1954 Project Luminary Award Selection Launch

Informational Webinar: Wednesday September 1st, noon (CST) to share more about The 1954 Project and to provide details about what it means to be a Luminary as well as answer your questions. You can register for the webinar HERE.

Do you know an outstanding leader or organization that might be a good fit for 1954? Please let us know here - https://forms.gle/qP5jXobeRMj8BtEa8

Interested in applying to become a part of our 2022 Luminary class? You can complete the application here beginning on August 5th - applications.1954project.org/en. The last day to apply will be September 20th.

Please see our frequently asked questions below, and feel free to reach out with any additional questions to The1954Project@thecafe.org

1954 FAQs

How much are 1954 gifts?

This year we were able to award 5 Luminaries $1M over 3 years. Next year we hope to continue to award similar transformational gifts.
What are the three grantmaking areas?
Economic Mobility
Diversity in Education
Innovation in Teaching and Learning

Are all Luminaries Black leaders?
Yes. Our focus is on Black leaders and we value all leaders working for educational equity and justice. We come together as a wide and inclusive community and stand together with all our allies.

How do I complete an application?
Go to: https://applications.1954project.org

How long is the application process?
The application will take about an hour to complete.

When would I find out if I am a Luminary?
We will contact finalists in February to let them know if they are a Luminary.

If I apply this year and don’t become a Luminary or Finalist, can I apply again?
Yes, if you are not selected to be either you may apply again. If you are selected to be a Finalist but not a Luminary, we ask that you wait one year before applying again.

What is the selection process timeline?
August 5 - September 20: Application open
Through October 8: Initial Review of Application
Through November 1: Full Review of Application
Before November 24: Finalists contacted

Selection Details:
1954 will fund organizations using a fiscal sponsor to carry out its work. However the holding organization must be a 501c3.

1954 will fund leaders of regional offices in national organizations or national offices of international organizations.

1954 will NOT fund leaders of programs or divisions within an organization.
1954 focuses on students farthest from opportunity as indicated by relevant data (e.g. free reduced price lunch, social vulnerability index, etc).

Part of being a 1954 Finalist and Luminary is participation in a community of diverse education leaders to learn and grow together and to be part of changing the way philanthropy relates to Black education leaders. The community will be dynamic and designed with leader input. 1954 will draw on your time and talents. The community will ask of you and give to you based on our mutual interest in lifting up Black leaders.

By submitting an application, you are stating your intention to be part of the 1954 community if awarded.