

Jane N. Ominator
125 Elm Street
Anytown, ME 12345

July 25, 2016

NEA National Heritage Fellowship Award Nomination Committee
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am nominating Artis T. Name (Navajo) for this award, as she is one of the most significant traditional weavers and culture bearers living today. She began weaving under the tutelage of her mother at the age of 12. I met her through a series of communities programs that she has regularly participated in. To say I have marveled at her artistry and commitment over two decades would be a gross understatement.

While remaining true to traditional methods, Artis is highly innovative and imaginative in design and the techniques used in her weaving. Her originality reminds one that weaving is a living art form. Through elegant design and spectacularly precise weaves, her work has created a much broader interest in weaving practices and elevated collector value and market appeal well beyond our communities. As you will note from her work samples, her talent is boundless and the work completely stunning, but her commitment to the practice does not end there.

Cognizant that weavers need the assurance of a high quality supply of materials for present and future generations, she continues to lead the efforts to raise awareness of the need for the preservation, health and sustainable harvesting practices of these resources. In her practice, she also makes time to sustain and grow weaving traditions by mentoring young weavers from among the many Navajo communities. In spite of receiving awards and recognition from elite institutions, she continues to see her role as an artist as that of a cultural guide. Her desire to increase pride in Native culture has inspired her work but also fosters a deep commitment to engage, educate and empower the next generations through the work. Artis is articulate, passionate, informed and dedicated and she brings enormous energy to her work in the perpetuation of Native traditions.

Once you see samples of her work, and read her letters of support, I am sure you will agree with me that Artis T. Name would be a worthy recipient of a National Heritage Fellowship.

Very truly yours,

Jane N. Ominator