

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



## The Greater Bakersfield Chamber announces nominees for the 36th Annual Beautiful Bakersfield Awards – See the full list of nominees

95 nominees to be honored during Bakersfield's premier celebration of community achievement

**Bakersfield, Calif. (Friday, June 5, 2026)**– The [Greater Bakersfield Chamber](#) will celebrate the 36<sup>th</sup> 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 13, at the Dignity Health Theater and Convention Center. This year's theme is "The Sound of Our City," celebrating the rich culture and voices that collectively make Bakersfield better.

Often called the most prestigious night in Bakersfield's civic life, the awards spotlight local changemakers whose efforts elevate our community and its quality of life. A total of 95 nominees across 17 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.

- Bakersfield Firefighters Historical Society
- Bakersfield Prosthetics & Orthotics Center (BPOC)
- Bakersfield Women's Business Conference
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County – Summer Jobs Program
- CALM Holiday Lights
- Ford Dimension and Dream Builders Student Leadership
- Kern County Career & STEM Expo
- Pathways to Health Symposium

### **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 Bakersfield Emergency Department
- Avanza Autos by Jim Burke
- Bakersfield College – Combined Gym & Field House (Renegade Athletic Complex)

- Habitat for Humanity Golden Empire Inc.
- North of the River Recreation & Park District
- Terra Vista at Tejon

**Arts & Culture** – Sponsored by [Tejon Ranch Company](#)

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

- Digital Marketing & Media Design program at CTEC
- Laurel Powell – Powell Gallery
- Southwest Library – Leadership Bakersfield Team 4
- Spotlight Academy of the Arts

**Urban Core** – Sponsored by [City of Bakersfield](#)

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

- ELEV8 Gyms
- Live Well Give Well Community Cookout
- Woolworth's Building

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

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

- Bakersfield College
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County – ENABLE Program
- Industrial Technology Skills Challenge
- Kern County Superintendent of Schools STEAM Yard
- Valley Strong Credit Union
- Youth Against Commercial Tobacco (Y-ACT) Summit

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

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

- Ella Jane Magdalene Porter
- Juan Antonio López Morales
- Luna Zelda-Sol New
- Paikea Solei Cota

**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.

- Adventist Health High-Risk Genetics Clinic
- Bakersfield Behavioral Healthcare Hospital
- Bakersfield Family Medical Group- Health Education Department
- Bakersfield Marathon
- Blue Zones Project Bakersfield
- Dr. Shweta Agarwal

- Hoffmann Hospice
- The Haven Yoga Studio

**Heart of Hospitality** – Sponsored by [Hard Rock Casino Tejon](#)

Honors outstanding hospitality professionals in lodging, dining, events, travel, and recreation who go above and beyond to deliver exceptional guest experiences.

- Amanda Goforth - Mossman's Catering
- Heather Dewar-Dewar's Candy Shop
- Marie Joseph - Seven Oaks Country Club
- Ryann Florez- Hard Rock Casino Tejon
- Tyler Simone Bloomer - The Padre Hotel

**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.

- Cornelio Gutierrez-Lozano
- Dr. Albert Ma
- Heather Pennella
- Jaubrae Ryan Dixon
- Pawan Gill

**Humanitarian Group** – Sponsored by [Chevron](#)

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

- American Red Cross Disaster Action Team
- C.H.A.N.G.E.S.
- Jamison Children's Intake Center – Leadership Bakersfield Team 2
- Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation
- Love From Above Community

**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.

- Beyond the Stars No Limits
- Gridstone Inc.
- The Motherhood Project
- Upside Academy, Inc.
- White Wolf Wellness Foundation

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

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

- Independent Living Center of Kern County
- La Vida Nueva
- Special Needs Network
- The Open Door Network

- TigerFight Foundation
- United Way of Central Eastern California
- 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.

- Barton Marketing Group
- Green Clean Pros
- LinQride Inc.
- Maverick Medical
- Pilates Barre
- Saint Florian Leather Company
- TM Signs and Graphics
- Whitestone Industries

**Large Business/Corporation of the Year** – Sponsored by [ARRC Technology](#)

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

- California Resources Corporation
- Centre for Neuro Skills
- Houchin Community Blood Bank
- Kern Family Health Care

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

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

- Gabriel Adame
- Joe Garcia
- Lindsay Erin Barnes
- Rafael Molina
- Savannah Oates

**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.

- Buffie Norby
- Michelle Penn
- Morey Mirkazemi
- Nik Boone
- Patrick Beck
- Priya Saha
- Quon Louey

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

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

- Bryan Burrow
- Emmanuel Strategos, MD & Stephen Strategos, MD
- Greg Gallion
- Renee Bhaiji
- Senator Shannon Grove

The celebration begins with a red-carpet reception and guest check-in at 5 p.m., followed by the Beautiful Bakersfield Awards ceremony at 7 p.m.

For those unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed on Saturday, June 13, via KGET+ and KGET.com. Viewers can also tune in to special red-carpet coverage beginning at 5 p.m. on KGET+ Live, hosted by Bakersfield entrepreneur Jim Damian and KGET reporter Gabriela Rosales, as they welcome nominees and guests to Bakersfield's biggest night.

The Beautiful Bakersfield Awards will also air on KGET-TV 17 on Sunday, June 28, from 8-10 p.m., allowing the entire community to celebrate the individuals, businesses, and organizations that make Bakersfield a better place to live, work, and visit.

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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.