



## BC Achievement Sam Carter Award Applied Art + Design



# NOMINATION GUIDE & TIPS

*The value of this award is not so much a personal thing although I'm so grateful and so honoured...it's more important for society and for the public to realize that we value culture, that we value people doing unconventional things.*

*Photo & Quote: 2024 Award Recipient, Robin DuPont*

**This Nomination Guide includes important information that should be carefully reviewed before submitting a nomination and tips on how to present a compelling nomination.**

### AWARD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Sam Carter Award in Applied Art + Design (AAD) program recognizes excellence amongst artists who, through their creativity, contribute to the cultural economy of the province. Artists and designers whose work has a practical or functional application may be considered for this award.

### WHY NOMINATE OR APPLY

The AAD program advances the collective conversation around functional art and design. Applying for an award serves as a platform to communicate an artist's work, vision and creativity. The process invites an opportunity for critical artistic reflection and exposes artists and designers to a wider audience.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- **February 15, 2026** – Deadline to submit for the 2026 award program
- **October** – Awardees Announced
- **November** – Art Exhibition & presentation ceremony

The completed nomination form and all materials must be submitted by **February 15, 2026 @ 11:59 p.m.** for the nomination to be considered for the **2026 award program**.

### SAVE AND CONTINUE LATER

- If you don't have all the information on hand, click on the **'Save and Continue Later'** button at the bottom of the online nomination form
- You will be prompted to **enter your email and will receive a link** that you can access and complete your nomination prior to the deadline

## CHECKLIST - BEFORE YOU START

- Review the **Nomination Guide** (this document) with tips for submitting a compelling nomination
- Ensure the nominator and nominee meet the eligibility criteria
- Prepare the Nominator Statement **in a word document**, then copy and paste the content into the required field
- Have all nominator and nominee contact information
- Have all documents ready to upload
- Schedule 15-20 minutes to complete the form

## CATEGORIES

**Artists have the option to self-identify in one of two categories: emerging or established.**

**The nominator must select the category that best describes the artist (i.e., the nominee):**

**Emerging:** Artists have developed basic techniques through education and/or apprenticeship; and are in the early stages of launching a professional career. They have created and publicly presented a body of independent work and are ready for the next step in their artistic development.

**Established:** Artists have demonstrated advanced techniques; shown a commitment to their art practice; and are recognized in their community as artists. They have publicly presented a significant body of independent work and serve as mentors in their respective artistic community.

**Award of Distinction: The nominator may request that the Established Artist nominee be considered for this award designation.**

The Award of Distinction is presented to an **Established Artist** in recognition of extraordinary and sustained accomplishment in applied art + design. Recipients exemplify committed vision, innovative enterprise, passionate talent, and they are an inspiration to their community and province.

\*Visit BC Achievement's website to learn more about past Award of Distinction recipients.

## NOMINATOR ELIGIBILITY

**Any person, group or organization may submit nominations for the Award with exceptions noted below:**

- Current members of the jury panel, or members of the jury panel's immediate family may not submit a nomination
- BC Achievement board members may not submit a nomination

## NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

**An eligible nominee must:**

- Practice in the field of applied art + design and produce work that has a practical or functional application to be considered for this award. This includes, but not limited to, ceramics, fashion / textiles, furniture, glass, industrial design, jewellery and public art
- Have been a resident of BC for the past three years

**An artist or designer may self-nominate (i.e., apply for the award program).**

**The following are ineligible to receive the Award:**

- Posthumous nominations
- BC Achievement board members or jury members
- Past recipients\*
- Those who work in the fields of architecture, fine art, graphic or interior design, web or mobile design

\*Visit BC Achievement's [Awardees webpage](#) to see if your nominee is a past recipient of the award.

**HOW TO NOMINATE / APPLY**

**The nominator must complete the online nomination form and include the following:**

- Nominator Name & Contact Information (if applicable)
- Nominee Name & Contact Information
- Nominee Category: Emerging or Established
- Number of years nominee has been practicing their craft
- Field / Medium of artwork
- Nominator Statement
- Nominee's CV or resumé
- Images of the nominee's work & description
- Additional Materials – optional, but strongly recommended (up to 5 items max.)

**TIPS FOR SUBMITTING A COMPELLING NOMINATION**

**Nominator Statement** Max. 3000 characters including spaces or approx. 500 words.

**We encourage you to make use of the full word count for the nominator statement to provide a well-rounded and engaging description of the nominee's achievements.**

- **Tell the nominee's story**
- Provide reasons for the submission and a description of why the nominee should be considered for the award
- Describe why the nominee became an artist, what their work means to them and others
- Explain what inspires the nominee
- Address what kinds of artwork they create, which mediums they practice in and what makes the nominee's artwork unique
- Describe how the nominee's work contributes to the cultural economy of the BC

**For Emerging Artists – provide a statement that describes how receiving the award would help to advance their career trajectory and support them in achieving the next level of artistic development.** Max. 500 characters including spaces or approx. 80 words.

**Nominee's CV or Resumé**

- Please provide information on the nominee's education, training, significant projects, exhibits and achievements in their field

**Images & Description**

- Provide up to 10 high-resolution images of recent work
- For each image uploaded, provide the title, date, medium and a short description

**\*Please include the image number in the name of the image uploaded – for example:**

- first name-last name-image-01
- first name-last name-image-02 etc.

