

DETROIT

NATIVE SUN

Grammy award winning rap icon NAS to receive the BMI ICON Award at the 2026 BMI R&B/Hip Hop Awards

Hip Hop Hall of Fame Awards TV show celebrates 30th anniversary with year of event and 2027 return

PRNewswire/ -- BMI announced that GRAMMY-award winning rap icon Nas will receive the BMI Icon Award at the 2026 BMI R&B/Hip-Hop Awards on Wednesday, August 26 in Los Angeles, CA. Nas will be honored in recognition of his prolific songwriting and immeasurable influence on hip-hop and beyond. The private event will be hosted by BMI CEO Mike O'Neill, Executive Vice President, Chief Revenue & Creative Officer Mike Steinberg and Vice President, Creative, Atlanta, Catherine Brewton.

Throughout the evening, BMI will also salute the songwriters, producers and music publishers of the past year's 35 most-performed R&B/Hip-Hop songs from BMI's repertoire of more than 25 million musical works. The BMI R&B/Hip-Hop Songwriter, Song, Producer, and Publisher of the Year and Top Producers will also be named during the ceremony.

"Nas has both defined and elevated hip-hop through his groundbreaking storytelling, lyrical excellence and a lasting commitment to artistic innovation," said Brewton. "From his earliest works to the music mogul that he is today, Nas is a true icon whose legacy continues to inspire artists, influence culture and shape the sound of hip-hop for generations." She added, "We are also looking forward to honoring all this year's award-winning songwriters, producers, and publishers. It's going to be a night to remember."

Widely regarded as one of the greatest rappers of all time, Nas (born Nasir Jones) has built a three-decade long career defined by ingenuity, authenticity, and an unwavering commitment to the art of songwriting. His critically acclaimed 1994 debut album, *Illmatic*, is often considered one of the greatest hip-hop albums ever recorded, redefining East Coast rap through its vivid storytelling and intricate

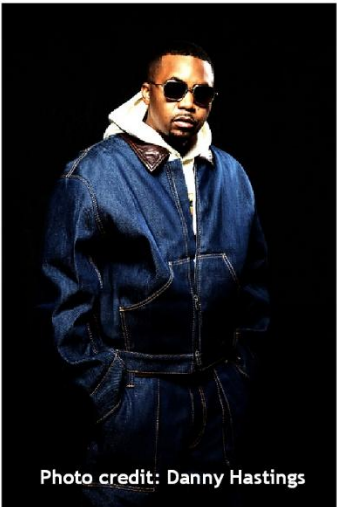


Photo credit: Danny Hastings

lyricism. Since then, Nas has released 17 studio albums, earned multiple platinum certifications and sold more than 35 million records worldwide. Revered as the "King of New York," his influence on hip-hop is immeasurable. By raising the bar for lyrical complexity and setting the gold standard for storytelling in rap, Nas has inspired generations of artists, with many of the genre's biggest names citing him as a foundational influence.

Beyond music, Nas has established himself as one of hip-hop's most accomplished entrepreneurs and investors. Through his venture capital firm, QueensBridge Venture Partners, he made early investments in some of the world's most successful technology companies, including Coinbase, Lyft, Dropbox, Ring, Robinhood, and Pluto TV. He is also a co-owner of Mass Appeal, the award-winning media company and record label that has evolved into a leading force in music, film, television, publishing, and live experiences, helping shape and preserve hip-hop culture on a global scale.

Throughout his career, Nas has received 17 GRAMMY Award nominations, winning his first GRAMMY in 2021 for *King's Disease*, which was named Best Rap Album. His work has also garnered accolades from the BET Hip Hop Awards, MTV Video Music Awards, Soul Train Awards, and more, reflecting both his commercial success and critical acclaim. In recognition of its lasting cultural impact, *Illmatic* was inducted into the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry for its cultural, historical, and aesthetic significance in 2021.

