

2016 NELSON MANDELA – GRACA MACHEL INNOVATION AWARDS

Required Information, Nomination Criteria, Terms and Conditions

Updated: 20 November 2015

Award Categories

Eligibility for each category

Nomination procedures for each category

Submission guidelines

Judging

Prizes

1. Introduction:

The 2016 Nelson Mandela – Graça Machel (NMGM) Innovation Awards is celebrating its 11th year of awarding civil society activists and organisations for their excellence, innovation, and brave risk-taking. This year, and for the first-time ever, we have added a fourth category, “Brave Philanthropy” to recognise donors or philanthropists who have gone above and beyond to support civil society and activists around the world.

The Innovation Awards are now part of the Be the Change campaign platform, which seeks to showcase and celebrate civil society activism and campaigns around the world. Led by CIVICUS through the Civic Space Initiative, Be the Change and the Innovation Awards highlight the importance of actively protecting global civic space.

2. Award Categories:

The awards will recognise outstanding examples of civil society activism and campaigns that demonstrate innovative approaches; perseverance and creative responses to challenges; sound strategies; and measurable impact. One award will be conferred in each of the following categories.

- Youth Activist: An individual who has worked for positive social change and is younger than 30 on November 1, 2015.
- Individual Activist: An Individual who has worked for positive social change and is 30 years of age, or older, as of November 1, 2015.
- Civil Society Organisation: A registered non-profit organisation that has worked for positive social change and consists of two or more full-time employees.
- Brave Philanthropy (Donor): An individual or organisation that has provided financial support for an activist, organisation or campaign engaged in social change despite financial or other risk, public perception, or donor-norms.

3. Eligibility

- I. The Awards are open to any individual, civil society organisation or donor, including but not limited to non-profit, non-governmental, socially responsible and/or voluntary organisations and movements that are involved in the affairs of civil society and/or campaigns and projects for positive social change.
- II. Applicants can nominate themselves or organisations they are affiliated to or nominate other activists or organisations, limited to one nomination per category.
- III. Nomination entries must be based on specific actions that took place between 1 July 2014 and 31 October 2015.
- IV. The Awards are open only to Nominees that fulfil one of the following criteria:

3.1. Youth Activist:

- I. The Nominee's activities or campaign that they are being nominated for, occurred during the period of 1 July 2014 and 31 October 2015. Any application submitted on behalf of a Nominee that was based on activities that took place outside of this time frame will not be considered.
- II. The Nominee must be younger than 30 by November 1, 2015. Any applicant that does not fall within this age range by November 1, 2015 will not be considered.
- III. Only one entry is allowed per Applicant.
- IV. No member of the Civic Space Initiative or individual who is otherwise involved with the Nelson Mandela – Graça Maçhel Innovation Awards, whether as an officer, director, employee, or independent contractor, may be eligible for this nomination.

3.2. Individual Activist:

- I. The Applicant's activities or campaign that they are being nominated for, occurred during the period of 1 July 2014 and 31 October 2015. Any application submitted on behalf of an Applicant that was based on activities outside of this time frame will not be considered.
- II. The Applicant must be age 30 or older as of November 1, 2015. Any applicant who is younger than age 30 on November 1, 2015 will be considered for the Youth Activist category.
- III. Only one entry is allowed per Applicant.
- IV. No member of the Civic Space Initiative or individual who is otherwise involved with the Nelson Mandela Graça – Maçhel Innovation Awards, whether as an officer, director, employee, or independent contractor, may be eligible for nomination.

3.3. Civil Society Organisation:

- I. The Nominee's activities or campaign that they are being nominated for occurred during the period of 1 July 2014 and 31 October 2015. Any

application submitted on behalf of a Nominee that was based on activities outside of this time frame will not be considered.

- II. The applicant must be a registered non-profit organisation that is working for positive social change. Private, profit-making or governmental organisations are ineligible.
- III. One entry is allowed per Applicant.
- IV. No member of the Civic Space Initiative or individual who is otherwise involved with the Nelson Mandela Graça – Maçhel Innovation Awards, whether as an officer, director, employee, or independent contractor, may be eligible for nomination.

