



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

DATE: October 3, 2015

TO: APA California Board of Directors

FROM: Larry Mintier, FAICP, Chapter Historian – North
Steven A. Preston, FAICP, Chapter Historian – South

SUBJECT: CHAPTER HISTORIAN REPORT – APA HISTORY AWARDS PROGRAM REVIEW

ACTION ITEMS

1. Revise the Chapter Awards Policy to incorporate the revisions to the criteria for the Landmark and Pioneer Awards adopted by the Chapter Board June 5, 2015.
2. Revise the California application package for the Landmark and Pioneer Awards to clearly explain the difference between the California criteria and National criteria and provide nominators the opportunity to submit justification to satisfy both criteria, if they want the nomination to be submitted to for consideration at the National level.
3. Authorize the Chapter Historians to develop recommended changes to the National criteria based on a comparison of APA's criteria with criteria used by other national organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
4. Revise the Chapter Awards Policy to eliminate the reference to the Chapter Board reviewing the Landmark and Pioneer award nominations, and that instead the nominations be reviewed by the Chapter Historian and a jury appointed by the Historian, parallel with how the rest of the awards program operates.
5. Revise the Chapter Awards Policy to clarify that there is no limit on the number of Landmark and Pioneer Awards that can be granted in any one year.
6. Encourage every California Chapter section to appoint a section historian, or assign such responsibilities to an existing section officer.
7. Recommend to National that they revise their procedures for the Landmark and Pioneer Awards to: (1) require nominations be submitted by an APA chapter or division; (2) as an alternative to #1, require any nominations National receives that have not come through

the chapter review/awards process be referred to the chapter historian, where one exists, for comment; and (3) encourage nominators to check with the chapter historian, where one exists, in preparing the nomination/application.

BACKGROUND

National APA established the Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Awards program in 1986. In response the California Chapter of APA in 1988 created its own program paralleling the National program, created the office of Chapter Historian, and appointed Betty Croly as the Chapter's first Historian. Betty had been instrumental in creating the National Landmark and Pioneer Awards program when she served on the AICP Commission. Betty served as Chapter Historian until she resigned for health reasons in 2009. The APACA board appointed Steve Preston and Larry Mintier Chapter Co-Historians in 2010.

During its deliberations on the 2014 nominations for the Planning Pioneer and Landmark Awards, the history awards jury discussed several concerns members have with the how the awards nomination and selection process operates and how the National and California programs relate to one another. This has led to an ongoing discussion by an expanded panel of APACA members to develop recommendations for revising the program. The expanded panel includes Vivian Kahn, Gus Gonzales, Ken Bernstein, George Osner, Juan Borrelli, Janet Ruggiero, Steve Preston, and Larry Mintier.

There was a general perception among panel members that California achievements are under represented on the list of Landmark Awards at the national level. There is also a growing feeling that criteria for the Pioneer and Landmark Awards we have been using in California for recognizing important achievements focus too much on national significance and not enough on California significance.

Following up on that discussion, the expanded panel held two conference calls (October 3 and December 3) to better define the panel's concerns and begin exploring responses. At the end of the December 3 conference call, the panel agreed to create a subcommittee to develop recommendations for consideration by the larger panel. The subcommittee included Janet Ruggiero, Gus Gonzales, and George Osner and was facilitated by Larry Mintier. Steve Preston also participated in the discussions. After several conference calls of the subcommittee during Winter and Spring 2015, the entire panel reviewed the subcommittee's recommendations on September 4 and recommended them with modifications to the APA Chapter Board.

The issues discussed by the panel can be grouped under four headings:

- Under Representation of California Landmarks and Pioneers at the National Level
- Use of National Significance Criteria in the California Landmark and Pioneer Awards Program
- Revisions to the National Awards Criteria
- Process for Nominations and Selection of Landmark and Pioneer Awards

Under Representation of California Landmarks and Pioneers at the National Level

Since 1988 California has honored at least 19 Planning Landmarks and at least 16 Planning Pioneers. We don't have a complete record of how many California winners were forwarded to National for consideration. We do know that National has honored seven California Landmarks and eleven California Pioneers. We also know that National rejected at least three California Landmarks and two California Pioneers.

These statistics are based on recent research and the latest compilation of California and National award winners. (See attached lists of Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Award winners) However, there

are gaps in the record and some questions about what happened with some nominated awards that need to be researched further.

