



SUBMISSIONS

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

OFFICE OF SUBMISSIONS

Monday, August 17, 2026 – Friday, January 29, 2027
5757 Wilshire Boulevard | Suite 580
Los Angeles, CA 90036

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026

ENTRY DEADLINE

All general category submissions, must be received and completed
with payment by Friday, November 13, 2026
6:00 p.m. (PT)

All Literary submissions, must be received and completed
with payment by Friday, November 6, 2026
6:00 p.m. (PT)

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HISTORY

First held in 1967, the NAACP Image Awards celebrates the outstanding achievements and performances of people of color in the arts, as well as those individuals or groups who promote social justice through their creative endeavors. Past honorees, presenters, performers, and social justice advocates have included many of the major celebrities in America and international political figures and dignitaries.

There are 100 competitive categories in the fields of motion picture, television, recording, podcast, and literature. There are also several honorary awards, including the Chairman's Award, President's Award, Vanguard Award, Entertainer of the Year Award, the NAACP Image Awards Hall of Fame Award, and the Jackie Robinson Sports Award.

The NAACP Image Awards originally aired late-night for eight years in the *Saturday Night Live* time slot on the NBC network. In 1996, the NAACP Image Awards aired in primetime on the FOX television network, where it became a major programming event and returned in 2012 to NBC. Starting in 2008, the NAACP Image Awards aired live. In 2014, the NAACP signed a five-year deal with TV One. In 2019, the NAACP Image Awards signed a new contract with its current network BET and the show now airs across the Viacom network on 10 channels.

To understand the significance of the NAACP Image Awards, one must place the program in a social and historical context. When it comes to forming ideas, reinforcing stereotypes, establishing norms, and shaping our thinking, nothing affects us more than the images and concepts delivered into our lives on a daily basis by television, motion pictures, recordings, and literature. Accordingly, there is ample cause for concern about what does or does not happen in these mediums when there is little or no diversity in either opportunities or the decision-making process.

The NAACP has been involved in the continuing struggle for greater participation by African Americans in the entertainment industry and portrayal of Black people on the screen since 1915 when the organization launched a nationwide protest against the showing of the film *Birth of a Nation* by D. W. Griffith. Set in the period immediately after the Civil War, the film depicted Black people as savages and the reconstruction era in our nation as a period of corruption. It remains today one of the most controversial films ever made. Shortly after NAACP's crusade against *Birth of a Nation*, a group of independent Black filmmakers appeared on the scene: Emmett J. Scott, George and Noble Johnson, and the legendary Oscar Micheaux defied stereotypes and offered movies with Black actors in stark contrast to the images otherwise available. Films produced by these pioneers are tributes to Black endurance and ambition.

When *Gone with the Wind*, the next professed great American cinematic masterpiece that featured African Americans was released in 1938, African Americans were less strident in their criticism but still concerned with the film's portrayal of them. By and large, they supported and applauded Hattie McDaniel who was awarded the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in 1939 for her role in *Gone with the Wind* and became the first Black performer to receive an Academy Award.

Before the end of the decade, television would be invented and introduced to the American public. With television, as was the case with motion pictures, the question of characterizations and opportunities for qualified Black men and women continued to be a problem.

At the organization's annual convention in July 1951, the NAACP passed a resolution critical of the new television series *Amos 'N' Andy* and other programs amplifying negative stereotypes. According to the resolution, shows like *Amos 'N' Andy* depicted Black people in a stereotypical and derogatory manner. The practice of manufacturers, distributors, retailers, persons, or firms sponsoring or promoting this show, the *Beulah* show, or other shows of this type were condemned.

Again, in 1963 and 1964, the NAACP adopted a resolution to mount a nationwide campaign to improve opportunities for "Negro" performers in motion pictures and television. NAACP Labor Secretary Herbert Hill conducted extensive negotiations with the Motion Picture Producers Association (MPPA), the heads of several major Hollywood studios and television networks, and officials of the labor/craft unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Although the NAACP's campaign to eliminate racial bias in the entertainment industry received support from SAG and Writers Guild of America West, craft unions in Hollywood continued to openly and systematically exclude Black craft workers.

In 1967, at the height of the civil rights movement, the Beverly Hills/Hollywood Branch of the NAACP, concerned about the portrayal of the Black experience, established the NAACP Image Awards to honor outstanding Black actors, actresses, writers, producers, and directors and recognized those working in Hollywood who supported those artists. In 1980, Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks appointed a committee to examine the lack of opportunities for African Americans in the film industry. Despite the monumental events that had taken place in the movement for equal education, voting rights, women's rights, and employment laws, progress in the entertainment industry stalled.

KEY DATES

AUGUST 2026

- 17 Office of Submissions Opens
- 31 Submissions Website Opens

OCTOBER 2026

- 09 Early Bird Submission
Fee expires

NOVEMBER 2026

- 06 Last Day for Literary Submissions

Last Day for Required
Literary Materials
- 13 Online Submissions Close

Last Day for Online
Supplemental Material

DECEMBER 2026

- 04 Nominating Committees
begin voting
- 18 Nominating Committees
voting closes

JANUARY 2027

- 07 Nominees' Announcement
Online public voting opens

Public Voting Opens

FEBRUARY 2027

- 01 Public Voting Closes

*The 58th NAACP Image Awards
show date is TBA.*

Dates are subject to change.

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

The eligibility period for all projects is January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026. All categories will have additional requirements for their individual submissions. General Categories are all Television + Streaming, Recording and Motion Picture Categories. Literary submissions are under the Select Categories and have additional submission requirements. Additional requirements per category are as follows:

- **Motion Picture Categories**

Projects submitted in the Motion Picture category must meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration. All eligibility will be verified by the submissions team.

Our Motion Picture categories include Feature, Streaming, Animated, Independent, International, and Documentary films. All performance roles for Feature, Streaming, and independent films are submitted under a single performance category. Performance roles in Animated and Live Action Production projects must be submitted under the Voice Performance category.

- **Length Definitions**

- Feature Film: A film with a total running time of 70 minutes or more, including credits.
- Short Form Film: A film with a total running time of 40 minutes or less, including credits.

- **General Requirements**

- Projects must have had national distribution within the eligibility period.
- Films must be released in one of the following qualifying formats:
 - A theatrical release, meeting commercial run requirements.
 - A streaming release, under specific conditions outlined below.
- Projects that received their first public exhibition or distribution solely via broadcast or cable, DVD, or made-for-television formats are not eligible.

- **Theatrical Release**

- To qualify as a theatrical motion picture:
 - The project must have been initially released and distributed in the United States.
 - It must have had a minimum seven (7) consecutive day commercial theatrical run in at least one of the following key markets: Los

Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, or Miami.

- The film may also be available on a digital platform, but that cannot serve as a substitute for a qualifying theatrical run.

- **Streaming Release**

- A project may qualify under the Motion Picture category if it:
 - Was eligible for theatrical distribution and had an official premiere,
 - Was released directly to a U.S.-based streaming platform,
 - Was not distributed internationally or on television prior to its U.S. streaming release.
 - Made-for-television movies and broadcast-exclusive content are not eligible in this category.

