LEADERSHIP AWARDS

ENTER A RECOMMENDATION HERE

The James Beard Foundation’s Leadership Awards recognize individuals and/or organizations whose work is helping to create a safer, more healthful, more equitable, and sustainable food world. The Awards are given for achievement in developing a global food system that is just, sustainable, and economically viable for both producers and consumers.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Anyone can submit a candidate for consideration during the online open call for recommendations from October 12 through November 30, 2021. Additional recommendations are solicited from previous Leadership Award honorees and current Leadership committee members. All submissions must include a statement of support detailing the impact of the candidate’s work to create a healthier, safer, more equitable, and sustainable food system. Submissions without that statement will be disqualified.

2. Individuals recommended may work domestically and/or internationally but must be based in the United States.

3. Candidates can be:
   - From any background: corporation, farm, educational institution, government, advocacy, journalism, etc.
   - Of any age, and at any stage of their career.
   - Considered based solely on their work. They do not need to be a food system “celebrity” to be recognized with this award. The impact of the work is what matters.
Honoree Selection and Judging

Equity, Transparency, Respect and Integrity drive our work at the James Beard Foundation. We have made a lot of changes in the past year, and we are requiring all Awards entrants to provide a short write-up or audio/visual recording to demonstrate that their work aligns with one or more of our values and Awards mission pillars. We encourage entrants to write and speak in their own words in highlighting their commitment to the mission. The statement will be reviewed for content and alignment, and not for language fluency, video quality, or production value. More information is available on the entry form.

If you are entering on behalf of someone else, please write and/or speak in your own words, how that entrant is aligned with one or more of the values and Awards mission pillars.

The Leadership Awards committee reviews recommendations to create a ballot of top nominees. Previous Leadership Award honorees and more than 50 judges selected by the committee score the candidates on a number of criteria to determine the four Leadership honorees of the year.

The separate Leadership Awards ceremony and dinner is held in Chicago during the James Beard Awards weekend in late spring.

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.

Who receives the award?

Four honorees are selected each year. In the case when 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.
Leadership Awards

Categories

There are no categories for the Leadership Awards. Honorees are selected because their work has had a lasting and impactful change on our food system across a wide range of areas, including but not limited to:

- Chef Advocacy
- Culinary Literacy
- Community Building
- Environmental Sustainability
- Fair Trade Food
- Farm Advocacy
- Food Access
- Food Safety
- Food Sovereignty
- Foundation or Corporate Leadership
- Indigenous Rights
- Nutrition / Public Health
- Research / Academic
- Youth Leadership