Cartier
WOMEN'S
INITIATIVE

REGIONAL
AWARDS

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## SEEKING OUTSTANDING WOMEN IMPACT ENTREPRENEURS

**Apply before June 16, 2026**

Lina Xu, Nathalie Lesselin, Ania Wysocka, Farah Emara, Atilana Piñon, Yvette Ishimwe and Siny Samba at the 2023 Awards Ceremony in Paris

The Cartier Women's Initiative is an annual international entrepreneurship program that aims to drive change by empowering women impact entrepreneurs.

Founded in 2006, the program selects 27 fellows from 9 regions for its Regional Awards:

- LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
- NORTH AMERICA
- EUROPE
- FRANCOPHONE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
- ANGLOPHONE AND LUSOPHONE AFRICA
- MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
- EAST ASIA
- SOUTH ASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA
- OCEANIA

# APPLY NOW!

www.cartierwomensinitiative.com/regional-awards

All applications must be submitted in English.

**Deadline: June 16, 2026, 2 p.m. Central European Summer Time (CEST)**

## WHY APPLY?

### FINANCIAL CAPITAL SUPPORT

- $100,000 USD grant for each first-place awardee
- $60,000 USD grant for each second-place awardee
- $30,000 USD grant for each third-place awardee

### HUMAN CAPITAL SUPPORT

Human capital support is structured into a fellowship program, which includes a combination of 1:1 training and collective workshops.

- Leadership communications and media training
- In person INSEAD Women's Impact Entrepreneurship Program
- 1:1 training in specific business areas
- 1:1 executive leadership coaching

### SOCIAL CAPITAL SUPPORT

Throughout the program, we strive to highlight the social and environmental impact created by our fellows and bridge connections between women impact entrepreneurs and their supporters.

- International exposure and media visibility
- Support and mentorship by jury members during the fellowship
- Lifelong access to 500+ active members
- Ongoing support for the development of the fellows' impact businesses

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## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Positive impact:** The business should demonstrate that it has realized positive impact in its industry and that it has the potential to realize even more impact as it scales. It should contribute to at least one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**For-profit:** The business should be designed to generate sufficient revenue to support its operations and return some level of profit to its owners. It does not have to be profitable at the time of application.

**Stage:** The business should generate annual revenue between $50,000 USD and $5 million USD, and employ between 5 and 250 team members (i.e. full-time employees, part-time employees, seasonal workers, or contractors).

**Fundraising:** The business should not have raised more than $2 million USD in dilutive or potentially dilutive funding (i.e. equity, quasi-equity like SAFE or Convertible Notes) as of the date of application.

**Independent entity:** The business entity and its finances must be independent from the founder(s). Moreover, it must be an original creation, wholly conceived of by the team; a completely new concept.

**Leadership:** The applicant must be a woman and one of the main leadership positions, for example as CEO, COO, CTO, general manager, or managing director of the business.

**Ownership:** The business must be incorporated and majority owned by its founders and team members at the time of application. The applicant must be part of the founding team and own a share greater or equal to that of each of her co-founder(s).

**English proficiency:** A good command of the English language is required. We require the Common European Framework of Reference Level B2 or above.

**Commitment:** The applicant must commit to participating in the fellowship program from January to December 2027. Fellows are required to report on their impact for three years following the completion of their fellowship.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- Impact intentionality and embeddedness
- Impact objectives and measurement
- Market analysis and fit
- Sustainable business and financial model
- Strategy and execution
- Team
- Leadership character of the applicant

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