



Western Heritage Awards®



2025 Entry Form



1700 Northeast 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
(405) 478-2250
nationalcowboymuseum.org

Western Heritage Awards

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is among the nation's most prestigious museums of Western heritage and art. Set atop the historic Persimmon Hill district overlooking Oklahoma City, the Museum is surrounded by beautiful gardens, fountains, and a flagstone esplanade representing the 17 Western states.

Believing the Museum should have a national influence beyond that of solely exhibitions, the Board of Directors established the Western Heritage Awards in 1960. The purpose was to encourage others to tell the great stories of the West, both past and present, with accuracy and artistic quality. The developing West is one of history's most exciting eras, when people of all nationalities, from all walks of life, sought their futures on America's Western frontier.

Standing more than a foot in height, the *Wrangler*, an impressive bronze sculpture, is awarded to principal creators of the winning entries in specified categories of Western literature, music, film, and television. The Museum also may award *Wranglers* to organizations or individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the nation's Western heritage during a period of years, or whose contributions lie outside established categories.

Past recipients include distinguished writers, musicians, actors, and directors such as John Wayne, C.J. Box, Taylor Sheridan, Red Steagall, Clint Eastwood, Sam Elliott, and John Ford.

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum invites your entries in this nationally recognized awards program.

Guidelines for All Entries

A panel of qualified professionals are selected as independent judges for the various categories in literature, film, television, and music. Judges are granted the right to step outside category restrictions if a meritorious work deserves unique recognition, or to withhold an award in any category where the quality or number of entries does not meet the standards set by previous winners. **The Museum reserves the right to confer an award in each category each year.** The subject matter of theme of each entry should relate to the American West and/or the Western experience.

An entry form naming the intended award recipient and including the contact information of all the credited author(s), illustrator(s), recording artist(s), producer(s) and or director(s) is required. This is to ensure that all participating parties are properly informed, and the agreement on the designated award recipient is settled prior to submission. The designated recipient must be the key creative individual most clearly responsible for the overall achievement. There is a maximum of **one** designated nominee.

Please read important information below for all categories to be considered:

- Entries for the competition are accepted as a hard copy or digital copy by link.
- If providing physical copies, applicants must provide five copies of both the creative work and completed entry form.
- Digital copies by link should be submitted to the online portal.
- All information must be typed or legibly printed.
- Items submitted for judging will **not** be returned.
- There is no limitation on the number of creative works an individual can submit. An individual may submit multiple entries as long as the submissions are different creative works. However, the same title cannot be submitted for judging in multiple categories.

Please see entry payment information below:

- A \$75 entry fee is required for each individual entry in each category.
- Payment is due upon submission of entry. Please fill out credit card information online or on page 11. Checks can be mailed to the address below. Make checks payable to **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum** with WHA and the entry's name printed on the memo line.
- If providing physical copies, mail five copies of your entry forms with payment to:

