

AACT National Awards

The following awards, when warranted, are presented by the American Association of Community Theatre at its summer event. The AACT Awards Committee receives nominations and selects the recipients of the awards, with the exception of the Fellows, who are elected by the Fellows. Anyone can make a nomination. A list of previous AACT National Award recipients is on the AACT website aact.org/awards, and available from the AACT office.

Fellows Award The designation “AACT Fellow” is bestowed for life upon members of AACT who over a period of years have contributed significantly to the idea and ideal of community theatre.

Art Cole Lifetime of Leadership Award Honors a lifetime of leadership in community theatre by members of AACT who have provided leadership at the national level, in addition to local and/or regional levels.

Diamond Crown Organization Award Recognizes longevity and vitality of AACT member theatres that have expanded programming and/or facilities in the past ten years and have the administrative leadership to remain vital to their communities for the next ten years. Recipients must have been in continuous operation for 75 years and organizational members of AACT for the past ten years.

Twink Lynch Organizational Achievement Award Recognizes AACT member theatres for successfully completing major steps in new directions, expanding services to their community, or moving to the next level of organizational development.

David C. Bryant Outstanding Service Award Recognizes individual members of AACT for significant, valuable, and lasting service to community theatre.

Distinguished Merit Award Presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of contributions made to promote and develop the highest standards for community theatre.

Special Recognition Award Presented to individuals and organizations whose contributions to community theatre are far reaching and of a special nature.

Robert E. Gard Superior Volunteer Award Presented to individuals above the age of 65 who have faithfully served community theatre on a non-paid basis for over 25 years.

Corporate Award Presented to businesses and corporations for significant financial support of community theatre on a regional or national basis.

Mort Clark International Achievement Award Recognizes individuals and organizations for significant achievement in the promotion of excellence in international community theatre. (This award may be presented at an international event.).

Shining Star Award Recognizes an individual AACT Member of any age who has had a significant impact on the advancement of AACT and its mission through leadership and service on a national level.