**KOOL & THE GANG, Jersey City, N.J.**

In 1964, Ronald Bell and Robert "Kool" Bell joined Jersey City neighborhood friends Robert "Spike" Mickens, Dennis "Dee Tee" Thomas, Ricky Westfield, George Brown, and Charles Smith to create the Kool & the Gang sound – a unique blend of jazz, soul and funk.

Throughout the seventies this blend produced a string of hits including "Jungle Boogie", "Hollywood Swinging", "Funky Stuff" and "Summer Madness". In 1979 the group penetrated the pop market by incorporating the smooth sounds of vocalist James "JT" Taylor with their infectious formula for making hits.

Casey Kasem named Kool & the Gang the band of the eighties noting the bands steady stream of hits during the decade. "Ladies Night", "Get Down on It" "Joanna" and the theme song to parties worldwide, "Celebration", solidified Kool & the Gang's musical legacy.

Today, the group enjoys global fame and recognition and a following that spans generations due in part to the groups widely sampled catalogue. Kool & the Gang's drum beats, bass, guitar and signature horn lines lace the tracks of numerous artists including the Beastie Boys, Jay-Z, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Cypress Hill, and P. Diddy. Kool & the Gang is the most sampled band in hip-hop by far. Their music is also featured on the soundtracks for *Rocky*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Wreck-It Ralph* and countless others.

For fifty years, Kool & the Gang has continued to tour the world appearing with artists such as Kid Rock, Dave Matthews Band, Elton John, The Roots and a 50-city tour with Van Halen. The band has sold over 70 million albums worldwide to date; and has earned two Grammy Awards, seven American Music Awards, and 31 gold and platinum albums.

In the fall of 2015, Kool & the Gang will receive a nod from their home state and will be inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame.
In the same month and in the town they sing about in one of their earliest hits "Hollywood Swinging" Kool & the Gang will take their place as American musical icons with a star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame.

**NOMINEE:** KOOL & THE GANG

**CATEGORY:** ☐ MP ☐ LP ☐ TV ☑ RC ☐ RD ☐ P/H* ☑ D/G

**SPONSOR:** KOOL WORLD, LTD

**TELEPHONE:** 732-446-1084

**EMAIL:** tia@koolandthegang.com

HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME
Nomination for 2015 Selection

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF NOMINEE

Use additional blank paper if more space is needed. Include no more than 5 pages.

**DATE OF BIRTH**

**PLACE OF BIRTH**

For more than 4 decades, the world has sung and danced along to the infectuous sound of Kool & the Gang, having influenced the musical landscape for generations, selling over 70 million records worldwide.

The band's influence spans the musical spectrum for their funk driven mega hits, "Jungle Boogie", and "Hollywood Swinging", to the jazz infused "Summer Madness" to their unstoppable pop hits, "Celebration", "Ladies Night", "Get Down on It", "Fresh", "Cherish" and "Too Hot".

The band's music has been sampled by a vast array of artists from the N.W.A. and Will Smith to Madonna and Lady Gaga, who have created over 600 additional songs using Kool & the Gang's signature grooves.

**PHOTO OF THE NOMINEE**

PROVIDED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

## NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS

70 million records sold worldwide
25 Top-Ten R&B Hits
9 Top-Ten Pop Hits
7 American Music Awards
2 Grammy Awards
32 Gold and Platinum Awards

NAMES OF GROUP MEMBERS:
- ROBERT "KOOL" BELL
- RONALD BELL
- GEORGE BROWN
- DENNIS THOMAS
- CLAYDES SMITH
- ROBERT MICKENS
- RICK WESTFIELD
- WOODY SPARRO
- JAMES "JT" TAYLOR

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY AND CIVIC-ORIENTED PARTICIPATION

Have played shows for and made donations to the following organizations, amongst others:

Boys and Girls Club of America (Alumni Hall of Fame)
Children at Risk, Houston, TX
Children's Miracle Netwrok
Rhythm & Blues Foundation
Marion Anderson Foundation
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Ambassadors)
St. Jude Children's Hospital
Susan G. Komen Foundation
United Negro College Fund
Wounded Warriors

☑ **LETTER OF AGREEMENT FROM THE NOMINEE OR HIS/HER MANAGEMENT**
**Original signed letter of agreement from Nominee must be mailed to:**

**Walk of Fame Committee: c/o Ana Martinez, Hollywood Chamber of Commerce**
**7018 Hollywood Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Hollywood, CA 90028**

2015
WALKOFFAME.COM
No previous forms will be accepted.

# KOOL & THE GANG

## A TIMELESS STORY

Through bulletproof funk and jazz arrangements, KOOL & THE GANG have scored 25 Top Ten hits and earned countless awards. With a career that spans 50 years, KOOL & THE GANG has been together longer than any other R&B group in history. Hits like *Celebration*, *Ladies Night*, *Jungle Boogie*, *Summer Madness*, *Cherish*, *Get Down on It*, and *Open Sesame*, the legendary POP / R&B / Funk group have influenced three generations of music, selling over 70 million records worldwide. KOOL & THE GANG's music has been sampled more than any other band in history.

Starting later this year, the group will embark on a celebration of 50 years of music that will include special performances, programming features and more.

**70MM** RECORDS SOLD WORLDWIDE

**9** TOP 10 POP HITS

**2** GRAMMY AWARDS

**25** TOP 10 R&B HITS

**31** GOLD & PLATINUM ALBUMS

**#1** MOST SAMPLED BAND EVER

# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

## TOURING, COLLABORATIONS & MORE

- Kid Rock Tour
- Dave Matthews Band Tour
- Van Halen Tour
- Music Festivals
- Goldene Kamera Lifetime Achievement Award
- DJ Cassidy "Calling all Hearts" Collaboration
- First Ever Holiday Album, "Kool for the Holidays"








# 50 YEARS OF MUSIC

What began as a New Jersey neighborhood friendship between Robert "Kool" Bell, his brother Ronald "Khalis" Bell, Dennis "DT" Thomas and George "Funky" Brown has turned into a lifetime of music that has spanned the universe touching millions of fans.

Later this year, KOOL & THE GANG commence the celebration of 50 years of music. Plans include a commemorative Billboard magazine edition, touring dates with Gladys Night, The Commodores, new music featuring current collaborations and promotional commitments from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, BET Centric and more.

