

Immediate Release

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Calumet Collaborative is Named One of the Top 100 Finalists for the 17th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards

Chicago, IL— Out of 519 nominees, [Calumet Collaborative](#) of Chicago, IL has been selected as one of the Top 100 Finalists still in the running for the [17th annual Chicago Innovation Awards](#). The awards celebrate the most innovative new products and services in the Chicago region across all organization sizes, sectors and industries. 1500 business and civic leaders will come together to honor the winners when they are announced on October 29th at Chicago's Harris Theater.

The Calumet region is bi-state, spanning southeast Chicago, south Cook County and northwest Indiana, and boasts proud and diverse communities, important natural ecosystems, and a powerful industrial heritage. It's a region that struggles with social equity, economic prosperity, and environmental restoration and justice issues. Calumet Collaborative's vision is to advance a thriving Calumet region through transformative sustainable development, with collaboration and collective work being unique and main drivers of this transformation. There are [39 member organizations](#) and countless partners who are involved in the Collaborative's work. Calumet Collaborative aims to achieve inclusive regional prosperity and improve quality of life by engaging diverse stakeholders in on-the-ground work that integrates community, economic, and environmental values.

Each of the Top 100 Finalists is also in the running for the annual "People's Choice Award," selected through online balloting at <https://chicagoinnovation.com/peoples-choice-award-voting/>

"Chicago continues to rise as a global hub of innovation due to the breadth of organizations in our region that introduce a stream of new products and services into the market each year," said Tom Kuczumski, co-founder with Chicago journalist Dan Miller of the awards. "This year's nominees generated a combined total of \$3.44 billion in revenues through their new products and services alone."

As one of the Top 100 Finalists, Calumet Collaborative will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to attend The Practical Innovator, a day-long executive education course on September 26th led by top faculty who teach innovation at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

Out of the Top 100 Finalists, the judges will select 10 winners of the Chicago Innovation Awards, as well as 10 winners of the Up-and-Comer Awards representing innovation in the start-up community, the Social Innovator Award, the Collaboration Award, and 3 Neighborhood Award winners, which will showcase innovation occurring in Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. The winners will be invited to ring the NASDAQ Bell in New York City, invited to separate meetings with Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Governor Bruce Rauner and Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, and receive widespread media recognition.

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