**National Planning Awards Program Updates**

This memo outlines recent updates to the National Planning Awards program.

**Award Categories**

The APA National Planning Awards program will continue to emphasize planning leadership in a changing world, innovative problem-solving by planners, as well as their commitments to equity, diversity and inclusion. The following are the four categories that will comprise the awards program:

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| Daniel Burnham Award | Future-looking, demonstrates unique skills and value of planners; can be a comprehensive plan or general plan. |
| Advancing Diversity & Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff | Equity, diversity, and inclusion focus; highlights the voice of underserved residents in a planning process. |
| Planning Excellence | Demonstrates how planning innovation and leadership addresses a specific community need or challenge; emphasizing transformation, creative solutions. |
| Resilience & Sustainability | Acknowledges environmental, economic, mitigation and recovery efforts that create safer, stronger, and more prosperous futures for all. |

The focus of the national awards program on APA’s strategic priorities provides an opportunity for Chapters and Divisions to raise awareness of their own existing awards programs (and possible new programs) for greater emphasis and recognition of local planning issues, planning advocates, and specialty areas (e.g., transportation, international planning).

**Timeline**

The new schedule for the updated program begins January 2021 and will conclude with a virtual ceremony in June. The nomination period will run January 20 – February 12, 2021. Component awards programs can continue to operate independently on their respective schedules and timelines.

**Recognition**

* An enhanced digital awards ceremony will be held each June. This will continue to include recognition of Chapter Presidents Council, Divisions Council, Student Representative Council, Planning Accreditation Board Outstanding Site Visitor, and *Journal of the American Planning Association* award recipients as in years past.
* Digital badges will be provided for award recipients to use on their websites and social media channels, including LinkedIn.
* Each award recipient will continue to receive a short documentary-style video and will continue to be recognized in *Planning* magazine.

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The *Journal of the American Planning Association* Editorial Advisory Board is evaluating awards to recognize achievement in academia. Planning innovators and disruptors historically nominated for the Planning Pioneers or Planning Landmark award categories can be nominated for inclusion in APA’s [Planning History Timeline](https://planning.org/timeline/).