



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

TO: APA California Chapter Board

FROM: Virginia M. Viado, Vice President of Administration
Andrea Ouse, AICP, Awards Coordinator-North
Danny Castro, Awards Coordinator-South

DATE: October 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Chapter Awards Policies Revision

Recommended Action:

Review and discuss proposed revisions to the Chapter Awards Policies document and move to approve as amended for implementation beginning with 2014 awards submittals.

Background:

Last year, the National APA awards categories and eligibility/criteria were significantly changed. Many of the existing State awards categories closely correspond or align with the previous National awards categories with respect to intent and eligibility criteria. With the recent changes at the National level, the titles of most National categories have changed and many categories have been eliminated. In addition, to keep up with current trends in our field, as well as with the advancement of technology, it is important that we review the relevance of our existing Chapter categories and update them as needed.

The intent of these proposed changes is to better align the State award titles (categories) with the National award categories by incorporating most of the National categories as new State titles. The total number of National categories has been reduced from 32 to 19, whereas the number of State categories is proposed to be reduced from 32 to 25. In summary, the proposed revisions include the following:

1) Awards proposed to be retained as they align with or are eligible under a National category:

- a. Comprehensive Plan: Large Jurisdiction*
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Small Jurisdiction*
- c. Implementation: Large Jurisdiction*
- d. Implementation: Small Jurisdiction*
- e. Innovation in Green Community Planning
- f. Best Practices
- g. Grassroots Initiative
- h. Planning Landmark
- i. Planning Pioneer

*Note: The updated National awards categories do not distinguish between “Large” and “Small” jurisdictions in the Comprehensive Plan and Implementation categories. These subcategories will remain as separate awards at the State level.

2) Awards proposed to be eliminated:

- a. Planning Project
- b. Focused Issue Planning
- c. Distinguished Leadership: Professional Planner
- d. Distinguished Leadership: Student Planner
- e. Distinguished Leadership: Organization
- f. Planning Achievement: Hard-Won Victories

****Elimination was based on the following factors:*** 1) Few or no applications submitted in the past 4 years; 2) Applications can be submitted in another very similar or proposed new category. In addition, the overall goal was to continue aligning State categories with National categories, as this allows applicants to submit at the National level in the same category as at the State level.

3) Awards proposed to be retained at the State-level but do not align with a specific National category:

- a. Academic
- b. Distinguished Service
- c. Distinguished Contribution
- d. Section Activity
- e. Planning Emeritus Network (PEN)

4) Awards proposed to be combined under one new State title which aligns with a National category:

- a. Communications Initiative (*National Category*)
 - i. Journalism/Media: Journalism, Circulation over 100,000
 - ii. Journalism/Media: Journalism, Circulation 35,000 to 100,000
 - iii. Journalism/Media: Journalism, Circulation under 35,000
 - iv. Journalism/Media: Individual Journalist
 - v. Journalism/Media: Media

- b. Planning Advocate (*National Category*)
 - i. Distinguished Leadership: Elected Official
 - ii. Distinguished Leadership: Citizen Planner/Layperson
 - c. Advancing Diversity and Social Change (*National Category*)
 - i. Planning Achievement: Advocacy/Social Change/Diversity Planning
 - ii. Planning Achievement: Contribution to Women and Families
- 5) Proposed new State awards which align with National categories.
- a. Opportunity and Empowerment
 - b. Economic Planning and Development
 - c. Communications Initiative
 - d. Planning Advocate
 - e. Planning Agency (public sector)
 - f. Planning Firm (private sector)
 - g. Emerging Planning and Design Firm
 - h. Transportation Planning
 - i. Public Outreach
 - j. Urban Design
 - k. Advancing Diversity and Social Change

Input and comments on the proposed amendments were solicited from local Section Directors and Awards Coordinators through distribution of draft materials and via conference call on September 9th. Comments were received from the Central Coast, Northern, Orange and San Diego Sections. The attached revised policy document incorporates those comments received and recommended for approval by the group.

Fiscal Impact:

None anticipated. In the past four years, submittals for some of the awards categories have either decreased or have had no submittals made at all. While the total number of categories is being reduced, it is anticipated that we may see more applications submitted than what we have seen in the revised categories.

