

Starts With Us Builders' Original *Radical Heroes* Videos Nominated for Webby Award for Best Video Series in Public Service and Activism

Fans Can Vote Online Until April 18 to Help Radical Heroes Win Internet's Top Honor

New York, NY — April 12, 2024 — [Starts With Us Builders](#), a nonpartisan organization equipping people to overcome extremist thinking and toxic polarization to solve our toughest problems, announced that its series [Radical Heroes](#) **has been nominated for Best Video Series in Public Service and Activism** in the 28th Annual Webby Awards. Hailed as the “internet’s highest honor” by *The New York Times*, The Webby Awards, presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS), is the leading international awards organization honoring excellence on the Internet.

As Americans [grow tired](#) of the toxic polarization dividing us and seek out ways to chart a more constructive path forward, *Radical Heroes* shines a light on leaders who exemplify the transformative power of what Starts With Us Builders has coined the 3Cs — curiosity, compassion, and courage — to empower all people to think more flexibly and work together to get problems solved. The series features stories of transformation that include:

- [Alice Marie Johnson](#): A former federal prisoner who was granted clemency by then-President Donald Trump in 2018, Alice details how her life experiences have empowered her to lead with compassion, fight for criminal justice reform, and humanize the women and men who are still incarcerated. By treating people with respect, she believes we will find the humanity in one another to solve problems together.
- [Tony McAleer](#): A former white supremacist, Tony details his journey from violent extremism to radical compassion. He now helps others leave hate groups and find genuine connection to humanity through vulnerability and compassion.
- [Leon Ford](#): Tragically and mistakenly shot by the police in 2012, Leon shares his life-changing journey of leveraging his painful experience to foster understanding and collaboration between public safety officials and communities. He reminds people of the importance of building relationships and respect for one another regardless of differing opinions.

“Nominees like *Radical Heroes* are setting the standard for innovation and creativity on the Internet,” said Nick Borenstein, General Manager of The Webby Awards. “It is an incredible achievement to be selected among the best from the nearly 13,000 entries we received this year.”

“People are growing hungry for stories that connect us rather than divide us,” says Amelia D’Entrone, Head of Content at Starts With Us Builders. “This nomination gives a voice to a growing movement of Builders across the globe who reject violent absolutism and dehumanization and are ready to take action to solve problems together.”

IADAS, which nominates and selects The Webby Award Winners, is comprised of internet industry leaders from Google, Hello Sunshine, Duolingo, Meta, PepsiCo, Rare Beauty, Web3 and Metaverse, LinkedIn, and more.

As a nominee, *Radical Heroes* is also eligible to win a Webby People's Voice Award, which is voted for online by fans across the globe. **From now until April 18, *Radical Heroes* fans can cast their votes at vote.webbyawards.com.** Winners will be announced on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

About Starts With Us Builders

[Starts With Us Builders](#) is a national, nonpartisan movement equipping Americans to overcome toxic polarization and extremist thinking to solve our toughest problems. We do this by illuminating the causes and effects of toxic polarization, demonstrating the power of citizens working together across lines of difference, and activating Americans from all walks of life with the skills to become more effective problem solvers. In addition to more than 3 million followers, Starts With Us Builders is supported by more than 250 ideologically diverse leaders across sectors from business, entertainment, academia, faith, sports, journalism, technology, and national defense. Starts With Us is a project of Builders Network, Inc.

About The Webby Awards

Hailed as the "Internet's highest honor" by *The New York Times*, The Webby Awards is the leading international awards organization honoring excellence on the internet, including websites and mobile sites, video, advertising, media & PR, apps & software, social, podcasts, games, and AI, metaverse, and virtual. Established in 1996, The Webby Awards received nearly 13,000 entries from all 50 states and over 70 countries worldwide this year. The Webby Awards are presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS). Sponsors and Partners of The Webby Awards include WP Engine, LinkedIn, Verizon, YouGov, NAACP, KPMG, Wall Street Journal, Fast Company, Vox Media, The Hustle, Podcast Movement, It's Nice That, Convince & Convert, The Neuron, The Gradient, Last Week in AI, MKT1, Bens Bites, The Tilt, Orangeletter, AIGA, and The Standard Hotel.