



## **APA CALIFORNIA AWARDS PROGRAM POLICY**

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## 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. 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.*
- B. Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report or ordinance may only be entered in one award category per award year.
- C. Chapter 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 project is of significance in multiple sections or of statewide significance.
- D. Except as noted below, **eligibility to submit for a Chapter Award requires an Excellence or Merit award at the Section level in the same award category to proceed to the Chapter awards program.** No more than one Excellence and one Merit award shall be given in any category at the Chapter level, however Sections have the option to submit more than one Merit award to the Chapter. Winners in Section-only award categories do not advance to the Chapter awards program.
- E. An award at the Section level is not required for the Pioneer and Landmark awards. It is encouraged, but optional, for these awards to be offered at the Section level.
- F. Recipients of the Planning Advocate award are ineligible to receive the same award for 10 years after accepting it.
- G. 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.

- H. Nominators may not be related by blood or marriage to any individual they wish to nominate.
- I. Members of the Chapter Awards Jury are not eligible to nominate or to receive individual awards.

#### IV. AWARD CATEGORIES

##### 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 Award

To a comprehensive plan of unusually high merit completed within the past 3 years for, by or within a jurisdiction.

- 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 Award

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.*

- 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 three (3) 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 three (3) 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 Award**

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

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

**5) Economic Planning and Development Award**

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 Award**

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 Award**

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.*

**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 \$50,000.

*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.*

**9) Public Outreach Award**

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 Award**

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 Award**

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 Award**

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

**13) Planning Agency Award**

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 Award**

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 Award**

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.

*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.*

**16) Academic Award**

To faculty and/or students to recognize outstanding work done in planning schools on an individual or collective basis. If the nominated work has a specific beneficiary, the nomination should be submitted in the Section where the beneficiary of the work is located. If there is no specific beneficiary of the work, the nomination should be submitted in the Section where the school is located.

**17) Communications Initiative Award**

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.*

**18) Hard-Won Victories Award**

For a planning initiative or other planning effort undertaken by a community, neighborhood, citizens group, or jurisdiction in the face of difficult or trying circumstances. This award recognizes the positive effect of hard-won victories by professional planners, citizen planners, or both working together under difficult, challenging, or adverse conditions because of natural disasters, local circumstances, financial or organization constraints, social factors, or other causes.

**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 California 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 California planning that have significantly and positively redirected planning practices, education or theory with long-term results.

**VI. SPECIAL CHAPTER AWARDS CATEGORIES**

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.

Any person including a member of the APA California Board or the Sections can make nominations for these awards. Self-nominations are allowed for these award categories.

Nominations for these categories will be submitted through the awards application portal, then provided to the Chapter President for review and selection of the winner. If no nominations are received, the Chapter President may, at their discretion, select a winner.

## VII. SECTION ACTIVITY AWARD

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.

Nominations for this category will be submitted through the awards application portal, then provided to the Chapter President for review and selection of the winner. If no nominations are received, the Chapter President may, at their discretion, select a winner.

## VIII. 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.

## IX. NOMINATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1) **All nominations must be submitted in electronic format using the online Chapter Awards Form.** The online form is available at <https://www.apacalifornia.org/events/awards-program/>

This online portal allows applicants to complete their entire submittal, including filling out all necessary forms and uploading all required documents. Specific instructions for completing the form and submittal requirements are provided in the portal.

- 2) All submissions must be received by the deadline and strictly follow the requirements outlined in the APA California Awards Policy and the Planning Awards Nomination Form.
- 3) Submissions may be edited at any time through the online portal prior to the awards deadline.
- 4) Submissions may be entered in only one awards category or subcategory.
- 5) Specific programs, projects, reports, processes, and ordinances may only be nominated for



an APA California award once, except for the Section Activity Award.

## **X. AWARDS SELECTION PROCESS**

### **A. APA CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE JURY COMPOSITION**

An APA California jury shall be appointed annually by the Vice President for Administration and the State Awards Coordinator to judge the entries. An open solicitation of the Chapter membership shall be used. Jurors shall reflect the Chapter membership and be chosen to represent different areas of expertise, geographic locations, and professional experiences in the private/public sector, to achieve an overall balance of the jury. The diversity in jurors will also be considered. The decision of the majority of the jury shall be final.

