

Building Brilliance: Tech, Talent, Tenacity

Building Brilliance Youth Tech Award

BYOC Student Awards - Nomination Process

Celebrating Youth Who Embody Tech, Talent & Tenacity — the Spirit of Building Brilliance

Award Purpose The Margie Day Building Brilliance **Award** honors young innovators whose creativity, courage, and community impact reflect both the legacy of Margie Day — the Norfolk-born R&B pioneer, ministry leader, and founder of **Centerstage**, a youth empowerment and performance program. And the mission of **Building Brilliance: Tech, Talent & Tenacity**.

This award recognizes students who use technology to solve problems, express identity, uplift their communities, and demonstrate the persistence required to thrive in school, work, and life.

Why Margie Day?

Margie Day (Margaret Hoffler) rose from Norfolk, VA to national acclaim as one of the most powerful R&B voices of the 1950s. After her music career, she devoted herself to **ministry, youth empowerment, and community encouragement**, ultimately creating **Centerstage**, a program designed to help young people discover their gifts, build confidence, and shine.

Her life embodied:

- **Tech** — mastering the recording and production technologies of her era
- **Talent** — a signature voice that shaped early American rhythm & blues
- **Tenacity** — pushing through industry barriers, gender bias, and health challenges
- **Community & Ministry** — lifting others through faith, compassion, and service
- **Youth Empowerment (Centerstage)** — creating spaces for young people to grow, perform, and find their voice

Her legacy mirrors the Building Brilliance belief that **creativity + courage + service + youth empowerment = lasting impact**.

Award:

This is the **capstone honor** within the **Building Brilliance: Tech, Talent & Tenacity** framework, recognizing students who embody:

- **Tech** — innovation, problem-solving, digital creativity
- **Talent** — academic and technical or leadership excellence
- **Tenacity** — resilience, persistence, and growth

Tech

Students demonstrate innovation through coding, AI, robotics, digital art, app-building, or any technology that solves problems or expresses creativity.

Talent

Students show academic, technical, or leadership talent — whether through design, storytelling, engineering, technology (including technology art), or community-centered digital projects.

Tenacity

Students exhibit resilience, growth, and determination. They persist through challenges, iterate on their ideas, and show leadership in their cohort or community.

This award becomes the **capstone honor** for youth who embody the full Building Brilliance model: **Technical Skills, Academics, Financial Literacy, Professional Development, Personal Development, and Wellness.**

Award Criteria

Nominees should excel in at least the first three areas:

- 1) **Creative Innovation (Tech)** Using technology to build, design, solve, or create.
- 2) **Skill & Expression (Talent)** Demonstrating academics and artistic, technical, or leadership excellence.
- 3) **Resilience & Leadership (Tenacity)** Showing courage, persistence, and initiative.
- 4) ***Community Impact** Projects that uplift peers, neighborhoods, or families (optional).
- 5) ***Holistic Growth** Evidence of progress across Building Brilliance's additional pillars including: Financial Literacy, Professional Development, Personal Development, and Wellness

*optional - Nominees that excel in #4 and/or #5 get bonus points

Who This Award Is For

- Middle-school, high-school and young adults under 25 across Greater Cincinnati
- Students in tech - AI, app-building, robotics, coding, multimedia, or music tech
- Young people who show **heart, originality, and impact**, not just technical skill

Award Components

- Certificate or trophy featuring Margie Day's name
- Spotlight in the Building Brilliance Youth Tech Showcase
- Feature on Social Media and other BYOC marketing initiatives
- 1 week scholarship to a BYOC class – middle and high school youth

WHAT MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS RECEIVE

1. Scholarship or Education Stipends

BYOC scholarship: 1 week scholarship to a BYOC class

**** 2. Building Brilliance Trophy**

**** 3. Spotlight & Recognition Opportunities**

- Social media feature
- Website spotlight
- Award ceremony recognition
- BYOC showcase display
- Photo shoot + highlight reel

**** 4. Leadership Opportunities**

- Serve as Building Brilliance Youth Leader
- Lead workshops/Mentor in tech or talent areas for younger students
- Join BYOC youth advisory council
- Help design next year's projects

**** 5. Exclusive Experiences**

- VIP access to events
- Invite to go to Silicon Valley or other tech trips with BYOC

6. Personal Growth Packages

- Journaling kits
- Goal-setting planner

**** WHAT YOUNG ADULT AWARD WINNERS RECEIVE**

Building Brilliance: Tech, Talent, Tenacity

Building Brilliance Community Impact Award

Business Award - Nomination Process

Honoring Small Companies That Build Brilliance Through Innovation, Service & Community

The spirit of **Building Brilliance** through — **Tech, Talent, and Tenacity** as it applies to **small businesses** doing meaningful work for the community.

Award Purpose

To honor a **small company** whose innovation, leadership, and community uplift reflect the legacy of **Margie Day** — the Norfolk-born R&B pioneer, ministry leader, and founder of Centerstage — and align with BYOC's mission to empower youth through **Tech, Talent & Tenacity**.

This award recognizes companies that:

- Build tech solutions that strengthen communities
- Demonstrate resilience and creativity
- Lift neighborhoods through services

Why Name It After Margie Day?

Margie Day's life embodied:

- **Creativity**
- **Courage**
- **Service**
- **Youth empowerment**
- **Community uplift**

By naming the award after her, BYOC honors companies that carry forward her spirit — not just through music, but through **technology that uplifts people**.

This makes the award **deeply personal, culturally meaningful, and mission-aligned**.

Who Qualifies

A **small company** (<50 employees) that:

- Builds tech solutions with community impact
- Demonstrates resilience and innovation
- Engages in service or neighborhood uplift
- Aligns with Building Brilliance values

Award Criteria

Nominees must excel in the following:

- **Tech Innovation** Solutions that improve community life, access, safety, education, health, or opportunity.
- **Tenacity** Solving hard problems, iterating quickly, and demonstrating resilience.
- **Community Lift** Service and Compassion

WHAT the BUSINESS WINNER RECEIVES

1. Trophy – Building Brilliance Trophy

2. Spotlight & Recognition Opportunities

- Social media feature
- Website spotlight
- Award ceremony recognition
- BYOC showcase display
- Photo shoot

3. Leadership Opportunities

- Serve as a Building Brilliance Leader
- Lead workshops/Mentor in tech or talent areas for youth
- Join BYOC Advisory council
- Help design next year's projects

4. Exclusive Experiences

- VIP access to events
- Invite to participate in BYOC events and activities