

MSAC FY2026 Heritage Award

Nomination Scoring Rubric

Criterion 1: Nomination's identification of a form of folklife			
Nomination questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the cultural history and community of origin of the form of folklife being considered in this nomination. Describe the current community participating in the form of folklife being considered in this nomination. 			
Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Nomination clearly identifies a living cultural tradition strongly connected to a cultural community of origin over a generational period of practice	Nomination identifies a living cultural tradition connected to a cultural community of origin over a moderate period of practice	Nomination partially or ambiguously identifies a living cultural tradition connected to a cultural community of origin over a limited or unclear period of practice	Nomination's connection to folklife and cultural community of origin is negligible or not present

Criterion 2: Nominee's connection to the folklife of a particular community of origin			
Nomination questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain and provide evidence of the nominee's importance to the current community participating in the form of folklife described above. 			
Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Nominee's importance to the folklife of a cultural community of origin is clearly demonstrated	Nominee's importance to the folklife of a cultural community of origin is demonstrated	Nominee's importance to the folklife of a cultural community of origin is somewhat demonstrated	Limited or no connection made between nominee and the folklife of a cultural community of origin

Criterion 3: Nominee's sustained engagement with folklife as a person or people, place, or tradition			
Nomination questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain and provide evidence of the nominee's sustained engagement with the form of folklife described above, either as an individual (for Person/People nominations); a community gathering place (for Place nominations); or a traditional practice (for Tradition nominations). 			
Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Nominee's engagement with folklife clearly extends over a substantial period of time	Nominee's engagement with folklife extends over a moderate period of time	Nominee's engagement with folklife extends over a limited or unclear period of time	Nominee's length of engagement with folklife is negligible or not stated