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Les Dames d'Escoffier International Launches First-Ever Chapter Awards
Program To Celebrate the Collective Power of Women in Food, Beverage & Hospitality

Las Vegas, NV — [December xx, 2026] — Les Dames d'Escoffier International (LDEI) proudly announces the creation of the LDEI Chapter Awards, a new recognition program designed to honor the impact, collaboration, and philanthropic spirit that define the organization's global community of women leaders. The chapters below have been shortlisted as finalists, and the winners of each award category will be announced at the LDEI Annual Conference in April 2026.

The program highlights the extraordinary work of LDEI chapters around the world, showcasing the initiatives, mentorship, volunteerism, and bold ideas that advance the organization's mission. From grassroots community service to high-impact scholarships and innovative fundraising, the Chapter Awards elevate the collective achievements of Dames who lead with purpose and create pathways for the next generation.

"Our chapters are the heartbeat of LDEI," said Stephanie Jaeger, LDEI President. "Every project, event, and hour of service reflects the vision and generosity of the women who make this organization extraordinary. The Chapter Awards move beyond individual recognition and honor the collective strength of our chapters highlighting what we build together, and how we show up for our communities."

Each award category will be judged using a transparent scorecard that reflects the core values of LDEI, including leadership, mentorship, philanthropy, and connection. Judges will review submissions fairly, consistently, and confidentially, evaluating:

- Alignment with the award description and LDEI mission
- Evidence of measurable impact and community benefit
- Creativity, originality, and sustainability
- Collaboration and member engagement
- Potential to inspire or be replicated by other chapters

Submissions are scored on a 5-point scale across five criteria, for a total of 25 possible points per award.

2025 LDEI Chapter Award Categories

The Philanthropic Powerhouse Award

This award recognizes the chapter that contributes the greatest number of volunteer hours, amplifying LDEI's mission through action, generosity, and heart. Chapters are judged on total hours, engagement relative to chapter size, breadth of initiatives, measurable impact, and sustainability.

2025 Shortlist:

Birmingham • Dallas • Greater Des Moines • Mexico • San Diego

These chapters demonstrate exceptional community outreach, mobilizing their membership, deepening partnerships, and consistently showing up to serve local needs.

Cultivating Impactful Change Award

This award honors chapters that invest in the next generation of women leaders through scholarships, mentorship, and education. Judges consider scale of support, funds contributed, chapter-level commitment, outcomes, and mission alignment.

2025 Shortlist:

Austin • Kansas City • Minnesota • New York • Seattle

These chapters are shaping the careers of women across culinary, hospitality, and related fields, creating opportunity, building confidence, and opening doors that will meaningfully impact lives for years to come.

The Showstopper Award

This award recognizes a standout chapter project, an unforgettable event, collaboration, fundraiser, or educational program that showcases the very heart of LDEI. Judging focuses on creativity, execution, reach, legacy, and mission alignment.

2025 Shortlist:

Atlanta • Birmingham • Boston • Kansas City • New York

These events and initiatives captured imaginations, engaged communities, and generated lasting visibility for both LDEI and the causes they support.

The Power of Connection Award

This award celebrates the chapter with the highest percentage of members who attend the annual conference. This new metric honors chapters that prioritize engagement, collective growth, and organizational unity. This award will be presented at the LDEI Annual Conference in April 2026.

About Les Dames d'Escoffier International

LDEI is an international organization of women leaders who create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the fields of food, beverage, and hospitality. The organization's 2,800 members in 42 chapters in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Italy provide leadership, educational opportunities, and philanthropy. Since its founding in 1985, LDEI chapters have raised and donated more than \$10 million to educational, community non-profits, and philanthropic organizations. For more information, visit www.ldei.org and follow LDEI on Instagram @lesdamesintl and Facebook @LDEIdamesdescoffier.