

Appendix A

Recognition Framework

Purpose

The Washington Arts & Culture Showcase adopts a professional recognition framework.

Recognitions are not based on ranking, comparison, elimination, or placement. Instead, they are awarded based on professional standards, artistic readiness, and stage presentation quality as independently assessed by the evaluation panel.

Awards do not represent “winners” or “placements.” They reflect whether a participant has demonstrated a defined level of artistic development appropriate to their stage of learning.

Recognition Categories

Gold Recognition

Awarded to participants who demonstrate:

- A solid technical foundation appropriate to their current training stage
- Clear understanding of choreography, musical structure, or expressive intent
- Stage presence that meets professional showcase standards

Gold Recognition indicates that the participant has successfully met the expected artistic benchmark for public presentation.

Platinum Recognition

Awarded to participants who demonstrate:

- Artistic expression and performance quality clearly above the average level of their learning stage
- Strong stage awareness, musical interpretation, and expressive clarity
- Consistency, confidence, and maturity in presentation

Platinum Recognition indicates advanced artistic readiness and suitability for extended or higher-level artistic opportunities.

Distinguished Recognition (Special Recognition)

Awarded at the discretion of the evaluation panel to participants who demonstrate:

- Exceptional artistic maturity or expressive depth
- Clear potential for advanced training, international exposure, or long-form artistic development
- Readiness for extended international programs or curated opportunities

Distinguished Recognition is not guaranteed each year. It may be awarded to multiple participants or none at all, depending on the artistic standards demonstrated.

Evaluation Rubric

Washington Arts & Culture Showcase – Official Evaluation Form

Evaluation Area	Description	Rating (1–5)
Technical Foundation	Accuracy, control, and technique appropriate to the training stage	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Artistic Expression	Musicality, emotional expression, and clarity of artistic intent	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Stage Presence	Confidence, spatial awareness, and audience engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5

Completion & Readiness	Overall completeness and preparedness for public presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Development Potential	Potential for extended training or international exposure	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5

Overall Professional Observation

(Free-text comments from adjudicators)

Recognition Recommendation

- Gold
 - Platinum
 - Distinguished
 - No Recommendation
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Evaluation Structure & Recognition Policy

Category-Based Evaluation

All participants will be evaluated within one of the following four primary divisions:

- **Dance Division**
- **Vocal Division**
- **Instrumental Division**
- **Language & Speech Division**

Evaluations are conducted within each division to ensure appropriate artistic context and professional assessment standards.

Because recognitions are awarded based on professional criteria rather than ranking or comparison, **multiple participants may receive the same level of recognition** within each division.

The following factors will **not** influence scoring or final recognition outcomes:

- Age
- Gender
- Number of performers
- Specific dance styles
- Specific vocal genres
- Instrument type
- Language or performance format

Participants will not receive higher or lower recognition simply because they represent a unique or less common category (for example, being the only performer of a particular dance style or instrument). Recognition is determined solely by artistic quality and performance standards.