

ILEA Esprit Awards Entry Guide: Completing an Award Entry

All completed entries, including payment must be submitted **on or before 15 April 2022 at 11:59 pm PDT**. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Before Beginning an Entry

Step 1: Review and Select a Category

The ILEA Esprit Awards offer multiple categories representing the many different disciplines within the events industry. Identify the category that best fits your event or event component. All category criteria are listed under the [Categories and Criteria](#) tab on the ILEA Esprit Awards Website.

Step 2: Decide Your Entry Type

- **Single Entry:** An entry type for any individual. Single entries can be submitted into any Esprit category except the Best ILEA Event Volunteer Collaboration and Best ILEA Team Effort Categories.
- **Team Entry:** A team entry consists of two (2) or more team members who participated in planning and executing an event. Team entries of two (2) or more can be submitted into any Esprit category except for **Best ILEA Event Volunteer Collaboration** and **Best ILEA Team Effort (ILEA Member Categories Only)**.
 - **Team Effort Categories.** Each entrant must pay the \$125.00 USD entry fee for ILEA Members or each entrant must pay the \$225.00 USD entry fee for non-current ILEA Members.
 - Team entries must contain three (3) or more ILEA team members for the **Best ILEA Event Volunteer Collaboration** and **Best ILEA Team Effort Categories**. Each ILEA entrant must pay the \$125.00 USD entry fee.

Step 3: For Team Entries (2+ entrants)

- Entrants will need their team members contact information, including their email address and company name. Plus, ILEA Member ID number and ILEA chapter name if current ILEA member. **Be sure to gather this information before beginning an entry.**
- All entrants, whether single or team, must be ILEA members in good standing on or before **15 April 2022 to receive member specific benefit**. Non-ILEA members included in the two ILEA Member Only categories will be omitted from the entry without refunds.
- Only one payment is permitted per team entry. One entrant must collect entry fees from all members participating and submit payment.

Step 4: Begin a New Entry

- Select the left menu **Add New Entry** tab.
- Through the online awards system, entrants can begin multiple entries, save and leave site to return later to finish or edit entries, pay for entries as completed or pay for multiple entries all at once after completing all entries.

Helpful Hint: Print this guide for your reference as you fill out and submit your entry.

Tab 1 – Entry Type

The Entrant(s) Information tab requires that entrants enter their complete contact information. The ILEA Esprit Awards system operates through OmniCONTESTS, ILEA Esprit Awards vendor, and not the ILEA database. The entrant page will only be seen by ILEA staff and ILEA Esprit Chair.

Step 1: Select Entry Type and Select a Category & Sub-Category

- Verify that you have entered the correct category by reviewing the category description.
- Complete category descriptions can be found on the [Categories & Criteria](#) tab of ILEA Esprit website.

Step 2: Enter Entry Title and Chapter

- This is the Title of the submission.
- Enter Chapter for the Entrant (this should match the membership information for the entrant).
- Enter “Non-Member” for any non-current ILEA member.

Step 3: Click SAVE On the Page

ENTRANTS WON'T BE ABLE TO PROCEED TO FURTHER TABS UNTIL THE ABOVE INFORMATION ON ENTRY TYPE TAB IS COMPLETE.

Step 4: Fill-Out Contact Information,

- If filling out for yourself, please use your own information.
- If filling out on behalf of someone, and you are the MAIN contact person for any needed questions, then fill out YOUR information here (*this is the only place you will fill out your information. All other information will be that of the Entrant.*).

Tab 2 – Entrant(s) Information

The Entrant(s) Information tab requires that entrants enter their complete contact information. The ILEA Esprit Awards system operates through OmniCONTESTS, ILEA Esprit Awards vendor, and not the ILEA database. The entrant page will only be seen by ILEA staff and ILEA Esprit Chair. The entrant(s) information tab ensures that each nominee and award recipient's information is listed and pronounced correctly.

