



# 2009 AWARDS

Nomination Application

Deadline: Friday, January 30, 2009

*[www.cominguptaller.org](http://www.cominguptaller.org)*



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation  
deserves great art.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



INSTITUTE of  
**Museum and Library**  
SERVICES

## Coming Up Taller Awards

By honoring excellence in after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for young people through the **Coming Up Taller Awards**, we seek to promote a creative, engaged, skilled, and confident generation of young people. Each year the Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and reward excellence in after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. Award recipients receive \$10,000 each, an individualized plaque, and an invitation to attend the annual Coming Up Taller Leadership Enhancement Conference. We encourage programs initiated by museums, libraries, performing arts organizations, universities, colleges, arts centers, community service organizations, schools, businesses, and eligible government entities to consider participating.

The Coming Up Taller Awards support after-school and out-of-school programs that are tangible examples of the power of the arts and the humanities to encourage young people's creativity and to provide them with learning opportunities, chances to contribute to their community, and ways to take responsibility for their own futures. The Awards also celebrate the contributions that educators, curators, historians, scholars, librarians, and artists make to families and communities by mentoring and teaching children.

The development of artistic skills and the study of the human experience, past and present, are at the heart of what these programs offer young people. These are places and programs where children learn about cultural traditions and the histories of families, neighborhoods, and nations. They learn musical, visual, physical, and literary ways of understanding, expressing, and communicating ideas and perceptions. Coming Up Taller programs reflect a broad range of goals and serve youth and communities in various important ways: job training, improved school performance, community development, and cultural preservation and rejuvenation.

Research suggests that children who attend high-quality arts and humanities programs during the hours they are not at home or in school benefit from this exposure. Recent surveys also demonstrate that parents want the arts to be part of their children's learning experiences.

**Please read the Eligibility Requirements and Selection Criteria carefully.** You may visit the Coming Up Taller web site at [www.cominguptaller.org](http://www.cominguptaller.org) to learn more about past awardees and semifinalists cited for their promising programs.

All programs must be nominated, although self-nominations are accepted. Completed nominations should be sent to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and received by the office on or before **Friday, January 30, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact the President's Committee at 202-682-5409.

## Eligibility Requirements

Prior recipients of a Coming Up Taller Award are not eligible for an award in 2009. Coming Up Taller Awards are given to organizations for a specific program or programs. In some cases, the organization and program may be the same. Nominated programs are eligible if they **meet all the eligibility requirements below:**

- Operate as a program for children and youth outside the school day. Pre-school, after-school, weekend and/or summer programs, however, may have a school-based component or use school space. Multi-site initiatives that meet the criteria also are eligible;
- Use one or more disciplines of the humanities or the arts as the core content of its program(s);
- Concentrate on children and youth who live in family and community circumstances that limit their opportunities—underserved children and youth are the primary participants in the program;
- Involve children and youth as active participants in the arts or humanities experience. Cultural programs in which children function only as an audience are not eligible;
- Provide participants regularly scheduled sessions on an ongoing basis; one-time or occasional programs will not be considered;
- Integrate arts or humanities education programs with youth development goals (e.g., enhanced leadership skills, self-confidence, and peer relations). Programs concentrating only on preparing youth for an artistic or cultural career are outside the scope of Coming Up Taller; and
- Have been operational since January 2005 for a minimum of five years, including 2009 [the operational years of the specific nominated program(s) and not the organization's years of operation when nominating a program or programs within an organization];
- Must be a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, unit of state or local government, or federally recognized tribal community or tribes;
- Must be in good standing if a recipient of a federal grant.



## Selection Criteria

In selecting semifinalists and finalists, evaluators will look at the following criteria:

