



Looking Back, Moving Forward: Join Us in Honoring Outstanding Humanitarians

Secure your seat today at the 2025 Aurora Prize Ceremony on Ellis Island

Dear Friend,

This fall, we return to New York, where we first introduced Aurora to the world, to mark a decade of impact and honor those who embody our founding principle of *Gratitude in Action*. **On November 6**, we will gather on **Ellis Island** for the **2025 Aurora Prize Ceremony**, to celebrate outstanding humanitarians who risk everything to protect others. It will be a moment to reflect on all we've achieved and recommit to the work that lies ahead.

Today, as many governments are reducing humanitarian funding and closing doors to those seeking refuge, Aurora stands with vulnerable communities and the local humanitarians who serve them. **We believe that in the darkest times, those who help save others give us all hope for a brighter future.** By joining Aurora in this belief, you bring life-saving support directly to those in need. Your contributions ensure they do not have to face it all alone.

In our 10th anniversary year, we reaffirm the urgency of this work and the effectiveness of supporting local, community-led humanitarian efforts.

There's so much more to do and we need your help to do it.

SUPPORT AURORA

As we prepare to award the 2025 Prize for Awakening Humanity, we do so with renewed purpose and conviction. This year's Ceremony will be a powerful and immersive experience centered on the themes of generational gratitude and the enduring legacy of helping others. Together, philanthropists, humanitarians, civic leaders, and changemakers of all sorts will recognize those who act with humanity in the face of crisis and reaffirm that every act of courage can ripple outward into lasting change.

Secure your spot for the 2025 Aurora Prize Ceremony on Ellis Island on November 6, 2025, and support Aurora at this crucial moment.



With gratitude,

Armine Afeyan
CEO, Aurora Humanitarian Initiative

Join Us at the 2025 Aurora Prize Ceremony

On November 6, 2025, we will continue celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative as we honor extraordinary individuals who risk their lives to save others through the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. This year's Ceremony takes place on historic Ellis Island, a profound symbol of hope and new beginnings, and will focus on the themes of generational gratitude and the lasting impact of philanthropy.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT



Local Impact, Global Action: Aurora Events in LA

On May 6–7, Aurora's 2025 Humanitarian Summit and Human Rights and Humanitarian Forum brought together global voices on the UCLA campus. The two-day convening spotlighted the growing urgency of connected, interdisciplinary action amid a fractured world.

"When we come together, we feel that we are not on our own. We have the same challenges, the same problems. And if we come together in a network where we can support each other, it is ideal. The more I know about Aurora, the more I see how impactful it is."

Roy Moussalli
Aurora Luminary
Founder, Syrian Society for Social Development



The inaugural Humanitarian Summit united more than 50 humanitarians and key stakeholders from across the globe, engaging them in insightful dialogue on overcoming the daily challenges faced by those working on the ground.

The 2025 Human Rights and Humanitarian Forum, co-hosted by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and The Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA Law, convened under the theme "At the Crossroads: Driving Integrated Action for a Resilient Future." As foreign aid continues to shrink, participants emphasized bold, community-driven responses that merge immediate humanitarian relief with lasting commitments to human rights, justice, and sustainability.

"No one can come into your space and tell you how to navigate your space better than yourself. Let everyone know what you're doing. Let your community know you. Let your expertise speak for you."

Leymah Gbowee
Aurora Prize Selection Committee Member
Founder and President, Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa



Record-Breaking Nominations for Aurora Prize

The nomination period for the 2025 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity officially closed on May 8, marking a powerful global response to a growing humanitarian crisis. Launched in May 2024, after Aurora's Los Angeles events, this round saw 868 submissions representing 800 unique candidates working across 120 countries and territories. Awarded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, the \$1 million Aurora Prize honors individuals who risk their lives to protect others from violence, atrocities, and oppression.



"What we see in these humanitarians, from war zones to refugee camps, from forgotten villages to big cities, is something beyond heroic. These are people who don't just talk about change; they are the change. Celebrating them is a reminder that there's still so much hope in the world."

Hamdi Ulukaya
Aurora Prize Selection Committee Member
Founder and CEO, Chobani

The search for extraordinary humanitarians never stops—
nominations are open for the next Aurora Prize.
Help us honor those who light the way for others.

NOMINATE YOUR HERO