



THE STEVIE® AWARDS FOR
WOMEN IN BUSINESS

2026 ENTRY KIT

23rd Annual Stevie® Awards for Women in Business



women.stevieawards.com

WELCOME

We invite your organization to submit nominations to the 2026 (23rd annual) Stevie® Awards for Women in Business. This program is the world's premier awards for female entrepreneurs, executives, employees and the organizations they run.

All organizations and individuals worldwide are eligible to submit nominations: large and small, public and private, for-profit and non-profit.

The Stevie Award trophy, the prize that is conferred in the Stevie Awards for Women in Business and all other Stevie Award programs, is one of the world's most coveted prizes. Many of the world's largest and most famous organizations have won Stevie Awards. Most of our winners each year are small and midsize organizations that are still growing and building their brands, however.

This booklet explains how to prepare and submit nominations to the Stevie Awards for Women in Business. The first important step to entering is to review the categories and to choose the categories in which you'll participate. There is one entirely new category group - for AI and Technology achievements - and new categories sprinkled throughout most of the other category groups. We encourage you to explore them all.

Eligibility extends from July 1, 2024 through the date on which you submit your nominations. Nominations that won in the 2025 Stevie Awards for Women in Business may be resubmitted for consideration in the 2026 awards. If they have not been updated, they must be submitted to categories different from those in which they won.

In these pages, you will find explanations of the submission requirements for all of these categories and an outline of how to submit your entries through our website at <https://Women.StevieAwards.com>. All of this information is also available on the website.

Finalists will be announced on September 17, and the Gold, Silver and Bronze Stevie Award placements revealed on Monday, November 16 in New York. Attendance is not required to win.

We hope you will submit entries to the Stevie Awards for Women in Business. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your questions about how to participate.

Cordially,

MAGGIE MILLER

President, The Stevie® Awards



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2026 CALENDAR

JUNE 18, 2026

Webinar: Winning Strategies for the 2026 Stevie® Awards for Women in Business

JUNE 24, 2026

Early-bird entry deadline, with discounted entry fees

JULY 22, 2026

Primary entry deadline, late fees apply after this date

**JULY 30, 2026 -
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

Judging of the 2026 Awards

AUGUST 19, 2026

Final entry deadline, with payment of late fees

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Finalists notified

NOVEMBER 16, 2026

Awards banquet
Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City

READY? ENTER NOW





THE 2025 AWARDS

[DOWNLOAD THE AWARDS EVENT PROGRAM BOOK \(PDF\)](#)



[BROWSE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AWARDS EVENT](#)



[WATCH THE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION CLIPS](#)



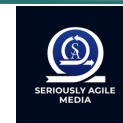
[WATCH INTERVIEWS WITH STEVIE WINNERS](#)



[SHESHAPESAI WINNER INTERVIEWS](#)



LIST OF 2025 WINNERS



STEVIE® AWARDS FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For most categories in the Stevie Awards for Women in Business, entries will consist of four main components. You may submit either written or video content in your chosen categories, along with optional supporting materials to help judges get the full picture of your achievements and verify claims made in the entry. If you submit a video entry, be sure that the video provides information for each of the four components.

In most categories, each entry must include:

- 1. Written answers to the following questions, describing the nominated organization's or individual's achievements since July 1, 2024, OR a video of up to five (5) minutes in length that answers all of the same questions:**
 - a. Briefly describe the nominated organization or individual: history and past performance (up to 1,500 characters). *Required*
 - b. Outline the organization's or individual's achievements since the beginning of July 2024 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 1,900 characters). *Required*
 - c. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or to the organization's past performance (up to 1,900 characters). *Required*
 - d. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination. (up to 1,900 characters). *Optional*
- 2. Optional (but highly recommended), add up to 10 supporting links and/or document uploads to strengthen your submission for the judges' review.**

Achievement in Communications, Marketing or PR, Media (Developed for/by Women) Awards, New Product & Service (Developed for/by Women) Awards, and Social Media categories will have slightly different entry requirements.

ENTRY TIPS

- Give each nomination a clear and concise nomination title
- Add at least one supporting link or attachment. Judges want to see that you've made the effort to back up the claims of achievement made in your nomination. Not all claims can be verified, but do the best you can to show support. We recommend submitting no more than 10 supporting links or attachments.
- You may submit the same entry content in multiple categories, as long as the categories' requirements are identical.



