

## ROOTS AURORA: Cultural Champion Nomination Form

Through its Cultural Champions awards, ROOTS AURORA seeks to honor individuals who have contributed to the preservation and promulgation of their ethnic heritage within the City of Aurora.

Past honorees, 2013-2018, have been:

**African American** - Anthony Stanford, William Bigham, Onwa Olieh, Ricky Rodgers

**France** – Josette Smith

**German** – Ed Schleining

**Greek** – Eva and Michael Kontos, Penny Panayiota Deligiannis

**Hispanic:**

**Puerto Rico** – Mirna Lopez-Freitag, Emilio Berrios

**Mexico** – Maria Lozano, Jesus Sanchez, Gonzalo Arroyo

**Panama** – Rene Cruz

**Tejano** – Arturo Velasquez, Alejandro Benavides

**Irish** – Dan Dolan

**Italian** - Anthony J. Prisco, Guy Prisco

**Jewish** – Marilyn Katz

**Luxembourger** – James Michels, David Frieders, American Luxemburger Independent Club

**Romanian** – Viola Moldovan

**South Asian:**

**India** – Krishna Bansal, Prakasam Tata

**All nations research** – Michael Fichtel

***Nominations are accepted year round for the Cultural Champions award. If you would like to suggest someone who has exemplified the strengths and virtues of an ethnic group and has contributed leadership and support to that group, please continue to read for more information.***

Nominees should have demonstrated effectiveness in preserving the history and traditions of their ethnic group, passing them along to younger generations, and sharing them with all people of every background, especially within the city of Aurora.

There are several areas that can be reviewed when considering a nomination.

1-What CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS has the candidate been involved with. Heritage groups, sports teams for the ethnic group, and parades and city festivals would be examples.

2-Has the candidate been involved with EDUCATION, either as a teacher or learner -- such as language instruction, music or folk dance classes and groups, traditional cooking and other food initiatives. Does the candidate fund or help award scholarships to members of the ethnic group.

3-Is the candidate operating an ethnic BUSINESS, such as a restaurant, grocery or art gallery.

4-Has the candidate contributed to the ARTS AND HISTORY of the group through research, writing, video/film, archive/library development, broadcasting, public speaking, exhibits, or participation in or

support of dance, music, theater, literature or the visual arts. Have these contributions included outreach beyond the ethnic community?

5-Does the candidate have a CHURCH affiliation which involves work on preserving religious traditions and teaching customs and history to young people.

6-What ethnic SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS does the candidate belong to/support/lead. Private clubs and fraternal organizations would be examples.

7-Does the candidate provide POLITICAL LEADERSHIP for the ethnic group, such as organizing support groups for political candidates, providing feedback and focus for government officials, or serving in a public office.

8-Is there a SOCIAL SERVICES component to the candidate's career, such as pro bono legal work, resettlement and asylum efforts, immigration support or care for the elderly.

9-Does the candidate TRAVEL to the native land and foster travel groups, exchange students or visitors.

#### TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR THE ROOTS AURORA CULTURAL AWARD:

Using the above points or other related ideas, please write a few paragraphs about the accomplishments of the candidate as they relate to preserving and promoting cultural heritage in Aurora and email to: **aurorahistoricalsocietyevents@gmail.com**. Or you may send a paper copy to Mary Clark Ormond at The Aurora Historical Society, P.O. Box 905, Aurora, IL 60507. Be sure to include how to contact you – your name, postal address, phone number and email, please.

Keep in mind that the more detail you can provide which shows a direct connection to preserving ethnic culture in Aurora, the stronger your nomination will be.

Selection of champions will be made by a committee of Aurora Historical Society and ROOTS AURORA members, who will try to balance out the awards so that, over time, a variety of ethnic groups will get the spotlight at upcoming ROOTS festivals. This means that occasionally a worthy candidate may be deferred for recognition until another time.

The decisions of the committee will be final. Nominees, if not chosen, may be re-nominated in the future.

Once a candidate has been chosen you will be contacted for arrangements. Ideally the candidate will be able to attend the festival to receive the award, although it is possible to send a substitute. ROOTS AURORA will need contact information, a high resolution headshot, and the opportunity to interview the individual.

Thank you for your interest in this event and initiative. We hope to hear from you!