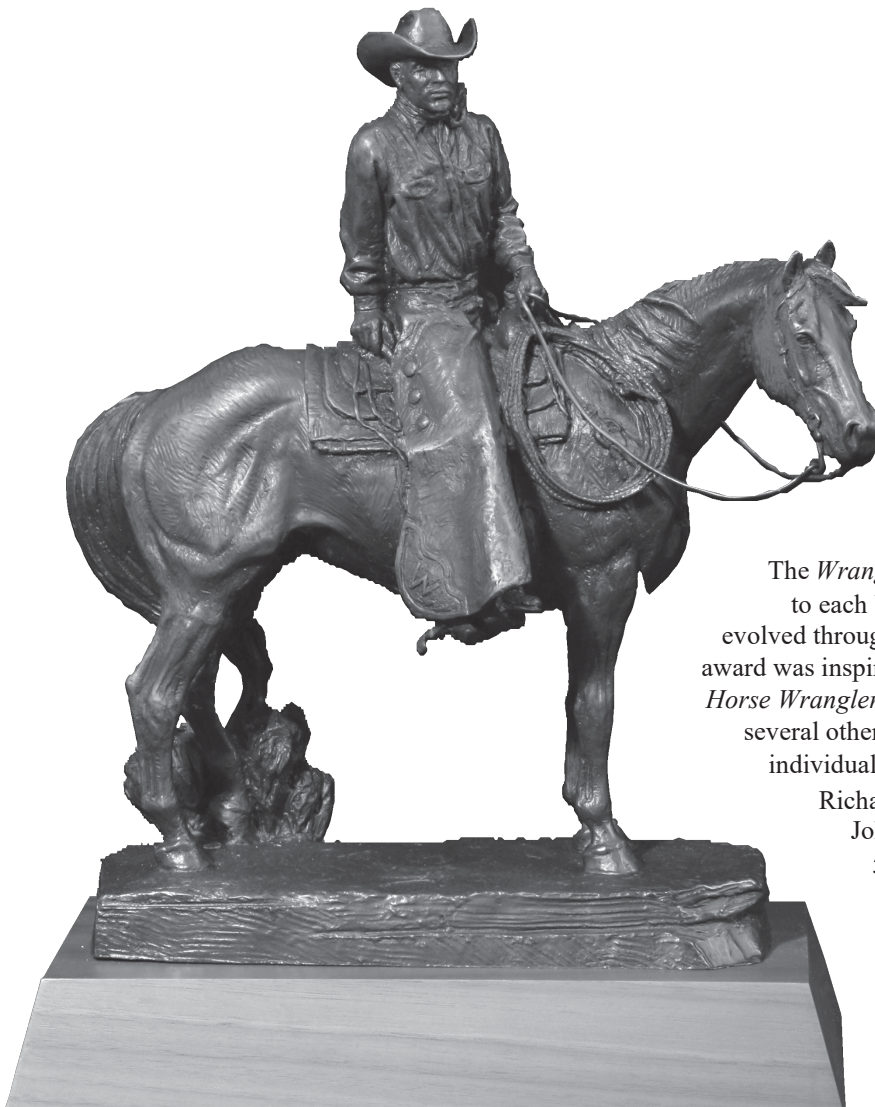
Michael Washington, Western Heritage Awards
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum 1700
Northeast 63rd Street • Oklahoma City, OK 73111-7997
mwashingtonn@nationalcowboymuseum.org •
(405) 839-7876

Western Heritage Awards

The Announcement of Winners

All winners of the various categories will receive verbal notification and all participants will receive written notification of the results once judging is final. A public announcement is made only of the winners and the Museum will not disclose information regarding other participating entries in the various categories.

Important: The *Wrangler* sculpture will be presented to **one** key creative individual for each winning entry. The key creative individual eligible to accept the Award is designated in the entry guidelines for each category. Winners **must attend** the awards ceremonies to be held April 12, 2025, to receive the *Wrangler* sculpture. The Museum will not ship the *Wrangler* to absentee winners, and a representative may not accept the Award on the winner's behalf unless in extreme circumstances. As an entrant, if you know at the time of entry you are unable to attend the Awards Ceremony, please reconsider your entry. Category winners who have not submitted a physical copy will be asked to do so before the Awards Ceremony in April. Please note that physical copies submitted before the Awards Ceremony will not be returned.



The *Wrangler* sculpture, presented as an award to each Western Heritage Award winner, has evolved through the years. The earliest *Wrangler* award was inspired by Charles Russell's bronze, *The Horse Wrangler*. Since the first *Wrangler* sculpture, several other versions were made by talented individuals such as the Museum's art director, Richard Muno, and Native American artist John Free. To commemorate the Awards 50th anniversary, Hall of Great Westerners Inductee, the late Harold T. Holden sculpted the current *Wrangler* depicting a contemporary horseman with the inspiration from the original sculpture still apparent.

