

2025 James Beard Awards

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2025 JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION® AWARDS: CALL FOR ENTRIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS NOW OPEN

NEW YORK (OCTOBER 1, 2024) – The James Beard Foundation® announced today that the entry and recommendation period for the 2025 James Beard Awards® presented by Capital One is officially open until November 29, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET. The annual James Beard Awards recognize exceptional talent in the culinary arts, hospitality, food media, and the broader food system. The Awards also recognize a demonstrated commitment to equity, community, sustainability, and creating a culture where all can thrive.

The 2025 James Beard Awards will celebrate an incredible milestone—the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Awards—commemorating the transformative role it has played in recognizing culinary excellence and shaping the evolution of American food culture, while reaffirming the Foundation’s commitment to leading and supporting the industry for years to come. Marking this pivotal year, the Awards will introduce several developments including the launch of a brand new Impact Awards program and an expanded focus on beverages, with three new categories as part of the Restaurant and Chef Awards.

The 2024 James Beard Awards ceremonies—the most attended in recent years—brought together more than 2,500 of the country’s top chefs, restaurateurs, food media, and culinary enthusiasts to recognize the 2024 James Beard Award winners and honorees over a weekend of celebrations and industry gatherings throughout Chicago.

“It was a privilege to recognize such a phenomenal array of talent, leaders, and changemakers from across the country in 2024, and we look forward to celebrating even more of the industry next year with the launch of three new beverage-focused Awards categories,” said **Dawn Padmore, Vice President of Awards, James Beard Foundation.** *“Thank you to our Awards Committee, led by Chef Elizabeth Falkner as our new Chair, and all of our subcommittees who make this important work possible.”*

“I’m honored to assume the role of the James Beard Awards Committee Chair, taking the baton from the incredible Tanya Holland and her invaluable service,” said **Elizabeth Falkner, chef, advocate, and member of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.** *“As a culinary professional, I know first-hand the impact the Awards can have on one’s career. I look forward to lending my deep experience in the industry and on the Awards Committee to this important work.”*

The 2025 Awards ceremonies will once again return to Chicago from June 14-16.

The James Beard Awards consists of four separate recognition programs—Media Awards (Book, Broadcast Media, and Journalism) and Restaurant and Chef Awards—as well as three achievement awards including Lifetime Achievement, Humanitarian of the Year, and a newly launched Impact Awards.

KEY UPDATES TO THE 2025 JAMES BEARD AWARDS

IMPACT AWARDS

The James Beard Foundation is pleased to present its Impact Awards, born out of the organization’s impact and advocacy work. This program, part of the Foundation’s Achievement Awards, honors changemakers in climate change, sustainability, equity, advocacy, and industry culture and practices. These awards will include an open call for recommendations, as well as input from an advisory council comprising nationally recognized food system and industry experts. **Honorees will be chosen by the Impact Committee of the James Beard Board of Trustees.** *The Leadership Awards, first given in 2011, were retired in June 2024.*

"Today also sees the introduction of a new Impact Awards program, building on the prior Leadership Awards and reaffirming our commitment to catalyzing meaningful change in the food industry—directly aligned to our policy agenda and impact program priorities," said **Clare Reichenbach, CEO of the James Beard Foundation.** *"The independent restaurant industry and broader food system at large stand at a critical juncture with great challenge and opportunity. These Awards will bring national attention to the visionary leaders driving material progress towards a thriving, sustainable, and resilient food future. We look forward to honoring their achievements in 2025, while continuing to engage with our Leadership Award alumni."*

ADDITIONAL UPDATES TO THE 2025 JAMES BEARD AWARDS

Every year, the James Beard Awards subcommittees and the Foundation may make changes or additions to categories in order to reflect and capture current trends in the industry and to align with the overall priorities of the organization.

New expansion - Beverage Awards: To more holistically acknowledge the importance and full breadth of beverage—a vital segment of the culinary and hospitality industry—over the next few years, the Foundation will focus on building this program, introducing **three (3) new categories that will be rolled out under the Restaurant and Chef Awards in 2025**, in addition to the pre-existing categories for the Restaurant and Chef and Media Awards.