**Additional Materials – optional, but strongly recommended**

- Include materials such as the nominee's biography, letters of support, links\* to articles, recorded testimonials, YouTube videos, photos, website links, etc.
- A maximum of five items will be accepted
- Jury members will review up to 10 pages total and five minutes of video

**\*Each link submitted is considered one additional material.**

### TIPS FOR SUBMITTING IMAGES:

**All images should be high resolution, min. 1MB in size. JPEGs preferred.**

- It is strongly recommended the nominator **submit the maximum number of images permitted**
- High quality images make a difference to the jury and should show off the nominee's work in the best light
- If the image is taken outdoors, ensure no shadows are blocking the art
- Images should show the nominee's signature style even if it is in different mediums
- Please include images that focus on the details of the nominee's work

### OTHER SUGGESTIONS

If the artist's work produces sound (e.g., musical instruments, installations), it is recommended that the artist/nominator provide links via YouTube or to the artist's website.

**Support Letters help to paint a complete picture of the nominee and what they have accomplished. If provided, they should:**

- Describe why the nominee should be considered for the award (this is particularly helpful if the nominee is an emerging artist)
- Be written by individuals who know the nominee well enough to be able to talk about the nominee from first-hand experience (e.g., past award recipients, or other well-known people in a similar field to the nominee)
- Be current and written **specifically for the AAD award program**

**Request support letters early on so the referee has time to write a strong letter.**

**Strong nominations use descriptive words such as:** leader, innovator, trailblazer, mentor, supporter, advocate, visionary, changemaker; perseverance, commitment, dedication, recognition, determination; exemplary, admired, motivated, passionate, inspirational, extraordinary, committed, dedicated, resourceful, tireless, etc.

### UPDATING A NOMINATION

**To update a nomination:**

- Click on the link for the nomination form
- Select 'yes' to the question 'Is this an update to a previous nomination?'
- Include the year the nomination was **first submitted**
- Complete the online nomination form and include updated information & materials about your nominee

Nominations are valid for three years including the first year of nomination and two subsequent years.

Nominators are **strongly encouraged to update their nomination** for consideration by the following year's jury panel if their nominee was not recognized in the previous year's awardee cohort.

**We are happy to send the documents previously submitted for your nominee. Please email [rup@bcachievement.com](mailto:rup@bcachievement.com) to make your request.**

## SELECTION OF AWARDEES

An independent jury panel reviews the nominations and selects the awardees. The decision of the jury is final. Nominees are notified only if selected for an award. Nominators are informed as to whether or not they have been successful with their application.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Award recipients are selected based on the material submitted by the nominator. The work of the nominee should exemplify excellence based on the following criteria:

- Artistic Excellence
- Creativity & Originality
- Innovative Approach & Sustainability
- Aesthetics

Up to four artists will be awarded including the Emerging Artist.

**Judson Beaumont Emerging Artist** – the Judson Beaumont Emerging Artist designation was established in 2021. Named in honour of the late Judson Beaumont (1959- 2020), this recognition aims to embody Judson's enthusiasm, kindness and generosity, exemplify the meaning of excellence and highlight emerging applied artists and designers.

## RECOGNITION

AAD award recipients receive a monetary prize of \$5000 and are featured in a recognition film produced by BC Achievement. In addition, they receive a medallion and lapel pin designed by renowned artist Robert Davidson, OC, OBC, and a commemorative framed certificate and letter from the Premier recognizing their achievements.

Recipients are granted use of the Applied Art + Design Award seal to signify their creative excellence.

An art exhibition and presentation ceremony will be held to showcase the awardees' accomplishments.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. Can information be saved on the nomination form and completed at a later date?**

Yes. If you don't have all the information on hand, click on the 'Save and Continue Later' button at the bottom of the online nomination form – you will be prompted to enter your email and will receive a link that you can access and complete your nomination prior to the deadline.

### **2. Can a team be nominated?**

Yes, nominations for teams with a maximum of three applied artists and designers are accepted.

### **3. What is the definition of "recent work?"**

The independent jury prefers to view work completed in the last two to three years – they are seeking current work, rather than historical work where possible.

**4. Are part-time artists eligible?**

Yes, if the artist is committed to their practice; has produced a significant body of work; and is recognized by their community and peers as an artist.

**5. Should a previously submitted nomination be updated?**

Yes, nominees should annually provide updated visuals and information reflecting their recent work.

**6. When are awardees notified and where are the names of the awardees published?**

Awardees are announced in October. Their names are published on BC Achievement’s website and social media.

**7. Has the name of the award changed over the years?**

The BC Creative Achievement Awards for Applied Art and Design became the Carter Wosk Award in Applied Art + Design in 2017 and the BC Achievement Applied Art + Design Award in 2023. It was renamed the Sam Carter Award in Applied Art + Design in 2024, honouring Sam Carter’s transformative contributions to applied art and design in British Columbia.

**PRIVACY POLICY**

BC Achievement is committed to protecting the privacy of people through responsible management of information received. Nominations are kept confidential between the nominator and BC Achievement. Photographs and information about the award recipients may be used for the promotion of the AAD program and other promotional activities (i.e., on BC Achievement’s website, social media channels, in media releases etc.).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit the BC Achievement website to view the Applied Art + Design program page or contact: [rup@bcachievement.com](mailto:rup@bcachievement.com)