



Hosted By

ExxonMobil

May 17-20, 2009 • Detroit, Michigan
Detroit Marriott at Renaissance Center

Small Business Awards Application

The Awards

The Black Enterprise Small Business Awards were created to provide special recognition to African American entrepreneurs who embody the Black Enterprise entrepreneurial spirit. We are looking for companies and individuals bringing new products to the forefront, redefining sales strategies, and discovering new and profitable markets.

Entries

All entries must be received by March 17, 2009. Winners will be announced at a special awards luncheon in Detroit on May 19, 2009, at the **Black Enterprise Entrepreneurs Conference hosted by General Motors & ExxonMobil**.

- Nominees will receive a mention on our Website (www.blackenterprise.com/beec) as well as in Black Enterprise magazine.
- Nominees will be recognized at the Black Enterprise Entrepreneurs Conference awards gala in Detroit, May 17-20, 2009.
- Winners will receive a prestigious Black Enterprise Small Business Award and be featured in an article on BlackEnterprise.com and in **Black Enterprise** magazine.

Award Category Nomination Requirements

■ B.E. Next—Young entrepreneurs of today doing the business of tomorrow

This award is presented to the entrepreneur doing business in a new, cutting edge arena (21st century-driven industry and business model a must). Only those ages 21 to 35 as of the award submission deadline are eligible for the award.

■ Innovator of the Year

This award is given to the business flourishing in an innovative industry or those approaching business/entrepreneurship in a groundbreaking manner via their products and/or services.

■ Small Business of the Year

This award is presented to the small business owner whose efforts and/or entrepreneurial pursuits exemplify the passion and commitment needed to overcome adversity as well as attain success.

Nomination criteria for the Black Enterprise Small Business Awards with the exception of the Kidpreneur/Teenpreneur award.

Each company must

- be independently owned
- be at least 5 years old
- be at least 51% black-owned
- generate annual revenues of at least \$250,000 but no more than \$20 million
- show a pattern of increasing revenues for the two years preceding application
- have a minimum of three employees

Kidpreneur/Teenpreneur Award

Each individual or group must

- operate a business that is at least 2 years old and at least 51% black-owned
- demonstrate that the company generates revenues (even if it is not yet profitable)
- serve as a role model to young entrepreneurs
- have a comprehensive understanding of, and direct involvement in, the daily operations of the company

Nominee Information

Name of Company _____

Contact Name _____

Company Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Business Phone _____ Business Fax _____

E-mail Address _____

Eligibility Requirements

Number of years in business _____ Year Started _____

Type of Business (What industry is your business in?) _____

Gross Revenues: 2006 _____ 2007 _____ 2008 _____

Number of Employees _____

General Information*

What are your principal products and/or services? _____

Who are your primary customers/target markets? _____

Give a brief history of your company _____
(i.e., its core values, goals, and overall mission).

Describe how your business (and employees, if applicable) gives back to the local community (e.g., donations, community events, etc.) _____

How does your business make its customer service stand out? _____

What are some of the greatest obstacles or challenges your business has faced?

How did you overcome them? _____

Describe what you consider to be the most important contribution you have made to the success of your company.

Tell us about your business and the outstanding efforts you want noticed.

Nominated by _____ Self () _____ Other () _____

For more information or to fax or e-mail this form, please contact
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Our Policy

It is the policy of Graves Ventures LLC to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for completing this application and GOOD LUCK!

** Please attach additional pages to explain fully.*