

Hamilton Black History Council *presents:*

REVEREND
JOHN C HOLLAND
Awards



2026 ADULT & COMMUNITY AWARDS APPLICATION INFORMATION

Below is a copy of the application which is provided to you for information purposes and to help you prepare a strong application. Applications can ONLY be submitted through the online portal.

Application deadline: Friday, January 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

Apply online: johnhollandawards.com/applications

30th Anniversary Sankofa Pearls Awards

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Reverend John C. Holland Awards Gala, the Hamilton Black History Council (HBHC) is proud to present the **30th Anniversary Sankofa Pearls Awards** to mark this milestone:

- **Business Excellence or Professional Achievement Award**
- **Community Service Award**
- **Arts and Culture Award**
- **Emerging Young Leader Award *NEW***

Business Excellence or Professional Achievement Award

Awarded to an individual in recognition of their professional achievement or to a business in recognition of its demonstrated record of excellence.

Award Criteria:

- Significant contribution to the business or professional community through a record of service and achievements
- Demonstration of professional and/or business leadership
- Contribution to innovative ideas that have informed best practices and added to the general body of knowledge in the nominee's field

Community Service Award

Awarded to an individual, organization or business with a strong record of community service that has considerably contributed to the development of African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities.

Award Criteria:

- Measurable impact that enriched the social fabric of ACB communities
- Demonstration of social and civic responsibility through programming and service delivery
- Demonstrated impact as a change agent/agency through advocacy and outreach

Arts and Culture Award: (In Memory of the late Jackie Washington)

Awarded to an individual or organization/collective who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and recognition in arts and/or culture.

Award Criteria:

- Work must be transformative, creative and innovative
- Measurable impact in the arts community
- Evidence of championing, promoting and advocating for the continued relevance of arts and culture

Emerging Young Leader

Awarded to a young adult or youth-led organization who has taken initiative in the community, identified a need and mobilized people or resources to affect positive change.

Award Criteria:

- In a leadership or initiative role for fewer than 3 years.
- Work demonstrates fresh thinking, new approaches or creative ways of addressing community challenges.
- Demonstrates strong potential for continued leadership and professional growth.

Please ensure all of the following documents and requirements are available **BEFORE** starting your application. **ALL required supporting documents must be attached** to the online application at the time of submission. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Winners will be announced at the Awards Gala on Sunday, February 15, 2026. Applicants will be required to be present at the event.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Nominator's Letter of Recommendation** - the nominator must clearly describe the nominee's impact and eligibility for the award. The letter may include information such as the nominee's background, career, area of expertise, measure of impact, and current activities. Please include dates to support information provided (350 words maximum).

- Nominee's Personal Statement** - the nominee must describe themselves/organization in relation to the award for which they are nominated (300 words maximum).

- Two (2) Letters of Support** - Provide two letters of support (in addition to the nominator's letter of recommendation) from individuals and/or organizations (excluding immediate family members) whose views support the information provided by the nominator.

- Two (2) Publications** - Publications refer to any published information to support the nomination. These may be, but are not limited to, an online or print news article, press release, published research, or historic document.

- Headshot** - Provide a recent head shot of the nominee in JPEG format; or in the case of an organization, include a high resolution logo or staff picture.

A. ELIGIBILITY:

Individuals complete this section:

At the time of submission, the nominee must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- The nominee self-identifies as Black and a person of African or Caribbean descent.
- The nominee is 29 years of age or older.
- The nominee's principal address is within the Golden Horseshoe Area.
- The nominee is a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident or Convention Refugee

Organizations/Businesses complete this section:

At the time of submission, the nominee must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- The organization or business must be Black-owned and/or Black-led.
- Must be registered business, incorporated not-for-profit, charitable organization, or organizationally-mentored
- The principal address of the organization or business is within the Golden Horseshoe Area.
- The organization or business has been in existence for a minimum of 3 years.

B. AWARD CATEGORY

Select one:

Business Excellence or Professional Achievement Award

Community Service Award

Arts and Culture Award

Emerging Leader Award

C. NOMINEE INFORMATION

Full Name:*	Pronouns:
Date of Birth (must be 29 years or older):	
Principal Address: (must be in the Golden Horseshoe Area): *	
Mailing Address (if different from principal address):	
Primary Phone Contact:*	Secondary Phone Contact:*
Email Address:*	
Organization/Company Name (if applicable):	
Principal Address: (must be in the City of Hamilton): *	
Mailing Address (if different from principal address):	
Primary Phone Contact:*	Email Address:*

D. NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

Full Name:*	Name of Institution/Organization (if applicable):
Primary Address: *	
Primary Phone Contact:*	Secondary Phone Contact:*
Email Address:*	
Organization/Company Name (if applicable):	
Principal Address: (must be in the City of Hamilton): *	
Mailing Address (if different from principal address):	
Primary Phone Contact:*	Email Address:*

E. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION (Attach all of the following to the online application)

- Nominator's Letter of Recommendation** - the nominator must clearly describe the nominee's impact and eligibility for the award. The letter may include information such as the nominee's background, career, area of expertise, measure of impact, and current activities. Please include dates to support information provided (350 words maximum).
- Nominee's Personal Statement** -the nominee/organization/business must describe themselves, its mandate, and impact in relation to the award for which they are nominated (300 words maximum).
- Two (2) Letters of Support** - Provide two letters of support (in addition to the nominator's letter of recommendation) from individuals and/or organizations (excluding immediate family members) whose views support the information provided by the nominator.
- Two (2) Publications** - Publications refer to any published information to support the nomination. These may be, but are not limited to, an online or print news article, press release, published research, or historic document.
- Photos** - Provide 2 recent high resolution pictures of the nominee in JPEG format; or in the case of an organization, include a high resolution logo or staff picture.

F. NOMINATOR'S ATTESTATION:

I attest that I have received consent for this nomination from the nominee.

Nominator Signature: _____ Date: _____