AWARDS PROCESS

Judging of entries is conducted in one round, from July 30 to September 10, 2026, to determine the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Stevie® Award winners. Judges are recruited worldwide, apply to judge on the Stevie Awards for Women in Business [website](#), and are assigned to juries by Stevie Awards staff based on their industry, function, and experience.

Each entry is reviewed and rated by no fewer than five (5) volunteer judges who have been approved as qualified (by Stevie Awards staff) to judge those entries. All entries are viewed and rated at the judges' convenience online. Rating is done on a scale of 1-10.

All entries that receive an average score of at least 8.0 out of a possible 10, regardless of category, are automatically conferred Stevie Award status. Entries with average scores of 7.75 – 7.99 may be conferred awards status at the discretion of Stevie Awards administration, but are not guaranteed awards placement.

Every category that has at least one qualifying entry (with a final average score of at least 8.0/10) will have at least one Gold Stevie Award winner. The qualifying entry with the highest average score in a category will be awarded the Gold Stevie Award. The top 45% of other qualifying entries will be accorded Silver Stevie status. The remaining 55% of qualifying entries will be accorded Bronze Stevie Award status.

The veracity of claims made in Finalist entries may be audited. Any entry found to contain false or misleading information will be disqualified. Gold Stevie-winning entries will be published on the Stevie Awards for Women in Business website, after winners have had the opportunity to redact non-public information from them.

If you would like to apply to participate in the judging process, [log in to your Stevie Awards account \(or create one\)](#), choose STEVIE AWARDS FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS from the Program pulldown menu, then click the APPLY TO JUDGE button. If your application is accepted you will be able to participate at your convenience online. You can still be a judge and submit entries - you won't be assigned categories in which you're an entrant.

ENTRY FEES



Entry fees for all categories in the 2026 Stevie® Awards for Women in Business are summarized in a PDF document, which you may [download here](#).

A separate fee is required for each category in which an entry is submitted, for categories for which payment is required. There are many free categories.

No refunds will be made after July 22. All entries submitted after July 22 will be assessed a late fee of \$55 (per entry) in addition to the entry fee, but will not be penalized in any way in the judging.

ACCEPTABLE PAYMENT METHODS

- **Credit Card:** American Express, MasterCard, and Visa
- **Cheque:** Written on a U.S. bank in U.S. dollars, payable to Stevie Awards, Inc.
- **Wire:** Payment in U.S. dollars may be wired. After you have submitted your entries you will have access to an invoice with wire transfer instructions.



HOW TO ENTER

Visit the website at women.stevieawards.com or click the **READY? ENTER NOW** button at the bottom of any page in this kit.

Complete the registration form to create the account in which you'll submit your nominations, or login to your existing account, if you already have one.

Within your entry-submission account, select Stevie Awards for Women in Business from the program drop-down in the top right of your screen.

Follow the instructions to create and save your first entry. Repeat the process as necessary to create and save additional entries.

When you've created all of the entries you will submit, click the check boxes next to their titles, then click the **SUBMIT SELECTED NOMINATIONS** button to begin the submission process.

Review and agree to the Terms and Conditions of Entry, and choose how to pay your entry fees.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS IN ANY OF 30+ LANGUAGES

New for 2026, we have a translation tool built into our entry system. You may submit written nominations in any of 30+ languages, and our system will translate them to English for our judges to review and score. Please note that only your written submission will be translated, not any supporting material uploads or links. All judging will be done in English, and judges will be told that a translation tool may have been used.



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READY? ENTER NOW





2026 CATEGORIES

The categories of the 2026 Stevie® Awards for Women in Business are listed in the following groupings.

The eligibility period for 2026 entries extends from July 1, 2024 - your entries should describe achievements since that date. There is no eligibility for the Lifetime Achievement categories, however.

[ACHIEVEMENT](#)



[ACHIEVEMENT IN COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING OR PR](#)



[ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE \(AI\) AND TECHNOLOGY \(NEW FOR 2026\)](#)



[COMPANY/ORGANIZATION \(WOMEN-OWNED OR -LED\) AWARDS](#)



[INDIVIDUAL WOMEN AWARDS](#)



[MEDIA \(DEVELOPED FOR/BY WOMEN\) AWARDS](#)



[NEW PRODUCT & SERVICE \(DEVELOPED FOR/BY WOMEN\) AWARDS](#)



[SOCIAL MEDIA](#)



[SUSTAINABILITY](#)



[THOUGHT LEADERSHIP](#)



HEAR FROM PAST WINNERS

“ Not only is the prestige of winning a Stevie® Award high praise, but so too is the honor of serving as an example to young female entrepreneurs, showing them that they can create companies based on authenticity, passion, and creativity, and that those companies can thrive. I couldn't be more thrilled about this distinction and all the forward progress it represents.