Attachments:

Amended Awards Policy (Proposed)



DRAFT APA CALIFORNIA AWARDS PROGRAM POLICY

Adopted by the APA California Board on (date)

I. INTRODUCTION

The APA California Awards Program provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the great planning work occurring throughout California. This Awards Program Policy provides the general guidelines and procedures for the annual APA California Awards Program. All future Awards Programs shall be conducted in conformance with the policies and procedures outlined herein. Amendment of the APA California Awards Program Policy shall be made by majority of the APA California Board of Directors.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the APA California Awards Program is to encourage quality in planning and increase the public's awareness of the planning profession through recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field. APA California annually presents numerous Planning Awards to honor the most outstanding efforts in planning in California. The program honors innovative plans and projects, distinguished APA members, and lay contributors to planning and achievements of APA California Sections.

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A.** Plans, projects or programs must have been approved or adopted by all agencies and/or jurisdictions with approval authority and all legal challenges exhausted to be eligible for an award.
- B.** Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report, or ordinance entered must have been published, implemented, or completed within three years of the date of submission. Published drafts of plans are not acceptable. *This does not include the Implementation award category.*
- C.** Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report or ordinance may only be entered in one award category per award year.

- D. Except as noted below, nominations for a Chapter award do not have to win a Section award to be eligible for a Chapter Award.
- E. Recipients of the Planning Advocate award are ineligible to receive the same award for 10 years after accepting it.
- F. An individual may not nominate himself/herself (the individual) for an award. Anyone working on a plan or project may nominate that plan or project for an award.
- G. Nominators may not be related by blood or marriage to any individual they wish to nominate.
- H. Members of the Chapter Awards Jury are not eligible to nominate or to receive individual awards.

IV. STANDARD AWARD CATEGORIES

NOTE: See Table 1 for alignment of corresponding awards at the National APA level.

1) Opportunity and Empowerment Award

For a plan, program, or project that improved quality of life for low- and moderate-income community residents. Emphasis is placed on how creative housing, economic development, and private investments have been used in or with a comprehensive community development plan to empower a community. This award also emphasizes tangible results and recognizes the planning discipline and its contribution as a community strategy. The strategy should have been in effect for a minimum of three years.

Examples: *Regulatory reform; workforce development; affordable housing preservation; growth management; public-private partnerships; transportation; community participation; diverse housing planning; and sustainable, economic development.*

2) Comprehensive Plan

To a comprehensive plan of unusually high merit completed within the past 3 years for, by or within a jurisdiction. There are no limits on the size of jurisdiction.

NOTE: *Requires first place win at the Local Section level (no ties) for the same year.*

- a) **Large Jurisdiction:** To a comprehensive plan of unusually high merit completed within the past 3 years for, by or within a jurisdiction with a population of 100,000 or more according to the most recent available US Census data.
- b) **Small Jurisdiction:** To a comprehensive plan of unusually high merit completed within the past 3 years for, by, or within a jurisdiction with a population of less than 100,000 according to the most recent available US Census data.

3) Implementation

Recognizing an effort that demonstrates a significant achievement for an area—a single community or a region—in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. This award emphasizes long-term, measurable results. Nominated efforts should have been in continuous effect for a minimum of three (3) years, not including the time for plan preparation and approval.

Examples: *Plans for smart growth, signage, farmland preservation, urban design, wetland mitigation, resource conservation, capital improvements, citizen participation, neighborhood improvement, transportation management, or sustained economic development.*

NOTE: *Requires first place win at the Local Section level (no ties) for the same year.*

- a) **Large Jurisdiction:** For an effort that demonstrates a significant achievement for a jurisdiction with a population of 100,000 or more, according to the most recent available US Census data, in accomplishing positive change as a result of planning. This award is for long-term, measurable results to demonstrate that sustained implementation makes a difference. Nominated efforts should have been in continuous effect for a minimum of five years. Nominations can include, but not limited to, plans for smart growth, signage, farmland preservation, urban design, wetland mitigation, resource conservation, capital improvements, citizen participation, neighborhood improvement, transportation management, and sustained economic development.
- b) **Small Jurisdiction:** For an effort that demonstrates a significant achievement for a jurisdiction with a population of less than 100,000, according to the most recent available US Census data, in accomplishing positive change as a result of planning. This award is for long-term, measurable results to demonstrate that sustained implementation makes a difference. Nominated efforts should have been in continuous effect for a minimum of five years. Nominations can include, but not limited to, plans for smart growth, signage, farmland preservation, urban design, wetland mitigation, resource conservation, capital improvements, citizen participation, neighborhood improvement, transportation management, and sustained economic development.