- **Short Form Film**

- To qualify as a short-form motion picture:
 - The project must have had a paid theatrical screening before non-theatrical distribution, or
 - Been selected for an official jury screening at a recognized film festival.
 - Only final, publicly exhibited versions of the film are eligible for submission.

- **Television + Streaming Categories**

Projects submitted in the Television + Streaming categories must meet the following criteria to qualify for consideration. All eligibility will be verified by the submissions team.

Projects (and individual achievements within them) must fall under the Television + Streaming category. These categories include programs created for either traditional broadcast platforms or qualified digital and streaming services with national distribution.

- **Platform Definitions**

- Television refers to content produced for broadcast via public airwaves, cable, or satellite networks. These programs typically include commercial breaks and are scheduled as part of a traditional network or cable lineup.
- Streaming and Digital Platforms refer to content distributed through internet-connected services, including subscription-based streaming services, broadcast or cable-affiliated apps, video-on-demand services, and original digital platforms such as Substack, YouTube Originals, and other app-based or browser-based content providers.
- Projects that premiere at festivals, markets, or press screenings may qualify in the Television + Streaming categories, provided the full public release occurs within the eligibility window and adheres to all Television

+ Streaming requirements. Eligibility in such cases will be evaluated individually.

- Projects distributed through local platforms or without national reach are not eligible.

▪ **Series & Episode Guidelines**

- Entries in Drama and Comedy categories must represent an entire series, not a single episode. A qualifying series must have a minimum of six (6) episodes, with each episode being either 30 or 60 minutes in length (excluding commercials, if applicable).
- Split Seasons: If a season is released across two different calendar years, the project's eligibility will be based on the year that contains the majority of the episodes. This applies only to overall show submissions (e.g., Best Drama or Comedy Series).
- Individual submissions for Performance, Writing, or Directing must be entered based on the year in which the specific episode aired.
- Submissions in Writing and Directing must be entered separately for each individual episode. Each episode must be submitted as its own entry, even if part of the same series. Multiple writers or directors across different episodes must submit independently for each installment.
- All submissions must include a digital episode of the submitted project for committee review. Episodes must be uploaded or linked at the time of submission. Streaming links must remain active and accessible throughout the review period. Expired or password-protected links without access may result in disqualification.

▪ **Short Form Series**

- A Short Form Project must consist of episodes with an average running time between 3 and 17 minutes.
- A minimum of six (6) episodes must have been released within the current eligibility year to qualify.
- All content must be original and meet the same eligibility standards as full-length programs, including national distribution and accessibility.

• **Make-up, Hair, and Costume Design Categories**

- Make-up, Hair and Costume Design achievements within the Television + Streaming and Motion Picture categories must be tied to projects that were released or debuted within the eligibility period.
- For entries in either Television + Streaming or Motion Picture, if the project involves a combined Make-up and Hairstyling department, entrants may only submit in one category—either Make-up *or* Hairstyling, but not both.
- A completed Department Head Verification Form is required and must be uploaded as part of the individual submission. This form is available in the online submissions' portal.

- **Stunt Category**

- Individual achievements in the Stunt category must be associated with projects that were released or debuted within the eligibility period and must meet the eligibility requirements outlined under the Television + Streaming or Motion Picture categories.
- All Stunt submissions require a completed Department Head Verification Form, which confirms the individual's role and contribution. This form is available in the online submissions portal and must be uploaded as part of the individual entry.

- **Recording Categories**

- Recording Projects must have been released or debuted and received general national distribution within the eligibility period. All recordings must be publicly available as stand-alone, audio-only purchases or streams, and must be newly released during the eligibility year. National distribution is defined as availability through widely recognized digital platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, or equivalent services.
- Each individual song submitted for consideration — even if part of the same album or project — must be entered as a separate submission. You must provide screening copies for the nominating committee via a secure, direct-access streaming link or file upload. Accepted formats include MP3, WAV, or high-quality streaming links. All submitted links must remain active and accessible throughout the review period. Inaccessible, password-protected, or expired links may result in disqualification.
- If a project includes multiple contributors (e.g., featured artists, producers), clearly indicate all credited individuals in the submission form.

- **Literary Categories**

- Projects must have been released or debuted and distributed nationally. National distribution is defined as availability to a broad U.S. audience through recognized retail outlets, digital platforms, or publications.
- All literary submissions must provide a valid ISBN. Physical copies or e-books must be made available to the nominating committee for review. Failure to provide the product within the designated timeframe will result in disqualification. Shipping instructions for physical books will be sent upon completion of the submission form and payment.
- If submitting multiple entries for the same project, each entry must be submitted and clearly labeled with the corresponding entry ID. For e-books, a secured access link or downloadable file must be included at the time of submission and remain accessible throughout the judging period. Incomplete or inaccessible submissions will not be considered.

- **Documentary Categories (Motion Picture and Television)**

The Documentary category recognizes excellence in non-fiction storytelling across

motion picture and television formats. Eligible documentaries must present factual, researched content and exhibit editorial structure, cinematic intent, and original perspective.

Submitters may enter in the main Documentary category and, if applicable, in Directing. Writing is not eligible for submission in the Documentary category.

- **Format Eligibility**

Documentary projects must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in either the:

- Motion Picture category (for theatrically released documentaries), or
- Television + Streaming category (for documentaries released via television broadcast or digital platforms).

Please refer to those sections of this guide for specific details regarding release, distribution, and qualifying platforms.

- **Submission Requirements**

- A screening copy of the full documentary must be provided via a secure upload to the nominating committee's server or through an approved third-party streaming platform. Screeners must remain active and accessible throughout the review period.
- For directing submissions, additional materials may be required to verify individual achievement, as outlined in the Directing category section of this guide.

- **Writing, Directing and Editing Categories**

Submissions in the Writing, Directing and Editing categories must be tied to projects that meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the applicable Television + Streaming or Motion Picture categories. Please refer to those sections of the guide for detailed release and distribution requirements.

- **Submission Requirements**

- **Directing:** A screening copy of the project must be provided via a secure upload to the nominating committee's server or through an approved third-party screening platform. The screener must remain active and accessible throughout the review period.
- **Writing:** A copy of the final script must be uploaded in PDF format. The script must reflect the final, aired or released version of the project and be free of watermarks or annotations that obstruct readability.
- **Editing:** A 1080p screening copy of the project, under 10 GB, must be provided via a secure upload to the nominating committee's server or through an approved third-party screening platform. The screener must remain active and accessible throughout the review period.

- **Podcast Categories**

- Podcast projects must have been released or debuted as a series with a minimum of eight (8) episodes, each with a minimum running time of 15 minutes.
- All episodes must have been publicly available and received general national distribution within the eligibility period. Podcasts must be available as audio-only streaming content on a nationally distributed podcast platform (e.g., Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or equivalent services).
- Each submission must include one representative episode for screening, provided via a secure, direct-access upload to the nominating committee's secured server. The selected episode should best reflect the overall quality and intent of the series.

SUBMISSIONS ENTRY FEES

Entries for the NAACP Image Awards must be completed online at naacpimageawards.net.