1. Evidence of high quality programming in the arts and/or the humanities;
2. Evidence that the experience provided is of sufficient intensity, consistency, and duration as to reasonably expect a positive impact on the skills, development, and/or resiliency of children and youth (narrative must specify how many hours of active engagement in supervised program activities are provided throughout the arc of the project);
3. Evidence that the arts or humanities program registers children's learning through stated outcomes. Such evidence include end results from assessments, evaluations, surveys, and/or performance measures, as well as honors, public recognition, or youth entering advanced training and/or higher education, etc.);
4. The program's focus on fostering child and youth development (e.g., increased leadership skills, self-confidence, and ability to develop strong positive relationships with peers and adults), including information on the children and young people who participate in the program;
5. The integration of support services (e.g., homework help, counseling, job training, etc.), and/or prevention strategies (e.g., mentoring) with arts and humanities programming—the way these disciplines and services work together to address program goals;
6. The professional background of the educators, historians, librarians, artists, curators, museum professionals, and other scholars working with young people, and/or managing the program(s); and
7. Organizational stability and commitment. Include information about important partnerships and their functions; reliability of funding sources; efforts taken to diversify revenue; continuity of staff, etc.



## Nomination Materials

Nominations must include **five (5) complete sets** of the following:

- The attached **Nomination Cover Form**. All information on this form should relate to the nominated program (i.e., programs within an organization, or an organization that meets the eligibility criteria);
- **A NARRATIVE OF UP TO 6 PAGES, SINGLE SPACED, EXCLUDING THE NOMINATION COVER FORM, ON STANDARD (8 ½" X 11") PAPER WITH A FONT SIZE NO SMALLER THAN 11 POINTS**. Please do not send materials in a hardcover binder. Lesson plans, news clips, and up to 3 additional letters of support are welcome in addition to the 6 pages. Pre-printed documents (*reports to funders, program curriculum, etc.*) may be sent but are not encouraged. Please do not include CDs, videos, or artwork. **Submitted materials will not be returned;**
  - **Your narrative should begin with a program summary of no more than 150 words about the nominated program.**
  - **Following your summary, the narrative should address how your program fulfills the Selection Criteria listed on the previous page, in the same order.**
- **Resumes for key program staff**, especially those in management and teaching roles (e.g., those administering the program, developing program content, and working directly with program participants);
- **Three (3) high-quality color photographs** of the program in operation. The same three images may be sent for each of the five nomination packets. One set should be a high quality original and the remaining sets can be copies of the original; and
- **A letter of recommendation** from an officially designated state or local arts agency, state humanities council, state cultural agency, regional arts organization, supporting corporation, or foundation. An effective letter of nomination/recommendation amplifies and reinforces the application narrative.

## Deadline

Five sets of the completed nomination and accompanying information must be **received by the office of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities on or before **Friday, January 30, 2009****. Please review your nomination before submission to ensure all questions have been answered on the cover sheet and that the nomination addresses the eligibility and selection criteria. All nomination materials and correspondence should be sent to:

**Coming Up Taller Awards  
President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 526  
Washington, DC 20506  
(Telephone: 202-682-5409)  
[www.cominguptaller.org](http://www.cominguptaller.org)**

**Please consider using commercial delivery services for your application.** Currently, there is a delay in the delivery of first-class mail to the federal government, which will continue indefinitely. Please also be advised that support materials (e.g., slides, documents printed in color, and photographs) put through irradiation to protect against biological contamination are suffering irrevocable damage.

## Selection Process

- **April** - Up to 50 semifinalists will be selected. All nominees will be notified by letter of their status at this time. The letter will go to the contact person for the program(s) nominated. The contact person is responsible for informing their nominator. A National Jury of independent experts will review the nominations of the semifinalists and recommend awardees.
- **June** - The 2009 Coming Up Taller award recipients will be chosen. All semifinalists will be notified of their status at this time.
- **July/August** - Award recipients will attend the Annual Coming Up Taller Leadership Enhancement Conference. Travel support to attend the conference will be provided.
- **Fall/Winter** - The awards will be announced. Each award recipient will receive a \$10,000 award and a plaque at a special ceremony in Washington, DC. Remaining semifinalists will be sent a Certificate of Excellence.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **I have received funding from NEA, NEH, and IMLS in the past (or I am in the process of applying for a grant), am I still eligible for a Coming Up Taller award?**

Yes, as long as you are in good standing with these agencies, i.e. all of your interim and final reports, both narrative and financial, have been submitted as requested.

- **Can I send supporting materials separately?**

No. Due to the volume of nominations received each year, we cannot guarantee that materials sent in separate mailings will be received in time and evaluated during the selection process. Therefore, it is recommended you send everything in one packet.