Music Entry Guidelines

Eligibility

Any individual or organization may enter original Western compositions or traditional Western albums. The original album copyright date must be between **January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024**, and postmarked by **December 31, 2024**, in the appropriate music category. The entry's theme should relate to the American West and/or the Western experience in the traditional cowboy music genre, which is not necessarily synonymous with "country" music. **Music videos are not eligible.**

Definition of Categories

Original Western Composition – Any recorded and released original musical composition never previously recorded in any other form or interpretation. Scores from film or television productions are also eligible. The lyrics/music must focus on Western ideals or the American cowboy and can be composed with any instrument(s). Wrangler Award recipients are the recording artist and the writer/composer.

Traditional Western Music Album – A released recording of traditional Western and/or cowboy folk songs. An album must be submitted in its entirety as one entry. Copyright eligibility required.

Important Reminders

- If not submitted online, five copies (non-returnable) of each entry must be furnished on a CD for judging, along with a completed entry form for each copy or digital copy by link of the creative work and entry form.
- Each category entered must include a \$75 non-refundable fee.
- Print legibly and complete all detailed contact information.
- The Museum will award **only one complimentary** *Wrangler* sculpture for each music category; however, additional sculptures may be purchased. The eligible recipients are identified as the recording artist(s), album producer, or writer/composer.
- See **Guidelines for All Entries** (page 3) for submission instructions.

2025 Music Entry Form

Important: Please read and follow all guidelines for music entries.

Category _____

Entry Title _____

Copyright Date _____

Writer/Composer _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Recording Artist _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Producer _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Submission Contact _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Synopsis of Creative Work _____

Include High-Definition Copy of Creative Work Cover Art _____

Information provided above is accurate. Signature _____

Detach and mail to: Michael Washington, Western Heritage Awards
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 Northeast 63rd Street • Oklahoma City, OK 73111-7997
(405) 839-7876 • mwashington@nationalcowboymuseum.org

Literary Entry Guidelines

Eligibility

Any individual or organization may enter Western-themed publications, originally copyrighted between **December 1, 2023, and November 30, 2024**, in the appropriate category and postmarked by **November 30, 2024**. The entry's subject matter or theme in all literary categories should relate to the American West and/or the Western experience. Vanity press manuscripts are eligible in all book categories. Entries will be evaluated on scholarship, organization, interpretation, presentation, quality of writing, and illustration when applicable. Fiction, Juvenile, and Poetry entries will be evaluated on originality and creativity, and faithfulness to the facts, legends, and/or mythology of the West.

Definition of Categories

Western Novel – Includes genre and mainstream, historical, and contemporary fictional or fictionalized book-length works that could not have taken place in any part of the country but the West.

Nonfiction Book – Includes both scholarly and popular Western theme works, general or biographical, contemporary or historical, based upon research and/or personal experience.

Photography or Art Book – Concerned primarily with artistic works pertaining to the West or the Western experience. Merchandise catalogs are not eligible for entry.

Juvenile Book – A book of fiction or non-fiction with a Western theme intended for young readers up to the age of 12.

Magazine or Journal Article – A nonfiction article or essay on a Western theme published in a commercial or literary North American publication. Articles published in a periodical must be submitted with five copies or digital copy of the entire issue. Tear sheets or photo copies will not be accepted.

Poetry Book – A book of at least 10 separate poems, rhymed or unrhymed, with a Western theme that reflects the cowboy, frontier life, and/or the Native American culture in the West. A compilation of poems must contain at least two originals and the book must meet copyright requirements.

Important Reminders

- If not submitted online, five copies (non-returnable) of each published work must be furnished for judging, along with a completed entry form for each copy or digital copy by link of the creative work and entry form. Print legibly and fill out all detailed contact information.
- Each category entered must include a \$75 non-refundable fee.
- The Museum will award **only one complimentary *Wrangler*** sculpture for each literary category; however, additional sculptures may be purchased. The eligible recipients are identified as the author, publisher, illustrator, or photographer when applicable.
- See **Guidelines for All Entries** (page 3) for submission instructions.