There is a \$400 non-refundable processing fee for each submission and a \$2000 non-refundable processing fee for each submission in Outstanding Ensemble Cast in a Motion Picture. The Literary processing fee of \$400 includes the fee for shipping the books to the nominating committee.

There is an early bird submission period with a special fee of \$350 expires at 6:00 p.m. (PT) on October 9, 2026. **If a submission is not paid in full by the end of the early bird period, the entry fee will automatically revert to the standard (regular) pricing.** For literary submissions, a non-refundable processing fee of \$350 applies per entry. This includes a \$50 shipping and handling fee to cover the distribution of physical and electronic books to the Literary Sub-Committee during the review period.

The NAACP tax ID number is 13-1084135. Payments can be completed online at www.naacpimageaward.net.

If you would like to make a payment by mail, first complete the submission online, then send a copy of the submission PDF along with a check or money order payable to the **NAACP Empowerment Programs, Inc.** (please write the submission ID number in the memo section of the check) and mail to:

NAACP Empowerment Programs, Inc. (6949)
P.O. Box 417537
Boston, MA 02241-7537

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

ALL CATEGORIES

- Required Screeners

- All categories are required to upload digital screeners that can be viewed by the nominating committee to complete the submission. The NAACP has two digital screening options, the voting portal and the NAACP Image Awards Screening Room. There are (3) three ways to submit required screeners:
 1. Upload the screener when you submit the project to our secure server.
 - a. If a password is required to view the screener on our site:
 - i. It must be made available for multiple viewers on the nominating committee screening site. If a username and password are required, please add information in the space provided when submitting the project.
 2. Provide us with a link to your work
 3. After completing the submission, submit film or television project screeners through the NAACP Image Awards Screening Room (additional fees will be required.)
- Each committee member is responsible for watching, listening, and/or reading all the content provided so we ask that you have all these items in by the content due date.

- Screener Types

- Television Screeners can be an episode, special, movie, or series
- Music screeners can be a single, video, group or collaboration project, or album. It must correspond with the category. The album project must be the entire album.
- Literature can be either a physical book or an e-book.
- Motion Picture must be an entire film or documentary.
- Writing must be an entire motion picture, or television episode/special, and script.
- Directing must be an entire episode, documentary, or motion picture
- Editing must be an entire episode, movie or motion picture
- A podcast can be a single episode from the qualifying season

- Artwork

Please upload high resolution project key art or a headshot (for a performer) during the online submissions entry. File(s) **should be 300 dpi** (color preferred) and acceptable formats include .jpg or .eps.

LITERARY CATEGORIES

Required Books

All entries must be accompanied by fifteen (15) original copies of the book with covers or an e-book for Nook, iBook, or Kindle applications. Please ship physical books to:

NAACP Hollywood Bureau
Image Awards - Literary Department
5757 Wilshire Boulevard | Suite 580
Los Angeles, CA | 90036

Upon completion of the Submission, you will receive additional information regarding shipping instructions for physical books to coordinate tracking information with the literary coordinator prior to shipping. Books can arrive at the office between **August 31, 2026, through November 6, 2026.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you have any questions regarding Submissions, please reach out to the appropriate coordinator.

58th NAACP Image Awards | Office of Submissions
5757 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 580 | Los Angeles, 90036

Coordinator Information:

- **Motion Picture Coordinator**
imagefilm@naacpnet.org
 - *Motion Picture, Documentary, Writing, Directing, Make-up, Hairstyling, Costume Design, Stunt, Editing*
- **Television + Streaming Coordinators**
imagetv@naacpnet.org | imagetv.streaming@naacpnet.org
 - *Television, Documentary, Writing, Directing, Make-up, Hairstyling, Costume Design, Stunt, Editing*
- **African Projects Coordinator**
imageafrica@naacpnet.org
 - *Motion Picture categories – Film, Actor, Actress, Directing*
 - *Television categories – Series, Actor, Actress*
 - *Music categories – Album, New Artist, Song*
- **Recording Coordinator**
imagemusic@naacpnet.org
 - *Music and Podcasts*
- **Literary Coordinator**
imagelit@naacpnet.org

AWARD CATEGORIES

Motion Picture Categories

- Outstanding Motion Picture
- Outstanding Independent Motion Picture
- Outstanding Animated Motion Picture
- Outstanding International Motion Picture
- Outstanding Documentary (Film)
- Outstanding Short Form (Live Action)
- Outstanding Short Form (Animated)
- Outstanding Short Form Documentary (Film)
- Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Breakthrough Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Breakthrough Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Ensemble Cast in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance - Motion Picture
- Outstanding Performance by a Youth in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Breakthrough Creative in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Cinematography in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Writing in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Directing in a Motion Picture
- Outstanding Directing in a Documentary (Television or Film)
- Outstanding Editing in a Motion Picture or TV Series/ Special
- Outstanding Costume Design (Television or Motion Picture)
- Outstanding Make-up (Television or Motion Picture)
- Outstanding Hair Styling (Television or Motion Picture)
- Outstanding Stunt Ensemble
- Outstanding African Motion Picture
- Outstanding Actor in an African Motion Picture
- Outstanding Actress in an African Motion Picture
- Outstanding Directing in an African Motion Picture

Literature Categories

- Outstanding Literary Work – Fiction
- Outstanding Literary Work – Non-Fiction
- Outstanding Literary Work – Debut Author
- Outstanding Literary Work – Biography/ Autobiography
- Outstanding Literary Work – Instructional
- Outstanding Literary Work – Poetry
- Outstanding Literary Work – Children
- Outstanding Literary Work – Youth/Teens
- Outstanding Literary Work – Graphic Novel

Television + Streaming Categories

- Outstanding Comedy Series
- Outstanding Actor in a Comedy Series
- Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series
- Outstanding Drama Series
- Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series
- Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series
- Outstanding Daytime Drama Series
- Outstanding Actor in a Daytime Drama Series
- Outstanding Actress in a Daytime Drama Series
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Daytime Drama Series
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Daytime Drama Series
- Outstanding African Television Series
- Outstanding Actor in an African Television Series
- Outstanding Actress in an African Television Series
- Outstanding Scripted Vertical Series
- Outstanding Limited Television (Series, Special, or Movie)
- Outstanding Actor in Limited Television (Series, Special, or Movie)
- Outstanding Actress in Limited Television (Series, Special, or Movie)
- Outstanding News/Information (Series or Special)
- Outstanding Talk Series
- Outstanding Reality Program, Reality Competition or Game Show (Series)
- Outstanding Variety Show (Series or Special)
- Outstanding Children's Program
- Outstanding Performance by a Youth (Series, Special, Television Movie or Limited-Series)
- Outstanding Host in a Talk or News/Information (Series or Special) – Individual or Ensemble
- Outstanding Host in a Reality/Reality Competition, Game Show or Variety (Series or Special) – Individual or Ensemble
- Outstanding Guest Performance by an Actor
- Outstanding Guest Performance by an Actress
- Outstanding Animated Series
- Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance (Television)
- Outstanding Short Form Series - Reality/Nonfiction/Documentary
- Outstanding Breakthrough Creative (Television)
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in Limited Television (Series, Special, or Movie)
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in Limited Television (Series, Special, or Movie)
- Outstanding Documentary (Television)
- Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series
- Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series
- Outstanding Writing in a Television Movie or Special
- Outstanding Directing in a Comedy Series
- Outstanding Directing in a Drama Series
- Outstanding Directing in a Television Movie or Special
- Outstanding Directing in a Documentary (Television)
- Outstanding Editing in a Motion Picture or Television Series, Movie or Special