Step 1: Complete the Entrant form

- This information should be that of the award entrant(s).
- This information will be that of the potential nominee and recipient.
- To find an ILEA member ID, follow this link: [Find an ILEA Member ID](#) or log into your ILEA profile.

Step 2: Once Your Entry Form is Completed, Click SAVE On the Page

- Single entrants can proceed to the next entry tab.
- For team entries, use the remainder of the fields provided to complete your team members entrant information.

Tab 3 – Physical Award Information

The physical award tab will help ensure your physical award information is correct should you be an award recipient. Individual name and/or company must be listed (you can list **One or Either or Both**).

Step 1: Include Your Preferred Information for Every Entrant Included in Your Entry

- **Preferred Display Name:** This can be the name of the entrant but can display a preferred name (i.e., Jen instead of Jennifer). This field cannot display a company name. It can be chosen to be left blank.
- **Provide Your Designation:** Enter any official industry related designation to go along with the name listed above (i.e., CSEP, CMP, etc.). It is an optional step. This is not for internal company titles.
- **Preferred Company Name:** This can be the name of the company but can display a preferred name (i.e., Hello! Florida instead of Hello! Destination Management). This field cannot display a person's name. It can be chosen to be left blank.
- **Award Engraving:** The entrant's name, company name or both are the only items that can be included on the award engraving.

Step 2: Follow the Directions on the Page to Include Additional Entrant's Information

Helpful Hint: The award engraving portion is small and often overlooked but is very important. This section is not seen by the judges. Make sure everything is written as you would like it transcribed on your award, should you win!

Tab 4 – Entry Overview

The event and entrant information obtained from the Entry Overview tab is for nomination and ILEA Esprit Award recipient purposes only. ILEA Esprit Award judges will not see the entry overview tab as part of their judging content. The Entry Overview page will only be seen by ILEA Staff and ILEA Esprit Chair and can include an entrant's name, company name and logo. You can navigate the rest of the entry at this point, but you will not be able to submit the entry without completing all of the requirements.

Step 1: Complete the General Information

- **Entry Title:** List the event name to appear in promotional materials (Can be repeated from Entry Type tab). *Also provide Phonetic Spelling of Entry Title (clarification on pronunciation of entry title)
- **Client Name:** Will not be listed in promotional materials but used as a reference to ensure no competition rules were broken.
- **Event Start/End Date:** Only events that have occurred between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021 can be submitted into the 2022 ILEA Esprit Awards Competition. The start and end dates can be the same. Verify that you have chosen a 2021 date in the awards system.
- **General Event Overview:** Describe the event and highlight its best features. The event description will be used in ILEA Esprit promotional materials and should be written in third person.

Step 2: Upload Representative Images

- Follow the instructions within the page of the Entry Overview tab to upload two (2) representative images.

- Upload two (2) images that best represent your submission.
- Include descriptions of your photos in 80 words or less.
- These photos are for marketing purposes. They are not included in your entry, do not count against your collateral uploads, and will not be seen by the judges. You can re-upload these photos in your event collateral section.

Step 3: Check the Statement of Entrant(s)

- Check the box provided to verify that the two chosen representative images can be used for Esprit promotional purposes.
- You will not be able to submit your award entry without completing all of the steps on this page.
- Click **SAVE** and continue to the Entry Questions tab.

Helpful Hint: Programs such as Microsoft Word contain backend formatting, so that when text is copy/pasted from Word into systems such as Omni, it increases the character count, even though you cannot see the extra characters. If you would like to draft your entry before entering into Omni, please use **plain text**, in a program such as MS Notepad.

Tab 5 – Entry Questions

To ensure that the competition remains completely anonymous, **NO entrant name, entrant company name or logo, or entrant themselves may appear in your entry on the Entry Questions, Entry Collateral and Entry Budget tabs.** Violating this rule will result in an entry being disqualified. See Help & FAQ page (Disqualification Guide) for further information.

