



Republic of the Philippines

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City

<http://www.dilg.gov.ph>



## 2020 GAWAD SA MANLILIKHA NG BAYAN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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Memorandum Circular No: 2020-146

Date: 29 OCT 2020

### 1. Background

In April 1992, the *Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan* (GAMABA) or the National Living Treasures Award was institutionalized through Republic Act No. 7355. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the highest policy-making and coordinating body for culture and the arts of the State is tasked with the administration and implementation of the Award.

GAMABA is the highest state recognition awarded to the finest Filipino traditional folk artists, which is in the equal rank of Order of the National Artists and Order of the National Scientists. It is given to someone who's engaged in any traditional art uniquely Filipino whose distinctive skills have reached such a high level of technical excellence and have been passed on to and widely practiced by the present generation in his/ her community with the same degree of technical and artistic competence.

The award is given whenever there is an artist found worthy of this national recognition. It shall be given in traditional folk categories such as folk architecture, maritime transportation, weaving, carving, performing arts, literature, graphic and plastic arts, ornament, textile or fiber art, pottery, and other artistic expressions of traditional culture. Each tradition is considered separately from each other and judged within its own cultural context.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to disseminate the call for nominations of the GAMABA to LGUs and other concerned.

### **3. Scope/Coverage**

This Memorandum Circular covers all Provincial Governors and ARMM Regional Governor, City and Municipal Mayors, Punong Barangays, DILG Regional Directors, and ARMM Regional Secretary, Provincial, City Directors and Field Officers, and others concerned.

### **4. Policy Content and Guidelines**

Presently, there are 16 National Living Treasures awardees that reflect the diverse heritage and cultural traditions that transcend their beginning to become part of our national character. As Filipinos, they bring age-old customs, crafts, and ways of living to the attention and appreciation of Filipino life.

To be declared a Manlilikha ng Bayan, the candidate must possess the following qualifications:

1. He/she is an inhabitant of an indigenous/ traditional cultural community anywhere in the Philippines that has preserved indigenous customs, beliefs, rituals, and traditions and /or has effectively indigenized whatever external elements that have influenced it.
2. He/she must have engaged in a folk tradition that has been in existence and documented for at least fifty (50) years.
3. He/she must have consistently performed or produced over a significant period, works of superior quality, and distinctive quality.
4. He/she must possess a mastery of the tools and materials needed by the art, and must have an established reputation in the art as a master and maker of works of extraordinary technical quality.
5. He/she must have passed on and/or will pass on to other members of the community their skills in the folk art for which the community is traditionally known.

The Manlilikha ng Bayan is a link between the past, in which his / her traditional folk art found fertile soil for growth, and the future, during which he/she seeks his / her art to be permanently sustained. It becomes his / her responsibility, therefore, to transfer the skills of his / her art to the younger generation through apprenticeship and other



effective training methods, and to cooperate with the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in the promotion and propagation of his / her traditional folk art.

Individual or group nominees shall only be nominated under one category, where the artist/s has/have made his/her/their substantial contribution. Stipulated under Section 4 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Manlilikha ng Bayan Act: 'Group' refers to a cluster of Filipino artisans performing certain tasks in the completion of a traditional art form identified with a cultural community.

Traditional folk categories under which nomination should be considered shall be under the UNESCO – Five Domains of Intangible Cultural Heritage:

- Oral Traditions and Expressions
- Performing Arts
- Social Practices, Rituals, and Festive Events
- Knowledge and Practices concerning Nature and the Universe
- Traditional Craftmanship

#### **Nomination Submission**


Nominations shall be submitted to, on or before February 12, 2021:

GAWAD SA MANLILIKHA NG BAYAN SECRETARIAT  
Office of the Executive Director  
National Commission for Culture and the Arts  
633 General Luna Street, Intramuros, 1002 Manila  
[gamaba@ncca.gov.ph](mailto:gamaba@ncca.gov.ph)  
(02) 852 72 192 loc. 514  
0906 268 4230 / 0947 805 5064  
[www.ncca.gov.ph/gamaba/](http://www.ncca.gov.ph/gamaba/)

#### **4 Effectivity**

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

#### **5 Approving Authority**

  
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**EDUARDO M. AÑO**  
Secretary, DILG



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## 6 Feedback

For more information, you may coordinate with the Gawad sa Manlilikha Secretariat at the telephone number (02) 8527-2192 local 514, or through mobile number +6390 6268 4230 / +6394 7805 5064 or e-mail at [gamaba@ncca.gov.ph](mailto:gamaba@ncca.gov.ph). You may also visit [www.ncca.gov.ph/gamaba](http://www.ncca.gov.ph/gamaba) for further details.