



PRESS RELEASE

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Rising Star Awards Shining a spotlight on the female talent pipeline across the UK

20 leading organisations rally behind WeAreTheCity to find the UK's future female leaders

Over the past three years WeAreTheCity has unveiled some of the country's most talented women through their annual Rising Star awards. Previous awards have played a vital part in highlighting female talent across the country. Our past winners have gone on to achieve press and media attention, promotions from their organisations, MBE's, BEM's and industry recognition for their work. In 2018, these highly successful awards will once again celebrate 100 individual female contributors who represent industry leaders and role models of the future.

Given the increasing focus of women in the workplace, WeAreTheCity are more determined than ever to shine a spotlight on female talent and encourage companies to invest in their women by creating environments which enable them to thrive within their organisations. Founded in 2015, the objective of the awards was to highlight the achievements of 500 women by 2018, we are set to exceed that target by August. Founder, Vanessa Vallely, still believes that there is much work to be done if we are to see women progress in to their rightful positions as senior decision makers and influencers. WeAreTheCity has since extended its Rising Star target to highlight the achievements of 1000 women by 2022.

Vanessa Vallely, Founder and CEO of WeAreTheCity said, *"I am very excited to open 2018 nominations for our fourth Rising Star awards. It is fantastic to be working with The Times and The Sunday Times for the second year running, and to once again be working with a variety of companies who are actively supporting the gender agenda. With their help over the past three years, we have shone a spotlight on 350 amazing women alongside a number of senior gender champions who are passionate about equality.*

This year we will recognise the achievements of a further 100 future female leaders across a multitude of industries within the UK. We know that highlighting the achievements of these women, leads to action and opportunities. Over 25 per cent of our previous winners have since been promoted or taken on additional responsibilities since winning the Rising Star awards. It is going to be a great year for our next cohort of Rising Stars and I am excited to see all the nominations coming through."

The 2018 awards are headline sponsored by **The Times and The Sunday Times**. Category sponsors include an array of leading FTSE 100 companies and industry leaders: 3M, Accenture, Aon, Barclays, Bloomberg, CMI, CR-UK, EDIT Development, EEPA, JHPR, Kier, Lloyd's, Lloyds Banking Group, Northern Trust, PedalSure, Royal Navy, Reed Smith, SAGE and Sodexo.

Chris Duncan, Managing Director, Times Newspapers Ltd said, *"It has been a tumultuous year for gender politics across the world, and programs that nurture the next generation of female talent have never been more important. We at The Times and The Sunday Times are delighted to continue to support the Rising Star Awards to recognise the tremendous work being done by the next generation of leaders across British industry."*

WeAreTheCity awards also includes a Company of the Year award, which recognises the achievements of a company who can demonstrate that they are actively supporting and developing their female talent pipeline through initiatives, training, development programmes and/or internal employee relations groups.

The awards are once again looking for Rising Star Champions, which acknowledges the efforts of both male and female senior leaders, who are supporting the pipeline outside of their corporate responsibilities.

Recognising that careers for women may follow different timescales, the Rising Star awards do not have any age restrictions. WeAreTheCity feels it has a responsibility to ensure that female talent, regardless of age and background, receives the necessary support to transition into key decision-making roles within our organisations.

Nominations open via RisingStars.WeAreTheCity.com on 01 Feb.

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

Awards Categories

- Rising Stars in Banking & Capital Markets, sponsored by Lloyd's Banking Group
- Rising Stars in Charity, sponsored by Cancer Research UK
- Rising Stars in Consulting, sponsor TBC
- Rising Stars in Defence, sponsored by Royal Navy
- Rising Stars in Digital, sponsored by Barclays
- Rising Stars in Diversity, sponsored by Aon
- Rising Stars EA & PA, sponsored by Executive and Personal Assistants Association (EPAA)
- Rising Stars in Education & Academia, sponsored by EDIT Development
- Rising Stars in Entrepreneurs & Startups, sponsored by SAGE
- Rising Stars in Facilities, Property & Construction, sponsored by Kier
- Rising Stars in Healthcare, sponsored by Sodexo
- Rising Stars in HR and Recruitment, Sponsor TBC
- Rising Stars in Insurance, sponsored by Lloyd's
- Rising Stars in Investment Management, sponsored by Northern Trust
- Rising Stars in Law (The Lynne Freeman Award), sponsored by Reed Smith
- Rising Stars in Media & Journalism, sponsor TBC
- Rising Stars in PR, Communications & Marketing, sponsored Jessica Huie
- Rising Stars in Science and Engineering, sponsored by 3M
- Rising Stars in Sport, sponsored by PedalSure
- Rising Stars in Technology, sponsored by Accenture
- Rising Stars Champions, sponsored by CMI
- Rising Stars Company of the Year Award, sponsor TBC

The awards are also supported by Bloomberg who will host the shortlist winner's celebrations in June 2018.

Awards Timeline

- **Nominations open:** 01 Feb 18
- **Nominations close:** 23 Mar 18
- **First round Judging period:** 09 – 27 Apr 18
- **Shortlist announced and public vote*:** 14 May 18
- **Finalist judging period:** 14 May – 08 Jun 18
- **Shortlist celebration event:** 06 Jun 18
- **Public voting closes:** 08 Jun 18
- **Winners announced:** 18 Jun 18
- **Winners event:** TBC - Jul 18

For further information including detailed entry criteria and what defines a Rising Star, please visit <http://risingstars.wearethecity.com/> or email Info@wearethecity.com

Media partners: The Times, The Sunday Times, Voice Newspapers

Places will be available to our two celebration events for Journalists wishing to cover the awards.

About WeAreTheCity

WeAreTheCity, founded in 2008 is a female development company that serves both working women in terms of resources and corporates in relation to developing, attracting and retaining female talent.

We provide:

- Career related content to inspire and motivate our members, 8000+ articles
- Connections to 315 female networks who support women in their personal/ professional progression
- A calendar of female-orientated events and conferences where our members can enhance their networks and grow their skills
- The latest knowledge and information on women in the workplace e.g. research reports, business schools, female development programs and returnships
- **WeAreTechnology:** a dedicated area for female technologists (events, news, networks). Also includes our annual conference, WeAreTechWomen and TechWomen50 awards
- Features on key charities, public appointments, boards, social enterprises and schools where our members can give back to their local communities
- **Careers Club:** Online learning plus four networking events, membership is via personal or corporate subscription
- **WeAreTheCityJobs:** Job board that provides visibility of jobs from firms who are seeking to improve their gender balance
- **Rising Star Awards:** Highlighting female talent below director level across the UK
- **Gender Networks:** A forum for internal women's network leaders to share best practice and collaborate
- **WeAreFutureLeaders:** Annual skills conference for women seeking leadership skills and future promotions.

WeAreTheCity in numbers:

- ❖ Founded in 2008
- ❖ 100+ corporate partners
- ❖ 120,000 UK members
- ❖ <10,000 Alexa ranked UK website
- ❖ 8,000 career related articles
- ❖ Promotion of over 315 women's networks
- ❖ Access to 40,000 women through our social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn)

- ❖ 85+ events run/co-partnered
- ❖ 3 awards for services to gender