

Award Categories 2024



Overview of each award category

This guide has been created to assist you with which category best suits you and your business or the person/business you are nominating.

1. Business Woman of the Year

This woman is a beacon of inspiration and leadership in the corporate world. This exceptional woman will be able to demonstrate unparalleled dedication, innovative thinking, and an unwavering commitment to excellence throughout her illustrious career.

With a visionary approach, she has not only achieved remarkable success in her professional endeavours but has also paved the way for others through mentorship and empowerment. Her strategic acumen, resilience in the face of challenges, and ability to navigate complex business landscapes have set her apart as a trailblazer and role model.

Ladies First's Business Woman of the Year embodies the values of integrity, inclusivity, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Her accomplishments are not only a testament to her individual prowess but also serve as an inspiration for aspiring professionals, showcasing the boundless possibilities that arise from a combination of talent, hard work, and a passion for making a meaningful impact.

2. Trailblazer of the Year

This female entrepreneur has paved new paths and set trends in her industry, demonstrating exceptional innovation and Leadership.

Her innovative spirit and daring vision have forged new paths in their industry. This exceptional trailblazer has not merely followed the footsteps of others but has boldly ventured into uncharted territories, redefining norms and setting a precedent for excellence.

This visionary leader is not only a master of navigating unexplored terrain but also a catalyst for change, inspiring others to embrace innovation and embrace the unknown. Their influence extends far beyond personal success, as they have become a beacon for those who seek to challenge conventions and make a lasting impact on their industries.

A true pioneer, an architect of change, and a relentless explorer who continues to shape the future.

3. Sustainable Business Leader

This female leader will be able to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable business practices, environmental responsibility, and ethical conduct.

An individual whose dedication to environmental and social responsibility has set a new standard for sustainable business practices. This visionary leader has seamlessly integrated sustainability into the core of their business, demonstrating that economic success and ecological responsibility can go hand in hand.

Through innovative initiatives, eco-friendly policies, and a commitment to ethical practices, our Sustainable Business Leader has not only reduced their ecological footprint but has become a beacon for others in the corporate world. Their strategic decisions prioritise long-term environmental and social impact, showcasing a deep understanding of the interconnectedness between business and the well-being of our planet.

4. Inclusive Leadership Award

This is a woman who champions diversity and inclusion within her organisation, fostering a culture of equality.

This woman has redefined what it means to lead with inclusivity at the forefront. This remarkable leader has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and belonging within their organisation, creating an environment where every voice is not only heard but valued.

Through intentional efforts to champion diversity, our Inclusive Leadership Awardee has cultivated a workplace culture that celebrates differences, encourages collaboration, and ensures equal opportunities for all. Their leadership style goes beyond mere representation, emphasising the importance of creating a sense of belonging for every individual, irrespective of background, identity, or perspective.

This leader has implemented inclusive policies, mentorship programs, and initiatives that actively dismantle barriers to success. Their dedication to building a diverse and equitable team has not only enhanced organisational performance but has also set a standard for the industry, inspiring others to embrace the transformative power of inclusive leadership.

5. Business Resilience Award

This a woman who exemplifies unparalleled fortitude, adaptability, and strategic vision in the face of challenges. This resilient leader has navigated unforeseen obstacles with grace, turning

adversity into opportunities and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the sustained success of their organisation/business.

In times of uncertainty, our Business Resilience Awardee has displayed an exceptional ability to innovate, pivot, and lead their team through tumultuous circumstances. Their strategic decisions and forward-thinking approaches have not only ensured the survival of the business but have also positioned it for long-term growth and prosperity.

This resilient leader has fostered a culture of adaptability within their organisation/business, adapting to change, learning from setbacks, and emerging stronger than ever.

6. Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year

This woman can show how she has redefined the landscape of entrepreneurship with innovation, determination, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Our Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year will display unparalleled leadership, taking bold risks, and transforming challenges into opportunities. Their entrepreneurial spirit has not only propelled their own ventures to new heights but has also ignited a spark within the business community, setting a standard for creativity, resilience, and strategic vision.

