

40 ans de succès  
years of success



# Gala EXCELLENCE 2026

# OFFICIAL GUIDE



Centre de services à l'emploi  
Employment Services Centre



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Message from the Chairperson of the Prescott-Russell Community Development Corporation

Entrepreneurship is more than building a business, it's about vision, resilience, and the courage to make ideas become reality. The Gala Excellence was created to celebrate those who dare to innovate, lead, and contribute to the growth of their communities as well as the Prescott and Russell region's.

Participating in the Gala Excellence is important because it provides a platform to recognize and elevate the achievements of entrepreneurs who are shaping the future. Too often, the dedication, risk-taking, and perseverance required to build and sustain a business go unseen. The Gala Excellence ensures that these accomplishments are acknowledged and celebrated in a meaningful way.

For over 40 years, the Prescott-Russell Community Development Corporation and the Gala Excellence brought together a vibrant network of innovators, investors, mentors, and business leaders. Since, it has been a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for entrepreneurship and excellence for the past 40 years. Through these connections, new partnerships were formed, ideas were exchanged, and opportunities for collaboration emerged.

Today more than ever, the Gala Excellence serves as a powerful source of inspiration. By highlighting success stories and entrepreneurial journeys, we motivate the next generation of business leaders to pursue their ambitions with confidence. When entrepreneurs see what is possible, they are encouraged to dream bigger, push boundaries, and continue driving innovation.

Most importantly, participating in the Gala Excellence demonstrates a commitment to building a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. Every nomination, attendance, and partnership strengthens our collective mission to support, recognize, and empower Prescott and Russell entrepreneurs.

I warmly invite you to take part in the 2026 Gala Excellence, whether by attending, supporting, or celebrating the remarkable individuals who are making a difference. Together, we can honor excellence, foster collaboration, and inspire the future of entrepreneurship in Prescott and Russell.

Sincerely,

**Patrick Brousseau**  
Chairperson  
Prescott-Russell Community Development Corporation

# ABOUT THE GALA



## **GALA EXCELLENCE 2026**

The Gala Excellence is the flagship entrepreneurial recognition event in Prescott & Russell. For 40 years, the Prescott & Russell Development Corporation has showcased the businesses, organizations, and leaders who actively contribute to the economic vitality and visibility of our region.

Held every two years, the Gala Excellence brings together the business community, municipal and institutional partners, and key economic development stakeholders for an evening of celebration and recognition.

The 2026 edition marks a historic milestone. It highlights four decades of ambition, innovation, resilience, and success. This special celebration of the PRDC's 40th anniversary will honor the remarkable journey of our entrepreneurs and the lasting impact of their contributions on the local economy.

More than an awards ceremony, the Gala Excellence is a showcase of regional talent and a unique opportunity to build connections, strengthen partnerships, and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.

# WHY PARTICIPATE?



Participating in Gala Excellence 2026 positions your organization among the region's most distinguished and forward-thinking businesses.

## RECOGNITION



Receive formal recognition from regional leaders, partners, and decision-makers.

## VISIBILITY



Gain exposure through event promotion, digital platforms, media coverage, and official communications.

## NETWORKING



Connect with entrepreneurs, investors, municipal leaders, and strategic partners in a prestigious setting.

## CELEBRATION



Become part of a 40-year tradition that honors excellence and inspires future generations.