- **Can I send video tapes, CDs, or DVDs?**

No. We recommend you do not send DVDs, CDs or video tapes. These materials are not viewed during the selection process.

- **How will I know that you have received my nomination?**

Upon receipt of your nomination, you will be sent a postcard informing you it has been received.

- **Who should I designate as the contact person on the application?**

Anyone can be a contact person, as long as they are able to maintain communication throughout the entire nomination and evaluation process, should our office need to contact your organization.

- **My program takes place in a school setting but is not part of the school curriculum. Am I still eligible to apply?**

Yes.

- **My program operates annually but only during the summer months (or a specific period during the year), am I still eligible?**

Yes, as long as the program has been in operation for at least 5 years (since January 2005).

- **My program has been in operation for 5 years, but I don't have 501 (c)(3) status. Can I still submit a nomination?**

No. Although you are not required to have 501(c)(3) status all 5 years, you must have it at the time of nomination submission.

## 2009 Coming Up Taller Awards Nomination Application Coversheet



Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Official IRS Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Identification Number (9-digit number): \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated Program(s) Within Organization (if relevant) and the founding date(s) (When nominating a program (or programs) within an organization, give the program's information not the organization's years of operation):

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Founding Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Web Site: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Prior Coming Up Taller Nominee: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Prior Coming Up Taller Semifinalist: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Primary Cultural Discipline(s): (*Check all relevant categories on the line after the category*)

Archeology \_\_\_\_\_ Crafts \_\_\_\_\_ Dance \_\_\_\_\_ Design \_\_\_\_\_ Folk & Traditional Arts \_\_\_\_\_ History \_\_\_\_\_  
Humanities \_\_\_\_\_ Literature \_\_\_\_\_ Media Arts (*audio/film/video*) \_\_\_\_\_ Music \_\_\_\_\_ Musical Theater \_\_\_\_\_  
Opera \_\_\_\_\_ Photography \_\_\_\_\_ Reading and Discussion \_\_\_\_\_ Theater \_\_\_\_\_ Visual Arts \_\_\_\_\_  
Interdisciplinary (*projects integrating more than one discipline*) \_\_\_\_\_

None of the Above (*Please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Organizational Description: (*Check one category on the line after the relevant category*)

501(c)(3) Nonprofit \_\_\_\_\_ Unit of State/Local Gov't \_\_\_\_\_ Federally Recognized Tribal Community/Tribe \_\_\_\_\_

**Also:** (*Check one category on the line after the category.*)

Arts Center (*multi-purpose arts facility*) \_\_\_\_\_ Arts Council/Agency \_\_\_\_\_ College or University \_\_\_\_\_  
Community Service Organization (*non-arts/humanities service organization, e.g., youth center, Boys and Girls Club, etc.*) \_\_\_\_\_ Government \_\_\_\_\_ Historical Society \_\_\_\_\_ Humanities Council \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_ Media Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Museum \_\_\_\_\_ Performance Facility or Group \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ School of the Arts \_\_\_\_\_

None of the Above (*Please specify*) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Annual Number of Participants in the Nominated Program(s): (2009) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Annual Budget for Nominated Program(s): (2008) \_\_\_\_\_ (2007) \_\_\_\_\_ (2006) \_\_\_\_\_

*Coming Up Taller is a program of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

**President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities** Henry Moran, Executive Director

The President of the United States recognizes that the Nation's cultural life contributes to the vibrancy of society and the strength of democracy. The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities helps to incorporate the arts and humanities into White House objectives. The Committee bridges federal agencies and the private sector. It recognizes cultural excellence, engages in research, initiates special projects, and stimulates private funding. Areas of current focus include programs in youth arts and humanities learning; preservation and conservation; special events; and expansion of international cultural relations. For more information: [www.pcah.gov](http://www.pcah.gov)

**National Endowment for the Arts** Dana Gioia, Chairman

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information: [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

**National Endowment for the Humanities** Bruce M. Cole, Chairman

Because democracy demands wisdom, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) serves and strengthens our Republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans. The Endowment accomplishes this mission by providing grants for high-quality humanities projects in four funding areas: preserving and providing access to cultural resources, education, research, and public programs. For more information: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov)

**Institute of Museum and Library Services** Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. For more information: [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov).



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