- Outstanding Costume Design (Television or Motion Picture)
- Outstanding Make-up (Television or Motion Picture)
- Outstanding Hair Styling (Television or Motion Picture)
- Outstanding Stunt Ensemble (TV)

Recording Categories

- Outstanding New Artist
- Outstanding Male Artist
- Outstanding Female Artist
- Outstanding Jazz Album
- Outstanding Gospel/Christian Album
- Outstanding International Song
- Outstanding Music Video/Visual Album
- Outstanding Album
- Outstanding Soundtrack/Compilation Album
- Outstanding Gospel/Christian Song
- Outstanding Soul/R&B Song
- Outstanding Hip Hop/Rap Song
- Outstanding Duo, Group or Collaboration (Traditional)
- Outstanding Duo, Group or Collaboration (Contemporary)
- Outstanding Original Score for TV/Film
- Outstanding African Album
- Outstanding African New Artist
- Outstanding African Song

Podcasts Categories

- Outstanding News and Information Podcast
- Outstanding Lifestyle / Self-Help Podcast
- Outstanding Society and Culture Podcast
- Outstanding Podcast - Arts, Sports and Entertainment
- Outstanding Podcast – Scripted/Limited Series/Short Form

NOMINATION PROCESS

JUDGING

The NAACP Image Awards' Nominating Committees are composed of individuals within the entertainment industry (studio/network executives, actors, artists, managers, agents, publicists, journalists, literary agents, and others) and NAACP National Board Members, NAACP Foundation Trustees, executives, staff, and key interfaces. Entries received are viewed and evaluated online, during special screenings, industry screenings, and via individual review of supplemental materials.

Based on the member's evaluation, the member then determines their top five (5) selections per category and applies the following criteria to each selection:

- Fair, Accurate and Inclusive Representations
- Originality
- Impact
- Cultural Responsibility/Integrity
- Overall Quality

NOMINATION PROCESS AND NOTIFICATION

Once the top five (5) nominees in each category have been selected, a press conference is held to announce the nominees. A press release is also distributed with the full list of nominations. An email is then sent to the "Person to be notified if the project or performer is nominated" section completed during the online submission entry process.

They will then receive an email from the nominee liaison requesting them to confirm/update the following information:

- Primary contact
- Secondary contact
- Add additional contacts (agent, manager, publicist, assistant, publisher)
- Name(s) and address for nominee certificate(s)

RULES

The following includes information about category definitions and submission qualifications.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for an individual award, the subject must have performed in an eligible project that aired or was released between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026. The performance or project cannot be used from a previously released project that would have qualified in a previous year (i.e. a rebroadcast performance, a performance in a released film being rebroadcast, or a remix of a song or album from a previous year, or reprint of a released book). Legacy projects that are re-broadcasted or rereleased do not qualify.

Artificial Intelligence Use & Disclosure Policy

Any entrant whose submitted work incorporates generative AI must disclose that use at the time of entry, whenever the AI-generated element bears on the category being entered. Disclosure should describe what tool or system was used, what portion of the work it touched, and the extent of that involvement.

Entries found to contain undisclosed AI-generated material may be withdrawn from consideration at the discretion of the Image Awards Committee, at any point in the judging process, whether the entrant is notified in advance.

There is no single blanket rule covering every category. Eligibility of a submission containing AI-assisted or AI-generated material is reviewed individually, weighing:

- How much of the finished work was produced by AI versus by the human creative team
- Whether that AI contribution materially shaped the outcome being judged in that category
- Any category-specific standards published in that year's official call for entries

Categories with Firm Limits

Certain categories center on human craft in a way that AI cannot substitute for, regardless of degree:

- Performance and hosting categories — a performance generated entirely by AI, with no human actor, presenter, or personality behind it, is not eligible.
- Writing and literary categories — a script, teleplay, or literary work generated entirely by AI, without meaningful human authorship of the language itself, is not eligible.
- Editing and recording categories – any work edited completely by AI, without a human editor, is not eligible. Any audio or voice recordings generated completely by AI, with no human singer or voice-over actor is not eligible. Any audio or musical deepfakes without proper permission/credit to the original artist/producer/author is not eligible.
- Any scripted vertical series created completely by AI, is not eligible.

For the 58th NAACP Image Awards, all matters regarding submissions are subject to change based on national laws, state and local mandated government orders, and guidelines explicitly approved by the NAACP Empowerment Programs, Inc.

All entries may be modified by the entrant until submitted. Once they are submitted for review, all changes will have to be requested through the category coordinator. The submission team will verify all eligibility.

- **General Information**

- All projects must be original programming that has not been previously released and/or aired.
- There are five (5) final nominees in each category. These nominees are determined after Committees vote on received submissions.
- The synopsis is the general overview of the project and not a specific episode, or element unless required for that category. When writing a project synopsis, please use less than 75 words.
- The \$400 processing fee for each submission and the \$2,000 processing fee for Outstanding Ensemble Cast in a Motion Picture are non-refundable and required for handling. There is an early bird pricing of \$350 for each submission and \$1,500 for Ensemble Cast, available until October 9, 2026.
- Submissions that do not meet the criteria are immediately disqualified.
- If you do not provide a screener for the committee to review, your project will be disqualified.
- Digital screeners will be shown on the voting portal or NAACP Image Awards' viewing room.

- All submission screeners, except the literature categories, must be digital links. Links must be supplied to the nominating committee via our secured voting portal or through our NAACP Image Awards viewing room to be considered. If you provide individual links for the committee, it should include individual passcodes, and they must be submitted by spreadsheet.
- Any project that is self-published or self-distributed (without financial or creative involvement from a label, studio, network, or publishing house) will be vetted to determine if the program is suitably competitive to be included on the nominating ballot. No individual achievement within a self-published program may be entered if the program is not approved for the ballot.

- **Television + Streaming Categories**

- All projects should be submitted commercial-free.
- Television is any content produced for broadcast via public airways, cable, and satellite television. It typically has advertisements and breaks during the show.
- The + Streaming category is described as an online provider of entertainment that delivers its content via an internet connection to the subscriber. This includes cable and broadcast -based apps, subscription-based video streaming, and video-on-demand services. Additional eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- An original broadcast has to reach at least 50% of potential U.S. TV markets; pay/basic cable transmissions; or broadband airdate.
- **Split season eligibility** - A television series may qualify for submission with a split season if it meets the required number of episodes across two consecutive calendar years under the following conditions:
 - The program must air a minimum of six (6) episodes within the year of submission and otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for a television series.
- Series, performance, and select craft submissions will qualify in the year in which most episodes are released.
- Episodic submissions (e.g., Guest Performance, Writing, Directing, Editing) are based on a single episode's contribution and will qualify in the year that episode airs.

