The purpose of the Women and Engaged Buddhism Award of the Buddhist Council of the Midwest is to recognize and encourage Engaged Buddhism initiatives by women. These are the guidelines and factors the judges will weigh when considering applications.

I. Recipient Eligibility
This award is the Women and Engaged Buddhism Award; therefore the recipients must be Buddhist women or an organization sponsoring a social change project by Buddhist women.

A. The recipients may be Buddhist Women, Buddhist organizations, or non-Buddhist organizations working with Buddhist women.
   1. An individual Buddhist Woman or Buddhist Women’s Organization.
   2. A mixed gender Buddhist Organization in which women play a key role or make up the majority of project participants: a) the initiator is a woman (or women). b) The majority of project volunteers or workers are women. c) The project is managed or supervised by a woman/women.
   3. A non-Buddhist organization with a social change project in which Buddhist women play a key role or make up the majority of participants: a) the initiator is a Buddhist woman (or women). b) The majority of project volunteers or workers are Buddhist women. c) The project is managed or supervised by a Buddhist woman/women.

B. The project exemplifies Engage Buddhism as Compassion in Action. (Dhamma Moli Example: Building a convent for Buddhist Nuns is dana (generosity), but not Engaged Buddhism. Building housing for nuns who are actively educating the Nepali population on the ills of human trafficking and shelter for girls at risk of falling prey to human traffickers is doubly exemplary.)

C. The Engaged Buddhism project arises out of the recipient’s practice of Buddhism and Buddhist values such as peace, compassion, and the six perfections in an active effort relieve the suffering of others that manifests as social amelioration.

D. The award is given to recognize and encourage initiatives in Engaged Buddhism by women. The dana grant is intended to nurture young or little known projects that are underway at the time of application.

II. Beneficiaries
The Engaged Buddhist initiative or project is to benefit sentient beings. In addition to addressing human needs or social concerns, beneficiaries of the project may be animals or ecological systems.

III. Exclusions
The project may include social change and social justice endeavors, however government officials, political candidates and political parties are excluded from being a) the recipient of the award or b) the beneficiaries of the project.
IV. ACCOUNTABILITY

The applicant must provide reasonable forms of transparency and/or accountability to insure that the money will be put to the uses as stated on the application.

A. Individuals.
We strongly encourage individuals to partner with not-for profit agencies. Individual applications must provide proof of one of following:
1. A detailed plan, budget and follow-up accounting with the Buddhist Council of the Midwest Dana Committee as to disposition of the award.
2. If they are working as individuals under the auspices of a Buddhist organization or NGO, such applicants will be considered by the criteria applicable to that organization.
3. If the individual applicant is a renunciate (ordained priest, nun, novice, or ma chee) living under vinaya, residing alone or in community, and is accountable to a greater Sangha, such applicant will be considered as applying under the auspices of a religious organizations (II.B.3).

B. Organizations
Must provide proof of one of the following:
1. Recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit religious organization or charity.
2. Incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in one of the 50 US states as a religious or charitable organization.
3. A Buddhist religious organization in the USA or abroad.
4. A recognized foreign NGO with accreditation equivalent to 501(c)(3) in its country of origin.
5. A organization working under the umbrella of a larger USA 501(c)(3) organization that does due diligence such as the Tides Foundation.

V. PRESENTATION

The Women and Engaged Buddhism Award is presented by the Buddhist Council of the Midwest at their annual Buddhist Women’s Conference.
A. The recipient or their representative may be asked to travel to the conference to accept the award and present a talk on their project or Engaged Buddhism.
B. Council cannot make an award that has not been approved or recommended by that year’s Conference Dana committee.
C. Conference Dana committee is appointed by the BCM and shall be made up of 3 to 5 people.
D. The monetary grant presented with the award is $1,000 guaranteed by the BCM and may increase based on the success, attendance and dana of the conference participants. The grant can never be less than the dana given by the conference participants (less the amount applied to the scholarship programs), in that same conference year.

VI. DEADLINES

The BCM will begin accepting applications at 12:01 am, October 15, 2007. The applications deadline is midnight December 15, 2007.
Application for the 2008 award must be Postmarked by December 15, 2007.

a. Applications may be mailed to
   Mail to: Women and Engaged Buddhism Award
   Buddhist Council of the Midwest
   PO Box 5832
   Evanston, IL 60204 – 5832

b. Electronic Applications must be E-mail stamped before 23:59 US Central Time on December 15, 2007.
   Mail to: womenbcm@yahoo.com