All award categories are reviewed and selected by the appointed Jury, with the exception of the Distinguished Contribution and Section Activity Awards, Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards, and PEN Awards.

The Distinguished Contribution and Section Activity Awards are reviewed and selected by the California Chapter Board President.

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

PEN Awards are judged and selected by the PEN Board of Directors.

### **B. APA CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE JURY MAY MOVE NOMINATIONS TO A DIFFERENT CATEGORY**

Nominations will be evaluated for the award category in which they were submitted. However, the APA California jury may, upon majority vote, move a nomination to a different category, if appropriate.

### **C. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING AWARD ENTRIES**

Entries shall be judged according to the following criteria:

#### **1) Opportunity and Empowerment Award**

*Planning.* Explain how the submission addresses a real-world challenge in the community as identified by an existing comprehensive, regional or neighborhood plan. How did the program or

project integrate or maintain the cultural context and social fabric of the community? What specific role did planners play in achieving these results? How was the planning process sustained through the implementation stage and beyond? How involved were community residents, civic and advocacy groups, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations throughout the planning stage and beyond?

*Results.* Describe in detail how the plan, project or program achieved measurable outcomes. Examples of outcomes include: the number of jobs created and retained; improvement in education outcomes (i.e. graduation rates); the number of affordable housing units created or preserved; a disaster mitigation plan; a decline in the homeless, crime, and/or poverty rates. In addition, explain how outcomes are sustained and proved to be cost effective over time. The submission must include baseline data, beginning and end dates, detailed budget, and a description of savings and outcomes. For projects leveraging HUD funding, such as HOME and CDBG, or other financing tools (i.e. Low-Income Housing Tax Credit), explain how the submission exceeds the basic requirements of these programs to achieve results.

*Innovation.* Describe how the submission involved an innovative or forward-looking approach that effectively addressed various community-wide needs and/or solved a perplexing problem.

*Equity.* Explain how the submission clearly addressed social equity through the planning process and civic engagement efforts. Describe the specific activities and efforts incorporated into the plan, program, or project that advance social equity goals. How involved was the public — particularly historically underrepresented groups — in the planning process from the initial stage to the implementation stage and beyond? Explain how the results of the plan, project, or program enhanced the quality of life for vulnerable populations, including the homeless, older persons, persons with a disability, low-income individuals and families, and veterans.

*Transferability.* How, and to what extent, has the submission served as an example for other localities working to address challenges? How does the program provide useful prescriptive measures for other communities addressing a similar challenge? How well does the submission demonstrate that the project overcame challenges to implement a successful program where the results are sustained over time?

## **2) Comprehensive Plan Award**

*Originality and innovation.* How does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs? How did the planning process in this context broaden accepted planning principles within the context of the situation?

*Quality.* How is the plan state-of-the-art in terms of presentation and methodology? Identify what makes this plan exceptional or stand out compared to other comprehensive plans.

*Engagement.* How were various public interests involved and the extent of that involvement?

Competitive entries demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who historically have been left out of the planning process. How was public and private support obtained?

*Implementation and Effectiveness.* What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for following and implementing the plan? How does the entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? An entry should convey the level of effectiveness it can have over time.

*Promotion of Planning.* What was the role, significance and participation of planners? What is the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning?

### **3. Implementation Award (Large and Small Jurisdictions):**

*Originality and innovation.* How does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs? How did the planning process in this context broaden accepted planning principles within the context of the situation?

*Effectiveness.* What is the level of consistency of this implementation effort since its start? How was the need or problem addressed that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What is the level of effectiveness the entry can have over time?

*Overcoming challenges.* What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support? Detail any changes, derailments, or improvements throughout the implementation phase. What were the funding challenges or support for this effort? What were the political changes, if any, that affected, for better or worse, the effort's long-term funding?

