

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



The 35th annual Beautiful Bakersfield Awards to honor individuals and organizations building a better Bakersfield – View the full list of nominees

Bakersfield, Calif. (Thursday, June 5, 2025) – The [Greater Bakersfield Chamber](#) will celebrate the 35th Annual [Beautiful Bakersfield Awards](#), presented by [Valley Strong Credit Union](#), honoring the people, organizations and businesses working to create a better Bakersfield. This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 14, at the Dignity Health Theater and Convention Center.

Initially launched in the mid-1980s by Bakersfield's first female mayor, Mary K. Shell, the Beautiful Bakersfield Awards became a signature gala under the stewardship of the Chamber beginning in 1990. Today, the event remains a pillar of civic pride and recognition.

Often called the most prestigious night in Bakersfield's civic life, the awards shine a spotlight on local changemakers whose efforts elevate our community and quality of life. A total of 99 nominees across 16 categories will be recognized for their incredible work. Nominated by community members and vetted by the Beautiful Bakersfield Committee, the following finalists represent the pinnacle of local achievement and dedication.

A Better Bakersfield – Sponsored by [Kaiser Permanente Kern County](#)

Honors an annual event, project, or initiative that greatly improves the quality of life in Bakersfield.

- Annual NOR Christmas Parade
- Art Heist
- CALM Holiday Lights
- City of Bakersfield Recreation & Parks Department
- Cycle Centennial Fun Ride
- Dreams and Hopes for the Children
- Taft College Foundation

Architecture & Design – Sponsored by [Ordiz-Melby Architects](#)

Celebrates the completion of an innovative new building or space, showcasing an outstanding interior or exterior design that harmonizes with its environment.

- Adventist Health Medical Office – Buena Vista
- City of Bakersfield – Public Works Department - The Centennial Corridor
- Do the Math Set – John Lenko
- Habitat for Humanity Golden Empire

- The Dwelling Place – Que Pasa
- The Green Room at the Fillbrandt
- The Nest – Greenfield Middle School Gymnasium
- The Skin Lab

Arts & Culture – Sponsored by [County of Kern](#)

Honors the efforts by a group or individual to enrich and elevate arts and culture within the Bakersfield community.

- Arts Council of Kern
- Art with Erick
- Ballet Folklorico Huatzecalli
- Brenda Ruiz
- Gaslight Melodrama Theatre & Music Hall
- Rosalyn Stevens

Urban Core – Sponsored by [B3K Prosperity](#)

Recognizes individuals, businesses, or coalitions working to make downtown Bakersfield safer, more vibrant and economically thriving.

- Bakersfield Police Department Impact Team
- Carrie Blind
- City of Bakersfield - Economic Development Department
- Jennifer Williams-Cordova
- The Eligon Venue and Social Collective
- Tlo Wines

Educational Excellence – Sponsored by [California Resources Corporation](#)

Recognizes educators, projects or institutions advancing educational opportunities and achievement across all levels in the community.

- Children First
- CSUB College of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering Grants and Outreach
- KCSOS STEAM Camps
- Kern County Department of Child Support Services and Kern County Sheriff's Lerdo Detention Facilities
- Kern Medical
- Youth 2 Leaders Education Foundation

Health & Wellness – Sponsored by [Heart Vascular and Leg Center](#)

Honors individuals, groups or organizations that go beyond their normal activities to promote healthy living through education, prevention or medical services.

- 2 Queens Fitness
- Adventist Health COPE Health Scholars Program
- Dr. Naga Bodapati
- Heavy Iron Training Facility
- Kern Medical - Addiction Medicine Recovery Program

Humanitarian Individual – Sponsored by [Dignity Health – Mercy & Memorial Hospitals](#)

Recognizes an individual whose volunteer efforts have made a significant and lasting impact in the community.

- Angela Barton
- Elijah J. Gonzales
- Jason Chamberlain
- Perry Finzel
- Sue England
- Vicheka Ek

Humanitarian Group – Sponsored by [Chevron](#)

Celebrates a group whose dedicated volunteer work has made a meaningful difference in the lives of Bakersfield residents.

- American Heart Association
- Bring Back the Kern
- Flood Ministries
- Kern County Department of Child Support Services – Community Crusaders
- The Bakersfield Pageant
- Upside Academy, Inc.