3.4. Brave Philanthropy (Donor/Philanthropist):

- I. The Nominee's philanthropic activities that they are being nominated for occurred during the period of 1 July 2014 and 31 October 2015. Any application submitted on behalf of an Applicant that was based on activities outside of this time frame will not be considered.
- II. Nominees can either be an individual or an organisation.
- III. One entry is allowed per Applicant.
- IV. No member of the Civic Space Initiative or individual who is otherwise involved with the Nelson Mandela Graça – Maçhel Innovation Awards, whether as an officer, director, employee, or independent contractor may be eligible for nomination.

[Back to top button](#)

4. How to nominate/enter:

Anyone may nominate individuals and organisations, including self-nominations. All nominations should be completed using our online form (however, recognising the digital divide, we encourage resourced organisations to assist any possible nominators who may not have access to our online platform, and invite organisations to contact us if they require assistance.)

4.1 Information Required - Youth Activist

1. Nominee First Name:
2. Nominee Last Name:
3. Why the nominee should be considered:
 - i. What was the name of the campaign or the activity that the nominee participated in? (50 words max)
 - ii. Description of the campaign. (150 words max)
 - iii. What did it seek to achieve? What were the objectives? (100 words max)
 - iv. How were the objective(s) achieved? (150 words max)
 - v. What was new/innovative about the campaign or activity the nominee participated in? (100 words max)
 - vi. What was the result of the campaign or activity the nominee participated in? (150 words max)
 - vii. What was the biggest challenge(s) that were faced, if any? (150 words max)
 - viii. What lessons were learnt? (150 words max)
 - ix. What was the budget for the campaign/activity?
5. Links to publically available information about the nominee, including website, Facebook, and Twitter:

6. Nominee email address:
7. Nominee phone number (optional):
8. Photograph of nominee or campaign:
9. City of Nominee:
10. Country of Nominee:
11. Language(s):
12. Nominator name and contact:
13. Nominator relationship to the nominee:

4.2 Information Required - Individual Activist

1. Nominee First Name:
2. Nominee Last Name:
3. Why the nominee should be considered:
 - i. What was the name of the campaign or the activity that the nominee participated in? (50 words max)
 - ii. Description of the campaign. (150 words max)
 - iii. What did it seek to achieve? What were the objectives? (100 words max)
 - iv. How were the objective(s) achieved? (150 words max)
 - v. What was new/innovative about the campaign or activity the nominee participated in? (100 words max)
 - vi. What was the result of the campaign or activity the nominee participated in? (150 words max)
 - vii. What was the biggest challenge(s) that were faced, if any? (150 words max)
 - viii. What lessons were learnt? (150 words max)
 - ix. What was the budget for the campaign/activity?
5. Links to publically available information about the nominee, including website, Facebook, and Twitter (optional):
6. Nominee email address:
7. Nominee phone number (optional):
8. Photograph of nominee or campaign:
9. City of Nominee:
10. Country of Nominee:
11. Language(s):
12. Nominator name and contact:
13. Nominator relationship to the nominee:

4.3 Information Required - Organisation

1. Organisation Name:
2. Head of Organisation:
3. Area of Focus:
4. Why the organisation should be considered:
 - i. What was the name of the campaign or the activity that the nominee participated in? (50 words max)
 - ii. Description of the campaign. (150 words max)
 - iii. What did it seek to achieve? What were the objectives? (100 words max)

- iv. How were the objective(s) achieved? (150 words max)
 - v. What was new/innovative about the campaign or activity the nominee participated in? (100 words max)
 - vi. What was the result of the campaign or activity the nominee participated in? (150 words max)
 - vii. What was the biggest challenge(s) that were faced, if any? (150 words max)
 - viii. What lessons were learnt? (150 words max)
 - ix. What was the budget for the campaign/activity?
5. Links to publically available information about the nominee including website, Facebook, and Twitter:
 6. Nominee email address:
 7. Nominee phone number (optional):
 8. Logo of Organisation or photographs of campaign:
 9. Country of Nominee:
 10. City of Nominee:
 11. Language(s):
 12. Nominator name and contact.
 13. Nominator relationship to the nominee