*Engagement.* Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement? How was public and private support obtained? What was the role, significance, and participation of planners?

*Achievement.* How has the longevity of this effort increased the community's appetite for planning and the pursuit of similar initiatives? Clarify the extent to which this effort's sustained success has been achieved beyond its general audience.

### **4. Innovation in Green Community Planning Award**

*Originality and innovation.* How does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address specific needs? How have planning principles been observed, especially in consideration of the entry's effects on other public objectives?

*Implementation.* What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support? How does

your entry apply to others and how useful are the components and methodology to further the cause of good planning?

*Integration.* How has the entry been integrated into other planning efforts, such as a corresponding comprehensive or master plan or other related initiatives? How will the entry further the cause of good planning and support the broader needs of the community and surrounding region?

*Engagement.* How were various public interests involved and what was the extent of that involvement? How was public and private support obtained? What was the role, significance, and participation of planners?

*Effectiveness and results.* How does the entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What level of effectiveness can the entry have over time?

## **5. Economic Planning and Development Award**

*Originality and innovation.* Does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address specific needs? How were the planning principles observed, especially in consideration of the effects on other public objectives?

*Implementation.* What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support? How does the entry have potential application for others and how will use of the components and methodology further the cause of good planning?

*Integration.* How was the entry integrated into other planning efforts such as a corresponding comprehensive or master plan or other related initiatives? How will the entry help further the cause of good planning and support the broader needs of the community and surrounding region?

*Engagement.* How were various public interests involved and the extent of that involvement? How was public and private support obtained? What was the role, significance, and participation of planners and any outcomes in terms of helping gain public support of planning?

*Effectiveness and results.* How does the entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What level of effectiveness can the entry have over time?

## **6. Transportation Planning Award**

*Planning and innovation.* What are the critical transportation elements which lessen or mitigate adverse impacts from development and everyday living? What was the role of planning or planners

involved in the development process?

*Compatibility.* How does transportation planning integrate into community planning? How does the entry connect to both the environment and the economy?

*Engagement.* What was the public education and participation process? How was support generated?

*Effectiveness and results.* How does the entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What level of effectiveness can the entry have over time?

## **7. Best Practices Award**

*Originality and innovation.* Does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address specific needs? How were the planning principles observed, especially in consideration of the effects on other public objectives?

*Implementation and Transferability.* What steps were taken to build momentum and public support for your entry? How does the entry have potential application for others and how will use of the components and methodology further the cause of good planning?

*Participation.* How were various public interests involved and the extent of that involvement, including those who historically have been left out of the planning process? How was public and private support obtained? What was the role, significance, and participation of planners? What is the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning?

*Effectiveness and results.* How does the entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What level of effectiveness can the entry have over time?

## **8. Grassroots Initiative Award**

*Effectiveness and results.* State how your entry addressed the need or problem in a visionary or innovative manner that prompted its initiation, within a budget not exceeding \$50,000. Be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of the people affected. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

*Engagement.* Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement. Competitive entries demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who have been historically left out of the planning process. Describe the level of collaboration between leadership and competing interests. Explain how those affected were brought into the planning process for this initiative.

*Education.* Establish that your entry has encouraged community leaders to revise their opinions about the varied uses and broad applications of the planning process. State the influence your entry has had on public awareness beyond those immediately affected. Demonstrate the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning.

## **9. Public Outreach Award**

*Originality and transferability.* How does the program use new ideas or combine tools to address a demonstrated need for planning information or education within the community? How does the entry have potential application for others and how use of the components and methodology would further the cause of good planning?

*Effectiveness and results.* State how your entry addressed the need or problem that prompted its initiation. Be explicit about how the results make a difference in the lives of the people affected now and in the future. Show how your entry has increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process. Provide measurable results if possible or appropriate.

*Participation.* Explain how various public interests were involved and how your entry obtained public and private support. Competitive entries demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who historically have been left out of the planning process. Clarify the role, significance, and participation of planners. Demonstrate the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning.

