



+

Entrepreneurs' Hall of Fame

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is NEXT Awards & Entrepreneurs' Hall of Fame?

A: Nashville Entrepreneur Center's **NEXT Awards + Entrepreneurs' Hall of Fame, Presented by Amazon**, is one spectacular night devoted to the exceptional entrepreneurs transforming their industries, creating opportunities, growing economies, and improving lives in the greater Nashville area and beyond.

Q: How many NEXT Awards will be given out and how long will it last?

A: This is a two hour program that inducts three (or four) entrepreneurs into the Entrepreneurs' Hall of Fame, plus honors an **Entrepreneur of 2023** (company is over \$8M in revenue) and an **Emerging Entrepreneur of 2023** (company is under \$8M in revenue). The program recognizes the top three finalists in six NEXT Awards categories giving 18 founders and their companies trophies on stage in the following industry categories:

1. **Products, Services and Retail (B2B or B2C)** - Businesses offering goods and services that target a consumer or business market.
2. **Financial Services** - Businesses driving growth in the financial services and FinTech industries. *(new in 2023)*
3. **Healthcare** - Businesses operating in any area of the healthcare industry.
4. **Technology** - Businesses improving efficiencies and industries through technological innovation.
5. **Music, Sports and Entertainment** - Businesses operating in any area of the entertainment, sports, and media industries.
6. **Real Estate, Hospitality and Construction** - Businesses operating in the category of fields within the service industry, real estate or construction.

Q: What are the Stages?

A: From the startup phase (less than \$1M in revenue) to market movers (\$1-8M in revenue) and to those who are making a significant impact in their industry as market leaders (\$8M+ revenue), all are contributing to Middle Tennessee's job creation and thriving economy.

Q: What are the qualifications to win?

A: All finalists are founders in our community who've led their business through significant growth and must show proof through qualitative and quantitative data submitted in the application process.

Q: What is the application process like?

A: Applications are submitted, and passed to an independent accounting firm to be ranked based on quantitative data. The top-ranked applications are then sent to a panel of independent judges who are experts in their respective industries to be ranked based on quantitative and qualitative data. Rankings for each judge are averaged and the top three finalists in each category are notified in early August before tickets go on sale to the general public. Selected companies must meet the qualifications listed on our [application](#).

Q: Who judges the applications?

A: Applications are evaluated, discussed and narrowed down by our NEXT committee, each of whom are established entrepreneurs and experienced leaders in the Middle Tennessee business community.

Q: What is the dress code for NEXT attendees?

A: Attendees are strongly encouraged to wear "Nashville" black-tie.

Q: What are the ticket prices?

A: Three options of:

1. VIP Floor Seat, \$500, Includes a seated dinner on the floor, dedicated drink service and access to the reception with complimentary drinks and passed hors d'oeuvres.
2. Box Seat, \$250, Includes reserved box seating, elevated boxed dinner, dedicated drink service and access to the reception with complimentary drinks and passed hors d'oeuvres.
3. Balcony Seat, \$50, Includes open seating in the venue's back theater seats with access to the reception with complimentary drinks and passed hors d'oeuvres.