



Cultural Leaders Legacy Arts Awards 2026

NOMINATION PACKAGE

THE LEGACY OF DOUG AND LOIS MITCHELL

OUTSTANDING CALGARY ARTIST AWARD

Deadline: March 10, 2026, 4:30pm MT

The Legacy of Doug and Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award

The Legacy of Doug and Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award was established to honour artists who are lauded for their work in national and international arenas and choose to make Calgary their home. Regardless of career length, these artists are acknowledged by their peers around the world for the caliber of their work and their contributions to the arts. They are innovators who have significantly enriched artistic discourse in Canada.

This award is an opportunity for Calgarians to celebrate our own.

This is a \$5,000 cash award, with funds intended to support artistic work. The award will be presented to the recipient at an event celebrating the arts on May 4, 2026. The winner of this award will also receive a one-week residency at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

This award was established by Doug and Lois Mitchell and Calgary 2012 and is a legacy project of Calgary's year as a Cultural Capital of Canada.

About Doug and Lois Mitchell

As the co-chairs of Calgary 2012, Calgary's year as a Cultural Capital of Canada, the Honourable Lois and Doug Mitchell helped shine a spotlight on the vibrancy of arts, culture and heritage in our city.

Beyond our Cultural Capital year, Doug and Lois Mitchell knew that our city's artists need to continue to be recognized in the global arena for their talent and contributions to Calgary. That's why they saw the need to establish an award that calls attention to those artists who receive accolades from international peers and acknowledges their role in the continued success of our city. Doug and Lois have continued to support the arts scene in Calgary in various ways, including throughout Lois's recent term as Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

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**The Legacy of
Doug & Lois Mitchell**

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Award Rules & Criteria

Eligibility

Nominees for **The Legacy of Doug and Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award** must meet all of the following criteria:

- Hold Calgary as their primary place of residence.
- Be a professional artist, defined by the Canada Council for the Arts as an artist who:
 - Has specialized training in their artistic field (not necessarily obtained in an academic institution).
 - Is recognized as such by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition).
 - Is committed to devoting more time to artistic activity if this becomes financially feasible.
 - Has a history of public presentation.

Nominations

Nomination packages must include the following:

- One (1) copy of the nominee's artist resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
- One (1) copy of a 30-word synopsis of why the nominee has been nominated (may be used for publication and media purposes in the event the nominee is selected to receive the award).
- Example(s) demonstrating the work of the nominee as it pertains to this award (**maximum five individual examples**). Please note the example(s) must be submitted in PDF format, and each file can be a maximum of 3MB.
- One (1) letter of nomination (1,000 words or less) from a peer or colleague within the artist's field of work.
- One (1) copy of the Nomination Declaration form, available for download on the award web page, signed by both the nominee and nominator.

Jury

The award jury is composed of artistic peers and community members based in Calgary. Its members remain consistent for each year the award is presented, with the exception of the previous year's award winner, should they choose to participate.

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The award jury reserves the right to revisit nominations submitted in previous years.

In the event of a perceived conflict of interest, that jury member will refrain from commenting on the nomination in question. The jury will operate with strict confidentiality. All decisions are final. Calgary Arts Development may screen nominations to verify eligibility.

Selection Criteria

The award recipient will be selected based on the following criteria:

Artistic Merit - Maximum of Five Points

- How has the nominee contributed to the evolution of their artistic discipline over the course of their career?
- How is the nominee recognized as a leader by their national and international peers?
- Has the nominee been recognized by national and international audiences and patrons?

Impact on the Community - Maximum of Five Points

- What is the nominee's commitment to Calgary's arts community?
- How does the nominee serve as an ambassador for Calgary artists and citizens when undertaking their national and international work?

Impact on the Artist - Maximum of Five Points

- Will this award afford opportunities to the artist that they do not currently have?

Notification

All nominators will receive acknowledgment of receipt by email, and will be notified of whether their applications were successful. The nominator and nominee are required to keep the status of their nomination confidential until the official announcement of awards recipients by Calgary Arts Development, and to accommodate the filming of a recipient video.

Deadlines & Delivery

The deadline for uploading completed nomination packages is 4:30pm on March 10, 2026.

Complete applications must be submitted through our [online platform](#) on or before the deadline. Incomplete or late nominations will not be accepted or considered.

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If you have nominated someone and did not receive acknowledgement of receipt or notification, please contact awards@calgaryartsdevelopment.com.

Before submitting your nomination package, ensure that you have prepared:

- One (1) copy of the nominee's resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
- One (1) copy of a 30-word synopsis of why the nominee has been nominated.
- Up to five (5) examples demonstrating the work of the nominee and their suitability for this award. As few as one example is acceptable.
- One (1) copy of a letter of nomination (1,000 words or less) signed by the nominator.
- One (1) copy of the Nomination Declaration form, signed by both the nominee and nominator.

For more information about **The Legacy of Doug and Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award**, please email awards@calgaryartsdevelopment.com.

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