Exceptions:

- If an entrant is an employee of the client's company (i.e., a corporate planner), the entrant is permitted to use their client logo only. No image of the entrant or reference to the entrant as an employee is permitted.
- Best ILEA Event Volunteer Collaboration may mention the ILEA Chapter only, all other rules apply.
- Best Industry Contribution is the only category that all these rules do not apply.

Step 1: Answer Each Question Provided

- **As they are asked within the entry platform.**
- No website links or images are permitted within the entry question tab.
- All questions must include a response in order to submit your entry.
- Follow the directions of each question asked. Make sure you are answering in the correct format and only answering what is asked. (Refer to Entrant Reference Guide)
- Question responses can be written in a word program and copied to the ILEA Esprit system; however, the system automatically truncates once the 3,000/7,500-character limit is reached. Verify that your text responses are complete and correct.

Step 2: Agree to the Entrant Rule

- Check the box to verify you understand the entrant's name, company name and logo rule.
- Entrant names, company names and logos appearing in an entry are the #1 reason entrants are disqualified each year.
- Click **SAVE** and continue to the Entry Collateral tab.

Helpful Hint: Programs such as Microsoft Word contain backend formatting, so that when text is copy/pasted from Word into systems such as Omni, it increases the character count, even though you cannot see the extra characters. If you would like to draft your entry before entering into Omni, please use **plain text**, in a program such as MS Notepad.

The Entry Collateral page is the best way to showcase your event. Use the opportunity to display and highlight your event through images and video. **Reminder: NO Entrant name or images, entrant company name or logo, may appear in any part of the entry collateral tab, including file names or digital files (except for those listed on the previous tab).**

Step 1: Review Image Upload Instructions

- Review the steps on how to upload and describe your collateral.

Step 2: Review the Description of Acceptable Management Collateral Documents

- Management collateral consists of the documents necessary for the pre-planning and production of events. Management collateral supports the event's development, pre-production, and post-production. Examples include: floor plans, timelines, contingency plans, production schedules, insurance riders, renderings, BEOs.
- Event photographs must be uploaded individually, and each is considered one item. A multipage piece such as a timeline or production schedule will each be considered one piece.
- Story boards, collages, and inspiration boards are permitted, but must be limited to one page/piece as it will count as one piece/file. If multiple pages, it will be considered as multiple and reflect against your count of allotted files.

Helpful Hint: When in doubt, it's better to *not* list a company or person's name in any section of the form. And do not forget to check signage and watermarks in your photos to make sure your company isn't listed! As long as you have all **contact information** listed in the required Entrant and Team areas, the ILEA HQ can follow up if they have any questions. These are sections that the judges cannot see.

Step 3: Upload Your Management Collateral Pieces

- In 60 characters, define each upload in collateral description area. (This is a good place to label your collateral to easily identify for reference within your entry. Ex: Management Collateral 1 of MC 1)
- Maximum number of management collateral files: 10.
 - Exceeding the 10 file uploads will result in an entry being disqualified.
- Accepted file types include: .jpg, .jpeg, .bmp, .png, .pdf, .gif, .xlsx.
- Each file may not exceed 20 MB.

Step 4: Review the Description of Acceptable Event Collateral Documents

- Consists of the visuals/collateral/products that are used to create look, feel, and experience. Examples include photographs, invitations, menu cards, nametags and signage.
- Each photo is considered one item. A multipage piece such as a menu or program will each be considered one piece.
- Story boards, collages, and inspiration boards are not permitted in this section.

Step 5: Upload Event Collateral Pieces

- In 60 characters, define each upload in collateral description area. (This is a good place to label your collateral to easily identify for reference within your entry. Ex: Event Collateral 1 of EC 1)
- Maximum number of management collateral files: 20.
 - Exceeding the 20 file uploads will result in an entry being disqualified.
- Accepted file types include: .jpg, .jpeg, .bmp, .png, .pdf, .gif, .xlsx.
- Each file may not exceed 20 MB.