4.4 Information Required - Brave Philanthropy (Donor)

1. Donor Name:
2. Head of Organisation (if not individual donor):
3. Area of Focus:
4. Why the individual or organisation should be considered:
 - i. Which project/campaign or organisation did the donor fund that could be considered "Brave Philanthropy"? (100 words max)
 - ii. Description of the campaign. (150 words max)
 - iii. What did the project/campaign or organisation aim to achieve? (100 words max)
 - iv. How were the objective(s) achieved? (150 words max)
 - v. What was the biggest obstacle(s) they faced, if any? (200 words max)
 - vi. What was the biggest obstacle(s) the funder faced, if any? (200 words max)
 - vii. What lessons were learnt by the funder? (150 words max)
 - viii. In terms of financial or other risk, public perception, or donor-norms - why is this considered brave philanthropy? (200 words max)
 - ix. What was the amount the donor provided?
5. Links to publically available information about the nominee including website, Facebook, and Twitter:
6. Nominee email address:
7. Nominee phone number (optional):
8. Logo of Organisation or photographs of campaign:
9. Country of Nominee:
10. City of Nominee:
11. Language(s):
12. Nominator name and contact:
13. Nominator relationship to the nominee:

5. Nomination procedures

- I. Award applications submissions will be accepted starting 1 December 2015 and can be submitted by visiting www.civicus.org/awards
- II. All nominations should be completed using our online form (however, recognising the digital divide, we encourage organisations with resources to assist any possible nominators who may not have access to our online platform, and invite organisations to contact us if they require assistance.)
- III. Applicants must answer ALL of the required fields in the entry form within the character limitations specified for each question.
- IV. All answers must be truthful and must pertain to the Nominee. Any untrue information, exaggerations or misrepresentations will result in the Nominee's disqualification.
- V. The Awards application process begins on 1 December 2015 and ends at 11:59 p.m. (GMT+2) on 17 January 2016 (the "Awards Application Period"). CIVICUS reserves the right to extend the nomination period and communication in that regard will be communicated on the awards webpage.
- VI. All nominations must be submitted during the Awards Application Period. The Organiser is not responsible for attempted submissions and incomplete submissions will not be considered. Duplicate entries will be deleted at the end of the Awards Application Period.
- VII. Due to the large number of Applications, the Organiser will not be able to acknowledge receipt of Submissions.
- VIII. All Submissions received by the end of the Awards Application Period that are complete and otherwise qualified may be eligible to win.
- IX. All Submissions will be posted on the Innovation Awards platform, where the public will be invited to comment on and endorse the entries. These endorsements will be considered in the final stages of the judging process.

6. Submission Guidelines

- I. The response to each question must be no longer than the character limits specified for each question. Any entries longer than the allocated limit will be cut off.
- II. Entries that are incomplete or corrupted are void and will not be accepted.
- III. Submissions may not contain any illegal, offensive or obscene subject matter.
- IV. Applicants may not copy or otherwise plagiarise all or any part of any Submission from any source.
- V. Applicants must hold all rights to the entire Submission.
- VI. The Organiser is not responsible for legal protection or clearance of Submissions in any form.
- VII. The Applicant agrees to indemnify the Organiser against any and all claims from any third party for any use of the Applicant's Submission.
- VIII. If, under the discretion of the Organiser, a Submission constitutes infringement or otherwise violates the rights of any third party, such Submission will be disqualified.
- IX. CIVICUS is committed to protecting your privacy and we will not share your contact information with any outside parties.

7. Judging

- i. All entries will be pre-screened to ensure the entries have correctly met the Submission Guidelines prior to any judging.
- ii. The judging of the nominations will take place in two rounds. Only Shortlisted Nominees will be judged in the second round (see below for details on judging process).
- iii. The Judging Panel reserves the right to contact any Applicant for additional information or clarification regarding such Applicant's Submission. It will be such Applicant's responsibility to respond to these requests in a timely manner.
- iv. The Judging Panel reserves the right to disqualify any entry that in its judgment violates the letter or the spirit of the Awards guidelines, processes and rules.

7.1. Round One

- i. Judging of Qualified Entries will take place between 18 January 2016 and 31 January 2016 (First Round Judging Period).
- ii. Members of the Civic Space Initiative, which include CIVICUS, Article 19, World Movement for Democracy, and the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, through funding that was provided by the Swedish Government (First Round Judges), will be asked to evaluate nominations.
- iii. First Round Judges will evaluate nominees in the Youth, Individual and Organisation categories based on the following Criteria:

20% Strategy undertaken to achieve the campaign objectives: Was this a good plan?

30% Innovation – introducing new ideas, original and creative thinking that has led to positive social change: How was the idea different or innovative?