4) Innovation in Green Community Planning

This award honors efforts to create greener communities that reduce the impact of development on the natural environment and improve environmental quality.

Examples: *Climate action plans, sustainability plans, green infrastructure plans; resource conversation efforts; alternative energy programs; efforts to reduce carbon emissions; public health initiatives.*

NOTE: *Requires first place win at the Local Section level (no ties) for the same year.*

5) **Economic Planning and Development**

This award honors efforts to transform economies and stimulate economic development in communities of all sizes.

Examples: *Economic plans, economic recovery initiatives, urban and regional economic analyses, commercial district revitalization, corridor revitalization, downtown specific plans, town center developments, and strategic plans for economic development.*

6) **Transportation Planning**

This award honors efforts to increase transportation choices for all populations, reducing dependence on private automobiles and helping to ease congestion and reducing climate change impacts.

Examples: *Transportation studies; complete streets plans or projects, plans for pedestrian, streets, highways, aviation, parking, maritime, transit or rail; development and expansion of transportation systems; development and expansion of trail systems.*

7) **Best Practices**

This award is for a specific planning tool, practice, program, project, or process. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how innovative and state-of-the-art planning methods and practices help to create communities of lasting value.

Examples: *Regulations and codes, tax policies or initiatives, growth management or design guidelines, transferable development rights programs, land acquisition efforts, public-private partnerships, applications of technology, handbooks, or efforts that foster greater participation in community planning.*

NOTE: *Requires first place win at the Local Section level (no ties) for the same year.*

8) **Grassroots Initiative Award**

Honoring an initiative that illustrates how a neighborhood, community group or other local non-governmental entity utilized the planning process to address a specific need or issue within the community. Emphasis is placed on the success of planning in new or different settings, with total project budget (including staff, consultant, and direct expenses) not exceeding \$25,000.

Examples: *Community policing or drug prevention, neighborhood outreach initiatives, programs designed for special populations, public art or cultural efforts, community festivals, environmental or conservation initiatives, summer recreational initiatives for children, vacant lot management, transportation innovations, or focused tourism ventures.*

NOTE: *Requires first place win at the Local Section level (no ties) for the same year.*

9) Public Outreach

This award honors an individual, project, or program that uses information and education about the value of planning to create greater awareness among citizens or specific segments of the public. The award celebrates how planning improves a community's quality of life.

***Examples:** Broad community efforts showing how planning can make a difference, curricula designed to teach children about planning, neighborhood empowerment programs, use of technology to expand public participation in planning.*

10) Urban Design

This award honors efforts to create a sense of place, whether a street, public space, neighborhood, or campus effort.

***Examples:** Streetscape plans; design guidelines; downtown and neighborhood districts; public space plans; hospital, college or other campus plan.*

11) Planning Advocate

This award honors an individual or appointed or elected official who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena.

***Examples:** Engaged citizens demonstrating outstanding leadership in a community, region, or state; members of planning commissions, board of appeals, economic development boards, environmental or historic preservation boards, commissions or committees, or other appointed officials; elected officials holding office at the local, regional, or state level; citizen activists or neighborhood leaders.*

12) Planning Firm

Honors a planning firm that has produced distinguished work that continues to influence the professional practice of planning.

13) Planning Agency

This award honors the work of a public sector planning agency that has continually produced a program of exceptional work that has elevated awareness about planning.

***Examples:** Metropolitan planning organizations, regional planning associations, planning department, planning board, zoning board.*

14) Emerging Planning and Design Firm

This award honors a young planning and design firm that has helped elevate the planning profession and build public support for planning, and through its current work demonstrates the potential of having a continual influence on the planning profession for years to come.

15) Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff

This award honors an individual, project, group, or organization that promotes diversity and demonstrates a sustained commitment to advocacy by addressing the concerns of women and minorities through specific actions or contributions within the planning profession or through planning practice. The award honors the late APA member, Paul Davidoff, for his contributions to the planning profession.

- 16) *Examples:*** *A general or comprehensive plan that improves the living conditions of those in an underrepresented neighborhood, an individual working to improve the lives of others, a policy that addresses a need not currently met through other efforts.*

17) Academic Award

To faculty and/or students to recognize outstanding work done in planning schools on an individual or collective basis.

18) Communications Initiative

This award honors efforts to "tell the planning story" and increase awareness and understanding about the planning profession.

***Examples:** Newspaper articles; series of blog posts or a planning-focused blog; publications (books or magazines); websites; podcasts; films.*

V. PLANNING LANDMARK AND PIONEER AWARDS

Nominations for Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards must be submitted to the Chapter for review by the Chapter Historian and the Chapter Board. Special criteria have been established for these two award categories. If the Chapter Historian determines that a nomination does not meet the criteria for either a Planning Landmark or Planning Pioneer Award, the Awards Coordinator shall have the option to submit the nomination for a different Award category.

- a) Planning Landmark Award:** The Planning Landmark Award is for a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that are at least 25 years old that are historically significant, initiated a new direction in planning or impacted American planning, cities or regions over a broad range of time or space.
- b) Planning Pioneer Award:** Presented to pioneers of the profession who have made personal and direct innovations in American planning that have significantly and positively redirected planning practices, education or theory with long-term results.

VI. SPECIAL CHAPTER AWARDS CATEGORIES

Nominations for these categories will be submitted to the Chapter President for review and selection of the winner.

a) Distinguished Service Award

To an APA California member who has made a substantial contribution to the development and objectives of APA California over a sustained period.

b) Distinguished Contribution Award

Recognizing an APA California member who has contributed to the goals and objectives of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association and to its strategic plan through an extraordinary effort over a short period of time.

c) Section Activity Award

The APA California is comprised of eight Sections in California. Each Section has its own officers and develops its own programs and activities to serve the needs of their members and the community in their region. The Sections serve as the primary vehicle through which many members participate.

The APA California Section Activity Award recognizes the outstanding work of a Section that has established or implemented an activity or program of unusually high merit within the past two years. Section Activity Award winners are only eligible to receive the award once every three years. Any person including a member of the APA California Board or the Sections can make nominations for this award. Self-nominations are allowed for this award category.

VII. PLANNER EMERITUS (PEN) AWARDS

The PEN Honor Awards are presented to persons for their outstanding contribution to the planning profession or for a significant accomplishment which enhanced the recognition of planning. PEN represents a body of long-tenured members of APA who are available to provide to the APA California Board and to other APA California groups substantial knowledge of the profession as it has matured in California, in particular. Nominations must be submitted to the PEN President or a member of the PEN Board of Directors.

TABLE 1	
APA California Awards Categories	Corresponding APA National Awards Categories
<i>Regular Awards</i>	
Opportunity and Empowerment	HUD Secretary's Opportunity and Empowerment Award
Comprehensive Plan: Large Jurisdiction	Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan
Comprehensive Plan: Small Jurisdiction	
Implementation: Large Jurisdiction	Implementation
Implementation: Small Jurisdiction	
Innovation in Green Community Planning	Environmental Planning
Economic Planning and Development	Economic Planning and Development
Transportation Planning	Transportation Planning
Best Practices	Best Practice
Grassroots Initiative	Grassroots Initiative
Public Outreach	Public Outreach
Urban Design	Urban Design
Planning Advocate	Planning Advocate
Planning Agency (public sector)	Planning Agency (public sector)
Planning Firm (private sector)	Planning Firm
Emerging Planning and Design Firm	Emerging Planning and Design Firm
Communications Initiative	Communications Initiative
Advancing Diversity and Social Change	Advancing Diversity and Social Change (Paul Davidoff)
Academic	N/A
Planning Landmark	Planning Landmark
Planning Pioneer	Planning Pioneer
N/A	Pierre L'Enfant International Planning Award
<i>Special Awards Categories</i>	
Distinguished Service	N/A
Distinguished Contribution	N/A
Section Activity	N/A
Planning Emeritus Network (PEN)	N/A