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## **2023 Nashville Emerging Leader Awards Finalists Announced**

*Sixteenth Annual Celebration will showcase Nashville's Young Professionals*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (June 2, 2023)** – The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and YP Nashville announced today the 2023 finalists for the Nashville Emerging Leader Awards (NELA). NELA recognizes Middle Tennessee's young professionals under the age of 40 for significant accomplishments in their chosen career field, as well as their commitment and contribution to the community.

"Talented emerging leaders across the nation recognize the value of Nashville's young professional ecosystem and the impact they have on our region's growth and economy," said Ralph Schulz, President and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. "Through YP Nashville, we are able to recognize and celebrate these 56 emerging leaders whose passion and dedication move our region forward."

NELA recognizes up to four finalists and one winner in 14 industry categories: Architecture, Engineering and Construction; Arts, Entertainment and Music Business; Community Service and Nonprofit; Education; Environment and Sustainability; Finance; Government and Public Affairs; Hospitality and Tourism; Human Resources; Legal Services; Medical and Healthcare Services; Public Relations, Advertising and Marketing; Real Estate Services; and Technology.

Judges of each industry category are leaders in their respective field who review applications and select the finalists and winner based on each applicant's answers to essay questions, level of professional achievement, demonstrated leadership and community impact.

NELA winners will be announced during the [NELA Ceremony](#) at the Renaissance Hotel on Wednesday, July 12, at 6:00 p.m. with a reception immediately following. YP Nashville is presented by Belmont University, Jack C. Massey College of Business, and the Center for Executive Education. The awards are supported by Atiba, Lightning 100, and the Nashville Post.

Visit [ypnashville.org/nelas](http://ypnashville.org/nelas) for more information.

### **2023 Nashville Emerging Leader Award Finalists**

#### **Architecture, Engineering and Construction**

Shanese Brown, Anecdote Architectural Experiences, Project Coordinator + Designer

Andrew Clark, STG Design, Design Director  
Suzannah Gills, Turner Construction Company, Business Development Manager  
Chelsea Givens, Caterpillar, Retail Aftermarket Services Representative

### **Arts, Entertainment and Music Business**

Sydni Joseph, Big Plan Holdings, Co-Founder  
Kate Kaltenbach Watson, Country Music Association (CMA), Senior Manager, Industry Relations  
Lindsey Major, The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC), Head of Customer Experience  
Emily Sitton, Tennessee Performing Arts Center | TPAC, Director of Marketing

### **Community Service and Nonprofit**

Vanessa Helbig Johnson, YWCA Nashville & Middle TN, Senior Director of Youth Services & Executive Director of Girls Inc.  
Megan McGuire, Community Resource Center, Vice President of Partnerships  
Leah Moyer, AncoraTN, Chief Operating Officer  
Uma Srivastava, KultureCity, Executive Director

### **Education**

Brooke Allen, Diverse Learners Cooperative, Executive Director  
Amanda Banks, Create and Innovate Solutions, LLC., Founder  
Matt Cheek, Nashville Teacher Residency, Executive Director  
Kristen Dodson, Lipscomb University, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

### **Environment and Sustainability**

Renee Barker, LiquiDonate, Director of Nonprofit Partnerships  
Shannon Davis, Schneider Electric, Vice President, National Accounts U.S. Buildings  
Jacqueline Goodwin, Urban Green Lab, Assistant Director of Workplaces  
Carolyn Rehm, TennGreen Land Conservancy, Communications Manager

### **Finance**

Teresa J.W. Bailey, Waddell & Associates, Senior Wealth Strategist and President of Waddell & Associates, Nashville  
Casey Putnam, Deloitte, Senior Manager  
Katie Tarr, LBMC, Shareholder  
John Webb, Pinnacle Asset Management/Raymond James, Private Wealth Advisor

### **Government and Public Affairs**

Kayla Clayborne Counts, Tennessee Valley Authority, Senior Specialist, Public & Community Engagement  
La'Kishia Harris, Office of Mayor John Cooper, Associate Director of Youth Workforce, Economic Growth and Community Development  
Miranda McDonald, Calvert Street Group, Director of Community Development  
Trey Reliford, Polsinelli PC, Shareholder

### **Hospitality and Tourism**

Maliyah Bass, Rolled 4 Ever Ice Cream, Co-Owner/ CEO  
Anna Myint, International Market, Myint Estates, Co-owner  
Sarah Roemer, Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Human Resources Manager  
Celisa Webster, R & R Cleaning and Home Essentials, LLC. DBA Luminary. Co-Owner/Chief Operating Officer

### **Human Resources**

Katerine Albert, The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC), Manager, Human Resources  
Rosa Castano, RMC Holdings, LLC, CEO and Founder  
Shane Shown, Nxt Level, CEO  
Artetta Webster, Nashville Electric Service, Human Resources Admin Assistant

### **Legal Services**

Oliver Davis, Polsinelli PC, Shareholder  
Samantha Gerken, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, Senior Counsel  
Kimberly Ingram-Hogan, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, Partner  
Timothy Van Hal, Polsinelli PC, Shareholder

### **Medical and Healthcare Services**

Ashley Danner, BrightQuest Treatment Centers, National Executive Director  
Stephanie Gibbs, Ascension Saint Thomas, Director of Nursing  
Audrey Stewart, Veterans Administration Medical Center- Nashville, Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Abbey Vandersall, Envision Healthcare, Vice President, Clinical Strategy; Head of Clinician Value Institute

### **Public Relations, Advertising and Marketing**

Alexis Hughes, Surpass Behavioral Health, Marketing Manager  
Brittany Irby, MP&F Strategic Communications, Director, Community Engagement  
Leigh Lindsey, MP&F Starategic Communications, Senior Vice President  
Kenya Payne, Teach For America Nashville-Chattanooga, Director, Marketing and Communications

### **Real Estate Services**

Rachel Attarian, Nashville Apartment Locators, Managing Broker/COO  
Alexa Barnett, CRE615, Owner & Co-Founder  
Stephen Delahoussaye, House Haven Realty, CEO/ Owner  
Maria Harris, Be a Helping Hand , Project Director

### **Technology**

Sabber Ahamed, Bridgestone Americas, Senior Data Scientist  
Alexis Isham, InfoWorks, Client Executive  
Sydney Ernstes, Zycron, BGSF, Managing Director of Delivery  
Matthew Yandell, HeroWear, Chief Innovation Officer

Headshots of the finalists are available upon request.

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### **About YP Nashville**

*YP Nashville is an initiative of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce with more than 50 young professional organization partners working to connect, empower, and engage young professionals to actively shape the future of the Nashville region. For more information, visit <http://www.ypnashville.org>.*

### **About the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Partnership 2030**

*The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce is Middle Tennessee's largest business federation, representing nearly 1,800 member companies. Belong, engage, lead, prosper embodies the Chamber's focus on creating economic prosperity by facilitating community leadership. Established in 1990 as an economic development and community enhancement initiative of the Chamber, Partnership 2030 is a regional cooperative dedicated to making Middle Tennessee among the nation's best places to live, work and do business. Partnership 2030 is supported by a diverse*

*group of public and private companies as well as governmental agencies from the organization's 10-county service area. The work of the Chamber is supported by its members, Partnership 2030 investors and sponsors; the Chamber's Pivotal Partners (a partnership at the highest level for all Chamber programs and events) are Bass, Berry & Sims, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Community Health Systems, Gresham Smith and Regions. For more information, visit [www.nashvillechamber.com](http://www.nashvillechamber.com).*