



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

2026 AFM Diversity Awards

Charles Walton Diversity Advocate Award Application

About

The Charles Walton Diversity Advocate Award honors an AFM member whose lifelong dedication to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice has significantly strengthened both the union and the wider community.

Named in memory of Charles Walton—a celebrated drummer, educator, and union activist—this award recognizes members who embody the AFM’s highest ideals of solidarity, fairness, and cultural representation through sustained commitment and advocacy.

Eligibility

Nominees must:

- Be an AFM member in good standing;
- Demonstrated lifetime dedication to diversity, both within the AFM and in the broader community;
- Show evidence of leadership, mentorship, organizing, or education promoting inclusion and equity in the arts and labor movement.

Award Presentation

Winners will be recognized at the 103rd AFM Convention. Each awardee will receive:

- A commemorative plaque presented at the AFM Convention;
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the AFM Convention, including travel, lodging, and registration (if they are a guest of the Convention);
- Recognition in AFM publications and on official communication channels.

Nomination Instructions

Please complete this application and submit all materials by February 27, 2026, and submit to AFM International President Tino Gagliardi at presoffice@afm.org.

Nominees may self-nominate or be nominated by another AFM member or a committee.



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Nominee Information

Name and Pronouns: _____

AFM Local(s) #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State / Province: _____

Zip / Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website or Social Media (optional): _____

Instrument(s) Played or Musical Services Rendered: _____

Length of AFM Membership: _____

Current Ensembles, Bands, or Artists Nominee Works with: _____

Is the Nominee Attending the 103rd AFM Convention as a Delegate?: _____

Nominator Information:

Please submit the Local's Nomination Committee members' names, email addresses, and phone numbers.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____



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Additional Award Information for AFM Locals

Please provide the following supporting materials and documentation. Each item should be clearly labeled and submitted on a separate sheet or as an attachment.

1. Membership in Other Unions or Organizations

Is the nominee a member of any other unions or professional organizations (*e.g., AFTRA, SAG-AFTRA, CWA, UNITE, ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, etc.*)?

2. Assistance to Other Unions

Has the nominee provided assistance or support to other unions? (*If yes, please explain*)

3. AFL-CIO or CLC Constituency Group Membership

Is the nominee a member of any AFL-CIO or Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) constituency group(s)? (*Please list all that apply.*)

4. Union Leadership

Has the nominee ever served as an active official of their AFM Local?

5. Volunteer Action Items

Describe at least two (2) action items demonstrating the nominee's volunteer service.

Please submit one paragraph for each:

- Union Involvement
- Community Involvement

6. Outstanding Diversity Achievements

Submit a detailed explanation highlighting the nominee's most significant diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) achievements.

7. Letters of Recommendation

Include three (3) letters of recommendation from AFM members, colleagues, or community partners who can attest to the nominee's lifelong advocacy, leadership, and service to diversity.