



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

TO: APA CALIFORNIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: DEREK WONG, VP ADMINISTRATION

DATE: JUNE 25, 2020

SUBJECT: AWARDS PROGRAM POLICY CHANGES

RECOMMENDED ACTION: *Approve the following action:*

1. *Expand the "Section-Chapter Awards Committee" to include the following members: Chapter Awards Coordinator, Section Awards Coordinators, and other association members (e.g. Historians).*
2. *Provide recommendations to the Board regarding the awards selection criteria at both the Section and Chapter level, alignment with National planning awards, and to provide more consistency and structure to the awards policies prior to the 2021 awards.*

BACKGROUND: In October 2018, a committee was appointed to review the awards selection criteria at both the Section and Chapter level including when it is appropriate to require those submitting awards to win at the Section level in order to be considered for corresponding Chapter or National awards. The members of the original committee are Derek Wong, Ashley Atkinson, John Hildebrand, Kristen Asp, and Marc Yeber. While the committee has delayed providing a recommendation specific to requiring a win at the Section level, a number of new awards policies were adopted by the Board in January 2020 to 1) Increase State awards jury to 8 appointed members representing each Section; 2) Standardize the timing of annual State awards application submittal to be in mid-May (generally May 15th). Require each Section to notify local award recipients no later than 30 days before May 15th to give time for State award submittal, and; 3) Require that all State award applicants must first apply at the Section level where the project, plan or work occurred in order to be eligible for a Chapter award, unless the award is not offered at the Section level or the project is of significance in multiple sections. These new policies were implemented during the 2020 awards process.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: The committee would expand to include additional members currently involved in the awards process on both Section and Chapter levels to provide input and ideas for obtaining consistency between Section and Chapter Award categories and criteria, as well as aligning with National planning awards. With change to an online Chapter awards application process in 2020, some efficiencies were made such as streamlined communication between the applicant and their Section, and between Section and Chapter awards coordinators. However, additional input and discussion are needed from the committee to address a number of related issues including requiring section win; section only awards; chapter only awards; and changes to National planning awards. Addressing these issues, among others, will provide more clarity and harmony toward improved consistency between Section and Chapter awards programs. Assessment of the 2020 awards program will also facilitate discussion.

Recommendations will be provided to the Board in fall 2020 for discussion and approval for implementation for the 2021 awards program.

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