

## Portia White Prize

*This prize, the largest of its type awarded by the Province of Nova Scotia, is named for Portia White, a Nova Scotian artist who rose through adversity to achieve international acclaim as a classical singer on the stages of Europe and North America. Ms. White was born in Truro in 1911, the daughter of a Baptist minister and one of thirteen children. Having started as a school teacher in Africville, she turned her energies to her own musical development, which through hard work and dedication, and with financial support from the Province and the community, led to her becoming a world-renowned contralto. After retiring from the stage, and until her death in 1968, Ms. White devoted her time to teaching and coaching young singers. Her achievements continue to instill a sense of pride in the African Nova Scotian community and stand as a model to all Nova Scotians.*

**Purpose** To recognize cultural and artistic excellence on the part of a Nova Scotian who has attained professional status and recognition as determined by the Selection Committee.

To enable the Province of Nova Scotia to promote excellence in the arts by honouring an outstanding Nova Scotian artist who has made a significant contribution to the province's cultural life.

**The Prize** – The primary recipient, who will be an established artist, either born in Nova Scotia or resident in the province for at least the past four years, will receive \$18,000 and a certificate of recognition.  
– A secondary recipient, who will be an emerging Nova Scotian artist or a Nova Scotian cultural organization, selected by the primary recipient, will receive \$7,000 and a certificate of recognition.

**Frequency** The prize will be awarded annually, unless it is deemed by the Selection Committee that there is no suitable recipient.

**Eligibility** – Creative and interpretive artists who either were born in Nova Scotia or who have been resident in the province for at least the past four years may be nominated.  
– Nominated artists must have had a significant impact on the province's cultural life.  
– Nominated artists must be currently active in their art practice.  
– No means test will be applied to nominees.  
– Nominees must agree to be nominated.

**Nomination Process** Eligible nominees must be nominated by three individuals, all currently resident in the province, or by a cultural organization or business registered or incorporated in Nova Scotia.  
Such nominators may make one nomination per year.  
Nominations must be submitted on the standard nomination form provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. Completed nomination forms must be received by the department or postmarked no later than September 15th.

**Selection Process** The Culture Division will assemble a Selection Committee composed of 5 people who collectively possess the following characteristics:

- knowledge of the culture sector
- knowledge of arts practices
- current leaders in cultural development
- representative of the province's cultural and geographic diversity.

The Committee will be convened to review nominations, considering only the information provided on the forms, to assess each nominee's artistic achievement and contribution to Nova Scotia's cultural life. The names of the Selection Committee members will be made public at the time of the presentation of the prize.