
I. Basic Concepts

In implementing the Arirang Masters Designation Program (hereinafter referred to as the Arirang Masters Program or Program), alignment with the 1980 UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Artists is paramount. The following paragraphs of the UNESCO Recommendation serve as the legal basis for establishing universal criteria:

- a. Grant artists public recognition in forms best suited to their respective cultural environments and establish systems that do not already exist or are inadequately designed, aiming to bestow upon artists the prestige they deserve.
- b. Stimulate artistic creativity and foster talent by adopting measures that secure greater freedom for artists, without which they cannot fulfill their mission. Improving their status involves acknowledging their right to enjoy the fruits of their work.
- c. Recognize the importance of arts and craft training in preserving traditional knowledge transmission and initiation practices of various communities, while undertaking appropriate measures to protect and encourage artists.

2. Furthermore, it's crucial to emphasize the significant roles played by practitioners and communities in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, as outlined in the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. This recognition underscores the collaborative effort required to ensure the preservation and transmission of cultural practices, underscoring the interdependence between artists, communities, and cultural heritage.

II. Eligibility Criteria

The criteria for inviting Arirang Masters are as follows:

- a. Skill and Mastery: Arirang Masters must demonstrate exceptional artistic talents or skills and mastery within the scope of intangible cultural heritage. They should exhibit expertise acquired through years of practice, training, and performance.

b. Creativity and Innovation: Arirang Masters should display creativity and innovation, pushing the boundaries of intangible cultural heritage while preserving its core essence. They should possess unique artistic talents or skillful capabilities and have made significant contributions to the development and evolution of intangible cultural heritage in their respective genres.

c. Education and Mentorship: Arirang Masters should be committed to educating and mentoring the next generation of traditional practitioners. They should have a history of teaching, mentoring, and passing on their knowledge and skills to aspiring musicians and artisans, contributing to the continuity and sustainability of living heritage.

The domains for applying to the Arirang Masters are:

a. Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of intangible cultural heritage.

b. Performing arts.

c. Social practices, rituals, and festive events.

d. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe.

e. Traditional craftsmanship, as defined by the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

III. Application Process

Application Requirements

Applicants must consult with an IAB member and obtain their recommendation as part of the dossier compilation process.

Applicants for the program must compile a comprehensive application dossier consisting of the following components:

a. Personal Information: Full name, contact details, and a succinct biography delineating experience and achievements within the specific domain of intangible cultural heritage.

b. Statement of Intent: A written declaration elucidating the reasons behind the applicant's interest in the Arirang Masters Program and how they align with the eligibility criteria. This statement should underscore their dedication to the preservation and promotion of living heritage.

c. Documentation of Accomplishments: Thorough documentation detailing the candidates' achievements, encompassing awards, recognitions, publications, performances, exhibitions, and any other pertinent accomplishments in the realm of living herita