2025 Literary Entry Form

Important: Please read and follow all guidelines for literary entries.

Category _____

Entry Title _____

Copyright Date _____

Author _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Illustrator _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Photographer _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Publisher _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Submission Contact _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Synopsis of Creative Work _____

Include High-Definition Copy of Creative Work Cover Art _____

Information provided above is accurate. Signature _____

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(405) 839-7876 • mwashington@nationalcowboymuseum.org

Guidelines For Television and Film Entries

Eligibility

Any individual or organization may enter Western productions originally released or aired between **January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024**, and postmarked by **December 31, 2024**, in the appropriate television or film category. The entry's subject matter or theme should relate to the American West and/or the Western experience. The winner of each category will be required to supply a broadcast-quality DVD or digital copy by link of the winning entry (non-returnable). A trailer of the winning entries, no longer than 60 seconds in length, will be shown publicly during the Awards Ceremony on April 12, 2025, and may be included in subsequent televised broadcast of the 2025 Western Heritage Awards.

Definition of Categories

Theatrical Motion Picture – A feature-length film shown to the public on the big screen or released to the public on DVD. Film must have been released for public viewing. Premier showings qualify.

Television Feature Film – A feature-length production made for television. This includes made-for-television movies, miniseries (all parts as one entry) or other presentations more than one hour in length and considered to be a complete work, rather than episodic.

Fictional Drama – A dramatic film or television production, up to 60 minutes in length. This drama can be, but not necessarily, of an episodic nature.

Documentary – Factual or based on factual events, it is a presentation of the realities of a historical event, people, and places. All lengths are acceptable for entries of film or television. **This category includes Factual Narrative.**

Western Lifestyle – A visual or audio production made for broadcast or streaming that features a program focused on the evolving history and culture of the American West. The production may include news, reality, or educational content. All lengths are acceptable.

Important Reminders

- If not submitted online, five copies (non-returnable) of each entry must be furnished on a DVD, along with a completed entry form for each copy or digital copy by link of the creative work and entry form.
- Each category entered must include a \$75 non-refundable fee.
- Print legibly and complete all detailed contact information.
- The Museum will award **only one complimentary *Wrangler*** sculpture for each category; however, additional sculptures may be purchased. The eligible recipients are identified as executive producer, producer, director, writer, or principal actor(s).
- See **Guidelines for All Entries** (page 3) for submission instructions.

2025 Television and Film Entry Form

Important: Please read and follow all guidelines for television and film entries. Attach any additional information to entry form. If the project has more than two principal actors, please provide names and contact information for each. Any available e-mail address is also appreciated.

Category _____

Entry Title _____

Date of First Broadcast or Release _____ Running Time _____

Production Company _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Executive Producer(s) (No more than 2) _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Producer(s) (No more than 2) _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Director _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Writer _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Principal Actor(s)* Provide Most Direct Contact Information

Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State & Zip _____

Synopsis of Creative Work _____

Include High-Definition Copy of Creative Work Cover Art _____

Include 60-Second Trailer _____

Information provided above is accurate. Signature _____

Detach and mail to: Michael Washington, Western Heritage Awards
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 Northeast 63rd Street • Oklahoma City, OK 73111-7997
(405) 839-7876 • mwashington@nationalcowboymuseum.org

2025 Western Heritage Awards

Schedule of Events (Subject to Change)

Friday, April 11

5:30 p.m. Western Heritage Awards Kick-Off Party

Saturday, April 12

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Scheduled Honoree Rehearsals at the Museum

5:00 p.m. Western Heritage Awards Cocktail Hour

6:00 p.m. Western Heritage Awards Dinner

7:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Credit Card Form for Entry Fee

Name _____

Entry Title _____

Category _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Billing Address, City, State, & Zip _____