# GALA TIMELINE 2026

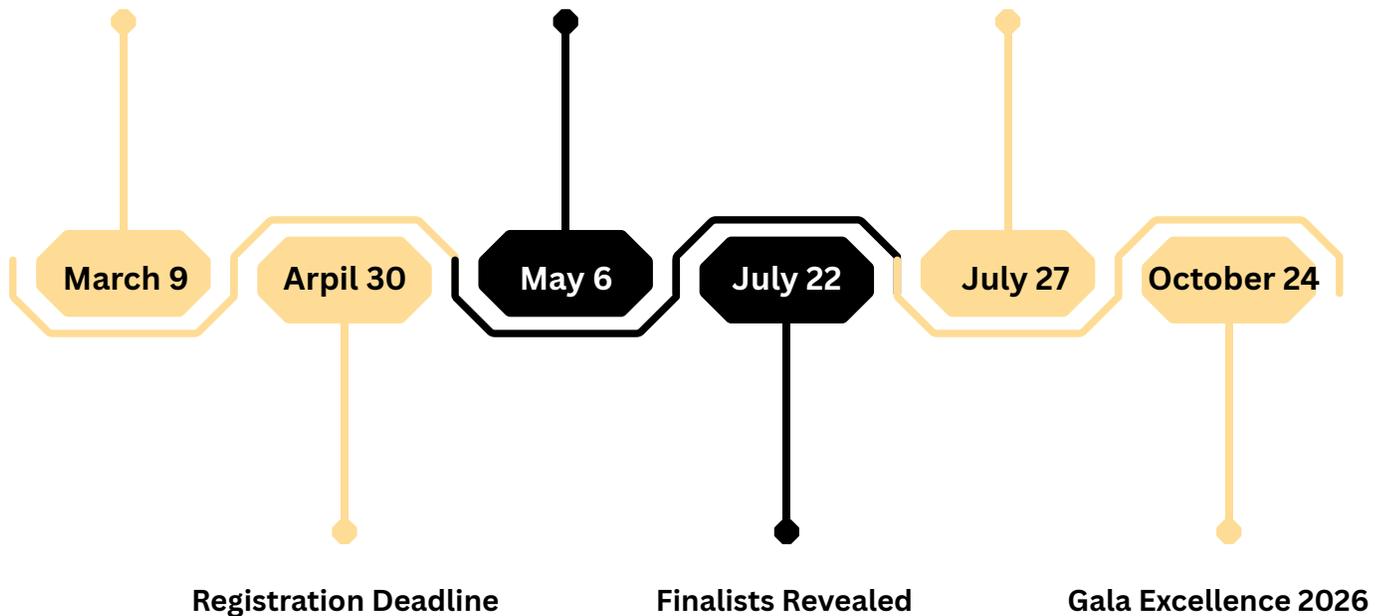


The following dates outline the important steps leading up to Gala Excellence 2026. We encourage you to mark your calendar and stay informed.

**Application Period**

**Tender Bids Deadline**

**Launch of Ticket Sales**



# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## DESCRIPTION

### SIGNATURE AWARDS

#### Excellence Award

The Excellence Award recognizes an outstanding business that demonstrates sustained growth, operational excellence, innovation, and significant contribution to the economic vitality of Prescott & Russell. This award represents the highest level of achievement presented at the Gala.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Must operate within Prescott & Russell
- Minimum of three (3) years in operation
- Demonstrated financial stability and measurable growth
- Proven leadership in innovation and business practices
- Positive impact on the regional economy

#### Entrepreneur of the year Award

This award honors an individual entrepreneur who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision, resilience, and business success. The recipient embodies entrepreneurial spirit and inspires others within the community.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Must operate within Prescott & Russell
- Minimum of three (3) years in operation
- Demonstrated financial stability and measurable growth
- Proven leadership in innovation and business practices
- Positive impact on the regional economy

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## DESCRIPTION

### PRESTIGE AWARDS

#### Emeritus Award

The Emeritus Award recognizes a distinguished individual whose long-standing contribution has significantly shaped the business landscape of Prescott & Russell. This award honors legacy, leadership, and enduring influence.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum of ten (10) years of business or professional impact in the region
- Recognized leadership and sustained contribution
- Demonstrated mentorship and community involvement
- Reputation for integrity and excellence

#### Jury's Award

The Jury's Award is a distinguished recognition presented to a business or individual selected directly by the independent jury committee. This award highlights exceptional merit, innovation, resilience, or impact that may not fall within a specific predefined category but deserves special recognition.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Awarded at the sole discretion of the independent jury committee.
- Reserved for a nominee whose achievement stands apart from standard category criteria.
- Recognizes extraordinary leadership, innovation, or impact beyond conventional benchmarks.

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## DESCRIPTION

### ELITE AWARDS

#### Diversity and Inclusion Business Award

The Diversity and Inclusion Business Award recognizes a business that demonstrates a strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within its workplace and community.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Operates within Prescott & Russell
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrates inclusive hiring or workplace practices
- Promotes diversity and equitable opportunities
- Fosters an accessible and respectful business environment

#### Engagement & Leadership Award

The Engagement & Leadership Award recognizes a business or individual that demonstrates exceptional leadership, active community involvement, and a strong commitment to advancing economic and social development within Prescott & Russell.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Must operate or reside within Prescott & Russell
- Minimum of one (1) year of demonstrated leadership or business activity
- Proven commitment to community engagement or regional initiatives
- Evidence of leadership influence within their organization or sector
- Positive and measurable impact on the community or business environment

