



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

FESTIVALS & EVENTS ONTARIO

package includes:

- List of changes for 2025
- Brochure with required questions
- Application form editable .pdf

deadline to apply:

November 28, 2025

5:00pm

EXCITING CHANGES FOR THE FEO AWARDS

There are several changes going into effect for the FEO Awards this year. Please take the time to read through the changes so that you are fully aware of new requirements.



EXCITING CHANGES

The FEO Awards Program has some exciting changes to announce. The mandate is still the same, "Recognizing the accomplishments and successes of festivals and events, industry suppliers, volunteers and municipalities by honoring best practices in the festival and event profession across the Province of Ontario", but some of the changes to categories and requirements will help to make the Awards Program stronger!

What's New

The **Best Festival or Event Series** will be awarded, based on budget, to festivals/events that meet the criteria of being a Festival Series. A Series is defined by 4 weeks or more of event programming. This may include community events such as Movies in the Park, Farmers' Markets, Waterfront Concert Series and Theatre Seasons.

The **FEO Sustainability Award**, based on budget, has been re-imagined from the former "Best Greening of the Festival". This award aligns with sustainable practices and why festivals need to adopt earth-friendly policies. Think beyond recycling bins and plastic bottles, the FEO Sustainability Award will recognize festivals and events that have successfully adopted an environmental approach to their festivals.

Municipalities will be limited to apply to a maximum of **three (3)** Top 100 Awards.

Canada Day events/parades and Santa Claus Parades are not eligible for Top 100 Awards.

The **Student Leadership Award** will only need to be endorsed by a FEO member in good standing, eliminating the requirement that the school/university offers Event Management or be a member of FEO.

Applying is Easy

Read the Award Program packages and make sure that you answer all of the questions in **10 pages or less**. Most packages require supporting materials, so please read the requirements carefully.

Use the **fillable PDFs** to refer to the application form for all the Achievement Awards, Top 100 and Municipality of the Year. The Service Excellence Awards will also have a separate Awards Package.

Email the completed package as **ZIP file** to the new email address: awards@festivalsandeventsontario.ca

Learn about creating a ZIP file [here](#)

(<https://www.compress2go.com/create-zip-file> or, Microsoft Support: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-au/windows/zip-and-unzip-files-8d28fa72-f2f9-712f-67df-f80cf89fd4e5>)

Do not include actual video or audio files. Instead, please add the URL link to any videos or audio files you would like the judges to experience.

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Applying is Easy continued

Economic Impact Statements must be the most recent TREIM "Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model", a free tool provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming.
OR Festivals can use a Economic Impact Study from within the past 2 years. Do not include data that is older than 2023.

Find out what Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) your festival or event or industry supplier is located here
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/tourism-regions>

All about Judging

FEO Award Judges are looking for your organization to tell a story about why you deserve to be recognized as the best in Ontario! Be concise and providing compelling details related directly to the award application.
In general, awards will be judged based on criteria adding up to a total score of 35 or 40 points. This is the scoring matrix that will be used to determine the Effectiveness of the Award Package:

For more information, please contact Jay Nijhuis (jay@festivalsandeventsontario.ca) or Amanda Murray, FEO Awards Committee Chair at (amurray@clearview.ca)

Thank you for taking the time to read through these changes. We look forward to receiving many awards applications and we wish you the best of luck.

A reminder, Service Excellence Award winners will be announced during the Service Excellence Awards Dinner on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 and the rest of the Award winners will be revealed at the FEO Awards Gala on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

All winners will be contacted in advance so that they can make plans to attend even if they are not attending this year's conference.

THE HALL OF FAME AWARD

Recognizing the outstanding achievements of those individuals in the festival and event industry who have made a significant contribution to their community or industry at large



OVERVIEW

Since 2000, FEO has inducted 53 people into its Hall of Fame representing festivals, municipalities, organizations and events from across the province. Each individual named to the FEO Hall of Fame is someone who has dedicated their career to the festival and event industry and who has made a lasting contribution to their community, festival, event or organization.

HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION

Hall of Fame Recognition Inductee(s) Hall of Fame Award(s) will be received at the annual Awards Gala and Dinner as part of the 2026 Annual FEO Conference in Kitchener, Ontario February 25, 2026. We respectfully encourage the inductee to be prepared to attend the Awards Gala and Dinner.

