ACADEMY AWARD DESIGNATIONS AND WINNERS BY YEAR

The **Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an American whose work stands as a monument to the importance of the arts in the lives of all people.

The **Joe W. Giles Lifetime Achievement Award** is conferred upon a Tennessee teacher, whose life's work is widely acknowledged to have positively influenced the role of the arts in education, thereby benefiting the students of Tennessee's schools.

The **Lamar Alexander Founder's Award of Distinction** is presented to an individual whose meritorious accomplishments in the fields of education and the arts have profoundly impacted American culture and life.

The **Lorin Hollander Award** is given to a Tennessean whose influence has benefited arts education in general and/or the Tennessee Arts Academy in particular. This award is named in honor of internationally renowned concert pianist Lorin Hollander, a special friend of the Academy.

The **Partner in the Arts Award** honors an individual or business whose generosity and support have contributed in sustained and significant ways to the success of the Tennessee Arts Academy's mission.

The **Arts Leadership Award of Excellence** is presented to an individual or group who has achieved a unique milestone in the arts that deserves recognition and honor.

The **Spirit of Tennessee Award** recognizes an individual or group whose work exemplifies the highest standards of artistic endeavor and brings positive recognition to the place of the arts in the lives of Tennesseans.

Distinguished Service Award
2026 Marc Shaiman, composer, lyricist, orchestrator, and performer
2025 Victoria Clark, actor, director, educator
2024 Jerry Zaks, Broadway director
2023 David Yazbek, musician, composer, lyricist, and writer
2022 Harolyn Blackwell, opera star
2019 Jeff Calhoun, director and choreographer
2018 Tony Walton, scenic and costume designer
2017 Christopher Durang, playwright
2016 Audrey Flack, painter and sculptor
2016 Andrew Lippa, composer, lyricist, performer, producer, and writer
2016 Doc Severinsen, musician and bandleader
2015 Richard Maltby, Jr., director, lyricist, producer, writer
2014 Rupert Holmes, Broadway playwright, composer, lyricist
2013 Marc Cherry, Hollywood writer and producer
2012 Richard M. Sherman, composer and lyricist
2011 Marvin Hamlisch, composer and pianist
2008 Henry Krieger, Broadway composer
2007 Joe DiPietro, Broadway playwright and lyricist
2006 Andre Thomas, choral conductor
2005 Dean Pitchford, songwriter, lyricist, screenwriter, and director
2005 John Simon, author and arts critic
2003 Bob McGrath, singer and host of *Sesame Street*

2001 Sheldon Harnick, Broadway composer
2001 Tina Packer, Shakespeare actor and director
2000 Mary Costa, opera singer
2000 Scott Ellis, Broadway theatre director
1997 Lorin Hollander, concert pianist and philosopher
1996 Jerome Lawrence, playwright
1995 Charles Fowler, arts educator, writer, and advocate
1994 Charles Strouse, Broadway composer

Joe W. Giles Lifetime Achievement Award
2026 Susan Ramsay, Franklin
2025 Ronald S. Meers, Murfreesboro
2024 Blanche Pope Tosh, Memphis
2023 Melody Weintraub, Cordova
2022 Madeline Bridges, Nashville
2019 Donna Anderson, Knoxville
2018 Linda Wilson Miller, Paris
2017 Margaret Campbelle-Holman
2016 Ted Rose, Lebanon
2015 Gregg Coats, Memphis
2014 Fred Patterson, Knoxville
2013 Carol Crittenden, Nashville
2012 Richard Mitchell, Knoxville
2011 Joe W. Giles, Nashville
2011 Flowerree W. (Galetovic) McDonough, Knoxville
2010 James R. Holcomb, Memphis
2007 David Logan, Johnson City
2006 Jean R. Thomas, Chattanooga
2006 Mitchell Van Metre, Knoxville
2005 Nancy Boone-Allsbrook, Murfreesboro
2005 Sally Crain Jager, Cookeville
2004 Bobby Jean Frost, Nashville
2004 Marilyn duBrisk, Greeneville
2001 Tully Daniel, Memphis (awarded posthumously)
2001 Tommie Pardue, Memphis
2000 Kathy Hawk, Kingsport
2000 Robert Pletcher, Nashville
1999 Patricia Brown, Knoxville
1998 Gene Crain, Memphis
1998 James Charles Mills, Johnson City
1997 Celia Bachelder, Kingsport
1997 Elizabeth Rike, Knoxville
1996 Sue Blass, Jackson
1996 Freda Kenner, Bells
1995 Joseph Edward Hodges, Crossville

Lorin Hollander Award
2026 Talmage Watts and Debbie Greenspan, arts leaders, performers, and arts education advocates
2022 Marion and Stephen Coleman, music educators and arts advocates
2019 Jeanette and Bill Watkins, arts leadership and education advocates
2014 Cindy Freeman and Michael Meise, music educators and arts advocates
2013 Pat and Thane Smith, arts advocates

2008 Jeanette Crosswhite, arts education administrator
2001 Solie Fott, music educator
2000 Martha McCrory, music educator
1999 Jane Walters, educator and arts advocate
1998 T. Earl Hinton, music educator
1997 Tom L. Naylor, music educator and administrator
1996 Nellie McNeil, teacher and advocate
1995 Steven Cohen, state senator
1994 Cavit Cheshier, education executive

Spirit of Tennessee Award
2022 Aaron Lazar, film, television, and musical theatre actor
2015 Charles Brindley, visual artist
2010 Cherry Jones, Broadway actress
2009 Michael Stern, symphony conductor
2009 Jackie Nichols, theatre administrator
2009 George S. Clinton, Hollywood film composer
2006 Dolph Smith, visual artist
2003 George Mabry, choral conductor
2002 Alice Swanson, arts education administrator and advocate
2001 Jim Crabtree, theatre director and writer
2000 Wilma Dykeman, writer

Lamar Alexander Founder's Award of Distinction
2018 Mark Norris, Tennessee Senate Majority Leader
2017 Bill Haslam, Tennessee Governor
2014 Douglas Henry, Tennessee State Senator
2013 Senator Lamar Alexander, United States Senator

Arts Leadership Award of Excellence
2023 Tiffany Kerns and the CMA Foundation, Nashville
2016 Belmont University, Nashville
2015 Music Makes Us, Nashville
2013 E. Frank Bluestein, Germantown

Partner in the Arts Award
2008 Steve Spiegel, president of Theatrical Rights Worldwide