Between 1986 and 2014 National APA honored 98 Landmarks. Compared to California's 7 National Landmarks, New York has 15, Ohio has 7, and Illinois has 7. Between 1986 and 2014, National APA honored 82 Pioneers, 10 of which are California Pioneers, although National Pioneers are not categorized by state in the same way Landmarks are. In 2015 National APA honored Donald Shoup of UCLA as a Planning Pioneer.

Questions

- Based on a review of the record, do we feel California Landmarks are under represented at the National level?
- Based on the record, do we feel California Pioneers are under represented at the National level? Why?
- What can we do to secure more recognition for California Landmarks and Pioneers?

Committee Commentary and Recommendations

- The Committee agreed that we need to do additional research to document as completely as possible all the California Landmark and Pioneer award winner since the beginning of the program in 1988. Gus Gonzales volunteered to review Steve Preston's collection of CalPlanners to identify any winners we might have missed in our summary of California and National Award winners.
- The Committee agreed it is not clear based on the research we have done so far that California is under represented among Landmark and Pioneer award winners at the National level. We agreed it probably is not productive to ask National APA to document the California nominations that they have rejected. For that matter, we don't know how many California level award winners were simply not forwarded to National. The Committee agreed we should not spend any more energy trying to determine whether California is under represented at the National level but instead focus our efforts on developing California-specific criteria and developing the best possible nominations for consideration at the National level.

Use of National Significance Criteria in the California Landmark and Pioneer Awards Program

The descriptions of and criteria for evaluating Landmark and Pioneer Awards nominations adopted by National APA and California APA are essentially the same, but structured somewhat differently for reasons that are not clear (See below). The question is, should the Landmarks and Pioneer Award nominations to be honored by California APA be judged based solely on National criteria that stresses national significance or should California APA adopt separate criteria that stresses California significance? California winners could still be forwarded to National for consideration based on their national significance.

National Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Awards Descriptions and Criteria

Planning Landmark

Recognizing a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that is historically significant and that may be used or accessed by the public.

Eligibility:

Nominated landmarks must date back at least 25 years from the nomination deadline .

Criteria:

Historical significance: Explain the nomination's historical significance in terms of at least one of the following: pioneering work or a documented first; historically significant, unique, and outstanding; having initiative a new direction in planning that has had a lasting effect or other impact; having an impact on American planning, cities, or regions during a broad range of time, space, or both time and space.

National significance: Document the effect or impact the nominated landmark had on planning in the United States as a whole and creating communities or other places of lasting value throughout the country. Who were the significant planners or others who were involved or responsible for the accomplishments of the nominated landmark?

Planning Pioneer

The Planning Pioneer Awards are presented to pioneers of the profession who have made personal and direct innovations in American planning that have significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, or theory with long-term results.

Eligibility:

Open to APA members and nonmembers. Individuals cannot self-nominate. A nominated individual's contributions must date back at least 25 years from the nomination deadline.

Criteria:

Historical impact. Describe the nominated individual's innovations or new models that directly influenced the future of American planning and explain how these developments significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, theory, or organization.

National significance: Describe the national impacts or effects of the nominated individual's planning contributions.

California Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Awards Description and Criteria

Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards Descriptions

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.*

Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards Criteria for Evaluation of Entries

The following criteria will be used in evaluating Planning Landmark and Pioneer awards:

a) Historical Significance: *What is the nomination's historical significance in terms of at least one of the following: being a pioneering work or a documented first; being historically significant, unique, and outstanding; having initiated a new direction in*

*planning that had a lasting effect or other impact; or having impact on American planning, cities, or regions during a broad range of time, space, or both time and space?
Nominated landmarks must be at least 25 years old as of the submittal deadline.*

b) National significance: What effect or impact did the nominated landmark have on planning in the United States as a whole? What is the nominated landmark's national importance and influence in helping create communities or other places of lasting value throughout the country?

c) Persons involved: Who were the significant planners or others who were involved and responsible for the accomplishments of the nominated landmark?

Question

- How should the existing California criteria be modified to stress California significance? (See attachment that shows an example of how the criteria could be simply modified)

Committee Commentary and Recommendations

- The Committee agreed that California should have its own significance criteria, and that the simple revisions to the National/California criteria that the Chapter Historians drafted (simply substituting "California" for "National") was a good start, and maybe was all that is needed. (Note: This proposal was forwarded to the Chapter Board and was adopted at the Board's June 5, 2015, meeting. This criteria would become effective for the 2016 awards cycle.)
- The Committee discussed how the application for Landmark and Pioneer awards should be structured to ensure that nominations meet the California criteria, while recognizing that at least some of the California winners will be forwarded for National consideration. The Committee agreed that the California application package needs to clearly explain the difference between the California criteria and National criteria and provide the nominators opportunity to submit justification to satisfy both criteria, if they want the nomination to be submitted to for consideration at the National level.
- The Committee talked about the larger context for awards, which includes sections as well as Chapter and National. The Committee noted that at some point the Committee should talk about how the section awards criteria relate/or will relate to our new proposed California criteria. We agreed this was a topic for future discussion, but, for the time being, we need to keep the sections informed about what we are proposing to do at the Chapter level.
- We also agreed that the National awards process needs to provide an opportunity for chapter historians, where they exist, to comment on any Landmark or Pioneers award nominations that come directly to them (i.e., where they haven't come through a chapter awards program)

