

IDEA Awards

The IDEA Awards recognise excellence, service and innovation in drama theatre education by individuals, groups, organisations and institutions in the following categories:

1. IDEA Excellence in Practice Award

For individuals or organizations making outstanding contributions to the advancement of drama/theatre in education through innovative theory, methods, or practice.

2. IDEA Community Impact Award

For work using drama/theatre in education to create meaningful social or cultural change in communities locally or globally.

3. IDEA Legacy Award

For individuals whose sustained contributions have significantly shaped the growth and values of IDEA as an international organization.

All IDEA Awards are of equal importance.

Background

The IDEA Awards celebrate individuals, associations, organisations and institutions that promote the aims of IDEA to provide an international forum for communicating about, promoting and advocating for drama/theatre and education in schools, communities and all fields of endeavour and to support development of drama/theatre practice and theory as part of a full human education.

The IDEA Awards acknowledge exceptional work and achievements in the broad field of drama/theatre and education, promote excellence, reward and encourage the IDEA membership and draw others into the work of IDEA.

The IDEA Awards are established following a motion from CEDEUM at the General Council Meeting, Beijing, China, July 2024. These guidelines are ratified as IDEA policy at the General Council Meeting, Singapore, July 2025.

IDEA Awards Guidelines

1. Purpose and Objectives

The IDEA Award has been established to recognize outstanding contributions to drama/theatre and education. The award celebrates innovation, excellence, and positive impact on our field. Its objective is to inspire individuals and organizations to strive for excellence in their endeavours.

2. Nominations

- Only IDEA members can nominate candidates for the award.

2. Eligibility

- The IDEA Awards are made to individuals or associations/organisations/
- institutions.
- Nominated individuals, associations, organizations, or institutions do not need to be IDEA members.

3. Call for Nominations

- The Call for Nominations will be issued one year/12 calendar months prior to the award ceremony.
- Nominations will be called for by the IDEA Executive Committee, for the four Categories of the Award:

1. IDEA Excellence in Practice Award

For individuals or organizations making outstanding contributions to the advancement of drama/theatre in education through innovative theory, methods, or practice.

2. IDEA Community Impact Award

For work using drama/theatre in education to create meaningful social or cultural change in communities locally or globally.

3. IDEA Legacy Award

For individuals whose sustained contributions have significantly shaped the growth and values of IDEA as an international organization.

- At the discretion of the IDEA Executive Committee, the IDEA Awards will be aligned with major IDEA events: IDEA Congresses or IDEA Regional Conferences that include a GCM meeting of IDEA members.
- For each Award period, the IDEA Awards are made at the discretion of the IDEA Executive Committee which may choose to call for nominations on all categories or may nominate specific categories.
- More than one recipient can be chosen per award category.

- The call for nominations will be made on all IDEA communications channels. This will include email, the social media platforms of IDEA, and the newsletter of IDEA.
- Nominations will be received by the IDEA Administrator, who will manage the organisation of the awards, call for nominations, appointment of Awards Committee, liaison with Awards Committee members, support and resources as required.

4. IDEA Awards Committee

The Executive Committee of IDEA will invite respected members of the IDEA community, one from each world region, to form the IDEA Awards Committee for the nominated period.

Purpose of the Committee

The primary purpose of the IDEA Award Committee is to evaluate nominations, select recipients, and ensure the integrity and fairness of the award selection process in alignment with IDEA's values and mission.

Composition of the Committee

The IDEA Award Committee will be composed of:

- Respected members of the IDEA community.
- Representation from each world region.
- Individuals who demonstrate significant contributions to or expertise in the fields of drama/theatre and education.

Appointment Process

- Members of the IDEA Award Committee will be invited by the IDEA Executive Committee.
- The selection of committee members will prioritize diversity, equity, and expertise to reflect the global character of IDEA.
- The committee will be chaired by a designated individual, nominated by the IDEA Executive Committee.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Review and evaluate nominations based on pre-established criteria.
- Engage in deliberations and discussions to ensure a fair selection process.

- Make final decisions on award recipients at least one month before the award ceremony

Term of Services

Committee members will serve for a term of one award cycle (from the call for nominations to the award ceremony).

Members may be invited to serve in successive cycles at the discretion of the IDEA Executive Committee.

Support and Resources

The IDEA Executive Committee and the IDEA Administrator will provide administrative and logistical support to facilitate the work of the Award Committee.

Guidance materials, evaluation criteria, and timelines will be provided to all members.

Confidentiality and Integrity

- All committee members must maintain confidentiality regarding nomination details and deliberations.
- Members must declare any potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from discussions if required.

5. Nomination Period and Decision Timeline

Nominations will be accepted over a six-month period from the call for nominations.

- The Award Committee will finalize decisions no later than one month before the Award Ceremony.

6. IDEA Awards Ceremony

- The IDEA Awards will be presented during major IDEA events, such as IDEA Congresses or IDEA Regional Conferences/Events, which include a General Council Meeting (GCM) of IDEA members.

7. IDEA Awards Presentation

The host of the IDEA event will program the IDEA Awards as a feature of the event.

During that programmed event, recipients will receive:

- A printed Award Certificate, provided by IDEA and signed by IDEA President and Chair of the Awards Committee /Award Committee members.

- A symbolic gift (for example, a small sculpture, print, painting, mask, etcetera preferably a work of art by an emerging local artist) provided by the hosts of the IDEA event.

8. Public Announcement and Acknowledgment

- IDEA will create a dedicated page on the IDEA, where the recipients will also be published, with photos, names of recipients, a short CV and/or description, details of the award nomination and citation.

9. Travel and Accommodation Support for Award recipients

- Nominees will be invited to attend the IDEA event to receive their Award.
- At the discretion of the IDEA Executive Committee, in consultation with the IDEA event host, an individual nominee or a representative of a group nominee will be supported to attend to receive their Award.
 - o Co-funding/full funding may be negotiated.
 - o IDEA financial support will be limited to travel, accommodation and registration for one individual; in the case of an association/organisation/ institution, support will be limited to one individual representative, but if others wish to attend, they must provide all own costs of travel, accommodation and registration.

10. Timeline

The initial timeline for the IDEA Awards.

2026 Call for IDEA Awards.

Establishment of the Award Committee (appointed by the Executive Committee).

IDEA Day 27 November 2026: Announcement of first Awards

2027 Presentation of first Awards, IDEA Congress, Ankara, July 2027

It is planned to make these IDEA Awards ongoing. The subsequent timeline will be decided by the Executive Committee.

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