



26th Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards – April 26, 2008

The Black Business and Professional Association (the BBPA) is proud to announce the 26th Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards to be held on April 26, 2008 at the Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON

Established in 1983, the BBPA Harry Jerome Awards celebrates excellence in achievement in the Black community. This formal dinner and awards gala is the premiere event in the Black community and one of the most prestigious events in Canada.

A highly valued symbol of achievement, the BBPA Harry Jerome Award is a coveted possession of the business people, professionals, athletes, academics, artists and community leaders who receive it. Award recipients are selected from among Canada-wide nominees recommended by business and professional colleagues, teachers, relatives and friends.

Award Categories for Nominees Age 16 to 24:

Academics Award

Nominees should have a history of outstanding academic achievement and/or the potential for exceptional future academic distinction. Ideal candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Outstanding scholastic achievement (based on overall performance);
- Achievements acknowledged by scholastic bodies (e.g.: Ontario Mathematical Association, National Science Fair, etc).

Athletics Award

Nominees should have a history of outstanding achievement in sports and exceptional promise of future athletic distinction. Ideal candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Outstanding athletic achievement through consistent performance of a sport or sports;
- Commitment to fairness, teamwork and integrity in competition
- Achievement that gained individual honour and distinction.

Leadership Award

Nominees should present evidence of outstanding leadership within the community or in their school. Ideal candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Leadership skills that include initiative, dedication, integrity, acceptance of responsibility, teamwork and effectiveness.
- Commitment to affecting positive change in the African Canadian community and/or the community-at-large.

Young Entrepreneur Award (**Ages 18-35**)

Nominees must currently be engaged in business as an owner/entrepreneur. Ideal Candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Entrepreneurial spirit and success in owning and managing a business;
- Proven ability to turn a business vision into reality;
- Personal integrity, good communication skills and ability to influence others;
- Demonstrated perseverance in the face of adversity.



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Award Categories for Nominees over Age 24:

Business Award

Nominees must be currently engaged in business as an owner/entrepreneur. Ideal candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Entrepreneurial spirit and success in owning and managing a business;
- Contribution of new ideas, innovative practices, processes or inventions or created employment opportunities;
- Commitment to fairness and equality in the work environment.

Professional Excellence Award

Nominees are currently engaged as an employee or officer of a business, firm or corporation. Ideal candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Significant contribution to new ideas, processes, practices and insights in a field or business;
- Wide-ranging impact and scope.
- Significant contribution to the success of the enterprise.

Technology & Innovation Award

Nominees are currently employed in the field of technology. Ideal candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Innovation through the use of technology;
- Business/professional achievement in the field of technology;
- Profile in the Canadian and/or international business or professional community.

Award Categories for Nominees of Any Age:

Arts, Media and Entertainment Award

Nominees should have a history of outstanding achievement in the creative arts, media or entertainment industries and/or the potential for exceptional artistic achievement. Ideal candidates should demonstrate any one or more of the following criteria:

- Outstanding scholar or practitioner of the Arts;
- Outstanding media personality, actor, singer or other entertainer;
- Achievements that gained individual honour and distinction (performances, exhibitions, etc.).

Community Service Award

Nominees should possess an outstanding record of significant community involvement and service. Ideal candidates should demonstrate a combination of the following criteria:

- Significant role in enriching the lives of others by exceptional service through a charitable organization or community group;
- Wide-ranging impact and scope. Achievements are evaluated in relation to circumstances or obstacles overcome.

Health Sciences Award

Nominees are currently employed or are students in the Health Sciences field. Ideal candidates should demonstrate the following:

- Business/professional achievement in the health sciences field;
- Profile in the Canadian and/or international community;
- Outstanding scholar or researcher.

In addition to the specific criteria, all nominees must be positive role models who are effective and productive members of Canadian society.

Nominations close 4:00 P.M, Friday, February, 1, 2008.



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Selection process

With the exception of winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the President's Award and the Trailblazer's Award, selected by the BBPA Board of Directors, award winners are selected by an independent selection committee. All nominees must be African Canadian; however for the President's Award the BBPA Board of Directors may from time to time award an individual who is not from the African Canadian community for contributions that benefit persons of African heritage.

Important Notice

The BBPA endeavours to treat every nomination and nominee with the outmost courtesy and respect. It is anticipated that only in rare circumstances would nominations or nominees be declined or awards withdrawn. However, the BBPA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to make decisions regarding the Harry Jerome Awards, including declining nominations, declining any particular nominee or group of nominees, withdrawing or cancelling and award category, cancelling or postponing the Harry Jerome Awards. This also applies to selected recipients and includes the decision to withdraw an award after it has been presented to a recipient.

The BBPA, its members, directors, agents, volunteers, sponsors and affiliates, successors and assigns will not be held liable to any nominee or recipient or their agents, successors or assigns for any decision to exercise the discretion here described in this Important Notice. This Important Notice is in addition to what has been indicated elsewhere in this Call for Nominations, and if there is any conflict between what is said elsewhere in this or any other communication produced by the BBPA regarding the Harry Jerome Awards, this Important Notice takes priority.

By participating in the selection process, including sending in a nomination, accepting a nomination and accepting an award you are agreeing to the terms of this Call for Nominations and Important Notice.



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General Rules

Based on the documentation submitted, Award winners will be selected according to the following criteria:

1. All nominees must be African Canadian.
2. All nominees must submit three (3) copies of the nomination package, each contained in a binder including the following:
 - A completed nomination form;
 - A black and white photograph(head shot only);
 - A biography;
 - A resume or CV;
 - Copies of relevant previous awards, transcripts, etc.; (**Do not submit original documents**);
 - Supporting documentation, including letters of support and samples of work (**Do not include video or audio recordings**);
 - Documents are to be no larger than 8 1/2"x11" and the total package must not exceed 20 pages;
 - **Do not submit original documents;**
 - **Do not include personal information such as social insurance number, driver's license, healthcare card number or such other personal information in the documentation provided.**
3. **Nominations will not be accepted by fax or e-mail.** Nominees from previous years are eligible for re-nomination.
4. Individuals may be nominated for more than one award. **Full nomination packages must be submitted for each category.**
5. The decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to review.
6. **Only award winners will be notified**
7. **All submissions become the property of the Black Business and Professional Association, and will not be returned to nominees.**
8. Award winners may be required to participate in a speaking engagement promoting the BBPA Harry Jerome Awards and must be available for press interviews. In addition, winners of a BBPA Harry Jerome award must consent to the use of their photos and biographies by the BBPA in any of its promotional material.

Nominations must be received at the office of the Black Business and Professional Association no later than 4:00 P.M, Friday, February 1, 2008.

The selection committee will not consider late applications or applications submitted without a nomination form.