Step 6: Review the Description of Acceptable Multi-media Files

- Multi-media collateral consists of content that captures the essence of the event and helps show the story of the event to the judges.
- Multi-media collateral is only **REQUIRED** for Best Event Videography and Best Technical Production and optional for all other categories.
 - Entrants not submitting in the Best Event Videography or Best Technical Production categories continue to Step 7 below for multi-media instructions.
 - Best Event Videography and Best Technical Production entrants continue to Step 8 below for multi-media instructions.

Step 7: Upload Multi-media Collateral (optional)

- In 2,100 characters or less, define your multi-media collateral in the description area.
- Collateral must be uploaded as a video file.
 - Accepted file types include: mov, wmv, wma, mp3, mp4
- Pictures can be incorporated into video, but the video cannot be a slideshow of only images, except for Best Photography Category. If pictures only (other than previously stated category) it may lead to Disqualification.
- Limit 1 video, no longer than 5-minute video file per entry.
- File may not exceed 250 MB.

Step 8: Best Event Videography and Best Technical Production – Upload Multi-media Collateral

- In 2,100 characters or less, define your multi-media collateral in the description area.
- Collateral must be uploaded as a video file.
 - Accepted file types include: mov, wmv, wma, mp3, mp4.
- Uploaded videos from YouTube, Vimeo, Vevo etc. cannot contain entrant names, entrant company names, or logos anywhere on the site, including, website extensions and usernames.
- Limit 1 video, no longer than 10-minute video file per entry.
- File may not exceed 500 MB.

Categories that include a monetary value (i.e., Best Corporate Event over \$100,000 USD) will require a budget. **Reminder: NO Entrant Name, Entrant Company Name, or Logo may appear in the budget tab, including file names or extensions.**

Step 1: Determine If Your Category Requires a Budget

- If your budget page shows the verbiage: THIS CATEGORY DOES NOT REQUIRE A BUDGET. PLEASE SKIP AND CONTINUE TO THE STATEMENT OF ENTRACT(S) TAB, skip this tab and move to the Statement of Entrant(s) tab.
- If your category requires a budget, continue to Step 2.

Step 2: Carefully Review and Identify Your Budget Requirements

- The budget template provided **must** be used. Each budget template has its own set of instructions. Read them carefully.
- All budgets must reflect the RETAIL value in US Dollars.
- A category that covers an entire event from concept to completion (Corporate, Social, Non-Profit, Public, Wedding, and Meeting-Conference) requires a whole event budget. Continue to Step 3 for more budget specific requirements.
- A category that covers an event service or element (Design/Décor or Entertainment) requires a budget for services only. Continue to Step 4 for more budget specific requirements.

Step 3: Budget Requirements for Categories that Encompass Events from Concept to Completion

- Provide the RETAIL value in US Dollars for the ENTIRE event.
- The budget needs to include each event element and every dollar spent.
- Convert donated, sponsored, inventory items, and preferred supplier rates and discounts to the retail market value.
- Failure to disclose the full RETAIL market value for every event element will result in an entry disqualification.

Step 4: Budget Requirements for Categories that Offer an Event Element or Service that Supports the Event

- Provide the RETAIL value in US Dollars for the products or services identified in your category.
- Convert donated, sponsored, inventory items, preferred supplier rates and discounts to the retail market value.
- Failure to disclose the RETAIL market value for the products and/or services identified in your category will result in an entry being disqualification.

Step 5: Download and Complete the Budget with the Budget Template Provided

- Follow the directions online to download, complete, save, and upload your budget.
- When saving a budget, verify that the file name does not include any entrant details.
- Verify that the correct budget file is uploaded.
- Click **SAVE**.

The statement of entrants ensures that each entrant understands and complies with the rules of the competition.

Step 1: Carefully Review Each Statement

- Check the box associated with each statement to acknowledge the rules of the competition.

Step 2: Review Entry and Alternative Submit Options

- Review each entry tab and verify that collateral is uploaded correctly, entrant information is complete, and responses to questions are accurate.
- To confirm every entry requirement is met, navigate to the top menu **View/Edit Entries** tab. Find your entry and select the incomplete status. Any entry requirements not met will be listed.
- It is suggested to have someone else, such as a work colleague, review your entry.