AMANDA LIEN
Founder
Minutiae Content Co.
United States

“ Winning Stevie Awards for our small business is a profound recognition of our relentless commitment to excellence and innovation in assisting clients to scale into the USA market. This prestigious accolade not only celebrates our dedication to providing exceptional services but also validates the impact we have made in facilitating the growth and success of our clients. These awards serve as a testament to our team's hard work, expertise, and passion, showcasing our ability to navigate the complexities of the business landscape and deliver outstanding results.

Trena Blair
CEO
FD Global Connections
Australia

“ Winning the Stevie Award has been an affirmation of our good work and the intent that we set out with. It gives us validation of our effort, our plans, and our execution. This award helps bring our initiatives to a larger community. We will be able to build on our purpose to make students industry-ready, and hope this award will encourage others to do more for the larger community.

Mona Bharadwaj
Technology Partner Specialist
IBM India
India



TIPS TO SUBMIT WINNING NOMINATIONS

Subscribe to the Free Stevie® Awards Email Newsletter

Stay up to date on entry deadline extensions, new categories, and other important announcements by subscribing to the weekly Stevie Awards email newsletter. We respect your privacy and will never share your email address with anyone else. [Click here](#) to subscribe.

Register for our Live Informational Webinar | June 18 at 11 am ET

[Click here](#) to register for our webinar about how to prepare successful nominations and learn more about what is new and different in the 2026 competition. The webinar will be available to watch on demand anytime after it airs live.

Determine Who or What You Want to Nominate, and in Which Categories

Decide which individuals, departments, teams, achievements, solutions, or implementations in your organization you wish to nominate, then select the most appropriate categories for those entries. For help with category selection, fees, or other questions, contact us at +1 703-547-8389 or help@stevieawards.com.

Submit Your Entries By the Entry Deadline

The early-bird entry deadline is June 24, 2026, through which entry fees are discounted. The primary entry deadline is July 22, 2026. Late entries will be accepted through August 19, 2026 with payment of a \$55 late fee per entry.



RULES, TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The following are the terms and conditions of entry to the 2026 Stevie® Awards for Women in Business. By submitting entries to the competition, you assent that you have read and agree to abide by these terms and conditions.

[ENTRY FEES](#)



[LANGUAGE OF SUBMISSION](#)



[ACCEPTANCE OF STEVIE AWARDS CORRESPONDENCE](#)



[MAINTENANCE OF YOUR ENTRY ACCOUNT INFORMATION](#)



[FINAL DECISION](#)



[PAYMENT OF SHIPPING FEES](#)



[PUBLICATION OF STEVIE-WINNING ENTRIES](#)



[NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE BANQUET](#)



[IDENTIFY VERIFICATION](#)



Failure to comply with these Terms & Conditions will render your entries ineligible. Entry fees will not be refunded.



ENTRY PREPARATION TIPS

1 Write Your Entries Offline Before Submitting Them

Write your entries offline to keep a permanent record. Then, submit them through our simple online system. Avoid writing directly online, as technical issues with your computer or our system could cause you to lose your work.

2 Include Supporting Materials and Links

For most categories, supporting files or URLs are optional. However, we strongly recommend including at least your organization's website URL so judges can access basic information about your organization.

3 Focus on Achievements During the Eligibility Period

The 2026 Stevie® Awards for Women in Business eligibility period is from July 1, 2024, through August 19, 2026. Entries may mention earlier achievements but must focus on this period—the judges will not score entries highly if they do not.

4 How to Submit Entries for Multiple Clients

PR and marketing agencies submitting for multiple clients should create one account under the agency's name with agency contact details. For each nomination you create you will be able to specify the name and location of the organization you are nominating.

5 Test Your Links

If you include links to videos, images, or other materials, be sure to test them before submitting. Preview your entry and click the links to ensure they work and show the intended content to the judges.

6 Video Entries and Other Media Materials

Attachments should be directly downloadable and easy to access. For videos, use a YouTube, Vimeo, or similar link that plays instantly. If that's not possible, upload the video file instead.

