AE AWARDS

NOMINATION & VOTING PROCESS

Recognizing Excellence. Protecting Integrity. Celebrating Achievement.

The African Entertainment Awards (AE Awards) is committed to maintaining a nomination and voting process that is **fair, transparent, inclusive, and credible**.

Our process gives the public an opportunity to nominate and support their favourite artists, entertainers, creators, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals, while an independent panel of entertainment and industry professionals helps ensure that nominees meet the standards and eligibility requirements of their respective categories.

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1. PUBLIC NOMINATIONS

The AE Awards Planning Committee invites members of the public, fans, industry professionals, organizations, and stakeholders to submit nominations for the official award categories.

Nominations are submitted through the official AE Awards online nomination platform during the designated nomination period.

Each nomination must satisfy the eligibility requirements established for the relevant award category.

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2. ELIGIBILITY & REVIEW

Following the nomination submission period, the AE Awards Planning Committee will conduct an initial review of all submissions.

A panel of qualified entertainment and industry professionals will participate in review sessions to assess nominees against the established criteria for each category.

The review process is designed to determine:

- Eligibility for the nominated category
- Compliance with submission requirements
- Quality and consistency of the nominee's work
- Professional achievement and impact

- Relevance to the award category
- Overall contribution during the applicable year-in-review period

Only nominees who satisfy the applicable requirements will advance to the official nominee selection stage.

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3. OFFICIAL NOMINEE SELECTION

Following the eligibility and review process, the Planning Committee and designated review professionals will finalize the official list of nominees.

The official nominees will then be announced through AE Awards' official communication channels.

Once announced, nominees will officially enter the public voting phase.

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4. PUBLIC VOTING

The general public will have the opportunity to vote for the official nominees during the designated voting period.

Public voting will take place exclusively through the official AE Awards voting platform.

Voting Period

August 1 – August 19

Members of the public may vote according to the rules established for the applicable awards cycle.

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5. VOTING PANEL

AE Awards also maintains a Voting Panel consisting of qualified and impartial judges with relevant experience in entertainment, media, music, film, business, culture, and related industries.

Members of the Voting Panel are expected to evaluate nominees based on **merit, quality, consistency, achievement, impact, and the criteria established for each award category.**

Judges are expected to exercise independent professional judgment and must not allow personal relationships, affiliations, preferences, or outside influence to determine their votes.

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6. 50/50 VOTING SYSTEM

AE Awards uses a combined voting model that gives meaningful weight to both the public and professional industry judgment.

PUBLIC VOTE — 50%

The public vote accounts for **50% of the final result** in applicable award categories.

JUDGES' VOTE — 50%

The Voting Panel accounts for the remaining **50% of the final result**.

FINAL RESULT

50% Public Vote + 50% Judges' Vote = Final Award Result

This model is designed to balance **public support with professional evaluation**, helping ensure that the final outcome reflects both audience recognition and industry merit.

The nominee receiving the highest combined result will be declared the winner of the applicable award category, subject to AE Awards' official rules and verification procedures.

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7. JUDGING PRINCIPLES

Members of the Voting Panel are expected to evaluate nominees solely on the merits of their work and achievements.

Depending on the category, considerations may include:

- Quality
- Consistency
- Creativity
- Professional achievement

- Cultural impact
- Industry influence
- Innovation
- Audience impact
- Career or project significance
- Contribution to African and African-Canadian entertainment

The specific criteria may vary by award category.

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8. INDEPENDENCE & CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The integrity of AE Awards is a fundamental priority.

Voting Panel members are expected to disclose any personal, professional, financial, or other relationship that may create an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

Where appropriate, AE Awards may require a judge to abstain from participating in a specific category or decision.

Judges are expected to maintain confidentiality throughout the voting and judging process.

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9. GIFTS, INCENTIVES & UNDUE INFLUENCE

Members of the Voting Panel are strictly prohibited from accepting gifts, financial incentives, favours, services, or other benefits intended to influence their voting decisions.

Judges must not solicit or accept anything of value from nominees, representatives, sponsors, managers, publicists, or other parties in connection with the awards.

Any attempt to improperly influence a judge or manipulate the voting process may result in disqualification or other action under AE Awards' official rules.

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10. VOTING INTEGRITY

AE Awards reserves the right to monitor voting activity and investigate suspicious, fraudulent, automated, manipulated, or otherwise irregular voting activity.

Where necessary, AE Awards may:

- Investigate questionable voting activity
- Remove invalid or fraudulent votes
- Disqualify submissions or nominees that violate official rules
- Restrict voting activity
- Require verification
- Take other appropriate action to protect the integrity of the awards

The final decision regarding the validity of votes and eligibility of nominees rests with the AE Awards Planning Committee in accordance with the official awards rules.

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11. AE AWARDS NOMINATION TIMELINE

YEAR IN REVIEW

January – June

The applicable award cycle recognizes achievements and contributions made during the designated year-in-review period.

NOMINATION SUBMISSION

April – June

The public and eligible stakeholders submit nominations through the official AE Awards nomination platform.

NOMINEE REVIEW & SELECTION

July

Eligibility reviews, category assessments, and nominee selection take place.

OFFICIAL NOMINEE ANNOUNCEMENT

July

The official list of nominees is announced.

PUBLIC VOTING

August 1 – August 19

The public votes for their preferred nominees.

FINAL JUDGING & TABULATION

August

Public votes and Voting Panel results are consolidated in accordance with the 50/50 voting model.

AE AWARDS CEREMONY

[EVENT DATE]

Winners are revealed and celebrated at the annual African Entertainment Awards ceremony.

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12. OUR COMMITMENT

The AE Awards is committed to creating an awards platform that recognizes achievement while maintaining the highest possible standards of **fairness, professionalism, transparency, and integrity.**

We believe that recognition is most meaningful when it is earned.

Our goal is to ensure that every artist, creator, entrepreneur, professional, and industry leader who participates in the AE Awards has confidence in the integrity of the process.

Your voice matters.

Your work matters.

Your achievement deserves to be recognized.

AE AWARDS

Celebrating African Excellence. Connecting the Diaspora. Shaping the Future.