Revisions to the National Awards Criteria

National APA is intending to review and possibly revise their criteria for the Landmark and Pioneer Awards and have invited us through Steve Preston to make suggestions for modifications. Panel members have already discussed the awkward wording at the end of the description of the Landmark Award: "Recognizing a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that is historically significant and that may be **used or accessed by the public.**" Panel members have noted that this should be clarified.

Question

- What modifications to the criteria for the National Landmark or Pioneer Awards would we recommend?

Committee Commentary and Recommendations

- The Committee agreed that we should respond to National's invitation to recommend changes to the National criteria based on a comparison of APA's criteria with criteria used by other national organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Process for Nominations and Selection of Landmark and Pioneer Awards

In California nominations for Landmark and Pioneer Awards are submitted by the Chapter sections, individuals, organizations, or the Chapter Historians, to the Chapter for review by the Chapter Historian *and Chapter Board*. 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 has the option to submit the nomination for a different Award category.

The Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards are reviewed “by the Chapter Historian and a separate jury as selected under this appointed position.”

According to the California Chapter Awards policy, only one first-place award may be granted per category each year. When exceptional circumstances warrant, one Award of Merit may also be given per category. If the jury finds that none of the nominations in a particular category meets the desirable standards of excellence, they may grant only an Award of Merit or grant no award in that category. It should be noted that in 1996, 1997, and 1998, California Chapter APA honored two Landmarks each year, and in 1989 honored two Pioneers and in 1991 honored four Pioneers.

The deadline for submitting nominations is typically around June 1, with jury recommendations due to the Chapter Awards chair by mid-July. Awards are presented as part of the awards ceremony at the annual Chapter conference in September or October every year.

At the discretion of the nominator of a winning California Landmark or Pioneer Award, the Landmark or Pioneer Award can be submitted to National APA. Typically, the National deadline for nominations is around September 1. Depending on the completeness of the nomination package at the chapter level, the nomination package may need to be revised to stress national significance. There is no requirement that the nomination be endorsed by the chapter board or historian before submission to National. There is no limit on the number of national Landmark or Pioneer Awards each year.

Questions

- Should nominations for California Landmark and Pioneer Awards be reviewed by the Chapter Board as well as by the Chapter Historian and appointed jury?
- Should there be a limit on the number of California Landmark and Pioneer Awards granted each year?
- How should the Chapter Historian solicit nominations from sections and individuals?
- How should the Chapter Historian prioritize his/her own nominations for awards?
- Should we recommend to National APA that any nominations they receive that have not come through the chapter review/awards process be required to be endorsed by the chapter historian, if one exists, or at least be referred to the appropriate chapter historian for comment?

Committee Commentary and Recommendations

- The Committee recommends that the language in the California Chapter Awards Policy be revised to eliminate the reference to the Chapter Board reviewing the Landmark and Pioneer awards nominations, and that instead the nominations be reviewed by the Chapter Historian and a jury appointed by the Historian, parallel with how the rest of the awards program operates.

- The Committee recommends there be no limit on the number of Landmark or Pioneer awards granted in any given year.
- The Committee recommends that every Chapter section appoint a section historian, or assign such responsibilities to an existing section officer.
- The Committee recommends that we recommend to National that they revise their procedures for the Landmark and Pioneer Awards to: (1) require nominations be submitted by an APA chapter or division; (2) as an alternative to #1, require any nominations National receives that have not come through the chapter review/awards process be referred to the chapter historian, where one exists, for comment; and (3) encourage nominators to check with the chapter historian, where one exists, in preparing their nomination/application.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Planning Landmark Awards

Attachment B – Planning Pioneer Awards

Attachment C – Excerpt from the National Awards Criteria (Revised)

