

Q: How do I start a nomination?

A: First, you will need to create a user account for our online grant management system. You can follow this [link](#) to access the online system. Once you have created your account and logged in, click the “Nominate” link on the left. This will take you to a page to start the nomination process. Even if you are a grantee of Field or MacArthur, you need to create a new user account as this award is separate from other foundation programs.

Q: How are you defining a leader and/or leadership?

A: We are looking for individuals who, based on past work and achievement, demonstrate transformative impact. We define transformative as leaders that have had an impact on individuals, systems, and policy. Individuals may be easily recognizable in any hierarchical level within an organization, may be emerging leaders, or may not have been recognized before, and this will create an opportunity to do so. They can be artists, managers, activists, journalists, community organizers, coordinators, executive directors, assistants or deputy directors, among others.

Leaders will be:

- Engaging in civic dialogue or are part of a Chicago conversation around their area.
- Developing partnerships and fostering growth in and across Chicago and with community members or within their affiliated organization.
- Engaging their work through the lens of racial equity.
- Changing institutional capacity, growth and development.
- Organizing to build the capacity of others and/or fostering the growth of organizers.
- With this focus on leadership, we aim to act as a connector, supporter, and investor in leaders who have the potential to transform Chicago.

Q: What are the requirements to be nominated?

A: Nominees must be:

- **From existing grantee organizations within the past two years of the Field Foundation OR a) are a current direct grantee in the MacArthur Foundation’s Chicago Commitment or Chicago-based Journalism & Media portfolio; b) received an Expedited Grant “X Grant” in the past three years from the MacArthur Foundation’s Chicago Commitment and Chicago-based Journalism & Media portfolio.**
- Living in Chicago or Cook and the five collar counties at the time of the nomination or selection (DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will).
- Working in [Art](#), [Journalism & Storytelling](#), or [Justice](#).
- Maintaining a strong working relationship with affiliated organization for at least a year as of the time of nomination.

Q: Can I nominate myself?

A: Yes. We recognize leaders may not always have the advocates or platforms they need to be recognized for their work. We encourage self-nominators to use the portal to highlight their accomplishments.

Q: If I am nominating someone, do I keep it confidential or can I let them know?

A: We ask that you keep it confidential. We aim to celebrate those that are selected.

Q: Are there restrictions on the matching organizational gift?

A: No. The matching gift will be made to one organization in the amount of \$25,000 for general operating support allowing the organization to use it as it sees fit.

Q: Are there requirements on how the individual must spend the award?

A: No. The award is unrestricted or *no-strings attached* meaning there are no expectations on how to spend it. The award funds can be used at the awardees’ discretion.

Q: Can you nominate more than one person?

A: Yes, but we ask that you consider nominating only those you have direct experience working with or have extensive knowledge of their work.

Q: Can I nominate someone who works at the same organization as I do?

A: Yes. Please share insights that will strengthen the nomination. This is, however, not a way to fundraise for affiliated organizations. The purpose of this award is to recognize individual leaders.

Q: Can an individual have more than one nomination?

A: An individual can receive more than one nomination but is limited to a maximum of three.

Q: Will this award conflict with an organization’s grant cycle?

A: No. Leaders for a New Chicago Awards are completely separate from Field Foundation and MacArthur grantmaking.

Q: Are awardees subject to background checks?

A: We do not run criminal background checks on awardees, however, additional information may be gathered from public and national databases, and references and additional publicly accessible material may be considered.