Step 3: Review Alternative Submit Entry Options

- Entrants can submit completed entries at any time before the deadlines.
- To finish entries in the future, click SAVE and exit the competition. When logged back in, click on the top menu **View/Edit Entries** tab to return to your entry.
- Once the entry is paid for, it is submitted and can no longer be edited.

Step 4: Instructions to Submit Your Entry

- **SAVE** your entry.
- Navigate to the top menu **View/Edit Entries** tab.
- Follow the instructions to submit an award entry.

The **View/Edit Entries** tab is intended to help you manage your entries. You can begin multiple entries, save and return to finish or edit entries, pay for completed entries (one at a time) or pay for multiple entries all together.

Step 1: Review Your Entry One Final Time

- Once on the **View/Edit Entries** tab, click on the **“Incomplete”** status next to your entry.
- By clicking on the **“Incomplete”** status, entrants will be redirected to an entry checklist which displays any unmet requirements. Click on the links associated with any entry requirement not met. Complete any unmet requirements.
- Only when the entry checklist page displays the message **“Payment Requirement Not Met”** is the entry complete and ready to be paid for and submitted.

Step 2: Entry Ready to Submit

- When the entry checklist page only displays the message **“Payment Requirement Not Met”** and the entrant is ready to complete the submission, click on the **Pay Online** (or **Pay by Check**) button.
- When your entry is listed as **“Complete”** (Under Status), you are now ready to **“Submit”** your entry.

Step 3: SUBMIT Entry(s)

- On the **View/Edit Entries** tab, a list of all your entries will be seen, check the box next to the entries you intend to pay for and submit. Uncheck any boxes that you do not want to pay for/submit.
- Pay by credit card or follow instructions to make payment via check.
 - To pay for an entry(s) via credit card continue to Step 1.
 - To pay for entry(s) via check continue to Step 2.

Payment Options

The **Pay Online** or **Pay by Check** buttons:

Step 1: Preferred Option- Pay Entry Fee via Credit Card

- Ensure the correct entries are selected on the invoice list and click on the **PAY Online** button.
- Enter your billing information, confirm that the **Amount Payable** is correct, and input your payment details.
- Select the **PAY NOW** button to complete the transaction and submit your entry.
- Entrants will receive email notifications that payment has been approved and their submission is complete.
- On the top menu **View/Edit Entries** tab, paid entries will display the status **SUBMITTED**.

Step 2: Option- Pay Entry Fee Via Check

- Check payment submissions must be postmarked **FIVE DAYS BEFORE** the entry deadline(s) – **15 April, 2022** for entries.
- Only one check payment is permitted for team entries.

- Pay by check entries will display an **“Incomplete”** status until payment is received and processed.
- To send a check payment: 1. In the invoice list, check the boxes associated with the entry(s) to be included in the check payment. 2. Print the invoice list (this page). 3. Make checks payable to The International Live Events Association. 4. Mail check payment and invoice list to *ILEA Headquarters, Attn: ILEA Esprit Award Entries, 7918 Jones Brach Drive, Suite 300 McLean, VA 22102 USA*
- After the payment is processed, the entry(s) status will be updated to **SUBMITTED** and the entrant will receive email notifications that payment has been approved and their submission is complete.
- Any unpaid or late entries will be omitted from the competition.

Helpful Hint: Mailed checks can take up to 3 weeks to process. If you are submitting payment any time after March, paying online is a better option in order to meet the entry deadline.

Entry Submission Follow-up

Step 1: Return to the Top Menu View/Edit Entries Tab

- Verify that all paid entry(s) display the status, **SUBMITTED**.
- Save a copy of your entry by clicking on the **Print** field in your entry list.
- Entrants can delete any incomplete or unwanted entry(s) by clicking on the **Delete** field.
- Paid entries can only be printed and not edited.

###