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Embracing Diversity: Celebrating Skellefteå's Multicultural Contributions - The Inaugural EFA AWARDS.

The vision of Expats & Friends Association (EFA) is to include and engage both international and national residents, businesses, organisations and associations in Skellefteå's integration process. We aim to promote and support the development of an embracing multicultural society, based on healthy values and social sustainability for all. Therefore, it is with great pride that we introduce the EFA AWARDS 2024, aimed at recognising and honouring the invaluable contribution of individuals, associations or businesses to a multicultural Skellefteå.

Since it's humble beginnings in 2014, the Expats & Friends Association has evolved into a dynamic group comprising both international and national residents, that have decided to make Skellefteå their place of choice to live and grow sustainably into the future. Together with the municipality's and other actors aid, EFA has been able to support many in their journey to move to Skellefteå.

During these 10 years, the Expats & Friends Association has identified, organised and executed diverse activities and events to reach out and include all types of Skellefteå residents, by helping them access information, establish connections and networking opportunities, make them feel welcome, and ultimately create a sense of belonging and community for people to stay.

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At the forefront of diverse events that have served as sources of inspiration and inclusivity, the Expats & Friends Association (EFA) is now poised to take a significant step forward. It's time to acknowledge the efforts of the global community that has chosen to make Skellefteå their home. This recognition not only honours their contributions but also adds value to their presence. The Expats & Friends Association is committed to shining a light on those who tirelessly strive for the advancement and strengthening of our community.

Therefore, through the creation of the EFA AWARDS, the Expats & Friends Association seeks to recognize and honour the significant contributions to the well-being and growth of Skellefteå made by multicultural residents or associations, entrepreneurs, and businesses. These contributions not only bring development and progress, but also promote inclusive workplaces and opportunities for those who choose to move here.

The EFA AWARDS is co-sponsored by Skellefteå Kommun, the Wood Hotel by Elite and ABF Skellefteå. If you would like to co-sponsor or support the event in any way, please contact us by emailing to **info@expatsandfriends.se**



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Nomination Categories

The awards will consist of the following categories:

1. EFA Community Engagement Award: recognizes the efforts of an individual who has relocated to Skellefteå or a non-profit organization with a diverse background, that is actively engaged in promoting diversity and community integration in Skellefteå.

2. EFA Corporate Award: is dedicated to any business that demonstrates commitment to supporting the integration process in Skellefteå and fosters a multicultural workplace or business environment.

3. EFA Arts and Culture Award: celebrates the contributions to the community of an individual who has relocated to the municipality or a multicultural association, by diverse artistic expressions, cultural events, or initiatives that showcase various traditions and heritage.

4. EFA Entrepreneur Award: awarded to a self-employed individual or business entrepreneur who is not originally from Skellefteå - and who has successfully established their venture and promotes inclusiveness and integration.

5. EFA Person of The Year Award: a special recognition for someone who has relocated to Skellefteå from elsewhere and has made significant contribution to the community.



The Nomination Process

The nomination process will be open between the 15th of May and the 19th of June. It can be done only online by scanning the QR-code or filling in the Google form via the following link: https://forms.gle/MEmAhizxpRZ1SgS68

This link will also be available in our FB group or on our website **expatsandfriends.se** in the activities section. If you have problems accessing the link please write to: <u>info@expatsandfriends.se</u> and we will assist you as promptly as possible.

Anyone can be nominated, however self-nominations are not allowed. The person that nominates another must give their full information (full name, email address, telephone number) as well as provide a strong motivation to why they are nominating the person, association or business in question.

There will be a Jury (TBD), consisting of three (3) members: (1) EFA board member, (1) Skellefteå Municipality representative, and (1) Non-profit organisation representative (TBD).

The jury will meet and deliberate during the months of July and August, and decide a maximum of three (3) nominees per category (should there be quorum). No board member of EFA or jury member can be considered for the nomination, as well as any close family member or friend of them.

The winner of each category will be revealed during the EFA AWARDS event, at The Wood Hotel on Friday, 6th of September. More information on the event will be published in the following weeks. You can keep updated on our social media and website. SAVE THE DATE!



EFA's hope is that this event will multiply the efforts of the international community in Skellefteå municipality. By recognising the hard work that many are doing, we seek to increase visibility, motivation and community pride, fostering a more inclusive and prosperous municipality for all.

We look forward to all the nominations!