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## DESCRIPTION

### DISTINCTION AWARDS

#### Manufacturing Business Award

Recognizes a manufacturing company that demonstrates operational excellence, innovation, and contribution to regional employment and economic growth.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Operates within the manufacturing sector
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated productivity, innovation, and growth
- Contribution to local employment

#### Retail Business Award

Honors a retail business that provides outstanding customer service, innovation in sales strategies, and strong market presence.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Operates in the retail sector
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated sales growth or innovation
- Strong customer satisfaction record

#### Service Business Award

Recognizes a service-based business that demonstrates excellence in client service, operational efficiency, and professional integrity.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Operates in the service industry
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated client satisfaction
- Innovation or excellence in service delivery

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## DESCRIPTION

### DISTINCTION AWARDS

#### Tourism Innovation Award

This award honors a tourism-related business or initiative that demonstrates innovation in visitor experience, destination development, and regional collaboration.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Operates within the tourism, hospitality, attraction, or event sector
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated innovation in tourism offerings
- Contribution to regional visibility and visitor growth
- Positive economic impact on the local tourism ecosystem

#### Agri-Food Business Award

Recognizes an agri-food enterprise that demonstrates excellence in production, innovation, sustainability, and contribution to the regional food economy.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Operates within the agri-food or agricultural sector
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated product quality and innovation
- Contribution to local supply chains or economic growth

#### New Business Award

Honors a recently established business that has shown promising growth, innovation, and strong entrepreneurial initiative.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum of one (1) year in operation but less than two (2) years as of December 31, 2025
- Demonstrated early success and business viability
- Clear growth strategy and vision
- Positive community presence

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## DESCRIPTION

### DISTINCTION AWARDS

#### Independent Entrepreneur Award

Recognizes an independent professional who demonstrates excellence in expertise, service delivery, and business management.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Sole proprietor or independent professional
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated professional credibility and client satisfaction
- Sustainable and well-managed business practices

#### Woman Entrepreneur Award

Celebrates a woman-owned business that demonstrates leadership, innovation, and measurable business success.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum 51% woman-owned business
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated leadership and growth
- Positive contribution to the regional economy

#### Young Entrepreneur Award

Recognizes an entrepreneur under the age of 40 who has demonstrated innovation, determination, and business success.

##### Eligibility Criteria

- Under 40 years of age at the time of nomination
- Minimum of one (1) year in operation
- Demonstrated growth and leadership
- Clear entrepreneurial vision

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## DESCRIPTION

### DISTINCTION AWARDS

#### Community Impact Award

Honors a business or organization that has made a significant contribution to community development and social well-being.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated measurable community involvement
- Sustainable impact initiatives
- Positive partnerships with local organizations
- Leadership in social responsibility

## EXCLUSIONS

The following are not eligible to apply or be nominated:

- Members of the jury;
- Posthumous nominations;
- Previous edition award recipients may not apply in the same category;
- Members of the Board of Directors of the Prescott & Russell Development Corporation.

# EVALUATION CRITERIA



All applications received will be reviewed based on clearly defined criteria. Jury members will take into account several factors, including the sector of activity and the size of the business, to ensure a fair and equitable evaluation across different entrepreneurial profiles. The assessment of applications will be conducted using a structured evaluation grid.

In the interest of rigor and transparency, the review process will be entrusted to an external and independent jury composed of business professionals from within the region as well as from outside the region. Each jury member will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement. In the event of a situation that could give rise to a conflict of interest, the concerned member must withdraw from the evaluation process related to that specific application.

Submitted files will be evaluated in accordance with the Gala's general regulations as well as the specific criteria applicable to each category. For each application, the quality of responses, the relevance of the information provided, and the overall quality of presentation will be taken into consideration.

The PRDC reserves the right not to award a distinction in a category if the applications received do not meet the established standards. The organization also reserves the right to request additional information in order to validate certain elements of an application. Any incomplete submission may be deemed ineligible and may not be submitted to the jury for evaluation.

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



## SIGNATURE SPONSOR

10,000\$

The Signature Sponsor represents the highest level of partnership for Gala Excellence 2026. This exclusive tier offers premier visibility, strategic positioning, and direct association with the 40th Anniversary celebration.