Pre-existing categories:

- **Restaurant and Chef Awards**
 - Outstanding Bar
 - Outstanding Wine and Other Beverages Program
- **Media Awards**
 - Book Awards - Beverage with Recipes
 - Book Awards - Beverage without Recipes
 - Journalism Awards - Beverage
 - Broadcast Media - criteria for categories has been expanded to include food or beverage-related content

New beverage-focused categories for the Restaurant and Chef Awards:

- **Best New Bar:** Presented to a wine bar, beer bar, cocktail bar, coffee bar, or any other business whose primary offering is beverage, opened between October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, that already demonstrates excellence in beverages, seems likely to make a significant impact in years to come, and demonstrates consistent excellence in the preparation of drinks, sourcing, service, hospitality, atmosphere, and operations. Business may be a stand-alone bar or within an establishment, and may or may not serve food.
- **Outstanding Professional in Beverage Service:** Presented to a service professional who curates and serves wine, beer, or other offerings such as sake, low and non-alcoholic beverages in a restaurant or bar setting; or winery, distillery or brewery that also serves food. Candidate has set high standards, demonstrates creativity and consistency in excellence, innovation, hospitality; is making efforts to create a sustainable work culture, and has served as an exceptional example or mentor for other beverage professionals.
 - Eligible candidates must have been in the industry for at least seven years.
 - Eligible candidates may include beverage directors, sommeliers, and cicerones, etc.
- **Outstanding Professional in Cocktail Service:** Presented to a service professional who creates and serves cocktails or other offerings such as low and non-alcoholic beverages. Candidate has set high standards, demonstrates creativity and consistency in excellence, innovation, hospitality; is making efforts to create a sustainable work culture, and has served as an exceptional example or mentor for other beverage professionals.
 - Eligible candidates must have been in the industry for at least seven years.
 - Eligible candidates may include bartenders, cocktail professionals or owners, who are creative leads and/or are active in the crafting of their offerings.

Restaurant and Chef Awards categories with time eligibility changes:

As of the 2025 cycle, the following categories' eligibility timeframes have been increased. These were reduced as of the 2022 cycle to address the impact of COVID-19 on the industry:

- **Outstanding Chef:** Eligible candidates must have been working as a chef for **5 or more consecutive years**
- **Outstanding Hospitality:** Eligible candidates must have been in operation for **5 or more years**
- **Outstanding Pastry Chef or Baker:** Eligible candidates must have been working as a pastry chef or chef who makes desserts or breads for **the past 5 years**
- **Outstanding Restaurateur:** Eligible candidates must have been in the restaurant business for **at least 7 years**

Media Awards program category changes and new categories:

- **Book:**
 - Restaurant and Professional has been changed to **Professional and Restaurant** to underscore that this category is designated for books that include more advanced culinary techniques and are instructional in nature. The category is also open to books that focus on recipes from restaurant settings.
 - The definitions of **General** and **International** have been tweaked slightly to provide more clarity to entrants.
- **Broadcast Media:**
 - **NEW: Broadcast Media Hall of Fame Award**

- This award recognizes a visionary individual who has revolutionized the way food is presented and discussed on television, radio, or streaming platforms. Embodying the Foundation's core values of Good Good for Good®, they use their platform to both entertain and educate and inspire viewers about the vast world of food.
 - The Broadcast Subcommittee selects the honoree for this category. No entries will be accepted.
 - **NEW: Travel Visual Media**
 - This category celebrates excellence in food- or beverage-focused travel shows. Entries should showcase the unique culinary culture and traditions of a specific region or country, highlighting the connection between people, food, regions, and communities.
 - **NEW: Competition Visual Media**
 - This category recognizes creativity and innovation in competitive cooking shows. Entries can be professional chef competitions, home cook challenges, or programs focusing on specific culinary disciplines (baking, grilling, etc.).
 - **NEW: Lifestyle Visual Media**
 - This category honors excellence in food-centric talk shows and lifestyle programs that explore food or beverage alongside broader societal and cultural themes. Entries can range from interview-based shows featuring chefs and food personalities to those that delve into food history, science, and culture.
 - *Unscripted Visual Media, Visual Media-Long Form, and Visual Media-Short Form have been retired as of the 2025 Awards Cycle*
 - **Medallion Policy Changes**
 - Beginning in 2025 for all categories, the award is given to the program as a whole. One medallion is issued for each award. Contributors (maximum of six) each receive a certificate.
- **Journalism:**
 - **NEW: Narrative Photography**
 - This category recognizes exemplary storytelling through the use of photography within food culture. An entry is composed of images from one published piece that captures a visual narrative with skill, perspective and style.
 - This category will replace the Innovative Visual Storytelling Award.
 - **Emerging Voice**
 - Time restrictions have been removed for this category. This award is given by the Journalism Awards subcommittee to recognize a journalist or media outlet whose work brings a fresh perspective to an important aspect of food culture.

AWARDS SUBMISSION PROCESS

Deadlines:

Open Call for Entry begins at **9 a.m. ET on Tuesday, October 1** and closes **Friday, November 29 at 11:59 p.m. ET. To begin an open call submission, follow the link [here](#).** Physical book copies for Book Awards entries must arrive at the warehouse for review by **Friday, December 6, 2024.**

Awards Submission “How-To” Videos:

Visit our [YouTube page](#) to watch our James Beard Awards explainer videos including how to submit recommendations to the Restaurant and Chef Awards, entries to the Media Awards, and advice on crafting your impact statement.

