



UKEDC Awards 2024

Objectives

The aim of the UKEDC awards is to:

- Allow the equality dance community to acknowledge and thank people for contributing to that community.
- Emphasize that UKEDC members are central to the direction of the UKEDC and should be actively involved in its work.
- Provide another channel for members express their views as to what they see and value.
- Support the aims of the UKEDC's strategy.
- Align with the UKEDC's constitutional objectives to "provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for our members and other people and organisations interested in equality dancing" and "bring visibility and prominence to UK competitors, adjudicators and organisers to afford us the authority and credibility which we deserve".

Process

The awards process will be as follows:

1. Members and non-members nominate people for the awards via an online form. Nominations can be anonymous but contact details can be given if wished to allow further details to be obtained if necessary.
2. An Awards Panel reviews the nominations to prepare a shortlist for each award.
3. The UKEDC committee reviews and approves the shortlist containing the names of the nominees and the reason why they have been nominated.
4. Members vote online on the shortlist. Each member who is fully paid up two weeks before the start of the voting will have one vote per award.
5. In case of a tie in the number of votes, the Awards Panel decides the outcome.

Timeline for 2024 - exact dates will be announced in due course.

1. Mid-May – nominations open.
2. 14th July – nominations close.
3. Mid to late July – UKEDC Awards Panel prepares a shortlist from the nominations.
4. End of July – UKEDC Committee approves the awards shortlist.
5. Mid-August – voting opens for UKEDC members.
6. End of August – voting closes.
7. 5th October – awards presented at the UKEDC ball.

UKEDC Awards criteria

The UKEDC inclusion award

The award will be presented to a person or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to including equality dancers within the wider partner-dancing world in the UK. Examples of possible nominations:

- A teacher or a dance school that has consistently worked to include equality dancers within a teaching environment that is not aimed specifically at equality dancers
- A social dance organizer whose events are not aimed at the equality dance community but who has actively includes equality dancers
- A dance-teaching organization that has consistently worked to include the needs of equality dancing within its syllabus and training programmes
- A competition organizer that has gone above and beyond to include equality dancers in competitions that are not specifically aimed at equality dancers
- Individuals who have made significant efforts to promote the inclusion of equality dance within the wider partner-dance community

The UKEDC community development award

The award will be presented to a person or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening and/or expanding the equality dancing community in the UK. Examples of possible nominations:

- A teacher, dance school, social dance event organizer or dance holiday organizer that has developed new dancing opportunities aimed specifically at equality dancers
- An individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to promoting equality dancing within the LGBTQ+ community
- An individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to developing equality dance competitions such as training competitors, developing rules, organizing competitions
- An individual or an organization that has made a significant contribution to increasing the inclusion with the equality dance community of transgender, non-binary individuals and other minorities.

The UKEDC champion award

The award will be presented to an individual or organisation who has made a significant, but potentially unacknowledged, contribution to the equality dance community in the UK. Examples of possible nominations:

- An individual who always makes a special effort to welcome new dancers at equality dance social events
- Someone who frequently volunteers to help out at equality dance events
- An individual who does a great job of posting on social media and keeping everyone up to date
- A competitor or competitive couple who have used their own profile to raise the profile of equality dancing generally

UKEDC Awards Panel – Guidelines

- The UKEDC Awards Panel will comprise one member of the UKEDC Committee plus two or four UKEDC members who are not UKEDC Committee members.
- The Panel will be chaired by the UKEDC Committee member. For 2024, this is Lori Pearce-Altendorff.
- The Panel will administer the UKEDC awards process including receiving nominations, deciding upon the shortlist following the criteria below, running the membership vote on the shortlist and verifying the final results.
- The shortlist shall be prepared according to the following:
 - Where a single person or organization receives more than one nomination, the Awards Panel shall combine these into a single nomination and shall prepare a unified description from the reasons provided on the nominations.
 - Ideally, the short list for each award should contain no more than five nominations. At its discretion, the Panel may include additional nominations if they are felt to be strong enough.
 - The Panel may also, at its discretion, move nominations between award categories to achieve the most appropriate fit between a nomination and the awards' criteria.
 - Those nominations that align most closely with the UKEDC's strategy should be given greatest weight.
 - The shortlist should encourage activities that promote the aims of the UKEDC outside of London and the Southeast of the UK.
 - The panel should take into account both the number of nominations for a single nominee and the strength of the nominations. For example, a single, but strong nomination that aligns well with the UKEDC Strategy could be chosen over a nominee with many, but weaker, nominations.
 - In general, the winner of any UKEDC award should be excluded from the shortlist for all awards for the two years after the year in which they won their award (i.e. if an award was won in 2022, the first year the winner could be included in the short list would be 2025).
 - The Panel may propose to the UKEDC Committee that a nomination be included in the shortlist before the two-year time limit has passed if it believes that the nomination is for an exceptional contribution.
- The UKEDC Committee takes the final decision on the shortlist that is presented to members for voting, but in general should follow the recommendations of the awards panel unless there are very good reasons to the contrary.