



**FIMI**

**OPEN CALL**

# **INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PRIZE**

2023



**ENTREPRENEURSHIP DRAWING ON  
INDIGENOUS IDENTITY**

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S FORUM (FIMI) - 2023

# Context

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Since 2013, the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) has awarded an annual "Leadership Prize," recognizing individual Indigenous Women or Indigenous Women's collectives who, through their work, dedication, and responsibility, have achieved significant change in their communities.

***Each year, the Indigenous Women's Leadership Prize also has a specific theme.***

***The 2023 edition of the prize is dedicated to recognizing entrepreneurial initiatives led by Indigenous Women.***

We Indigenous Women are agents of change in our communities, playing a fundamental role in the transformation of the social, political, economic and cultural systems which Indigenous Communities see as interconnected and integral to each other.

In the midst of socio-economic change and globalization, we have demonstrated our capacity to create and launch projects that seek to improve our families' living conditions, and to triumph over challenges such as violence, racism, exclusion, and discrimination.

Our entrepreneurial efforts are rooted in the spirituality, identity, culture and traditions of our Communities, as well as in the fundamental principles guiding Indigenous Communities' economic development. These principles include collaboration, collective work, and the care and protection of shared natural resources.

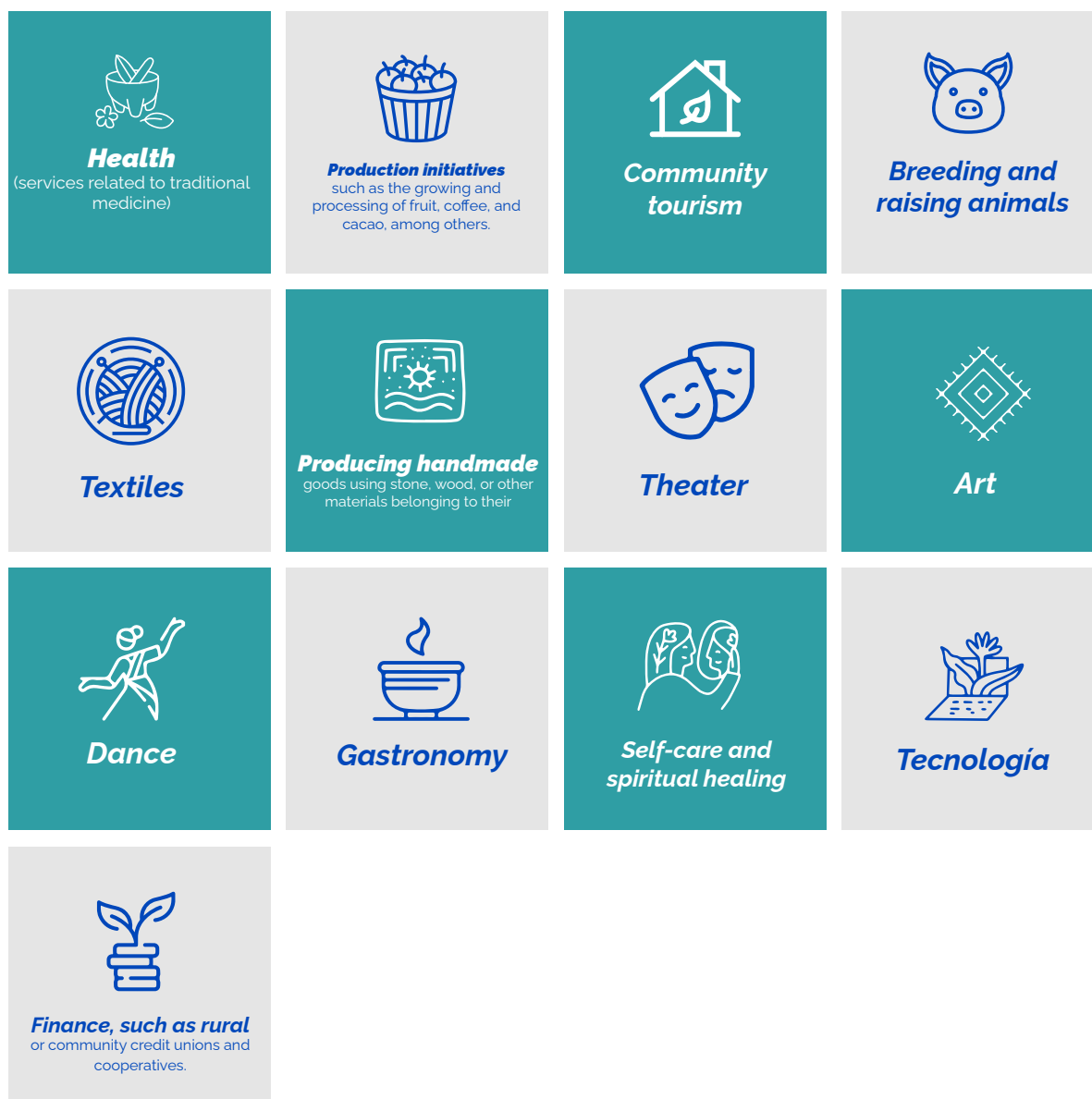
Currently, there are numerous examples of Indigenous Women who have organized to launch entrepreneurial projects based on traditional production practices, such as weaving, handicrafts, dance, medicine and healing, gastronomy, and art, among others. Through these initiatives, we've succeeded in strengthening our autonomy; cultivated confidence in our abilities and capacity to succeed; raised our self-esteem; and affirmed our status as rights-holders.