Recommendation and Entry Overview:

Costs:

- Submitting a recommendation for the Impact or Restaurant and Chef Awards is free.
- The Media Awards (Book, Broadcast Media, and Journalism) require an entry fee of \$85 per entry. Entrants may request a fee waiver due to financial constraints. Entries will not be penalized if this option is selected.

Eligibility Documents:

- Information regarding the 2025 Awards programs, including eligibility and criteria guidelines, can be found within the [submissions portal](#).

Impact Statement:

As part of all Awards submissions, the Foundation requires a short statement, written (150-300 words) or recorded (audio or video, 1-2 minutes) by the entrant or recommender. The statement offers a chance to tell the committees and judges a little more about the candidate and their work and how their work expresses aspects of the mission and the Foundation's values: equity, transparency, respect, integrity, and community. The statement is reviewed for content and not for language fluency, video quality, or production value. More information about the impact statement requirements for each program can be found within the [submissions portal](#).

2025 AWARDS WEEKEND CEREMONIES

The 2025 James Beard Awards dates are:

- **Media Awards:** Saturday, June 14, 2025
- **Impact Awards (new program):** Sunday, June 15, 2025
- **Restaurant and Chef Awards:** Monday, June 16, 2025

For more information regarding the James Beard Awards, the policies and procedures of each program, and the Awards vetting and ethics process, please visit the [James Beard Awards page](#).

For up-to-the-minute news about the Awards, follow @beardfoundation on X (formally Twitter) and Instagram and keep an eye out for posts using #jbf.

Hotel information, including discounted media room rates, will be announced in early 2025. Information will be available on the James Beard Foundation Awards page.

The 2025 James Beard Awards are presented by Capital One, the official partner of the James Beard Foundation. The James Beard Awards are proudly hosted by Choose Chicago and the Illinois Restaurant Association, as well as with the following partners: Premier Sponsors: Acqua Panna® Natural Spring Water, American Airlines, the official airline of the James Beard Foundation, S.Pellegrino® Sparkling Natural Mineral Water Reception Sponsors: Kendall College at National Louis University, Windstar Cruises, the official cruise line of the James Beard Foundation; Additional Support Sponsors: Cristaux, VerTerra Dinnerware. Intersport is the Official Broadcast Partner of the 2025 James Beard Awards.

Press Assets:

- Photography selects (please provide proper photographer credit, available in file name and details): [available here](#)

About the James Beard Awards

The James Beard Awards recognizes exceptional talent and achievement in the culinary arts, hospitality, media, and broader food system, as well as a demonstrated commitment to equity, community, sustainability, and a culture where all can thrive. Established in 1990, the James Beard Awards are among the nation's most prestigious honors recognizing leaders in the culinary and food media industries and those in the broader food systems. The Awards are overseen by the Awards Committee. Each Awards program (Book, Broadcast Media, Journalism, and Restaurant and Chef) has its own subcommittee members who volunteer their time to oversee the policies, procedures, and selection of judges for their respective program. All James Beard Award winners receive a certificate and a medallion engraved with the James Beard Foundation Awards insignia. For more information, subscribe to the [Awards digital newsletter](#).

About the James Beard Foundation

The James Beard Foundation (JBF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to leading chefs and the broader culinary industry towards a new standard of excellence. Our guiding principle, Good Food for Good®, informs our vision of a vibrant, equitable, and sustainable independent restaurant industry that stands as a cornerstone of American culture and drives towards a better food system. For nearly 40 years, JBF has been instrumental in recognizing, amplifying, educating, and training the individuals who shape American food culture. Today, our mission comes to life through the prestigious James Beard Awards, industry and community-focused programming, advocacy and policy initiatives, and exciting culinary events and partnerships around the country—including at our new [Platform by JBF®](#) event space in New York City. Learn more at jamesbeard.org, sign up for our emails, and follow @beardfoundation on social media.

About Capital One

At Capital One we're on a mission for our customers – bringing them best-in-class products, rewards, service, and experiences. Capital One is a diversified bank that offers products and services to individuals, small businesses and commercial clients. We use technology, innovation, and interaction to provide consumers with products and services to meet their needs. Through Capital One Dining and Capital One Entertainment, we provide our rewards cardholders with access to unforgettable experiences in the areas they're passionate about, including dining, music, sports, and the arts. Learn more at capitalone.com/dining and capitalone.com/entertainment.

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