PRNewswire/ -- The Hip Hop Hall of Fame (HipHopHoF) proudly announces the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Hip Hop Hall of Fame Awards TV Show, the pioneering television event that aired nationally on BET during the 1990s and helped establish the first major awards and induction platform dedicated to honoring the creators, pioneers, legends, and innovators of Hip Hop culture.

Created and Executive Produced by Sir JT Thompson in association with Juanita "Dove" Williams of Dove Entertainment, the Hip Hop Hall of Fame Awards became a historic platform recognizing the artists, DJs, executives, entrepreneurs, and cultural leaders who transformed Hip Hop from a local movement into a global cultural and economic force.

The year-long 30th Anniversary Celebration will include the return of the Hip Hop Legends & Icons Awards Series, educational initiatives, community programs, memorabilia releases, digital experiences, and branded events leading to the highly anticipated return of the Hip Hop Hall of Fame Awards Induction Ceremony & Concert in 2027.

As part of the celebration, the organization will release a series of limited-edition 30th Anniversary collectibles and tokenized photos honoring some of Hip Hop's most influential Hall of Fame inductees, including DJ Kool Herc, Run-DMC & Jam Master Jay, Grandmaster Flash, and DJ Red Alert. These digital collectibles will become part of the Hall's broader mission to preserve and celebrate Hip Hop history through innovative technology and archival initiatives.

The Hip Hop Hall of Fame will also launch a new digital Hip Hop Hall of Fame Web Portal later this year designed to connect fans, artists, educators, industry professionals, and cultural institutions through content, streaming media, events, gaming, educational resources, membership services, merchandise, and future digital experiences. The platform will serve as the central hub for the organization's growing global ecosystem and community engagement initiatives.

The organization will also relaunch its acclaimed Hip Hop Legends & Icons Awards Series, in November 2026 recognizing outstanding contributions to Hip Hop music, DJ culture, dance, graffiti, fashion, media, sports, education, film, television, business, and community leadership. The regional and national events will celebrate the architects of Hip Hop culture while building momentum toward the return of the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. This event series will be sponsored by Municipal Data & Power who will actively

look for next generation skilled employees.

The centerpiece of the anniversary campaign will be the return of the Hip Hop Hall of Fame Awards TV Show - Induction Ceremony & Concert in 2027. Often imitated but never duplicated, this historic event returns to honor the pioneers and innovators who have shaped Hip Hop's history while introducing a new generation to the culture's enduring impact on music, fashion, entertainment, technology, business, and society from the 1970s to the 2000s.

Looking toward the future, the organization is developing several major initiatives designed to expand the Hip Hop Hall of Fame brand into a global multimedia and experiential platform.

The organization is also developing the Hip Hop Hall of Fame Time Capsule Metaverse & Gaming Platform, an immersive educational and entertainment environment scheduled for future launch in partnership with technology and creative collaborators. The initiative will combine interactive exhibits, gaming experiences, virtual events, digital collectibles, and historical storytelling to engage audiences worldwide. The organization is actively seeking technology partners, designers, developers, and experiential firms interested in participating.

Additional expansion plans include the launch of the Hip Hop Hall of Fame Café & Gallery Studios, a new entertainment, dining, exhibition, and content creation concept planned for Harlem and Atlanta in 2027. These destinations will combine food, culture, sports viewing, memorabilia exhibits, educational programming, live entertainment, retail, and media production under one immersive brand experience.

The Hip Hop Hall of Fame also plans to announce details later this year regarding its proposed Hip Hop Hall of Fame Museum, Hotel & Residential Entertainment Complex, slated for its Penn Station site that will be a transformative cultural destination targeted for development by 2029-2030.

The Hip Hop Hall of Fame's exhibitions, programs, and entertainment experiences are designed to serve a diverse global audience, including Hip Hop fans, students, educators, tourists, cultural institutions, families, and professionals across the music, film, television, fashion, sports, technology, and creative industries. All of the co-branded multimedia divisions are in partnership with Hip Hop Global Media & Entertainment the creator and production collaborative.



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