- If the season is evenly distributed across two years (e.g., four [4] episodes in year one [1] and four [4] episodes in year two [2]), the submitter may select which year to submit.
- To request a split season, the submitter must complete and submit a written validation request form.
- Shows must have national distribution on either a basic, premium/pay television or cable or streaming service that delivers the content via an internet connection to the subscriber's computer, TV, or mobile device. Regional and local shows are not eligible.
- Television programs that are offered for “general theatrical release” occurring before their airing or Internet exhibition are not eligible under television but may meet the criteria for film + streaming.
- Digital links that require login information must include the username and password. The link must remain active until the end of the voting period, January 15, 2027.
- If a series airs a “special” episode, (excluding variety and news/information) and it is a stand - alone event, it may be entered as a stand-alone special in a non-series category or area. This only applies if it was not part of the regular series order or involves a significant and substantive format change throughout, e.g., from whole-episode live-action to whole-episode animation.
- If you do not provide a screener for the committee to review, your project will be disqualified. Digital screeners will be shown on the voting portal or NAACP Image Awards viewing room.
- Television + Streaming Category Definitions:
 - A **Series (Comedy or Drama)** is six (6) or more episodes under the same series title. The length of the show is programmed to a half or one-hour format.
 - A **Short Form Series or Special** must have an average episode running time of 3 minutes to 17 minutes. This will include over-the-air, cable-satellite, and internet exhibitions. A minimum of six episodes must air within the current eligibility year to qualify as a short-form series. Content must be original. All other rules for the Series shall apply. To qualify, a Short Form Special must have a running time between 3 and 17 minutes and either air as part of a live, non-variety broadcast event or be presented as a stand-alone produced short. Entries outside this running time are not eligible. Remixes, promotional spots, and trailers do not qualify.

- **Outstanding Limited Television** is contained or limited narrative television program, including limited series, anthology series, mini-series, dramatic special, or TV movie:
 - A **Limited Series** is a program with a minimum of two (2) or more episodes and maximum of 8 (eight) episodes. A limited series must tell a complete, non-recurring story, and not have an ongoing storyline or main characters in other seasons.
 - A **Mini-Series** is categorized as a Limited Series.
 - A **Dramatic Special** is typically a live or recorded television movie event that contains a consistent storyline, characters, or dramatic arc that connects all the segments. It can be one or two parts. The entire program as broadcast must be submitted.
 - A **Special** is a program with a scheduled run time between 60 and 180 minutes. The entire program must be submitted.
- A **Vertical Series** must consist of episodes with an average running time between two (2) and five (5) minutes in length. A minimum of thirty (30) episodes must have been released within the current eligibility year to qualify. All content must be original, scripted and present a clear and serialized narrative.
- A **Children's Program** is a series or special designed primarily for children from ages 2-16 in any format which could be live-action, animation, or puppetry. This can include family viewing.
- A **Television Movie** is an original program that tells a complete story and is broadcast in one part.
- **News/Information Series/Specials** are programs designed to provide non-fiction stories or elements.
 - News programs are hosted shows that cover breaking news, current events and typically contain some investigative journalism.
 - Informational programs can include non-fiction elements and stories in a non-documentary format; personality-hosted programs; interview format programs with an on-air interviewer, and programs that provide information.
 - This includes news stories or specials covering the pandemic and/or civil unrest.

- A **Reality Program/Reality Competition Series** includes any program with a competition element that gives a prize or title, including a game show and any program that gives a prize or is itself a contest and/or competition. They can be structured or unstructured and may contain consistent story elements.
- A **Talk Series** is a single or multi host show format which includes legal, and courtroom programming.
- A **Variety Series/Special** is formatted for a live audience and includes but is not limited to a host, musical act, sketch comedy, and pre-recorded content. The programming will not contain characters, a consistent storyline, or a dramatic arc that connects all the segments.
 - ➔ Variety programs can include content exclusively originated for or adapted from an event or other medium including a comedic special, concert tour performance, Broadway play, or nightclub act. The recorded/adapted programming cannot be a historical program. Hosts are eligible to enter under the correlating host category.
 - ➔ Performers in Variety Program Series may enter as the Lead, Supporting, or Guest Performer in the Comedy category.
- **Breakthrough Creative** is given to a person who has produced, written, or directed their first major successful project.

▪ **Television + Streaming Performer Categories and Rules:**

- A **Guest Performer** is someone who appears in less than 75% of that series for the season that is being submitted and cannot be listed as a recurring character.
- A **Host** is the person or group of individuals who host a program. One individual may not be singled out as a host if more than one official person is hosting a program. The entire host team must be submitted.
- The **Youth Actor** age limit is 16.
 - ➔ *Performers can enter acting categories as the Lead, Supporting, or Guest performer.*
- An **Actor/Actress** may enter multiple performance categories if the achievements are for different projects.

- All Actor/Actress definitions are based on an individual(s) work in the entire series and are not dependent on one specific episode. When submitting an actor/actress, you must submit one specific episode and give a series synopsis.
- The minimum on-screen time for eligibility for a Television Movie or Dramatic Special is 5% of the total running time of a movie or a complete Limited Series.
- **Daytime Performance** categories are permitted to submit an acting compilation reel. The rules for submitting a compilation reel are:
 - Reel must be between 5 and 15 minutes in total running time.
 - Reel may consist of any clips from any episodes of any shows you appear on as the same character (no montages - as aired) from the 2026 calendar year.
 - Please include the airdates of ALL episodes used in your reel.
- **A Host from the Variety, Reality Program/Reality Competition, News/ Information, and Talk** categories cannot be submitted as an Actor in any category for that project.

All names associated with the submission should be submitted with the entry to be considered.

Only producer(s) whose specific screen credit is Executive Producer, Co-Executive Producer, Supervising Producer, Producer or Produced by, and whose functions support those credits will receive awards. In the event of a win, a maximum of three (3) trophies will be awarded. An additional four (4) trophies can be purchased.

- **Podcast Category**

- All podcast submissions must include all host(s) and show key art.
- Must be original material and have a minimum of eight (8) programmed to a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes.
- To be considered eligible must have one complete season by the end of the submission period.
- The title and description of the podcast and individual episodes submitted with release dates must be provided.
- Provide a list of podcast streaming services where the podcast is hosted.

