



YWCA 2026 Outstanding Women Award Nominations

YWCA is accepting nominations for the 2026 Outstanding Woman Award from now through October 27, 2025.

*Please consider saving your nomination content into a separate electronic Word document and then cut and paste into the form. For security reasons, the OWA Nomination Form is only saved once the form is submitted.

Nominator Information

Please fill out your name and contact information.

1. Nominator Full Name
2. Nominator Phone Number
3. Nominator Email

Nominee Information

Please fill out the name of the OWA nominee and contact information.

4. Nominee Name
5. Phone Number
6. Email Address
7. Address
8. City, State, Zip
9. Place of Employment or Role in the Community

Nomination Categories

10. Please check appropriate category/categories (limited to maximum of two).

Arts & Culture: She may be a creator, performer, advocate, manager, owner, or volunteer leader who is committed to promoting the vital and unique role of arts in the community. This woman has helped shape our cultural community through her involvement in the visual, performing or literary arts.

Business: She is a business leader and innovator in a for-profit organization and is guided by a strong set of personal values. She inspires and empowers employees and coworkers and uses her business acumen to bring positive change and impact to the community. This woman excels in her business or profession, is highly respected by her peers, and is a role model for other women in her field.

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Education: She is innovative, resourceful, and dedicated to the critical role educators play in our society. Through her work in a traditional or non-traditional setting, she strives to have a lasting impact on those she encounters in an educational environment. This woman is dedicated to helping others achieve educational success.

Health & Science: She is a science or health professional who has achieved distinction in her field for her scientific, medical, or humanitarian advancements. This woman's accomplishments are recognized as important contributions to the wellbeing of humanity.

Human Relations &/or Faith in Action: She demonstrates an ability to build bridges between diverse groups, to work for the betterment of others, and/or to enhance the quality of life of members of our community. This woman's actions are guided by her engagement with others and her passion to inspire, lead, and support those with whom she shares her commitments and values.

Law &/or Government: She is recognized by her colleagues and those she serves as a proponent of social justice, an advocate for fairness and equality, or a builder of bridges between the private and public sectors. This woman may be a law professional, elected official, lobbyist, advocate, or government employee who contributes to the betterment of legal and/or government entities.

Media & Marketing: She effectively uses media platforms to advocate, inform, educate, and expand or impart knowledge and information to make the world and community in which we live a better place. This woman excels in the field of communications, whether it is media, public relations, advertising, marketing, information technology, or a related profession.

Nonprofit Leadership: She is devoted to building, promoting and sustaining excellence in the nonprofit world. She is a steward of best practices with the ability to build and grow this sector. This woman is a leader in the community and serves as an administrator, staff person, or volunteer with a nonprofit organization.

Volunteerism: She gives back to the community, acts on the power of her convictions, and inspires others by her example. This woman contributes to the community by voluntarily offering her time and expertise to people, organizations, or causes in which she believes and for which she can affect positive change.

Questions and Narrative

Be detailed and please keep your answers to a 4,000 word count total.

11. Please describe the outstanding accomplishments of your nominee. Your description should respond directly to the categories for which you are nominating her. Your response should focus on providing the committee a clear idea of who the nominee is, the outstanding work

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she is doing (or has done) in her nomination category(ies), specific achievements or recognitions. This portion of the nomination should focus objectively on what makes her outstanding.

12. Please describe how your nominee has become outstanding in her category(ies). Describe what distinguishes her from others and discuss specific qualities, characteristics and circumstances. Consider incorporating perspectives from other people. This portion of the nomination invites you to help the committee understand the unique aspects of your nominee's story. Many people have impressive accomplishments, but why is your nominee special?
13. How have the nominee's efforts/activities/work made a meaningful and sustained impact on the Richmond region or a specific local community? Include in your response a description of how these efforts/activities/work align with the YWCA's mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. Describe how your nominee is positively influencing the people and places around her and the subsequent results.
14. Please provide detailed highlights of the nominee's engagement in the community.