**Excellence Award**

**Entrepreneur of the Year**

## PRESTIGE SPONSOR

4,000\$

The Prestige Sponsor tier offers strong visibility and recognition within a distinguished business audience, aligning your organization with leadership and excellence.

**Emeritus Award**

**Jury's Award**

## ELITE SPONSOR

2,000\$

The Elite Sponsor tier recognizes organizations committed to supporting regional excellence and entrepreneurship. This level provides meaningful visibility within the Gala environment.

**Diversity and Inclusion Business Award**

**Engagement & Leadership Award**

## DISTINCTION SPONSOR

1,000\$

The Distinction Sponsorship offers an accessible participation opportunity while playing a key role in supporting and sustaining the success of the Gala Excellence. This level actively contributes to the event's success, while providing privileged visibility and meaningful engagement with the community.

**Manufacturing Business**

**Retail Business**

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



## **DISTINCTION SPONSOR (CONTINUED)**

**1,000\$**

**Service Business Award**

**Tourism Innovation Business Award**

**Agri-Food Business Award**

**New Business Award**

**Independent Entrepreneur Award**

**Woman Entrepreneur Award**

**Young Entrepreneur Award**

**Community Impact Award**

## **PARTICIPATIVE SPONSOR**

**750\$**

Participative Sponsors contribute directly to specific event elements, enhancing the guest experience and overall ambiance of the Gala.

**Red Wine Sponsor**

**White Wine Sponsor**

**Centerpiece Sponsor**

**Cocktail Lounge Sponsor**

**Musical Entertainment Sponsor**

**Photo Booth Sponsor**

# SPONSORSHIP EXPOSURE PLAN



The Gala Excellence offers exclusive visibility opportunities designed to position your organization as a leader within the Prescott & Russell business community.

Each sponsorship level provides strategic exposure before, during, and after the event.

## SIGNATURE SPONSORS

10,000\$

### Before the Gala

- Logo with “Presented by” mention on all official communications.
- Top placement on website & nomination page.
- Featured in press releases.
- Dedicated social media announcement.
- Logo on email signatures (if applicable).

### During the Gala

- Trophy presentation on stage to the recipient.
- Speaking opportunity (3–5 minutes).
- Logo on program cover.
- 8 tickets (VIP table).
- Recognition by the Master of the Ceremony.

### After the Gala

- Mention in post-event recap.
- Logo in the official photo gallery page.

# SPONSORSHIP VISIBILITY PLAN



## PRESTIGE SPONSORS

4,000\$

### **Before the Gala**

- Prominent logo exposure on website and promotional materials
- Social media feature post

### **During the Gala**

- Trophy presentation on stage to the recipient.
- 4 tickets to the event
- Recognition during the event
- Logo in the official program

### **After the Gala**

- Mention in post-event recap
- Logo in the official photo gallery page

## ELITE SPONSORS

2,000\$

### **Before the Gala**

- Prominent logo placement on website
- Social media feature post

### **During the Gala**

- Trophy presentation on stage to the recipient.
- 2 tickets to the event
- Logo in the official program

### **After the Gala**

- Mention in post-event recap
- Logo in the official photo gallery page

# SPONSORSHIP VISIBILITY PLAN



## DISTINCTION SPONSORS

1,000\$

### Before the Gala

- Logo placement on website
- Social media feature post

### During the Gala

- Trophy presentation on stage to the recipient.
- Logo in the official program

### After the Gala

- Mention in post-event recap
- Logo in the official photo gallery page

## PARTICIPATIVE SPONSORS

750\$

- Recognition at the sponsored experience station
- Logo listed under Participative Sponsors in the program
- Website and social media acknowledgment

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



## ELIGIBILITY

- The business must be established and operate within Prescott & Russell.
- A minimum of one year of operation is required (except for the New Business category).
- The business must be legally and financially compliant.

## FINALISTS' COMMITMENT

- Commit to attending the Gala Excellence on October 24, 2026.
- Authorization for promotional use of logo, name, and photos.

## FINAL DECISION

- Jury decisions are final.
- No appeals will be considered.

## SELECTION PROCESS

- Submission of a complete application form.
- Evaluation by an independent jury committee.
- Assessment based on:
  - Performance and growth
  - Innovation
  - Economic impact
  - Community engagement

40 *ans de succès*  
*years of success*



# Gala EXCELLENCE 2026



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## CONTACT US

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