- Podcast's production company (if applicable).
- Podcast Category Definitions and Rules:
 - A **News and Information** Podcast is a podcast that discusses news and events happening nationally. This is a forum that keeps its subscribers up to date on necessary information relevant to all current events. To be eligible in this category, the host(s)/podcast must be connected to, or in partnership with a news broadcast channel or network. The submissions team will verify eligibility.
 - A **Lifestyle and Self-Help** Podcast is a podcast that delves into ways in which its subscribers can improve their overall well-being, whether it be physical, mental, or spiritual. These are discussions ranging from therapy, prayer & meditation, healthy eating, and exercise. Provide guidance or examples on shifting mindsets, cultivating healthy relationships, and much more.
 - A **Society and Culture Podcast** is a podcast that looks through the lens of our culture focusing on everyday discussion of our stories. In-depth conversations can cover a spectrum of topics relative to Black culture, from our perspective.
 - An **Arts, Sports, and Entertainment Podcast** is a podcast where subscribers tune in to hear from their favorite public figures as they give a “behind the scenes peak” into the sports and entertainment industry, discussing the ins and outs, and many facets of art, sports, and entertainment. You'll find celebrities detailing their personal journeys and lessons learned in this business.
 - **Scripted, Limited, or Short Form Series** recognizes scripted series podcasts that tell fictional stories through multiple voice actors, dialogue, sound effects, and music to create an immersive listening experience. Audiobooks are not eligible.
 - Scripted Series Podcast – A recurring podcast that has at least 6 new episodes in the calendar year.
 - Limited Series Podcast – A non-recurring podcast limited to 4–7 episodes, each with a minimum running time of 15 minutes.
 - Short Form Podcast – A recurring podcast with at least 8 episodes, each with a maximum running time of 15 minutes.

- **Recording Category**

An Album is defined as a collection of a minimum of six (6) unique, non-identical tracks. Remixes, alternate versions, or previously released recordings are not eligible. The total running time for an Album containing six (6) tracks must be no less than twenty (20) minutes.

- All song submissions must include the artist and credited songwriters.
- All recordings submitted for consideration must consist of a minimum of fifty-one percent (51%) new, previously unreleased material in order to be eligible for the recording categories.
- For all outstanding video submissions, the director's name must be included.
- All outstanding songs, all categories, writers must be listed.
- Soundtracks must include the name of the project producers.
- Legacy recordings are not permitted. This includes a legacy project with previously unreleased content.
- Recording Category Definitions and Rules:
 - A **Male or Female Artist** is a male or female artist that has released a qualifying project, single, album, or video.
 - A **Duo or Group** is a duo or group that has released a qualifying project, single, album, or video.
 - A **New Artist** is defined as any performing artist whose releases, during the eligibility year, the recording that first recognizes the public identity of that artist as a performer. The release should be the first album but can be a single EP. Artists cannot repeat in this category. The submissions team will determine if the artist has already achieved New Artist status in previous years.
 - A **Collaboration** is the joining of two individual entities, whether two single artists or a duo/group that has released a qualifying project, single, album, or video. This category can include a solo artist with a feature or duet, both artists' names must be submitted, and the partnership defined.
 - **Gospel** submissions can be contemporary or traditional. They cannot be a compilation album. Solo artists, duos, groups, or choirs/choruses qualify for eligibility.
 - **Jazz Album** category may include vocal or instrumental performances that are grounded in inflection, phrasing, arrangements, repertoire, and/or improvisatory variations. For band, groups, and ensemble performances, this includes straight-ahead, contemporary, orchestral, and big band sound jazz types. Vocal performances, vocal

styling, and interpretation must be jazz in content and not merely performances (R&B or other genre styles of vocal performance are not eligible.) Jazz submissions must contain at least 60% of the playing time of newly recorded music. Music can be vocal or instrumental. Submissions can be contemporary or traditional. We cannot accept legacy or heritage recordings.

- The **R&B/Soul** submissions are music that utilizes a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content, and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of R&B and Soul music style and culture. Songs that contain samples or interpolations are eligible.
- The **Rap/Hip-Hop** submissions are hip-hop or rap music that utilize a stylistic intention, song structure, lyrical content, and/or musical presentation to create a sensibility that reflects the broad spectrum of hip-hop and rap music style and culture. Songs that contain samples or interpolations are eligible. The projects will contain a strong and clear presence of melody combined with hip-hop melody or rap cadence and are inclusive of dialects, lyrics, or performance elements.
- **International Music** is non-western and non-American international cross-cultural music and international recordings that include Afrobeat, world beat, African music, world jazz, world pop, and cross-cultural music. Western artists that create music with international influences are not eligible in this category and should be entered in the appropriate category.
- **Deluxe Albums** are only eligible if both Original and Deluxe versions of the album are released within the current eligibility period. However, if an INDIVIDUAL SONG is featured in a Deluxe album whose original version was released in the prior eligibility period, that individual song is eligible as long as it was released within the current period.
- **Remixes** are only eligible if the original version of a song was released in a prior eligibility year, and its remix is released in the current eligibility period, the remix is eligible if 51% or more of the song's lyrical and/or musical content is new material.
- **Music Videos** can be either a full visual album or an individual video. Must be official videos recognized by the Artist and/or Artist's label and cannot be videos of award shows or other live performances. Exception: The concept of the video itself is that of a live performance (i.e. Michael Jackson's "Dirty Diana", Silk Sonic's "Smokin' out the Window".)

- **Outstanding Album** submissions must contain at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental recordings. The Outstanding Album, International, Jazz, and Gospel categories are considered work by a single artist, duo, or group only, and cannot be a compilation of work by multiple artists.
- **Outstanding Soundtrack/Compilation Album** is awarded to the best overall soundtrack album consisting predominantly of song compilations created specifically for a motion picture, television show/series, or another visual media. The award is provided to the compilation producer (typically the executive producer or music supervisor) who has primary creative responsibility for the selection of music tracks and other components. All names should be listed within the submission.
- **Outstanding Original Score for TV/Film** is awarded to the best overall album consisting of an original score created specifically for a motion picture, television show/series, or another visual medium. The award is provided to the credited composer(s). If there are multiple composers, all names must be listed within the submission to qualify. A standalone score album release is not required for eligibility — a compilation that exists only as part of the motion picture, television show/series, or visual media itself may still be submitted.
- **Outstanding Duo, Group, or Collaboration** categories are based on traditional or contemporary music.
 - ↪ **Traditional** includes songs that contain traditional elements of music from R&B, Soul, Jazz, and Gospel and its production elements usually contain live instrumentation. This category is usually considered Adult Contemporary, Neo-Soul, and R&B.
 - ↪ A **Contemporary** contains contemporary elements of music and typically derives solely from electronic beats, samples, and production elements. These elements will highlight the more progressive elements and may include samples and elements of hip-hop, rap, dance, and electronic music. Contemporary Albums must contain at least 51% percent playing time of newly recorded contemporary Hip-Hop, Rap, R&B, dance, Caribbean, and non-traditional genres like urban pop, urban rock, and urban alternative.

