



Leading Lights Diversity Awards

The National MultiCultural Institute's Leading Lights Diversity Awards

For Nonprofit Diversity Leadership

About the Awards

The **Leading Lights Diversity Awards** celebrate exemplary leaders in the nonprofit sector whose demonstrated courage, innovation and commitment to diversity light a path to a more inclusive society. Non-profit organizations not only provide critical human services within our communities, they also help define and give character to our society at large. From enriching our lives through arts and culture to providing for basic human needs like food, clothing and housing; from great social movements like voting rights for women and African-Americans to protection of the environment, non-profits have often led the way towards a better world for us all. It is in recognition of their pivotal leadership roles in our communities that NMCI is proud to recognize non-profit organizations for leadership in the area of diversity with the Leading Lights of Diversity Awards.

Annually, three (3) awards are presented to organizations that serve as role models for enhancing diversity and encouraging respect and inclusion within their organizations and with the diverse communities they serve. Individuals through their work in and on behalf of non-profit organizations are also eligible for recognition. Award recipients are selected from the following non-profit sectors:

- Education
- Human Services
- Health Care
- Arts & Culture

A fourth award, recognizing an individual or organization that has been at the forefront of addressing an emerging critical issue related to multiculturalism, will be periodically awarded.

Eligibility

- 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization
- Initiative implementation within last three years
- Belong to one of four sectors: **Education, Social Services, Health Care, or the Arts.**

Criteria

- Initiative that builds diversity and inclusion in the organization and with the multicultural communities the organization serves
- Senior-Level Commitment to Initiative
- Sustainability of initiative
- Communication of initiative within organization, and to communities served
- Demonstrable impact of Initiative
- Originality of Initiative
- Ability of initiative to be replicated by other organizations in the field



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Application

How to Apply

1. Summary of Initiative (1 page)

- Title of initiative
- Brief summary of the program
- Brief history of organization
- Specify the sector in which your organization belongs: Education, Social Services, Health Care, or the Arts.

2. Program Description Follow the instructions below to describe the program in greater detail. Please do not exceed 200 words for each answer.

Please describe your initiative in the following format, addressing each of the seven criteria.

- A. Describe how the initiative builds a more inclusive, multicultural community.
- B. Demonstrate senior-level commitment.
- C. Demonstrate the sustainability of the initiative.
- D. Describe the communication strategy used to promote the initiative internally and externally.
- E. Describe the demonstrable impact of the initiative.

- F. Originality of the Initiative: Describe how the initiative stands out compared to the efforts of other nonprofit organizations in your area (education, health care, social services, or the arts).
- G. Ability to be Replicated: How might your initiative serve as a model for other nonprofits in your specific area?

3. Attachments

- A. IRS Notification of 501(c)(3) Status
- B. List of Current Board of Directors
- C. Annual Report
- D. Relevant articles or reviews of initiative, if available.

Deadline for Applications: September 30, 2009

Announcement of Awards: October 21, 2009

Awards Ceremony: November 18, 2009 at NMCI's Annual Conference in Washington, DC

Please submit all application forms to the National MultiCultural Institute at:

nmci@nmci.org

OR

The National MultiCultural Institute
Leading Lights Award
3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW; Suite 438
Washington, DC 20008-2556

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Reid at (202) 483-0700 ext. 226 or by email at kreid@nmci.org