

2023 Indigenous Leadership Awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Indigenous Leadership Awards (ILA) is a celebration of the determination, wisdom, and continuum of Indigenous leadership across the region.

This Call for Nominations invites individuals, families, colleagues, tribes, First Nations, and Alaska Native villages and corporations to nominate Indigenous leaders making a difference in their community and beyond.

The deadline has been extended to **Friday, March 17, 2023 at 5 pm, PST.**

A complete list of past awardees and honorees can be found here:

ecotrust.org/indigenous-leadership-awards/

The Awards

A total of \$100,000 in unrestricted cash prizes will be announced in spring 2023. The number of awards will be determined by the ILA selection panel, which consists of past ILA recipients. The unrestricted nature of the monetary awards offers the awardees flexibility to advance their work.

The panel is pleased to consider two types of awards:

1. ***Accomplished*** – For Indigenous leaders who have made lifelong or impactful contributions to improving Indigenous lives locally, regionally, and/or nationally.
2. ***Emerging*** – For individuals starting their leadership trajectory and making an impact in any of the areas listed below.

Areas of Focus

Nominees are eligible if they are currently working in any of the following areas:

1. Protecting tribal sovereignty;
2. Mentoring and sharing traditional knowledge and values;
3. Strengthening tribal governance;
4. Improving Indigenous lands and waters / Indigenous-led stewardship;
5. Revitalizing Indigenous languages and cultures;
6. Salmon protection;
7. Climate action;
8. Murdered & missing Indigenous women (MMIW)
9. Creating economic opportunity or empowerment;
10. Strengthening Indigenous food sovereignty;
11. Supporting Native youth leadership;

12. Nurturing spiritual, emotional, and physical health and wellness;
13. Advancing Indigenous education; and,
14. Advocating for transformative policy.

Eligibility

Nominees can be enrolled citizens of:

1. American Indian tribes in northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and western Montana;
2. Alaska Native villages in southeast Alaska; and,
3. First Nations communities in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Nominees can also be citizens of unrecognized tribes and citizens who are not enrolled but actively work with tribal communities.

Previous ILA recipients and current Ecotrust staff are ineligible. Self-nominations and letters of support from Ecotrust staff are not accepted.

Nomination Requirements

All nominations must be submitted online.

The following materials are required for each nomination. Together, they are the primary way for the selection panel to review each nomination. ***Please provide us with as much information as possible.***

- 1) For the person coordinating the nomination, please write a one-page introduction of the nominee. Why is this leader being nominated? Who are they as a person?
- 2) Submit three (3) to five (5) letters of support that demonstrate wide acknowledgement of the nominee's contributions and community impact. Please answer the following questions:
 1. Describe the issue(s) the nominee is addressing and the solutions.
 2. What impact has the nominee had on protecting sovereignty and/or uplifting Indigenous communities, cultures, lands, and well-being?
 3. How have they shared their knowledge and experience with others in the community?
- 3) Submit additional documentation, including videos, articles, papers, reports, etc., items you believe will strengthen the nomination.

Letters of support can come from tribal programs, nonprofits, universities and colleges, or other tribes and organizations with whom the nominee has worked. Letters from the governing body of the nominee's tribe, village, or First Nation strengthen the nomination.

Review Process

A 5-member ILA selection panel will convene for two to three meetings starting in late spring 2023. The person leading the nomination will be notified if the nominee is selected.

Timeline

1. January 20, 2023 - Call for Nominations opens
2. March 17, 2023 - Deadline for all nominations @ 5 pm
3. March 2023 - Review begins
4. April 2023 - Awardees announced
5. June 2023 - Public reception and ceremony in Portland, Oregon

To see more information about the nomination and awards process, check out this recorded info session: ecotrust.org/indigenous-leadership-awards/#nominations-info-session

Contact Info

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa J. Watt, Director of the Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Program, at lwatt@ecotrust.org or call (503) 227-6225, ext. 824, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Who is an Indigenous leader?

Indigenous leaders share several distinct and valuable leadership qualities. First, they are in service to their community and serve with a sense of selflessness and humility. They are guided by the teachings of their elders and dedicated to perpetuating ancestral knowledge, values, and vision. They are grounded in thinking of future generations in all they do. They are forthright and passionate defenders for the protection of Indigenous families, lands, rights, and control. They deepen understanding of Indigenous communities, cultures, and issues by creating connections with others. In essence, their actions cultivate a stronger sense of community, create change, and, by extension, benefit all people and the planet.

About the Indigenous Leadership Awards

Since 2001, the ILA has recognized 60 outstanding Indigenous leaders for their unwavering dedication to strengthen tribal self-determination and their efforts to uplift the environmental, cultural, economic, and social conditions of Indigenous communities and homelands. Nominated by their community and selected by their peers, these Indigenous leaders come from all walks of life and represent many different cultures, languages, and landscapes in our region.