- **Literary Category Definitions and Rules**

- ***Debut Author*** submissions must be the author's first time being published as a novelist.
- ***Instructional*** provides instruction on various topics from business to self-help and must teach or offer to help solve a particular problem or issue.
- ***Children*** submissions are projects that cover a wide range of topics of relevance and interest to children, including picture books and easy-to-read stories.
- ***Nonfiction*** submissions are projects based on historical figures, facts, or real events.
- ***Youth/Teen*** submissions are novels written for Young Adults or adolescents between the ages of 11 and 18.
- ***Graphic Novel*** is a complete, self-contained story told through sequential art. Submissions can be fiction, non-fiction, biography/autobiography, or Youth/Teens. This includes:
 - Trade Paperback (TPB) is a collected edition of previously published comic book issues, usually in a softcover format.
 - Omnibus is a large, collected edition that includes multiple story arcs or an entire series in a single volume.
 - Volume is individual installments or chapters of a larger story, especially in ongoing series.
 - Graphic Novel submissions can be fiction, non-fiction, biography/autobiography, or Youth/Teens. The additional categories must be submitted separately.
 - ➔ Adaptations of books/movies are eligible
 - ➔ 64 pages (or equivalent) minimum
 - ➔ Credit up to 2 authors / 2 illustrators /1 editor
 - ➔ Anthologies, where individual short comics form a cohesive whole centered around a defined theme or concept, will be accepted.
 - ➔ Omnibus collections are only eligible if they have never been previously published in that form. Previously published volumes that comprise the omnibus can have publication dates outside the eligibility window.

- ➔ Volumes of ongoing series will be accepted if they work as standalone units and meet length requirements.
- ➔ Illustrated children's books are not considered graphic novels and individual comic book issues are not eligible.
- ➔ Trade paperbacks will not be eligible unless they form a single cohesive narrative.
- ➔ Reprints will not be eligible unless 51% of the content is new or significantly altered to present new narrative content.
- ➔ Web Comics will not be eligible unless they meet the publication guidelines, length equivalent minimum, and tell a cohesive narrative. Submissions must be viewable as a single PDF.

- **Motion Picture Category**

Motion Picture submissions must meet the minimum length requirement for a feature film of seventy (70) minutes to qualify. Projects must meet the theater release eligibility requirements.

- Theater Release - Projects that were distributed to theaters (and individual achievements within it) must have been initially released and distributed in the U.S. and had a minimum commercial theatrical run in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, New York, San Francisco or Miami for seven (7) consecutive days.
- Streaming Release - Projects that qualified to be distributed in theaters (and individual achievements within it), had a premiere, but initially released in the US directly to a streaming platform. It does not include made for television movies or films distributed outside the U.S. prior to release.
- Motion Picture Short Form submissions cannot exceed forty (40) minutes of total run time to qualify. A short-form film must have a paid theatrical release prior to a nontheatrical distribution or a paid official selection at a recognized film festival. The film festival must be a reputable festival that has been established for a minimum of five years.
- Motion Picture Category Definitions and Rules
 - ➔ Actor and Actress submissions are based on an individual's work in the motion picture. Performers can submit for consideration in either the Lead or Supporting category.
 - ➔ An Independent Motion Picture is a feature-length film that was produced and funded by an independent production company

outside of the major film studio system. Although funding is not the ultimate deciding factor, films in this category are generally completed for less than twenty - five (25) million dollars.

- Animated or Live Action Film is a motion picture created primarily through animation techniques or live-action cinematography, with hybrid works classified by the format comprising the majority of the running time.
- The Outstanding Ensemble Cast award will be given to a cast that provides a stellar and cohesive performance.
- The Outstanding Breakthrough Performance award will be given to the performer who has had an exceptional breakout performance that is recognized throughout the industry.
- The Outstanding Breakthrough Creative is given to a person who has produced, written, or directed their first major successful project.
- The Outstanding Youth Performance - Motion Picture will be given to the best acting performance in a feature or short-length motion picture. The performer must be 16 years or younger at the time of principal photography of the film.
- The Outstanding Cinematography in a Feature Film will be given to the best cinematography in a narrative feature film.
Cinematography includes the art of capturing visual storytelling elements such as framing, photography, composition, lighting, and camera motion.
- Outstanding Short Form is a motion picture with a running time of 40 minutes or less including title and credits. Short Form Documentary is a non-fiction program that typically interprets factual material and will contain live or recorded unscripted commentary or footage.
- A film is considered a feature if it is 70 minutes or more in length and a short form if it is under 40 minutes in length and that includes credits.
- Motion Pictures that receive their first public exhibition or distribution in any manner other than as a theatrical motion picture release will not be eligible. This includes Broadcast or Cable, DVD, and Internet transmissions.

- Screener copies must be made available to the nominating committee via our secured portal, NAACP Image Awards Viewing Room or third-party site.
- All submissions must be released during the eligibility period.
- International Motion Picture Category Definitions and Rules
 - An International Motion Picture is defined as a feature-length motion picture produced outside the United States of America and its territories with a predominantly (more than 50%) non-US participation. Animated and documentary feature films are permitted in this category.
 - Outstanding International Motion Picture submissions may be submitted for consideration in other categories, including individual achievements provided they comply with the rules governing those categories.
 - Motion pictures submitted for consideration in the Outstanding International Motion Picture category are NOT eligible for consideration in other awards categories in the subsequent awards year.
 - To meet theatrical exhibition requirements, International films may qualify if they are released outside their country of origin. Eligibility will be granted if the film is shown for paid admission in a commercial motion picture theater outside the United States and its territories for at least seven (7) consecutive days.
- Outstanding Character Voice Performance
 - Animated and Live Action vocal submissions must include an actor/actress headshot and character photo. Multiple characters can be entered if they are for the same film.
 - Vocal performance entrants who do multiple voices in a single motion picture are not required to enter all voices but may do so on a single entry.
 - Voice performers and narrators may not enter lead, supporting, or guest performer categories.

- **African Categories**

The NAACP is introducing ten (10) new categories dedicated to recognizing outstanding achievement in film, television, and music from the continent of Africa. Extending the Association's mission of celebrating Black excellence to the full breadth of African creative work in front of and behind the camera, and on record. Submissions for these categories.

Definition:

- African Motion Picture — Recognizes the best feature film produced on the African continent, by African creators, or substantially financed in Africa during the eligibility period.
- Actor in an African Motion Picture — Honors a male performer's outstanding lead or supporting performance in an eligible African motion picture.
- Actress in an African Motion Picture — Honors a female performer's outstanding lead or supporting performance in an eligible African motion picture.
- Directing in an African Motion Picture — Recognizes a director's achievement in vision, craft, and execution on an eligible African motion picture.
- Television Series — Recognizes the best scripted or unscripted television series produced on the African continent, by African creators, or substantially financed in Africa.
- Actor in an African Television Series — Honors a male performer's outstanding work in an eligible African television series.
- Actress in an African Television Series — Honors a female performer's outstanding work in an eligible African television series.
- African Album — Recognizes the best full-length music album by an African artist or substantially created/produced on the continent during the eligibility period.
- African New Artist — Honors an emerging African musical artist who has released a notable body of work for the first time during the eligibility period, recognizing breakthrough talent from the continent.
- African Song – Recognizes the best song performed by an African artist or substantially created/produced on the continent during the eligibility period.

- **Documentary Category**

A Documentary is a non-fiction project. These projects typically interpret factual material and will contain live or recorded unscripted commentary or footage.

- Television documentaries can be a movie, series, or specials.
- Fact-based dramatic movies are not eligible.
- Documentaries can only be submitted in the documentary category.
- Maximum of two directors per submission.

