



Photograph courtesy of Frank Stitt

The [James Beard Foundation](#) announced earlier this evening that [Daniel](#) in New York City has been awarded the [2010 James Beard Awards](#) for Outstanding Restaurant.

[Highlands Bar & Grill](#) in Birmingham's Five Points South neighborhood had been named a finalist for the prestigious award presented during the awards ceremony at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City.

It is the second time in three years that [Frank Stitt](#)'s restaurant had been honored with a finalist nomination. The other time was in 2008.

Stitt himself was named Best Chef, Southeast by the Beard Foundation in 2001. Chris Hastings of [Hot and Hot Fish Club](#) was nominated for the same honor in the Southern region this evening but also wasn't victorious. He has also been nominated twice in the last three years (2008, 2010).

This year's finalist selection had probably received even more attention than normal locally due to [his ongoing objection to a project that would place a Chick Fil A restaurant - with a drive-through window - around the corner](#) from [the award-winning destination](#).

[The Bright Star](#) in Bessemer was honored as an American Classic ([as reported by several media outlets earlier this year](#)) during the ceremony.

Photo: Courtesy *Southern Foodways Alliance*.