

# LEADERSHIP AWARDS

## ENTER A RECOMMENDATION HERE

The Leadership Awards program recognizes achievement by individuals and/or organizations who are actively working to set standards that create more equitable, just, sustainable, and economically viable food systems for producers, workers, and consumers alike.

The Leadership Awards are one of three James Beard Foundation Achievement Awards programs, which also include Lifetime Achievement and Humanitarian of the Year awards.

**ENTRY  
DEADLINE:  
11.30.2023  
11:59:00 P.M.  
Eastern Time**

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Anyone can submit a candidate for consideration during the online open call for recommendations from October 3 through November 30, 2023. Additional recommendations are solicited from previous Leadership Awardees and current Leadership committee members.
- All submissions must include:
  - An impact statement detailing the candidate's work to create a more equitable and sustainable food system. Submissions without this statement will be disqualified.
  - New this year, candidates (or those who recommend candidates) will need to provide the contact information for two (2) references who can speak to the candidate's work and impact of the work. References must come from the following:
    - + one current or former employee or someone the candidate may have supervised; and,
    - + one current (or former) colleague.
- Individuals recommended may work domestically and internationally but must be based in the United States (including territories).
- Candidates are:
  - From any background: leaders who work in farming, government, advocacy, educational institutions, or journalism, and in varying types of organizations, corporations, or other entities.
  - Of any age and at any stage of their career.
  - Considered based solely on the impact of their work. They do not need to be a food system "celebrity" to be recognized with this award.

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## Impact Statement

The James Beard Awards honor those who are creating exceptional food, food media content, and better food systems while demonstrating a commitment to racial and gender equity, community, sustainability, and a culture where all can thrive.

The application process requires a short statement describing the impact of the candidate's work in creating a more equitable and sustainable food system, and how the work aligns with the Foundation's values: equity, transparency, respect, integrity, and community.

This is your chance to provide more context around the leader's work, its impact on a national, regional or local level, and to share what it means to their communities in your own words.

We strongly encourage candidates or those recommending candidates to write or speak in their own words.

You may choose to write or record (audio/video) your community impact statement.

**Written: 150-300 words**

**Audio/Video: 1-2 minutes**

Candidates' impact statements will be reviewed and scored by committees and judges. It will be reviewed for content, and not for language fluency, video quality, or production value.

### Here are some tips and questions to help guide you:

- If you are submitting for yourself, write or speak in the first-person.
- If you are submitting on behalf of someone else, be specific and use clear, pertinent examples.
- Remember, your statement will not be assessed on how well it's written or articulated. Please be yourself!

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## **Who receives the award?**

Five honorees, including the committee-chosen Emerging Leadership recipient, are selected each year—one per category. In cases where the work of the honoree is most fairly attributed to more than one person, each will be named collectively as the honoree.

Leadership Award honorees receive a silver medallion engraved with the James Beard Foundation Awards insignia as well as a certificate.

No additional medallions will be given. Additional certificates may be ordered after the awards ceremony.

## **Entry Fee**

There is no entry fee for this program.

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## CATEGORIES

The 2024 Leadership Awards categories were created by the James Beard Foundation, with input from the Leadership Committee, as a reflection of the Foundation's policy agenda and its impact priorities for 2023-2024. The categories may vary annually.

View the category descriptions below and enter whichever category you believe best fits the work. The Leadership Committee reserves the right to re-assign any submitted entry to a more appropriate category.

*The impact of Leadership candidates' work is at the national, regional, as well as local level.*

### **Sustainability**

Leaders who are advancing environmental sustainability in support of a better supply chain for restaurants. Their efforts may focus on healthy soil, clean oceans, sustainable fisheries, reducing food waste, or regenerative agriculture.

### **Policy Advocacy**

Policymakers or advocates who are advancing a Farm Bill and/or federal legislation or regulations that prioritize climate change mitigation, racial and gender equity, or industry practices that foster a more sustainable and equitable restaurant industry.

### **Industry Culture and Practices**

Leaders who have made a significant impact and are acknowledged and recognized as setting industry standards, with a commitment to transforming the industry into one that is sustainable and equitable. These leaders have put in place systems and policies that prioritize the physical and mental health of employees and themselves and have proven to make for a sound financial model for staff and owners alike that foster longevity in the restaurant industry. They are modeling how to make independent restaurants more equitable both within and beyond one's own businesses.

### **Food Security and Access**

Leaders who have advanced nutrition security, an issue that has directly impacted many independent chefs and restaurants, most notably through SNAP and SNAP expansion, community engagement, and beyond.

### **Emerging Leadership**

The Leadership Committee may select an additional honoree to highlight a person or collective who is at the beginning of their career but already doing significant work.