- **Writing Category**

- Writing in a Comedy or Drama Series submissions are for single episodes. The writer(s) are listed for single episodes only.
- Limited Television projects can submit writer(s) for individual episodes in the Comedy or Drama category.
- Television Movie, Special, and Variety writers must be credited as a writer on the submitted project to qualify.
- All writers credited within a submitted episode must be included under the same entry.

- **Directing Category**

- Directing in a Comedy or Drama Series submissions are for single episodes.
- Limited Television projects can submit director(s) for individual episodes in the Comedy or Drama category.
- Television Movie, Documentary, Special, and Variety directors must be credited as a director of the project to qualify. Segment Directors and Assistant Directors do not qualify.

- **Make-up, Hair, and Costume Design Categories**

- All Make-up, Hairstyling, and Costume Design submissions must have been released/debuted within the eligibility period and according to the guidelines in the Television+ Streaming or Motion Picture categories.
- For either Television + Streaming or Motion Picture in the case of a combined Make-up and Hairstyling department, entrants may only enter one category, either Make-up or Hair Styling but not both.
- Make-up, Hair and Costume Design Definitions and Rules
 - Make-up is defined as the work done by an artist as a part of the transformation of an actor/actress's face or body as a part of the delivery of a story based on the casted role. This would include but may not be limited to make-up or prosthetic application to the face or body of on-screen talent. This eligible submitter must be a part of

executing the work that has been referenced.

- Make-up submissions are eligible to include a maximum of six entrants for the following positions: Department Head (or Co-Head) Makeup Artist, Key Makeup Artist, and Makeup Artist. All submissions must include the department head to be considered eligible.
- Hairstyling is defined as the work done by an artist as a part of the transformation of an actor/actress's hair as a part of the delivery of a story based on the casted role. This would include but may not be limited to styling/designing of hair or application of wigs or false hair. This eligible submitter must be a part of executing the work that has been referenced.
- Hairstyling submissions are eligible to include a maximum of six entrants for the following positions: Department Head (or Co-Head) Hair Stylist, Key Hair Stylist, Hair Stylist, or Barber. All submissions must include the department head to be considered eligible.
- Costume Design submissions are eligible to include a maximum of six entrants for the following positions: Costume Designer, Assistant Costume Designer, and Costume Supervisor. All submissions must include the principal costume designer to be considered eligible.
- Costume Design is defined as the work done by a designer or team of designers as a part of the transformation of an actor/actress with the intended purpose of telling a story for a television series or motion picture. This eligible submitter(s) must be a part of executing the work that has been referenced.

- **Stunt Category**

All Stunt submissions must have been released/debuted within the eligibility period and according to the guidelines in the Television + Streaming or Motion Picture categories.

- **Stunt Definitions and Rules**

- Stunts are defined as the work done by an artist as a part of the coordination or performance of an unusual, difficult, and/or dramatic physical feat that may require a special skill, and that exhibits safety, technicality, precision, and performance. This would include but is not limited to fight choreography, martial arts, acrobatics, sports, aerial performance, aquatic work, and vehicle maneuvering. This eligible submitter must be a part of executing the work that has been referenced.

- Stunt submissions are eligible to include a maximum of six entrants. Stunt Coordinator, Supervising Stunt Coordinator, Stunt Choreographer, Fight Choreographer, Fight Coordinator, and Second Unit Director must be one of the entrants. All submissions must include department head(s) to be considered eligible. A full list of the team can be included on the entry form.

- **Editing Category**

Outstanding Editing category recognizes excellence in the post-production process through skillful, creative, and purposeful editing that enhances storytelling, strengthens narrative flow, and amplifies emotional impact. All Editing submissions must have been released/debuted within the eligibility period and according to the guidelines in the Television + Streaming or Motion Picture categories.

- **Editing Definitions and Rules**

- Editing is defined as the creative and technical work performed by an editor in the post-production process to assemble raw footage into a cohesive final program or film.
- This work shapes the narrative, determines pacing, and enhances emotional impact through the selection and arrangement of shots, transitions, and audio-visual integration.
- Eligible editing may include, but is not limited to, cutting scenes for clarity and rhythm, building tension or comedic timing, integrating visual and sound elements, and ensuring continuity.
- The eligible submitter must be directly responsible for executing the editorial work being recognized.

- **Credit Requirements**

- **Eligible Credits (Television)**
 - ➡ Picture Editor, Supervising Editor, Senior Editor, Lead Editor or Series Editor
- **Eligible Credits (Motion Picture/Film)**
 - ➡ Editor(s) listed as above-the-line in the film's official credits
- **Ineligible Credits (Both)**
 - ➡ Additional Editor, Assistant Editor, Associate Editor, Apprentice Editor, Animatic Editor, Online/Finishing Editor, Colorist, VFX Editor, Predictor, Sound Editor, or Videotape Editor
 - ➡ Supervising Editor is ineligible for film entries.

ONLINE SCREENERS

Yangaroo

The Yangaroo online site includes access to digital links and will include the majority of the submitted projects for review. Members will be encouraged to begin the viewing process as soon as items have been listed in the online screening room to give them as much time as possible to help accommodate the review of submitted projects prior to the nominee selection period.

Indee

Indee Technologies is a secure and reliable platform for submitting digital screeners for NAACP Image Awards consideration. Submitters can choose multiple security options for video assets, including forensic and visible watermarking and multi-DRM. We also offer two-factor authentication (2FA) for further content protection and 4K resolution video to improve the viewing experience, as add-ons for submissions.

Reach out to awards@indee.tv if you have any questions about submitting digital screeners to the NAACP Image Awards through Indee. Visit <https://naacp.indee.tv> to upload your screener through Indee. *Note: additional fees apply.*

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION CAMPAIGNS

Only those holding an eligible title will be considered. Submissions must clearly indicate the credited editor(s) on the official screen credits.

The 58th NAACP Image Awards is excited to offer For Your Consideration (FYC) campaign opportunities. FYC campaigns are designed to shine a spotlight on your work—helping to both capture the attention of our nominating committee and provide valuable marketing exposure to a group of cultural tastemakers and industry influencers. These opportunities give submitters a chance to elevate their projects and ensure they are experienced in the best possible light.

The Office of Submissions will provide a variety of ways to participate in FYC campaigns, tailored to your area of submission. For example, recording projects may benefit from listening events, literary works can be highlighted through digital

advertisements, and television or film entries may be showcased with screenings. These activities not only create awareness but also bring your work directly to the people who are shaping the conversation around excellence in entertainment and culture.

To further support your campaign, banner advertisements will be available on the submission website, through email distributions, and on the nominating committee's digital screeners' platform. In addition, unique event opportunities are available for independent submitters, alongside curated programming such as screenings, listening events, and clips & conversations. We are also pleased to make available a dedicated screening room and podcast studio—with professional production staff—to help maximize the impact of your project presentations. The number of opportunities across all areas is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity and contact your assigned coordinator for details on participation and associated costs.

NAACP Outreach List

- 600 Nominating Committee Members
- 2200 NAACP Branches & Units
- 650,000 Distribution Email List
- 2.5M Social Media Followers

For additional information regarding a FYC campaign and once your submission has been paid in full, please reach out to Ariana Drummond at adrummond@naacpnet.org to for campaign information and pricing.