Heritage Destination

Nominees in this category can, for example, be a heritage site, museum, leisure facility, interpretation centre, etc. that offers visitors an exceptional experience of cultural heritage and history of South Africa. It will be an added advantage for the 'Preferred Heritage Destination' to be an example that demonstrates an ever-evolving, popular and effective tourism product that engages with people of all ages.

2. Young Heritage Activist

Young persons not older than 35 years may be nominated in this category. The nominee must have a proven track record of passionately contributing to heritage awareness within their community or on a national level. Their work should instil pride in the nation's rich cultural heritage and its people. The individual must be an active community activist who is recognised in the area in which they operate.

3. Voice of Heritage

This category recognises individuals or institutions that publish books, articles, magazines, websites, or produce videos, documentaries, songs, digital games, and other media to document and promote heritage in an accessible manner. The final product may be either commercially available or distributed free of charge to the public. Nominees must provide evidence of an established track record of making such materials publicly available—such as a copy of the published product—as proof of impact and accessibility.

4. Heritage Journalism

This category recognises journalists and media houses in print, broadcast, online or digital media that report about heritage and culture in South Africa. The Journalists/Reporters eligible for the award may be working for a media company or as 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 should be specific to 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, links 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 its 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 democracy was gained. 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 many 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 aware and proud of 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 based in South Africa will be considered in this category.

8. Heritage Social Media Influencer

This category recognises 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 a piece of evidence.

9. National Living Treasure

The nominees must have promoted and advocated the significance or revival of Intangible Cultural Heritage over years. The award recognises an elder who is highly involved in transferring traditional art forms such as rug weaving, basketry, storytelling, pottery and design, as well as other forms that are considered intangible, to the young generation.

The nominees are expected to be persons who promote community events, volunteer work regularly, take on a leadership role and encourage others to get involved. People who qualify for this award must be 65 years old and over in recognition of the wealth of knowledge they possess, not necessarily gathered through academic and scholarly work.

HONORARY CATEGORIES

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

10. Lifetime Achievement Award

11. Ubuntu Honour



GOLDEN SHIELD
HERITAGE
AWARDS

ENTRY FORM
This section of the form should be returned

CHECKLIST: Please make sure that you have provided the following:

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Completed and signed nomination form | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ID copy of the nominee | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pictures of the work produced by the nominee | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| OPTIONAL: Samples of the work that motivates for the nomination, e.g. book, CD, DVD, Magazine, Newspaper, etc. | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you give the NHC permission to use the personal contact details of all in this form for future correspondences on its programmes? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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

| CATEGORY | | Tick |
|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Preferred Heritage Destination | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Young Heritage Activist | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Voice of Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Heritage Journalism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Corporate Heritage Management | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Liberation Heritage Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Heritage Education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Heritage Social Media Influencer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | National Living Treasure | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Where did you hear about the awards? (tick and name)

Newspaper []

Radio []

Website []

Facebook []

Twitter []

Instagram []

Other:.....

Personal details of the nominee

| Title | Gender | Age | Cell phone |
|-------------------------|--------|-----|------------|
| Name & Surname | | | |
| Email | | | |
| Village/Township/Suburb | | | |
| Nearest Town/City | | | |
| Province | | | |

ENTRY FORM: Golden Shield Heritage Awards – 2025



GOLDEN SHIELD
HERITAGE
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| | |
|----------------|--|
| Postal address | |
|----------------|--|

Personal details of the nominator (if not the nominee) -

| Title | Gender | Age | Cell phone |
|----------------|--------|-----|------------|
| Name & Surname | | | |
| Email | | | |
| Province | | | |
| Postal address | | | |

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

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



Have you previously been a winner or finalist of the Golden Shield Heritage Awards?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please indicate the year and your status (Winner/Finalist):

(Example: 2022 – Finalist, Voice of Heritage Category)

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 name if you nominated yourself)

Nominator
(Write your name if you nominated yourself)

Date