**The acknowledgement and exercise of Indigenous Communities' rights to preserve, practice, and revitalize our traditions and cultures are enshrined in the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.** This includes the right to preserve and develop the past, present, and future expressions of our cultures, including archaeological and historical sites, objects, designs, ceremonies, technologies, visual and performing arts, and literature.

For all of these reasons, this year's prize is dedicated to recognizing and supporting the leadership of organized Indigenous Women entrepreneurs, whose motivation, commitment, and responsibility, working collectively and in community, is helping transform lives, and keeping ancestral practices and knowledge in use.

# Areas of Action

Applicants' entrepreneurship initiatives and innovations may fall into one or more of the following areas of action:



## Profile

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Applicants must be Indigenous Women who actively participate in organizations that are part of Indigenous Communities, or Tribal organizations. These women should be involved in implementing entrepreneurial projects based on traditional knowledge and practices.

Through their entrepreneurship, applicants should have achieved substantial advances in areas such as organization, administration, territorial resource management, political advocacy, visibility, promotion, alliance building, spiritual development, and/or the strengthening of cultural identity.

For this award, we will not accept applications from non-Indigenous organizations, NGOs or government entities.

## Characteristics of the Initiatives

The entrepreneurial projects should be undertaken collectively, and be tailored to the demands and needs of a specific community or group. It's essential that applicants are able to provide evidence of the changes and transformations their work has achieved.

## About The Prize

Four Indigenous Womens' organizations from diverse regions will be recognized and honored with **\$10,000 USD** each. These organizations, through their entrepreneurship and innovation, are generating significant transformations in their lived realities.



## To Apply

Applications will be accepted until **December 5th, 2023**. To apply, individuals or organizations must complete the application form found here, and email both the completed form and documents listed below to: [investigacion@iiwf.org](mailto:investigacion@iiwf.org)

### APPLICATION FORM

Required documents include:

- A letter of application
- A CV/Resume for the organization
- Bylaws or legal entity status of the organization
- Photographs and other documentation that shows the organization's work. Examples include: testimonies, links to articles, websites, and social media posts
- Two letters of recommendation from organizations who have collaborated with the applicant.

## Selection of Winners

Applicants will be evaluated by a selection committee made up of distinguished Indigenous Women, working in the human rights field and/or in environmental defense. This committee will evaluate the relevance of each applicant's initiative.

