



NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NPL HONORS MAYOR FREDDIE O'CONNELL WITH NECAT COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARD

*Public Access TV Network provides free local programming
in 19 Middle Tennessee counties*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Nashville Public Library honored some of Nashville's best creators and their biggest fans—including Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell—at the Best of NECAT Awards on Oct. 2.

The [NECAT](#) public access network (Nashville Education, Community and Arts Television) is part of NPL and brings local programming to more than 161,000 households in Davidson County and online.

"We all know that a city with a great library is a great city. And a city with a great Mayor, who loves and supports the library, is definitely a great city," NPL Director Terri Luke said. "Mayor Freddie O'Connell has gone above and beyond in his support for NECAT. In fact, he met with NPL and NECAT staff on his very first day in office, and he has continued to elevate NECAT, on camera and behind the scenes, ever since."

Luke presented Mayor O'Connell with the NECAT Community Advocate Award in recognition of his longtime support for NECAT as an accessible creative platform for all Nashvillians.

Thanks to Metro's investments, local television producers have created 740 hours' worth of programming, and local podcasters have recorded 230 hours' worth of content at NECAT's studios so far this year.

"Nashville Education, Community, and Arts Television has given generations of creative Nashvillians a place to share that creativity and uplift community voices," said Mayor O'Connell. "I'm honored by the recognition, but it's really just my celebrating this unique outlet and the people who make it special. Metro's commitment to NECAT is just another commitment to what makes Nashville a unique and welcoming place."

Meanwhile, nearly 200 Nashvillians have taken one of [NECAT's classes](#), which cover everything from green screens and lighting to audio engineering and editing.

2025 Best of NECAT honorees:

- Community Advocate - Mayor Freddie O'Connell
- Studio Productions - Dan Meredith
- Podcast Productions - Taylor Berryman
- Equipment Checkouts - David Nin (Nashville State Student - David Edgington presenting)
- Editing Sessions - Beth Gwinn
- Episodes Submitted - Bishop Paul Jones
- Largest Crew - Cameo Bobo
- Volunteer Hours - Nate Hoffman
- Referrals - Taffiney Williams & Walter Lewis
- Largest Audience - Donnie Clark
- NECAT Shows Directed - Bam Ealey

About NECAT

NECAT was formed in 2010 and has been under the governance of the Nashville Public Library since 2022. NECAT is home to Music City Arts, iQtv, and Access Nashville on Comcast cable in Davidson County, and AT&T U-verse channel 99 in 19 middle Tennessee counties.

About Nashville Public Library

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from — plus great programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy,

STEAM, ESL and other key skills — NPL is Nashville's gateway to some of the best resources our city has to offer. Every year, across our 21-location system, thousands of visitors discover how our library lives up to our philosophy: at NPL, books are only half the story.

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