Exhibit "A"

| Planning Landmark Awards | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Year | California Landmark | National Landmark |
| ? | The San Francisco Zoning Ordinance (1867) | Yes, year? |
| 2014 | San Francisco Bay Trail | |
| 2013 | No submissions | |
| 2012 | California Coastal Program | Rejected |
| 2011 | Bennet Plan for Pasadena (1925) | 2012 |
| 2010 | | |
| 2009 | | |
| 2008 | | |
| 2007 | | |
| 2006 | | |
| 2005 | Save San Francisco Bay (Planning Pioneer?) | Rejected |
| 2004 | | |
| 2003 | City of Lakewood Plan (1950) | Rejected |
| 2002 | No submissions | |
| 2001 | No submissions | |
| 2000 | Telesis (1939-1950s) | |
| 1999 | Founding of the Department of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley (1948-49) | |
| 1998 | Bay Conservation Commission and San Francisco Bay Plan (1965-69) | 1999 |
| 1998 | California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) (1965) | |
| 1997 | Nevada City Historic Preservation Ordinance | |
| 1997 | St. Francis Woods Plan - San Francisco (1912) | |
| 1996 | Village Green (Baldwin Hills Village) (1941-43) | |
| 1996 | City of Petaluma's Environmental Design Plan (1971-72) | 1997 |
| 1995 | | |
| 1994 | Napa County/Cities First Comprehensive Plan Implementation and Agricultural Preserve (1968) | 1995 |
| 1993 | | |
| 1992 | Rancho Santa Fe Association and Rancho Santa Fe Protective Covenant | Rejected |
| 1991 | | |
| 1990 | Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission's Master Plans for Highways and Freeways (1940, 1943) | 1991 |
| 1989 | Honorable mention: Master Plan of the City of Riverside (1928-29) | |
| 1988 | East Bay Regional Park District and Master Plan (1934) | 1989 |

Exhibit "B"

| Planning Pioneer Awards | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Year | California Pioneer | National Pioneer |
| ? | Catherine Bauer Wurster | Yes, year? |
| 2014 | Donald Shoup | 2015 |
| 2013 | | |
| 2012 | | |
| 2011 | | |
| 2010 | | |
| 2009 | | |
| 2008 | Paul Crawford | |
| 2007 | Daniel C. Curtin, Jr. | |
| 2006 | | |
| 2005 | | |
| 2004 | Save San Francisco Bay | Rejected |
| 2003 | | |
| 2002 | | |
| 2001 | | |
| 2000 | Telesis (1939-53) | Yes, year? |
| 1999 | | |
| 1998 | | |
| 1998 | | |
| 1997 | | |
| 1997 | | |
| 1996 | | |
| 1996 | | |
| 1995 | | |
| 1994 | Karl Belzer | |
| 1993 | Gordon Whitnall | 1994 |
| 1992 | Charles H. Cheney | 1993 |
| 1991 | Corwin Mocine | 1997 |
| 1991 | William Spangle | 1992 |
| 1991 | Francis Violich | 1992 |
| 1991 | Sydney Williams | Rejected |
| 1990 | Simon Eisner | 1991 |
| 1989 | Mel Scott | 1990 |
| 1989 | T. J. Kent, Jr. | 1990 |
| 1988 | | |

Excerpt from National Awards Criteria (Revised)

Planning Landmark

Recognizing a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that is historically significant and that may be used or accessed by the public.

Eligibility & Criteria

ELIGIBILITY:

Nominated landmarks must date back at least 25 years from the nomination deadline (August 26, 2014).

CRITERIA:

Historical significance: Explain the nomination's historical significance in terms of at least one of the following: pioneering work or a documented first; historically significant, unique, and outstanding; having initiative a new direction in planning that has had a lasting effect or other impact; having an impact on ~~American-California~~ planning, cities, or regions during a broad range of time, space, or both time and space.

~~National-State~~ *significance:* Document the effect or impact the nominated landmark had on planning in the ~~United States-California~~ as a whole and creating communities or other places of lasting value throughout the ~~country~~state. Who were the significant planners or others who were involved or responsible for the accomplishments of the nominated landmark?

Planning Pioneer

The Planning Pioneer Awards are presented to pioneers of the profession who have made personal and direct innovations in ~~American-California~~ planning that have significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, or theory with long-term results.

Eligibility & Criteria

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to APA members and nonmembers. Individuals cannot self-nominate. A nominated individual's contributions must date back at least 25 years from the nomination deadline (August 26, 2014).

CRITERIA:

Historical impact. Describe the nominated individual's innovations or new models that directly influenced the future of ~~American-California~~ planning and explain how these developments significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, theory, or organization.

National significance: Describe the ~~national~~statewide impacts or effects of the nominated individual's planning contributions.