

**Massachusetts Women's Hall of Fame
Eligibility Criteria for the Inaugural Class
March 2026**

Background Statement and Main Criteria:

The MWHOF Selection Committee is seeking nominees from historians, scholars and the general public to the Massachusetts Women's Hall of Fame who have contributed monumentally and benefited Massachusetts, the country and/or the world, and, by so-doing, advanced the role of women in society.

The first class of Inductees will be honored during Women's History Month March 2026. Future class dates will be either annually or biennially.

For the INAUGURAL CLASS, awardees will include two groups: *Historic* and *Living* women and groups, organizations, or movements ("organizations"). The HISTORIC women/organizations for the inaugural class will be limited to women/organizations of the Revolutionary Era (see below). Future classes will also include *Historic* and *Living* women.

Basic Criteria:

Both *Historic* and *Living* women and organizations may be nominated. Living individuals do not need to have attained a certain age to be nominated. Organizations, both past or present, are eligible.

MWHOF is gender-expansive. Any nominees who self-identify as women or nonbinary are eligible.

The number of inductees may be limited in order to appropriately honor the accomplishments of a select group of women and organizations.

1. Historic Women and Organizations - Theme for the First Class of Historic Awardees:

As part of the Commonwealth's commemoration of 250 years of America's independence and [MA250](#), which take place during 2025-2025, the **historic** women and organizations in the FIRST class of inductees will ONLY be those who/which made critical contributions to the Commonwealth's culture, history and society during the Revolutionary Era – born/established prior to 1776.

Living Women and Organizations for the First Class of Living Awardees:

Women who are living and organizations currently operating will be inductees who/which have made critical contributions to the Commonwealth's contemporary culture, history and society.

2. Connection to Massachusetts:

Nominees, both individuals and organizations, must be deeply and significantly connected to Massachusetts.

3. Impact in Her/Their Field

- a. Please identify in which field(s) the nominee, individual or group, has contributed monumentally and benefited Massachusetts, the country and/or the world, and, by so-doing, advanced the role of women in society.
 - i. Arts, Culture & Humanities
 - ii. Athletics
 - iii. Business
 - iv. Domestic workers, care workers, service workers, & other care-giving
 - v. Education
 - vi. Health Care & Medicine
 - vii. Labor & the Trades
 - viii. Media
 - ix. Military
 - x. Non-profit, civic & community activism/leadership
 - xi. Public Service/Government: Executive, Judicial & Legislative
 - xii. Religious/Faith leadership
 - xiii. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
 - xiv. Other
- b. Be the first woman or woman-focused group, historic or living, to achieve recognition in her field of endeavor **OR** have a lifetime of achievement in that field (see a. above).

4. Inspiring Component of a Nominee's Contribution(s):

The Committee is seeking nominees, individuals or organizations, who/which have inspired others, especially women and girls, by her/their efforts and achievements **OR** who/which, with long-overdue recognition and increased awareness of their efforts and achievements, would provide such inspiration.

June 25, 2025