

2025 LDEI Woman of Purpose Award Presented in Partnership with YETI

Now Accepting Nominations

Les Dames d'Escoffier International (LDEI) is proud to recognize an exceptional Dame whose work has made a meaningful impact on her local or global community. This prestigious award honors a visionary leader dedicated to global sustainability, food justice, public health, and the broader food system. Through innovation, advocacy, and action, she is driving positive change and inspiring others to do the same.

"The incredible honor of the Woman of Purpose Award motivates me to continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible for my work using food to connect—in writing, in mentoring, and in effecting change" says Nina Mukerjee Furstenau, the 2023 Women of Purpose Award winner presented in partnership with Yeti, Canned Peaches Podcast host and award winner author, "I think the award will always be the whisper inside that motivates me to persist in helping others to think in new ways about food, and to elevate through food story the cultural-historical connection each one of us shares."

The **LDEI Woman of Purpose Award** is presented every other year at the **LDEI Conference**, alternating with the **LDEI Grande Dame Award**.

Exciting Updates for 2025

This year, we're introducing **two key updates** to our awards process:

- **A New Judging Process** – The Awards Committee will now oversee the selection process instead of individual chapters, ensuring consistency across both the **Woman of Purpose** and **Grande Dame Awards**.
- **Streamlined Access to YETI Woman of Purpose Growth Grants** – Previously, nominees who were not selected had to submit an additional application to be considered for one of two **\$5,000 YETI Woman of Purpose Growth Grants**. Going forward, all nominees who are not selected will **automatically be considered—no extra application required**.

Award Criteria & Application Process

To be considered for the **LDEI Woman of Purpose Award**, nominees must meet the following criteria and submit a complete application:

- **Membership:** The nominee must be an active LDEI member in good standing for at least three years.
- **Impact & Leadership:** The nominee must demonstrate a commitment to at least one of the following areas, making a tangible impact at the local, national, or international level:
 - Global sustainability
 - Food justice
 - Public health
 - Farming & agriculture
 - Food waste systems
 - Culinary education
 - Shaping the way we think about food

➤ **Nomination Process:**

- Nominees must be nominated by an **LDEI Chapter** or another Dame.
- Both the nominee and nominator must submit a short essay (**maximum 1,500 words**) detailing the nominee's contributions, their alignment with LDEI's vision and mission, and their vision for using the **\$10,000 prize** to further their work.

➤ **Commitment:**

- The nominee agrees to provide visual images and supporting materials as requested.
- The recipient must attend the award ceremony at the **LDEI Annual Conference** and consent to publicity surrounding the award.

Recognition & Prize Package

The award winner will receive:

- A customized **YETI** prize package featuring the **LDEI Woman of Purpose logo**.
- **\$10,000** to further her philanthropic work.
- Full coverage of conference expenses, including transportation, registration, and lodging at the **LDEI Annual Conference**.

Supporting Materials (Optional but Encouraged)

- Letters of support (e.g., from colleagues, community partners, or organizations impacted by the nominee's work).
- Media coverage, publications, or past recognition related to their contributions.
- Photos or videos showcasing their initiatives in action.

Timeline

- March 10th - call for nominations.
- April 18 - applications due to LDEI
- May 30 - announce WOP

Submissions

Completed submissions should be sent to info@ldei.org. Please use the same email address for any questions.