

City gives \$140,000 to women-owned firms

The city awarded 16 women-owned small businesses cash grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$30,000, and announced a public awareness campaign aimed at promoting opportunities and services available to women in the city.

The winners of the "NYC Small Business Awards," which were announced by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, received a total of \$140,000 in grant money.

Winners of \$30,000 grants were: Superfine, a DUMBO restaurant and art gallery; Malia Mills, a swimwear design and retail company on the Upper East Side; Manhattan-based Defran Systems, which creates software used by groups working in foster care, child welfare, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

Winners of \$10,000 grants were: Bedford-Stuyvesant-based New Bein' Enterprises, which creates hair care products and jewelry for African-American hairstyles, and hosts self-esteem workshops; Bronx-based New Designs for Life Inc., which trains employees on entrepreneurship; and Manhattan-based Jazz Women Inc., run by Kit McClure of the Kit McClure Band, which helps women forge musical careers.

Winners of smaller awards were: Alice's Tea Cup, Core Pilates NYC Inc., Eugenia Kim Inc., Majestic Vending & Services Inc., Naturally Delicious, One Girl Cookies, Quist Industries Ltd., SMARTi Solutions, Lela Rose, and Unique Comp Inc.

The contest was organized by the city's Department of Small Business Services, and the city's Commission on Women's Issues, which marks its 30th anniversary this month.
