International

of the **Year**

Nomination Criteria

The Columbia International Festival Committee is accepting nominations for the International ***Business Person*** of the Year, International ***Volunteer*** of the Year, and International ***Professional*** of the Year awards. These annual awards honor and promote outstanding achievement by members of South Carolina's international community.

An American-born ***Community Ambassador*** of the Year will also be selected. Candidates should meet the criteria for nomination listed below. Please see the Submission Procedure section at the bottom of this page. Winners will be honored, and awards presented at the Saturday opening event of the ***Columbia International Festival***.

Submission deadline: March 31, 2027.

Minimum Qualifications *for all **International of the Year** categories*

1. Foreign-born and lived outside the US at least until age 16.
2. Minimum age at time of nomination: 35 years.
3. Lived in South Carolina for at least five years and in America for at least 10 years.
4. Has used his/her gifts/talents/skills/resources to help the community in tangible ways (e.g., as volunteer for public causes, serving on the board of charities or civic organizations, by making financial contributions to public works or organizations, etc.).
5. Willing to serve on the Columbia International Festival Advisory Committee the following year if they are chosen as "International of the Year" (no regular meetings but be available as an advisor as and when needed by the festival committee).

6a. **PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY**: has graduated from college (in the US or abroad) and either currently serves or is retired from service in a recognized profession. Is a member in good standing (or was at time of retirement) of a professional organization (e.g. American Medical Association, American Institute of Architects, Professional Trial Lawyers Association, etc.). Has served in this profession for at least 10 years (in the US or abroad). Can point to at least one achievement which lets him/her stand out among his/her peers. Higher preference could also go to people who have volunteered their services in some way to benefit others (e.g. has at some time provided free medical/legal/educational assistance to the poor; served as short term "medical missionary" to an underdeveloped country; etc.).

6b. **BUSINESS CATEGORY**: currently serves or is retired from service in a recognized business occupation as manager and/or entrepreneur. Preferably (where appropriate/normal) is a member in good standing (or was at time of retirement) of a business association or organization (e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, Association of Hotel and Restaurant Owners, etc.). Has served in this profession for at least 10 years (in the US or abroad). Can point to at least one achievement which lets him/her stand out among his/her peers. Higher preference could also go to people who have volunteered their services in some way to befit others (e.g. has at some time provided free medical/legal/educational assistance to the poor; served as a short term "medical missionary" to an underdeveloped country, etc.).

6c. **VOLUNTEER CATEGORY**: currently volunteers' time/services without pay through a service organization which in some way helps the community. Has served in this capacity for at least 10 years (in the Midlands or elsewhere). Can point to at least one achievement which lets him/her stand out among his/her peers. Higher preference could also go to people whose volunteer service has direct benefit to members of the international community.

Minimum Qualifications *for **Community Ambassador of the Year***

1. Born in the US.
2. Minimum age at time of nomination: 35 years.
3. Lived in the Midlands for at least 5 years.
4. Has used his/her gifts/talents/skills/resources to help the international community in tangible ways (e.g. as volunteer for public causes, serving on the board of charities or civic organizations, making financial contributions to public works or organizations, etc.).
5. Willing to serve on the Columbia International Festival Advisory Committee the following year if they are chosen as "Community Ambassador of the Year" (the committee meets twice annually or less).
6. Service to the international community may be associated with the nominee's profession or may represent volunteer activities.

Submission Procedure *for all categories*

Names are to be submitted for nomination on or before March 31, 2027. Submissions may be made by any member of the community. Submissions forms are available online and from the festival office (see address below). Emailed submissions are acceptable. Submissions should also include a resume and/or brief biographical sketch of the candidate if available.

Winners will be notified by April 1st each year. Awards will be presented at the Columbia International Festival Welcome Ceremony, 2:00 pm on the first day of the Festival.

International

of the **Year**

Submission Form

Submission deadline: ***March 31, 2027***

Submitted by _____

Phone _____ Date _____

I am nominating the following individual for the: (select one)

❒ International *Business Person* of the Year award
❒ International *Professional* of the Year award
❒ International *Volunteer* of the Year award
❒ *Community Ambassador* of the Year award

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax_____

E-mail _____

Place of Birth _____

Did candidate live outside the US at least until age 16?
❒ Yes ❒ No (*Not applicable for Community Ambassador)*

Is candidate at least 35 years of age? ❒ Yes ❒ No

How long has candidate lived in the Midlands? _____years

How long has candidate lived in America? _____years
(Not applicable for Community Ambassador)

Please describe how the candidate has used his/her gifts/talents/skills/resources to help the community in tangible ways (e.g. as volunteer for public causes, serving on the board of charities or civic organizations, by making financial contributions to public works of organizations, etc.)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Is candidate willing to serve on the Columbia International Festival Advisory Committee for one year if chosen as "International/Community Ambassador of the Year" (the Committee meets only twice): ❒ Yes ❒ No

PROFESSIONAL category:

Education: Please list Major(s) and Educational Institution(s)

Bachelors: _____

Other: _____

Profession: _____ for _____ years

Candidate is a member in good standing (or was at time of retirement) of the following professional organization(s):

_____
_____
_____

BUSINESS PERSON category:

Business: _____ for _____ years

Candidate is ❒ Owner ❒ Manager
❒ Other: _____

Candidate is member in good standing (or was at time of retirement) of the following business organization(s):

_____
_____
_____

VOLUNTEER category:

Organization/volunteer capacity: _____
_____

Other: _____ for _____ years

FOR BUSINESS PERSON, PROFESSIONAL, AND VOLUNTEER categories only

Why does this candidate deserve to be recognized as the next International Business Person, Professional or Volunteer of the Year? Please list achievements by which this candidate stands out among his/her peers and how he/she has contributed to the community:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

FOR COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR category only

Why does this candidate deserve to be recognized as the next Community Ambassador of the Year? Please list achievements by which this candidate stands out among his/her peers and how he/she helped to build bridges between members of different ethnic communities: _____

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

NOTE: *Please attach additional information if you need more space for any question(s).*

Please return this submission form by email or to the festival office at 610 Pickens Street, in person or mail it to:

Columbia International Festival
610 Pickens St, Columbia, SC 29201
Office (call or text): (803) 799-3452
Web: www.cifonline.org • Email: festival@ifmusa.org