7. Family Business of the Year

Our Family Business of the Year award recognises a business that goes beyond mere financial success. It honours a family-owned enterprise that showcases outstanding leadership by skillfully integrating tradition and innovation.

This recipient stands out for their ability to navigate the dynamic business landscape, demonstrating a collective vision, unwavering dedication, and a collaborative spirit among family members.

Their success not only reflects on the business itself but also extends to the creation of a nurturing environment that fosters growth, instills loyalty among employees, and cultivates a strong sense of community. This award celebrates the unique blend of family values and business acumen that propels the family enterprise.

8. Rising Star & Future Leader

This individual has ignited the professional landscape with exceptional talent, dedication, and a promising trajectory toward leadership. This rising star can demonstrate exceptional prowess in her current role and also exhibit the potential to shape the future of their industry.

Our Rising Star & Future Leader will stand out for their innovative thinking, passion, and unwavering commitment to continuous growth, inspiring their peers and earning the respect of colleagues with a forward-looking mindset that embraces change and challenges.

This emerging leader is not merely a contributor but a catalyst for positive transformation within their organisation. Their ability to adapt, collaborate, and lead by example has not only fuelled their personal success but has also contributed to the overall dynamism and success of the teams they work with.

9. Startup of the Year

A groundbreaking venture that has redefined the entrepreneurial landscape with innovation, resilience, and a bold vision for the future. This exceptional startup has not only disrupted industries but has also demonstrated the transformative power of determination, creativity, and strategic thinking.

The startup's impact extends beyond its own growth, inspiring the entrepreneurial community with its groundbreaking ideas and commitment to pushing boundaries. Whether through technological advancements, innovative business models, or a commitment to social impact, this startup serves as a beacon for aspiring entrepreneurs, illustrating the limitless possibilities that come with ingenuity and perseverance.

10. Excellence in Technology and Innovation

Celebrating the woman who has introduced groundbreaking ideas, products or services that have had significant impact on her business and industry.

Our Excellence in Technology and Innovation awardee will stand out for groundbreaking contributions, pioneering solutions, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Through cutting-edge advancements, transformative ideas, and a commitment to staying at the forefront of technological evolution, this entity has not only disrupted norms but has also become a guiding light for the industry.

This technological trailblazer has harnessed the power of innovation to address challenges, improve efficiencies, and drive positive change. Its impact extends beyond the realm of technology, influencing and inspiring diverse sectors with its forward-thinking approaches, groundbreaking products, or revolutionary services.

11. Excellence in Health and Wellbeing

An exceptional organisation or individual whose unwavering commitment has significantly contribute to advancing the realms of health and promoting overall wellbeing. This esteemed recipient stands out for their dedication to improving lives, fostering a culture of wellness, and creating lasting positive impacts on the health landscape.

Our Excellence in Health and Wellbeing awardee has demonstrated outstanding achievements in areas such as healthcare, medical research, mental health advocacy, or other wellness initiatives. Through innovative programs, compassionate care, and a holistic approach to health, they have

not only addressed current challenges but have also laid the foundation for a healthier, more resilient future.

This distinguished entity or individual serves as a beacon of inspiration within the health and wellbeing sector, embodying the principles of compassion, inclusivity, and a tireless pursuit of solutions that enhance the quality of life for individuals and communities.

In recognising Excellence in Health and Wellbeing, we celebrate not only the achievements of today but the enduring impact on the health and happiness of those they serve. This awardee represents the epitome of dedication to creating a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally.

12. Excellence in Professional Services

An outstanding organisation or individual whose dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment have set an exemplary standard in the realm of professional services. This recipient can demonstrate exceptional proficiency, reliability, and a client-centric approach that goes above and beyond expectations.

Our Excellence in Professional Services awardee stands out for their exemplary performance in delivering top-notch services, whether in legal, consulting, finance, or other professional domains. Their commitment to excellence, ethical practices, and a client-focused mindset have not only earned them trust but have also positioned them as a benchmark for others in the industry.