30% Measurable impact of the campaign: What did the campaign achieve?

20% Challenges and Obstacles: What challenges and obstacles did the nominee face in implementing the campaign? How were these dealt with?

- iv. The Brave Philanthropy category will be judged on the following:

20% - Campaign success: to what extent were campaign objectives achieved and how much of an impact did the campaign have?

40% - Bravery: what was brave about the funding? What did the donor risk?

30% - Innovation: what was new or different about the donor's funding or approach?

10% - Challenges and Obstacles: What challenges and obstacles did the donor face in funding the campaign? How were these dealt with?

v. On 1 February 2016 the nominees with the highest scores will be announced on the Awards website. In total there will be a maximum of five Shortlisted Nominees for each of the four categories. These entries will be profiled through CIVICUS' social media network till 14 February 2016 and members of the public will be encouraged to comment on and endorse the nominees.

vi. Shortlisted Nominees will be notified via email by 29 January 2016 using the information provided in their Submissions. In the event that a finalist does not respond by 5 February 2016 they will be disqualified and no alternate finalist need be selected.

7.2. Round Two

i. Shortlisted Nominees may be asked for additional documentation, which may include, but is not limited to, letters of reference, mentions of their work relating to the nomination, and other information. Shortlisted Nominees who do not submit the requested additional documentation in a timely manner will be disqualified from further consideration.

ii. If deemed necessary, the Organiser reserves the right to conduct criminal background checks on the Nominees.

iii. The final judging (Second Round Judges) will be done by an evaluation committee, chosen by the Organiser, which will take into account comments and feedback from the public on the Awards website. Second Round Judging will take place between 15 and 24 February.

iv. Members of the public who wish to endorse a Shortlisted Nominee will be able to do so through Facebook, Twitter or the Awards website and these endorsements will be considered in the final evaluation process.

v. Second Round Judges will evaluate Shortlisted Nominees based on the same criteria as during the First Round (7.1 iii and iv).

vi. The Shortlisted Nominees that are evaluated the highest will become the Contest Winners. In total, there will be four winners – one from each category (Youth, Individual, Organisation and Donor).

vi. Contest Winners will be notified confidentially on 25 February 2016. The failure to respond timely to the notification by 11:59PM (GMT+2) 29 February 2016 may result in forfeiture of the Award; and, in such case, the Organiser may choose the next highest scoring entry from among the remaining eligible entries.

vii. The Contest Winners will also be sent an affidavit of eligibility and compliance and liability/publicity release (collectively, the “Release”).

viii. Each Contest Winner’s full name and campaign may be announced and posted on www.civicus.org and affiliate web sites after the NMGM Innovation Award ceremony in April 2016 and all or part of the Submission on the Contest Winner may potentially be posted online or published for use, viewing and/or implementation by third parties throughout the world.

6. Prizes

- i. The Award Winners of the Activist and Organisation categories will be awarded a prize package worth approximately US\$4550.00 including the following:
 - (i) Round trip airfare to International Civil Society Week (value = \$2000); (ii) waived International Civil Society Week registration fees for 2016 (value = \$250); (iii) accommodation in Bogotá for 3 nights/4 days for the International Civil Society Week - including the majority of meals (value = \$500); (iv) per diem (value = \$300); (v) A cash prize of \$1500
- ii. The Brave Philanthropy winner will have the fees for attending the International Civil Society Week waived.
- iii. If a prize cannot be awarded due to circumstances beyond the control of Organiser, the award will be presented in absentia.
- iv. Prizes will be awarded subject to the limitations stated in these Rules.
- v. Any costs or fees not specifically listed herein are the responsibility of Contest Winners. Contest Winners must confirm their intent to attend International Civil Society Week on or before 11:59PM (GMT+2) 29 February 2016.

7. Publicity

i. The Organiser reserves the right to use the Submissions for all purposes, including advertising and promotional activities, prior to or after the Awards end date.

ii. Please note, it is not the intention of the Organiser to publish any of the information contained within the Submission without first attempting to notify the Applicant. Under circumstances where the Applicant cannot be reached, the Organiser reserves the

right to publish the content of the Submission without any compensation or notice, unless specifically prohibited by law.

The 2016 Innovation Awards is prepared by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, through the Civic Space Initiative, implemented in partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, ARTICLE 19, and the World Movement for Democracy.