

The background features a large white diamond shape centered on a teal background. The diamond is outlined by a thick, gold-colored border with a marbled texture. The border consists of four diagonal lines that intersect at the center of the diamond.

# NELA

Nashville Emerging Leader Awards  
Thursday, August 3, 2017

*sponsors*

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## *introduction*

### The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and YP Nashville present the Eleventh Annual Nashville Emerging Leader Awards!

The Nashville Emerging Leader Awards program is designed to salute and applaud Middle Tennessee's young professionals under the age of 40 for significant accomplishments in their chosen professional field, as well as their commitment and contribution to the community.

By celebrating achievement and excellence, the NELAs seek to recognize and honor Nashville-area young professionals. Achievement Awards will be given in 15 distinct categories; one Impact Award will be given to someone who has displayed outstanding leadership toward the YP demographic.

Winners will receive:

- Distinguished Achievement Award
- Special recognition in Nashville Chamber publications
- Special recognition on YPNashville.org and TheNELAs.com
- Opportunity for involvement with 2018 NELAs

The NELAs Ceremony will be held Thursday August 3, 2017. This awards ceremony is presented by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and YP Nashville. YP Nashville is a partnership between the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and young professional organizations working to engage, connect and empower young professionals to actively shape the future of the Nashville region. Visit [www.YPNashville.org](http://www.YPNashville.org) for more information.

**We thank you for taking the opportunity to complete this application. Read through the following pages carefully to submit your completed application.**

All submissions are to be postmarked or hand delivered by Tuesday February 28, 2017, to the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, attention Alex Hughes. For more information on the NELAs, please visit [www.thenelas.com](http://www.thenelas.com), or contact Alex Hughes at (615) 743-3040 or [ahughes@nashvillechamber.com](mailto:ahughes@nashvillechamber.com).

## criteria

### ELIGIBILITY

The Nashville Emerging Leader Awards are open to individuals under the age of 40 who live or work in the Nashville area. An applicant's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday must be after the application deadline of February 28, 2017. The Nashville area is comprised of Davidson, Cheatham, Dickson, Maury, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Williamson and Wilson counties.

If you, as an applicant, feel that you fit into more than one industry, please choose the best fit, as only one application will be accepted per person. The NELA program manager and judging chair of your selected industry reserve the right to move your application to another industry. If this happens, the applicant will be contacted immediately.

The following individuals are not eligible to apply:

- Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce staff
- 2016 and 2017 NELAs judges\*
- Previous NELA award winners (NELA finalists may reapply)

*\* Spouses and immediate family of these individuals are only eligible to apply in an industry not judged by their spouse/family member.*

### CATEGORIES

NELAs will be given in each of the following categories:

*\*For a description of each industry, please visit [www.thenelas.com](http://www.thenelas.com).*

Architecture, Engineering and Construction  
Arts, Entertainment and Music Business  
Business Services  
Community Service and Nonprofit  
Education  
Environment and Sustainability  
Financial Services  
Government and Public Affairs

Hospitality and Tourism  
Human Resources  
Legal Services  
Medical and Health Care Services  
Public Relations, Advertising and Marketing  
Real Estate Services  
Technology

### ENTRY FEE

There is no entry/application fee.

### DISQUALIFICATION

It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that his/her application is correct and complete. Judges reserve the right to disqualify any applicant for lack of completion of the required information.

## criteria

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications can be downloaded at [www.thenelas.com](http://www.thenelas.com). You may also nominate an individual for this award, and an application will be sent via e-mail to anyone who is nominated.

- Only one application per person will be accepted.
- All applications must be typed.
- The nine questions on the application can only be completed and submitted by the applicant him- or herself.
- **Mail or hand-deliver six copies of your application by Tuesday, February 28, 2017.**
- All copies must be three-hole-punched and in the order below.

Your information must be in the following order: (Please do not submit the instruction pages 1-5)

1. Completed application starting with page six.
2. Resume
3. One letter of recommendation is required from your employer. A maximum of three letters of recommendation will be accepted including the one from your employer.
4. No additional information (newspaper articles, etc.) will be accepted; please be thorough on your application.

### SUBMISSION

- **Applications must be postmarked or hand delivered by Tuesday, February 28, 2017.**
- Materials submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- All items submitted for purposes of the NELAs become the sole property of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to be used for the purpose of selecting nominees for achievements.

All applications must be mailed or hand delivered to:

**Alex Hughes**  
**Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**211 Commerce Street, Suite 100**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37201**

### AWARD SELECTION

Applications will go through two rounds of judging based on the applicant's answers to each question; level of professional achievement; demonstrated leadership; and community impact. NELA recipients in each industry will be determined by a selection committee comprised of a diverse group of community leaders and industry experts within each of the 15 categories. All applicants will receive notification in June of the finalists in each industry.

### SCORING

Judges' scores will be tabulated by KraftCPAs PLLC.