



Business in Vancouver's Forty under 40 Awards – FAQs

What is Business in Vancouver's Forty Under 40 awards?

It is an annual list of 40 people who have achieved success in business and/or their non-profit organization before turning 40 years of age.

What are the qualifications for BIV's Forty Under 40?

First and foremost, we are looking for professional success. We also are interested in knowing about community service, as well as participation in trade groups, etc. We look for a cross-section of impressive people from a wide range of industries we cover who are ahead of their time for their age. This means they've risen up the ranks of their company or industry and have a lot of responsibility at a relatively young age. For example, 2007's Forty Under 40 winner Nolan Watson, who was CFO of Silver Wheaton Corp., was the world's youngest CFO of a New York Stock Exchange-listed company at 26. For 2009, those chosen must be no older than 39 by December 31, 2009.

Who decides who will be in this year's Forty Under 40?

Judging is done by a panel of five people consisting of the senior editorial management of BIV, experienced business leaders and/or previous Forty under 40 winners.

How can I nominate someone for Forty Under 40?

Nominations must be submitted online. For the official nominating form, go to www.biv.com/40under40.

When is the deadline for submissions?

The deadline for nominations in 2009 is midnight on Friday, August 28, 2009. Please have your nominations filled by that date. Supplementary material such as CVs and the recommended two reference letters can be submitted by midnight on Sunday, August 30, 2009.

Can I just call you or send you an e-mail with the name of the person I'd like to nominate?

No. We need to have the form filled out, including contact information for the person you are nominating as well as the name and contact information of the nominator. Any supplementary information including a nominee's CV and reference letters should be emailed to Richard Chu at rchu@biv.com as a PDF or DOC file, or faxed to 604-688-1963. Hard copies—while discouraged—can be mailed to BIV Forty Under 40 c/o Richard Chu, 102 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1G2 if a fax or digital format is not possible.

I want to nominate someone, but can I remain anonymous?

No, we need to know who you are, though we do not share nominator information with any third parties.



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I want to nominate my boss, but would it be better if someone higher up nominated him? Can I nominate a family member?

You can nominate yourself, a client, a family member, your boss, an employee or an acquaintance. The most important thing is that you state a clear, business-oriented reason for the nomination.

Does it help if many people nominate the same person?

No. In fact, it sends a negative impression if there is evidence of an organized campaign to send many nominations.

Will more than one nominee from the same company be accepted?

Yes. More than one nominee from a single company can be nominated separately on their own individual merits. Also, multiple candidates from separate divisions of large conglomerates can also be nominated.

Do you accept business partners nominated together?

As of 2009, we no longer accept partners as a single nomination. While the success of many businesses comes from a strong team of leaders and staff, the BIV Forty Under 40 awards primarily highlights the strengths and successes of individual business and community leaders.

I would like to nominate someone, but they will turn 40 before your publication date. Can I still nominate that person?

No. Nominations for anyone who does not meet the age requirement are discarded. We verify birth dates of finalists.

What are the nomination questions asked about nominees?

In addition to personal contact information and educational background, the nomination form asks about a nominee's:

Most significant professional achievements in his/her career thus far

Demonstrated leadership abilities and experience

Community involvement

Company information (employees, revenue, major projects, growth levels)

General description of why a nominee is worthy of an award

List of references



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Do you need to have company revenues and other details about a nominee's business?

Yes. Specific examples of company growth and impact in the community including revenues, whether a business is profitable, how profitable, and staffing levels, are important details that play into the judging process.

Is company information kept confidential?

Yes. Only Forty Under 40 judges and reporters view the nominee's information package and all material is kept confidential, in-house and shredded after the awards judging process is complete.

How does the process work?

After the nomination deadline, all information is compiled and distributed to the judges for review. Judges generally make a decision about six to eight weeks after nominations have closed. After nominations have closed, nominees are given an opportunity to provide a more complete nomination form if they were not directly involved in the initial nomination process.

Because of the large number of nominations, only those that are short-listed are contacted. The final list of award winners is not disclosed until publication in the Forty Under 40 Issue of Business in Vancouver newspaper.

What is required of those who are selected?

Candidates who are selected must make themselves available for either an in-person or phone interview with a reporter. They are also required to participate in a photo shoot with BIV's photographer.

Can I contact you to see how my nominee is doing in the judging process?

No. We don't give status reports. If we need any further information, we will contact you. However, short-listed candidates will be contacted about six to eight weeks after the nomination deadline about their status as well as provided details about the photo shoot.

I want to be picked for Forty Under 40. Will it help to hire a public relations firm?

No. Publicists often submit candidates, but they do not influence the judging.

Does it help to have more than the recommended 2 reference letters?

Nominees should provide their two best reference letters instead of providing more than the recommended amount of reference letters. Quality of references is the most important factor and judges will, in all likelihood, not read more than the first two they see, given the sheer number of applications received each year.



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I was not picked for Forty Under 40. Can you tell me why?

With hundreds of candidates and only 40 slots, the majority of hopefuls will not be chosen. We cannot explain why you weren't picked because it won't be for any one reason.