Emerging Nonprofit – Sponsored by [Kern Community Foundation](#)

Recognizes a nonprofit organization (1-10 years old) for its significant impact on the community through its grassroots initiatives.

- Amelia Molloy's Angels
- Gridstone Inc.
- Heart of the City Foundation
- Spotlight Academy of the Arts
- The Motherhood Project
- Transitional Youth Mobilizing for Change

Nonprofit of the Year – Sponsored by [Kern Family Health Care](#)

Honors a nonprofit organization for its significant and lasting impact on the community.

- Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County
- CASA of Kern County
- Clinica Sierra Vista
- Houchin Community Blood Bank
- Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation
- Make-A-Wish Central Coast & Southern Central Valley
- Mission Community Services Corporation Kern Women's Business Center
- Real Estate Professionals Family Relief Fund
- The Open Door Network
- Valley Center for the Blind

Small Business of the Year – Sponsored by [Bank of America](#)

Celebrates a small business (25 employees or fewer) whose contributions, products, or services instill pride and benefit the community.

- Adaptive Networks
- Barton Marketing Group
- CJs Carpet Cleaning
- LEG Travel
- New Frontier Consulting
- Pilates Barre
- South Valley AC & Heating
- The Nest and Company
- TM Signs and Graphics
- UpMarket

Large Business/Corporation of the Year – Sponsored by [Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tejon](#)

Recognizes a larger business (26 employees or more) for its substantial impact through volunteer work, donations or community engagement.

- Adventist Health
- Bank of America
- Tri Counties Bank

Next-Gen – Sponsored by [Kern County Superintendent of Schools](#)

Honors a young individual or group (grades K-12) with exceptional citizenship and community involvement.

- Carter Beardsley
- Chloe Grace Porter
- Guneet Kaur
- Patrick Zubiran

Young Professional of the Year – Sponsored by [Accelerated Urgent Care](#)

Recognizes an individual (ages 18-40) whose contributions have significantly enhanced the quality of life in Bakersfield.

- David Madding
- Gabriel Adame
- Gabriel Arellano
- Imad Jobah
- Lauren Skidmore
- Nik Boone
- Shellena Heber

Business Person of the Year – Sponsored by [Tri Counties Bank](#)

Honors a local business owner or manager whose work has made a lasting positive impact on the community.

- Christian Hernandez
- Ken Keller

MEDIA CONTACT: Joel Paramo | **EMAIL:** jparamo@bakochamber.com | **CALL/TEXT:** 1(661) 816-0059

- Quon Louey
- Zane Smith

Harvey L. Hall Lifetime Achievement Award – Sponsored by [Hall Ambulance Service](#)

Presented to a long-standing community leader (age 55+) who has made an enduring impact on Bakersfield and its residents.

- Lieutenant Commander Dr. Albert McBride
- Cathy Butler
- Les Clark
- Dr. Royce Johnson
- Stana Bright

Chairwoman's Award

This award is selected by the Chairwoman of the Chamber's executive board from all nominees and honors an individual or organization that exemplifies excellence and commitment to the community.

This year's theme, "A Night at the MET" draws inspiration from the glamour and creativity of the iconic MET Gala. Guests are encouraged to wear formal, couture-inspired looks that are bold, elegant and confident.

The festivities will kick off with a check-in and red-carpet reception at 5 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. For those unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed on KGET-TV 17 and rebroadcast on Saturday, June 28, from 6-8 p.m. Join Bakersfield entrepreneur Jim Damian and Emmy-nominated KGET reporter Candy Cáceres as they welcome nominees on the red carpet, beginning at 5 p.m. on the [Beautiful Bakersfield Awards Facebook](#) page.

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ABOUT THE GREATER BAKERSFIELD CHAMBER

The Greater Bakersfield Chamber is the region's leading business membership, networking and advocacy organization, representing the interests of more than 1,100 members and more than 70,000 local jobs. Focused on creating a thriving local economy and improving the quality of life for every resident of Greater Bakersfield; the organization promotes economic vitality, facilitates networking and business development opportunities, and advocates for public policies that support quality jobs and inclusive growth. The Chamber guides Bakersfield toward a better and brighter future. Founded in 1920, the Chamber is driven by the belief that our community thrives when business succeeds.