7 Giving Titles to Your Entries

When choosing a title for your entries, don't include the category name — judges will see it. For individual nominations, simply use the person's name and job title unless additional text adds meaningful context. Keep titles simple.

8 Well-Written and Succinct

Stevie-winning entries are clear, focused, and modest. Highlight a few key accomplishments in detail rather than listing many briefly, and keep the writing concise.



10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ENTER

1

Stevie® Awards offer a cost-effective way to recognize and celebrate your valued employees for their efforts and accomplishments—boosting morale, inspiring pride, and motivating your team to keep striving for excellence.

2

The entry fees are nominal compared to the publicity and credibility you or your organization can reap from winning a Stevie Award. Past winners use their Stevie Awards to enhance their reputation, attract clients, and engage top talent.

3

Small organizations have just as much chance to win a Stevie as big companies. Every year, household-name companies are joined in the winners' circle by small and medium-sized organizations that are still building their brands.

4

There are dozens of categories for Organizations, Sustainability, New Products, Marketing, AI, Social Media, and much more.

5

Winners are celebrated globally at our galas and promoted across our website, blog, social media, and PR. With more than 70,000 monthly site visitors and 30,000 newsletter subscribers, your win gets wide exposure.



6

When you win a Stevie Award, you and your colleagues get to deliver a speech on stage before a global audience and network with top professionals at our November 16 ceremony in New York, New York, also broadcast live worldwide.

7

The awards are a great way to benchmark your achievements against competitors in your industry.

8

Stevie Awards impress clients, partners, colleagues, and staff. Since 2002, the Stevie Award trophy has become one of the business world's most coveted prizes; it's a global symbol of excellence and innovation.

9

Winners may order additional copies of their awards to share with employees, executives, and clients. Official winner logos, social media graphics, and press release templates are provided to all winners at no extra cost.

10

Judges include many of the world's most respected executives, entrepreneurs, innovators, and business educators. You'll have access to all of the judges' feedback for all of your entries; an invaluable resource.

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[READY? ENTER NOW](#)

Join the 2026 Women|Future Webinars this Summer

The Women|Future Webinars (formerly the Women|Future Conference) are a series of free webinars hosted by the Stevie® Awards.

The sessions are designed for women small business owners, professionals, entrepreneurs, and anyone interested in starting a business.

WEBINAR SCHEDULE



register for free →

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 | 2:00PM (EDT)

Future-Proofing Your Organization: Crafting an AI Strategy to Navigate Risks and Unlock New Opportunities

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 | 2:00PM (EDT)

Your Competitive Edge: How Earning Business Awards Boosts Recognition and Credibility in a Crowded Market

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 | 2:00PM (EDT)

The Founder Mindset: Overcoming Fear, Failure, and Doubt to Build the Business You Want

THE STEVIE® AWARD

The Stevie Award trophy is one of the world's most coveted prizes. Since 2002 the Gold Stevie Award has been conferred for achievement in the workplace to organizations and individuals in more than 70 nations and territories.

The name Stevie is taken from the name Stephen, which is derived from the Greek for "crowned."

The crystal pyramid held aloft by Stevie represents the hierarchy of human needs, a system often represented as a pyramid that was developed in the 1960s by psychologist Abraham Maslow, who observed that after their basic needs are met, human beings seek the esteem of their peers.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PREPARE YOUR ENTRIES

Most public relations agencies and independent practitioners have experience writing Stevie Awards entries. If you don't have the time to prepare, write and submit the Stevie® Awards for Women in Business entries, we suggest you turn to a PR pro to help you. There are also several communications professionals who specialize in writing Stevie Awards entries. We recommend the following:

August Recognition, Donna O'Toole, hello@augustawards.com

Awards Intelligence, Claire James, claire@awardsintelligence.co.uk

Award-Winning Results, Jacque Burandt, jacqueline.burandt@gmail.com

Boost Awards, Chris Robinson, info@boost-awards.co.uk

Business Awards Consulting, Cagatay Kayabas, awards@kuzeygelisim.com

Green Door Co., Heather Marano, heather@greendoor.co (Australia/New Zealand)

Melissa Sones, melissasonesconsulting@gmail.com

Susan Turkell, info@pairelations.com

The Audacious Agency, Lauren Clemett, info@theaudaciousagency.com



FOR WOMEN
IN BUSINESS

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