

ARTS FOR **BUSINESS BUSINESS FOR ARTS**

2026 Business for the Arts Awards Nominations

Award Categories and Criteria

CBCA's Business for the Arts Awards celebrate innovative cross-sector partnerships, generous philanthropy, creative businesses, and stellar leadership across the state. The annual awards luncheon is the only statewide event honoring companies and individuals for their outstanding business partnerships and engagement with the arts.

The 2026 award honorees are selected by an independent judging panel. Award honorees will be notified in mid-December and will be publicly announced in late December 2025. All 2026 honorees will be recognized at CBCA's annual Business for the Arts Awards luncheon on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Nominations can be submitted at <u>cbca.org/2026-business-for-the-arts-awards-nominations</u>

Questions? Contact Meredith Badler at mbadler@cbca.org or 720-370-5920.

Nominations are due by end-of day Monday, November 10, 2025.

Tips for Successful Nominations

- Self-nominations are strongly encouraged.
- If you are nominating another organization or person, please notify them about the nomination. The most competitive and compelling submissions include input from the nominee.
- All nominations must include a minimum of three supplementary materials, such as letters of recommendation, press articles, photos, video links, etc.
- Detail, detail! Be specific about the impact of the nominee and their work. Share examples and stories, as well as data and metrics.
- If you are having technical issues or want to discuss a potential nomination, please reach out to Meredith Badler at mbadler@cbca.org before the deadline.

Award Honoree Expectations and Benefits

- CBCA will produce a two-minute video about each Award Honoree.
 - Each honoree will have a filmed in-person interview for these videos in January 2025 (exact dates TBD) in the Denver metro area.
 - Honorees will need to provide images and b-roll clips for their honoree video.
- Award Honorees are expected to attend the Business for the Arts Awards luncheon on April 21, 2026 at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.
 - O Honorees will be presented with their award on stage during the luncheon. Awards are original sculptures commissioned by a Colorado artist.



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- Honorees are invited to a VIP Reception immediately before the luncheon.
- O Honorees are offered one complimentary ticket to the luncheon to accept the award. Most Award Honorees decide to purchase a table instead so they can celebrate with their network of supporters.
- Award Honorees will receive promotional materials to celebrate this recognition, including press releases, social media graphics, and their video.

2026 Arts & Business Partnership Award Nomination

The Arts & Business Partnership Award Honorees are exemplary companies that have gone above and beyond to support the arts and creative industries. Honorees embody the mutual benefits of business and arts partnerships. They make Colorado a better place to live, work, and play through innovative collaborations, arts integration into business practices, creative workplaces, economic development in the creative sector, arts advocacy, employee engagement, and/or philanthropy.

Judges will select up to 8 diverse companies as a cohort of 2026 Arts & Business Partnership Award Honorees.

Eligibility Criteria

- For-profit businesses, government agencies, educational institutions or non-artistic organizations in Colorado are eligible.
- The focus of the nomination must be outside the entity's day-to-day business or mission.
- Arts & culture organizations are NOT eligible for this award. If a cultural
 organization is partnering with a business, the business should be the
 nominee.
- Nominee cannot be a previous winner of a CBCA Business for the Arts Award within the last five years. A list of past honorees can be found here: cbca.org/business-for-the-arts-awards. Past nominees and finalists are encouraged to reapply.

Judges will consider the following in the award application:

- Satisfies more than one of the following elements: innovative cross-sector partnerships, arts integration into business practices, creative workplaces, economic development in the creative sector, arts advocacy, employee engagement, and/or philanthropy
- Impact relative to the organization or program's size and history
- $\bullet \quad \textit{Impact relative to the community they're serving}$
- Impact on the organization's employees and internal culture
- Economic benefits for the cultural sector and/or creative professionals
- Commitment and action to advance equity and inclusion in their work and the community
- Innovative or fresh approach



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2026 Next Wave Leadership Award Nomination

The Next Wave Leadership Award honors emerging professionals and business leaders who are leading the future of our cultural community through their volunteerism, philanthropy, innovative cross-sector partnerships, and/or arts advocacy. These leaders are just starting out, but already making big waves!

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominee must be a Colorado resident.
- The focus of the nomination must be for activities outside their day-to-day job or business.
- Nominee must be recognized for recent work they've been engaged in for five years or less.
- Nominee cannot be a previous winner of a CBCA Business for the Arts Award within the last five years. A list of past honorees can be found here: cbca.org/business-for-the-arts-awards. Past nominees and finalists are encouraged to reapply.
- Posthumous nominations are eligible.

Judges will consider the following in the award application:

- Partnership between the arts and business communities
- Impact relative to the individual's years of service
- Impact relative to the community they're serving
- Economic benefits for the cultural community and/or creative professionals
- Commitment and action to advance equity and inclusion in their work and the community
- Innovative or fresh approach
- Encouragement of next generation of community arts leaders

2026 Cultural Leadership Award Nomination

The Cultural Leadership Award recognizes an outstanding graduate of CBCA's Leadership Arts program who has made and/or continues to make an impact on arts & culture in Colorado.

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominee must be a Colorado resident.
- Nominee must be a graduate of CBCA's Leadership Arts program.
- Nominee cannot be a previous winner of a CBCA Business for the Arts Award within the last five years. A list of past honorees can be found here: cbca.org/business-for-the-arts-awards. Past nominees and finalists are encouraged to reapply.
- Posthumous nominations are eligible.

Judges will be considering the following in the award application:

- Depth of engagement with arts and business communities in Colorado
- Impact on arts & culture in Colorado
- Demonstrated leadership and application of Leadership Arts curriculum
- Demonstrated advocacy and ambassadorship for Leadership Arts and arts
 & culture in Colorado
- Commitment and action to advance equity and inclusion in their work and the community



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2026 John Madden, Jr. Leadership Award Nomination

Named for CBCA's founding chairman, the John Madden, Jr. Leadership Award recognizes a business leader who has made significant contributions to advancing arts and culture in Colorado. This lifetime achievement award recognizes extraordinary leadership and a legacy of support for the arts.

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominee must be a Colorado resident.
- The focus of the nomination must be for activities outside their day-to-day job or business.
- Nominee cannot be a previous winner of a CBCA Business for the Arts Award within the last five years. A list of past honorees can be found here: cbca.org/business-for-the-arts-awards. Past nominees and finalists are encouraged to reapply.
- Posthumous nominations are eligible.

Judges will be considering the following in the award application:

- Partnership between the arts and business communities
- Impact relative to the individual's years of service and philanthropy
- Impact relative to the community they served
- Economic benefits for the cultural community and/or creative professionals
- Establishment of a lasting legacy
- Sustained efforts over time
- Commitment and action to advance equity and inclusion in their work and the community

2026 Volunteer Attorney Impact Award

The Volunteer Attorney Impact Award recognizes an outstanding attorney who has provided pro bono legal services to Colorado creatives and advanced CBCA's Colorado Attorneys for the Arts (CAFTA) program. This award honoree must be a Colorado resident who has gone above and beyond to support the creative industries through CAFTA.

The Volunteer Attorney Impact Award has a closed nomination process. The honoree is selected by the CAFTA Advisory Committee based on direct engagement in CBCA's Colorado Attorneys for the Arts program.