

What you need to know about the AGORA Awards

What is AGORA?

In ancient Athens, agora was the marketplace where merchants gathered to sell their goods. Over the past 20 years, more than 400 members of the regional business community have gathered each spring to celebrate business excellence at Greater Spokane Incorporated's AGORA awards ceremony.

What is the process?

Each year we solicit nominations from members, volunteers, past winners and nominees, business owners and the general public. Nominees do not need to be members of Greater Spokane Incorporated. Nominees are asked to complete a preliminary questionnaire that provides the information necessary for the judges to group the nominees into categories – nonprofits plus small, medium and large businesses. Additionally, the information is used to select semi-finalists in each category.

Semi-finalists are then asked to complete a more extensive questionnaire. Based on the information provided, the judges narrow the field to four finalists in each category and conduct formal interviews with them. Judging criteria include growth, marketing strategy, employee environment, customer service, response to adversity, strategic planning, creativity and contribution to the regional economy. Winners are selected in the four categories plus the Community Service and Entrepreneurial Spirit awards.

Who are the judges?

The 20 judges are all volunteers chosen from the regional business and non-profit community.

What exposure will my organization receive?

Recognition of semi-finalists and finalists on our website, inclusion of finalists and winners in a special Journal of Business insert, recognition of winners at a Greater Spokane Incorporated program, a Board of Directors meeting, media coverage and much more!

What past winners have to say:

"We are thankful for the recognition that GSI has granted us by presenting us with the 2010 AGORA Award. This achievement acknowledges our accomplishments as a small business but more importantly provides us the incentive to continue our work for the two and four-legged citizens of Spokane. The award makes us very proud, but overall, it commits us to be better every day." *Dave Richardson, Executive Director, Spokane Humane Society, 2010 AGORA Award Winner*

"Being involved in the AGORA process forced us to take a close look at how we do business. We made improvements and are now a much better firm than we ever were before! Plus, winning the AGORA provided some added publicity to our current marketing plan and has helped us grow our business."

Greg Stewart, Founder, Stewart & Associates PS, 2010 AGORA Award Winner

"It was an honor to be nominated and humbling to be recognized as an AGORA Award winner in the company of so many great organizations. The thorough rigor of the vetting process was extremely worthwhile for our organization as it reinforced the responsibility we have to continue to excel and find new ways to accomplish our mission in serving our community." *Rig Riggins, President & CEO, YMCA of the Inland Northwest, 2010 AGORA Award Winner*



AGORA AWARDS

Past Winners

2013

Arbor Crest Wine Cellars
Christ Clinic / Christ Kitchen
Rosauers Supermarkets, Inc.
Spokane H.O.P.E. School
STCU
Two Wheel Transit
VEBA Service Group, LLC

2012

Action Moving Services
Angus Meats, Inc.
Baker Construction & Development, Inc.
Dutch Bros. Coffee
Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels
Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council
Maid Naturally, LLC

2011

Desautel Hege Communications
Horizon Hospice
Northwest Farm Credit Services
Second Harvest
Spokane Industries
Spokane Lilac Festival Association
Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

2010

Advantage IQ, Inc.
Catered For You
Moss Adams LLP
Nystrom Olson Collins
Spokane Humane Society
Stewart & Associates, PS
YMCA of the Inland Northwest

2009

Beacon Hill Events
Dry Fly Distilling
Downtown Spokane Partnership
Just American Desserts
Klundt Hosmer Design
LeMaster Daniels PLLC
Women's & Children's Free Restaurant

2008

Cancer Patient Care
Inspired Solutions
L&M Precision Fabrication, Inc.
Magnuson Hotel Group
NAC Architecture
Spokane Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau
Washington State University Spokane

2007

Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs
Angus Meats, Inc.
Walker Construction, Inc.
Kiemle & Hagood Company
Grummons Orthodontics
Allsport Honda Polaris

2006

Spokane Guilds' School & Neuromuscular Center
Second Harvest Inland Northwest
BCi Creative
Wheatland Bank
Northern Quest, A Kalispel Casino
Spokane Cardiology
ISR / Spraycool

2005

Morning Star Boys' Ranch
Coffee Systems, Inc.
Wilbert Precast, Inc.
Pearson Packaging Systems
The Davenport Hotel
Brett Sports & Entertainment

2004

Inland Northwest Health Services
Spokane Occupational & Hand Therapy
Cyrus O'Leary's Pies
Lydig Construction, Inc.
Taylor Engineering, Inc.
Zak Designs, Inc.