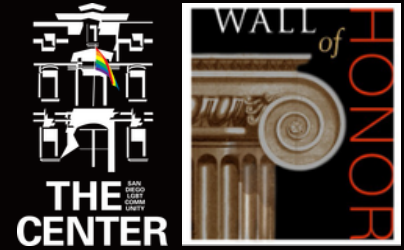


2026 COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR



Nomination Guide

Nomination Period: June 1 - July 31, 2026

The Community Wall of Honor recognizes individuals who have made a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of LGBTQ+ people in San Diego. This guide explains every part of the nomination form so that nominators can submit the strongest possible application on behalf of their candidate.

Part 1: About the Nominator (You)

The nominator is the person submitting the nomination – not the person being nominated. You will need to provide:

- Full Name
- Pronouns
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Your relationship to the nominee (e.g., colleague, friend, community partner)
- The organization you are affiliated with, if any

This information helps organizers follow up with you if they have questions about the nomination.

Your Nominator Statement

You will also write a brief statement explaining why you are putting this person forward. This is your personal case for why the nominee deserves recognition. Consider addressing:

- How do you know the nominee, and for how long
- What first made you want to nominate them
- What qualities or contributions stand out most to you
- Why do you believe they belong on the Wall of Honor

Part 2: About the Nominee

This section captures basic identifying information about the person you are nominating:

- Full Name
- Pronouns
- Email Address
- Gender Identity
- Whether the nominee is a member of the Transgender or Nonbinary Community
- Best description of their race/ethnicity

Use the name and pronouns the nominee uses for themselves. If you are unsure of any details, it is appropriate to ask the nominee directly before submitting.

Nominee Biography (500 words or less)

This is a portrait of the nominee as a person and as a community member. Think of it as an introduction to someone who may not know them yet. A strong biography typically includes:

- Where they are from and how long they have been part of the San Diego community
- Their background, profession, or area of focus
- Key organizations, causes, or movements they have been involved with
- Major accomplishments or milestones in their community work
- What makes them distinctive – their values, their approach, their character

Keep the tone warm and human. This is not a resume – it is a story. Stay within the 500-word limit.

Part 3: Letters of Support / Recommendation

Three separate letters of support are required. Each letter must be 500 words or fewer and should be written by someone who can speak to the nominee's impact from their own experience. The letters can come from colleagues, community members, organizational partners, or others who have seen the nominee's work firsthand.

Each letter should stand on its own and address the central question:

“How has this person improved the lives of LGBTQ+ people in San Diego?”

Part 3

What Makes a Strong Letter

The most effective letters are specific and grounded in real examples. Here is what reviewers are looking for:

- A clear statement of the writer's relationship to the nominee
- Specific examples of the nominee's contributions or actions — not just general praise
- The tangible impact of those contributions on people or the community
- Why those contributions matter in the broader context of LGBTQ+ life in San Diego
- A direct, confident recommendation that this person belongs on the Wall of Honor

What to Avoid

Letters that are vague or overly generic are less persuasive. Avoid:

- Repeating the same points already covered in other letters without adding new perspective
- Focusing only on the nominee's personal qualities without connecting them to community impact
- Exceeding the 500-word limit
- Submitting a letter written by the nominee themselves

Tips for Letter Writers

If you are asking someone to write a letter on behalf of your nominee, share this guide with them. It can also help to provide them with:

- A copy of the nominee's biography
- A few bullet points about key accomplishments they can expand on
- The nomination deadline (July 31, 2026) so they have enough time to write thoughtfully

Quick Reference: What You Need to Submit

Before submitting, confirm you have gathered all of the following:

- Your own contact information and nominator statement
- The nominee's full name, pronouns, email, gender identity, trans/nonbinary status, and race/ethnicity
- A biography of the nominee (500 words or less)
- Three letters of support/recommendation (each 500 words or less)