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Date: Monday, July 15, 2020

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Re: **2020-2021 WAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis and/or Final Master's Capstone Project Award in the Creative, Visual and Performing Arts**

This award recognizes distinguished scholarly and creative arts' achievement at the master's level. Nominations will be accepted in any of the above-listed disciplines in which the institution offers a Master's degree. The scholarly or creative work eligible for this competition is one of the following:

- A traditional, formal written thesis;
- A major capstone paper or creative product (e.g. collection of poetry);
- An audio, video, or digital file of a performance, portfolio, or exhibition.

Since many fine and performing arts Master's projects involve a combination of written and artistic products, both may be submitted for review (if applicable) and considered in the decision for the award.

The 2020-2021 winner will receive \$1,000, a Certificate of Award, and travel expenses for the recipient to attend the WAGS Annual Conference and Awards luncheon to be held in Boise, Idaho in March 2021.

Guidelines

The nominee must have successfully completed all requirements for their scholarly or creative work in the context of degree progression and/or completion. Typically, this means that a written thesis will have been successfully defended and final copy submitted; their major capstone paper or creative product will have been submitted and evaluated for degree completion; or their performance, portfolio, or exhibition will have been publicly presented and/or evaluated for degree completion, as appropriate within the period of **July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020**. Nomination materials must include:

1. A non-technical summary prepared by the nominee (1000-1500 words) describing the research, artistic approach, inspiration and/or major influences, and its significance for a general academic audience of non-specialists. For those submitting projects that involve a public performance or exhibition, we encourage a video recording of the event as well, so that the scope and impact of the event can be considered.
2. An abstract or example of the nominee's research or project (not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages). Appendices containing nontextual material, such as charts or tables, may be included as additional pages. All pages should be numbered, and each should bear the name of the nominee.
3. Two nomination letters. One letter from the department head or major professor and one letter from an additional faculty member. The letters should include information regarding the significance of the thesis and/or project, the contribution of the thesis and/or project to the program of the degree granting unit, and the impact of the thesis on the knowledge base of the discipline.
4. The nominee's CV or resume (not to exceed five pages).

Selection will be based on four criteria: 1. Originality; 2. Aesthetic merit; 3. Technical execution, and 4. Potential to reach beyond the original academic audience through future performance, exhibition, or publication. Finalists will be asked to provide an electronic copy of the complete thesis and/or project.

Nomination Procedure

Each eligible department may submit **one** nomination for the award to FGSR via GSMS by **Friday, August 21, 2020**. The FGSR will adjudicate all nominations received and forward one nomination to the WAGS National Office by the WAGS deadline of September 23, 2020. Successful nominees will be notified directly by WAGS.