

## Heart Award

The Heart Award recognizes and celebrates Surrey-based individuals and groups that are making a positive difference in the lives of people in Surrey. The Award will acknowledge outstanding contributions of those who are promoting social equity by supporting priority populations and strengthening the community through the granting of one individual and one group category Heart Award. A third Lifetime Achievement award will be granted to an individual who has been a long-time contributor to promoting social equity in Surrey.

## Discussion

The City of Surrey is committed to a vision of a green, inclusive city. The Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents provides strategic direction for the City's actions relative to social issues in Surrey. The Heart Award supports these efforts by acknowledging and appreciating the community's invaluable contributions to creating a community that is just and equitable.

The purpose of the Heart Award is to recognize the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to promoting social equity. In particular, the award recognizes contributions which:

- support priority populations; and/or
- strengthen our community by building inclusion and a sense of belonging.

## Award Categories

There are three award categories for the Heart Award:

- **Group** – This category recognizes organizations or groups that are taking an innovative approach to addressing a social issue or challenge in Surrey.
- **Individual** – This category recognizes the outstanding contributions of an individual to the social well-being of Surrey residents. An individual who has overcome a significant challenge, such as being homeless or arriving in Canada as a refugee and is now giving back to the community in some way can also be nominated in this category.
- **Lifetime Achievement** – This category recognizes the long-time contributions of a dedicated individual to the social well-being of Surrey residents.

## Eligibility

All individuals, groups, organizations and businesses that serve the Surrey community are eligible. To be considered for an award, the project/initiative must have taken place in the last four years (2020-2023), with the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

## **Nomination / Submission Criteria**

A nomination form will be posted on the City's website. It will ask for:

- contact information for the nominee and nominator;
- approximately 250 words outlining why the nominee should be considered for the award; and
- contact information for at least two references who support the nomination and can be contacted to provide further information about the nominee.

The nominator will make a submission by completing the online submission form through the City of Surrey's website, or by hard copy delivered to City Hall.

Nominations may be submitted without the permission or knowledge of the nominee. If the nominee is short-listed for the award, they will be contacted to request their permission to be considered. Self-nomination of a group or individual is not permitted.

## **Selection / Evaluation Process & Criteria**

Staff will review nominations and recommend recipients of the Heart Awards to the Livability and Social Equity Committee, who will review and forward their recommendations to City Council.

## **Recognition**

Award recipients will be recognized through the Civic Distinction Awards program and will be presented with awards of excellence. Recipients will be recognized by the City through a press release, social media campaign and website acknowledgement.

The City reserves the right to award multiple Heart Awards, or none, within the award cycle.