This organisation or individual serves as a model for professionalism, showcasing a tireless dedication to providing unparalleled value and solutions for their clients. Their ability to navigate complexities, solve problems, and consistently deliver outstanding service has set them apart as a leader in the professional services arena.

13. Event/Campaign of the Year

The Event/Campaign of the Year award recognises a groundbreaking initiative that has not only captured the imagination but has also raised the bar for creativity, engagement, and meaningful transformation. This remarkable event or campaign has distinguished itself through its innovative approach, strategic implementation, and its ability to unite and inspire audiences towards a shared goal.

This exceptional event or campaign exemplifies a harmonious blend of creativity and efficacy, whether in the realms of marketing, social advocacy, or community mobilisation. Through its compelling narrative, meticulous planning, and adept utilisation of diverse platforms, it has not only met its objectives but has also etched a profound impact on the communities it serves.

It serves as a shining example of successful initiatives, illustrating the potency of storytelling, cooperation, and a profound comprehension of the target demographic. Whether through driving social change, enhancing brand visibility, or galvanising individuals to action, this event or campaign has proven to be a catalyst for positive societal transformation, leaving behind a legacy of significance and inspiration.

14. Charity of the Year/Community Advocate

This individual's commitment, and transformative efforts have made an extraordinary impact on the community. This distinguished recipient stands out as a beacon of hope, compassion, and positive change, embodying the true spirit of philanthropy.

Our Charity of the Year/Community Advocate has demonstrated exceptional leadership in addressing the needs of the community, whether through charitable initiatives, volunteering, or social advocacy. Their tireless efforts have not only improved the lives of individuals but have also inspired others to join in the collective mission of creating a better and more compassionate world.

This organisation or individual serves as a model for community engagement, showcasing a deep sense of empathy and a commitment to uplifting those in need. Their impact goes beyond immediate assistance, fostering a sense of unity, resilience, and hope within the community.

15. Networker of the Year

An exceptional individual who has demonstrated outstanding prowess in building connections, fostering collaborations, and creating a vibrant and inclusive network. This distinguished recipient stands out as a master networker, embodying the principles of relationship-building, community engagement, and a commitment to creating opportunities for others.

Our Networker of the Year has shown exceptional skill in cultivating meaningful relationships, whether in professional circles, community engagements, or industry networks. Their ability to connect people, bridge gaps, and create synergies has not only enhanced their own success but has also contributed to the growth and success of the communities they engage with.

In recognising the Networker of the Year, we celebrate not only their networking prowess but the lasting impact they have had on building a stronger, more interconnected community. This award honours the dedication, inclusivity, and transformative power that exceptional networking can have on individuals and the broader network.

16. Business Consultant/Coach of the Year

An exceptional individual who has exhibited exemplary expertise, dedication, and a profound impact on the businesses they have guided. This distinguished recipient stands out as a trusted advisor, mentor, and catalyst for transformative change, embodying the principles of strategic thinking, leadership development, and professional excellence.

Our Business Consultant/Coach of the Year can demonstrate exceptional proficiency in providing strategic insights, guidance, and solutions to businesses seeking to enhance their performance. Their ability to diagnose challenges, offer innovative solutions, and empower teams has not only driven organisational success but has also inspired a culture of continuous improvement and excellence.

In recognising the Business Consultant/Coach of the Year, we celebrate not only their professional achievements but the lasting impact they have had on the businesses and individuals they have guided. This award honours the dedication, expertise, and transformative power that exceptional business consultancy and coaching can bring to organisations.

17. Business Man of the Year

In celebrating excellence and inclusivity, we proudly introduce the Business Man of the Year Award. This accolade honours a remarkable individual who has demonstrated outstanding support, dedication, and commitment to advancing the goals and mission of our community.

This recognition serves to highlight his positive impact, acknowledging the significant contributions he has made in fostering unity and mutual understanding. The Man of the Year Award symbolises our appreciation for his outstanding commitment to promoting gender equality and creating an environment where everyone thrives together.