

2026 National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards

OPERA America

National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards

The National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards, now in their 18th year, were established to honor opera company trustees for exemplary leadership, support, and service on behalf of their respective opera companies across the country.

OPERA America's commitment to recognizing excellence in governance stems from a core belief that the strength of an opera company is directly linked to the quality of governance demonstrated by its board members. The National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards strive to:

- Highlight the tenets of good governance.
- Provide models of trustee and volunteer excellence.
- Amplify the efforts of distinguished trustees to a national audience.
- Strengthen the relationships between trustees and the companies and communities they serve.

The National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards offer OPERA America's Professional Company Members an opportunity to demonstrate their gratitude and bring national attention to the leaders who play a pivotal role in charting the future of opera in America.

Click here to access the grant guidelines. Please read the guidelines in full before applying.

General

Nominee Full Name*

Character Limit: 250

Company Information

Budget Category (1-5)*

Choices

Budget 1 (\$15 million or more)

Budget 2 (\$3 to 15 million)

Budget 3 (\$1 to 3 million)

Budget 4 (\$250,000 to \$1 million)

Budget 5 (Under \$250,000)

To the best of your knowledge, is your company in good standing with OPERA America?*

A company is in good standing if it has completed the most recent Professional Opera Survey and is current with dues payments, grant reports, and other invoices.

Choices

Yes

No

General Director

Title - General Director

Choices

Mrs.

Ms.

Mr.

Mx.

Dr.

Prof.

General Director First Name*

Character Limit: 250

General Director Last Name*

Character Limit: 250

General Director Professional Title*

Character Limit: 250

General Director Email*

Character Limit: 250

General Director Phone*

Character Limit: 13

Nominator

Nominator*

Did someone other than the general director or a staff member at the opera company prepare the nomination, such as another trustee/board member?

Choices

Yes

No

Nominator - IF YES

Nominator Title

Choices

Mrs.
Ms.
Mr.
Mx.
Dr.
Prof.

Nominator First Name*

Character Limit: 250

Nominator Last Name*

Character Limit: 250

Relationship of the Nominator to the Nominee*

Character Limit: 250

Nominator Board Position (if applicable)

Character Limit: 250

Nominator Mailing Address*

Character Limit: 250

Nominator Address 2

Character Limit: 250

Nominator City*

Character Limit: 200

Nominator State*

Character Limit: 250

Nominator ZIP Code*

Character Limit: 250

Nominator Email*

Character Limit: 250

Nominator Phone*

Character Limit: 13

Nominee

Nominee Title

Choices

Mrs.
Ms.
Mr.
Mx.
Dr.
Prof.

Nominee First Name*

Character Limit: 250

Nominee Last Name*

Character Limit: 250

Nominee Professional Title and Employer/Affiliation*

Character Limit: 250

Nominee Board Position(s)*

Character Limit: 250

Nominee Mailing Address*

Character Limit: 250

Nominee Address 2

Character Limit: 250

Nominee City*

Character Limit: 200

Nominee State*

Character Limit: 100

Nominee ZIP Code*

Character Limit: 5

Nominee Email*

Character Limit: 250

Nominee Phone*

Character Limit: 13

Board History and Role

In what year did the nominee first join the board?*

Character Limit: 4

How many years has the nominee served on the board in total?*

Do not include years of rotation off the board.

Character Limit: 2

Board Roles*

In a short list, please provide the nominee's current and recent board/committee roles, including duration of service.

Character Limit: 1250

Biography

If available, please provide a short, professional biography of the nominee.

Character Limit: 1250

Repeat Nomination*

OPERA America encourages companies to re-nominate strong nominees who were not selected in previous years. Has the nominee been nominated previously?

Choices

Yes

No

Nomination Questions

In responding to the following questions, demonstrate how your nominee has excelled in advancing the work of your company, the strength of your board, your relationship with your community, and your company's long-term sustainability. The selection committee will look for evidence that your nominee has played an active role in the advancement of the company beyond their financial generosity, however significant. The accomplishments of your company under your nominee's board tenure are less important than how your nominee helped achieve them.

How has your nominee contributed to the success of the company?*

You might consider ways your nominee has supported staff, contributed to projects, recruited audiences, offered expertise, etc.

Character Limit: 2500

How has your nominee advanced the effectiveness of the board?*

You might consider ways your nominee has fostered learning, led special initiatives, promoted collaboration, encouraged teamwork, mobilized peers, etc.

Character Limit: 2500

How has your nominee participated in the company's commitment to its community?*

You might consider ways your nominee has forged partnerships, made introductions, participated in advocacy, served as an ambassador, etc.

Character Limit: 2500

How has your nominee worked to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of your company?*

You might consider ways your nominee has negotiated long-term contracts, helped build an endowment, secured multi-year funding, led strategic planning initiatives, etc.

Character Limit: 2500

Thank you for sharing the exemplary work of your nominee with our selection committee. OPERA America will notify your company's General Director of the outcome by early May 2026.