- The inductee is entitled to two (2) complimentary dinner tickets.
- Inductee(s) will be recognized on the FEO Wall of Fame with an image and a short story.
- Take your Hall of Fame Award win everywhere you go with exclusive use of the Hall of Fame logo, and the ability to brand yourself as an "Award winner".

**FESTIVALS & EVENTS ONTARIO ENCOURAGES YOU TO
GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN NOW
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

Nominations are
due to FEO by:

**NOV.28
2025**

For more information:

Contact Jay Nijhuis at awards@festivalsandeventsontario.ca Phone: (519) 742-2226 Fax: (519) 742-7206
155-50 Ottawa Street South, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 3S7 www.festivalsandeventsontario.com

THE HALL OF FAME AWARD



Recognizing the outstanding achievements of those individuals in the festival and event industry who have made a significant contribution to their community or industry at large

*All applications must be emailed and must contain the required amount of documentation requested and the application form. A reminder that FEO Members can apply free of charge, **Non-Members must pay a \$100 entry fee** through Ticketpro before their application is turned over to judges.*

PLEASE PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN TEN (10) PAGES OR LESS AND SUBMIT THEM BY EMAIL IN .PDF FORMAT). PLEASE EMAIL YOUR COMPLETE PACKAGE (APPLICATION FORM, ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO AWARDS@FESTIVALSANDEVENTSONTARIO.CA)

Selection Process & Criteria

A committee approved by the FEO Board of Directors will oversee the process, review all nominations and select the inductee(s) based on the individual's achievements and contributions throughout the festivals and events industry in Ontario.

The nominee can be any one of the following:

- A professional who has engaged in the special event industry or managed a professional event over an extended period of time and has made an outstanding contribution to the festivals and events industry, or;
- An individual who has managed a professional event relative to the goals of Festivals and Events Ontario and has made outstanding contributions to the industry, or;
- An individual who has made outstanding contributions to the industry in capacities other than managing or directing (i.e. volunteering), or;
- An individual who has engaged in the industry supplier profession for the festivals and events industry over an extended period of time and has made outstanding contributions consistent to FEO's goals and objectives

Questions (please submit answers in a .pdf format)

- 1) Describe how the nominee has made a difference in the festivals and events industry (have they been successful developing and implementing new ideas for the festivals and events industry?);
- 2) Give an overview of the nominee's career, positions held, any awards or types of recognition the nominee has received;
- 3) Would there be a void in the industry if they pursued a different career?
- 4) How has the nominee shown leadership during their career?

Supporting Materials

Please supply a maximum of five (5) high resolution photos (as individual files) of your Hall of Fame nominee. Please ensure all pictures and videos are labelled properly EX: **FrankJones-HallofFame-Pic1**

Also include a minimum of (2) two letters of reference, support, character witness from co-workers, local politicians etc

TAKE YOUR HALL OF FAME AWARD WIN EVERYWHERE YOU GO WITH EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE FEO HALL OF FAME LOGO, AND YOUR PHOTO AND NAME IS ADDED TO THE FEO WALL OF FAME.

2026 FEO Awards Hall of Fame Program FORM



Please ensure you fill out all of the requested information especially under the category of award you are applying for. FEO Members can apply free of charge, Non-Members must pay a \$100 entry fee through Ticketpro before their application is considered by the judges. *Non-Members may only apply for this award ONCE.*

APPLICANT INFORMATION (REQUIRED)

FEO MEMBER ☐ FEO NON-MEMBER ☐

Applicant Name :

Organization Name: Festival or Event:

Address :

City : Province: Post Code :

Telephone: Email :

What is Your RTO?: Website:

FEO HALL OF FAME AWARD

Nominee Information

Industry/Festival Name :

Name of Nominee:

Address :

City : Province: Post Code :

Telephone: Email :

Nominator Information ☐ SAME AS ABOVE

Contact Person: Title:

Address :

City : Province: Post Code :

Telephone: Email :

Briefly Tell Us The Story of Your Festival/Event/Industry and why your Hall of Fame award nominee is so important to your success. (Judges are probably not from your area and would benefit from some history)

In 100 words or less, give us an overview of why the Hall of Fame nominee deserves to win this award. Qualities, Work Ethic, Leadership, etc. (This will be used on the website or potentially on the video voice over)

For more information, contact:

Jay Nijhuis at awards@festivalsandeventsontario.ca Phone: (519) 742-2226 Fax: (519) 742-7206
155-50 Ottawa Street South, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 3S7
website: www.festivalsandeventsontario.com