## **10. Urban Design Award**

*Originality and innovation.* Document how your entry presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs. Explain how the use of the planning process in this context broadened accepted planning principles within the context of the situation.

*Compatibility.* Demonstrate how your entry integrates and supports the overall planning goals of the neighborhood or community.

*Effectiveness and results.* Describe how your entry has made a difference in the lives of the people affected. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

*Engagement.* Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement. Describe the level of collaboration between leadership and competing interests. Explain how those affected were brought into the planning process for this initiative.

## **11. Planning Advocate Award**

*Support of planning and planners.* Illustrate how the nominee's work has increased the understanding of the planning process. Indicate how the nominee has shown a clear understanding of, and support for, the role of planners in public life.

*Effectiveness and results.* Describe the extent that the nominee has been effective in formulating and implementing plans and ideas in support of good planning. Identify the level of influence and effectiveness achieved by the nominee within different segments of the community.

## **12. Planning Firm Award**

*Quality.* Demonstrate consistent quality of the firm's work and its recognition by the general public or those who practice or sponsor planning, teach planning, or develop communities. Elements of quality include graphic design, content, evidence of implementation by clients.

*Influence.* Detail the firm's positive influence on the direction and professional advancement of planning, for example promoting new technologies, collaboration among other design disciplines, innovations in practice, and advances in the art and science of planning. Identify the number of planners on staff.

*Ethical Practice.* Explain how the firm consistently upholds and champions the highest standards of ethics in terms of the public trust and guiding and educating its staff on the importance of ethics.

*Outreach and Engagement.* Demonstrate the firm's efforts and skills in engaging stakeholders and resolving community conflicts with positive outcomes. Demonstrate responsiveness to the client and the various elements of the community in the planning process and willingness to incorporate ideas and suggestions from the community.

## **13. Planning Agency Award**

*Quality.* Demonstrate consistent quality of the agency's work. Describe how the agency's program of work has elevated awareness about planning and built community support for planning. Describe the number of staffers, their various roles, and if any members have specific certifications.

*Outreach and Engagement.* Demonstrate the agency's efforts and skills in engaging community members, business leaders and other stakeholders, and in resolving community conflicts with positive outcomes. Describe efforts undertaken to engage community members, especially those often overlooked, in planning processes.

*Innovation.* Describe how your agency has addressed concerns or issues within the community in a visionary or innovative manner. Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially

in consideration of your entry's effects on other public objectives.

*Implementation.* Describe the program of work that has resulted in identified and meaningful outcomes that raise the quality of life for all citizens. Demonstrate the connection between planning and implementation with tools such as capital budgets.

#### **14. Emerging Planning and Design Firm Award**

*Quality.* Demonstrate consistent quality of the firm's work and its recognition by the general public or those who practice or sponsor planning, teach planning, or develop communities. Elements of quality include graphic design, content, and evidence of implementation by clients.

*Influence.* Detail the firm's positive influence on the direction and professional advancement of planning, for example promoting new technologies, collaboration among other design disciplines, innovations in practice, and advances in the art and science of planning. Identify the number of planners on staff and if any members hold specific certifications.

*Ethical Practice.* Explain how the firm consistently upholds and champions the highest standards of ethics in terms of the public trust and guiding and educating its staff on the importance of ethics.

*Outreach and Engagement.* Demonstrate the firm's efforts and skills in engaging stakeholders and resolving community conflicts with positive outcomes. Demonstrate responsiveness to the client and the various elements of the community in the planning process and willingness to incorporate ideas and suggestions from the community.

#### **15. Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff Award**

*Social and Economic.* Describe how your entry addresses the needs of at-risk individuals or populations that society typically overlooks. How have your entry's efforts advanced or sustained sound, ethical, and inclusionary planning within the planning field, within a specific community, or in society at large?

*Effectiveness & Results.* Specify how your entry has had a positive impact on the lives of those it was intended to help. Indicate how these efforts have touched a wider audience, helped increase diversity and inclusiveness within the planning field, or in helping support diverse populations.

#### **16. Academic Award**

*Purpose:* What was the purpose of the project? What was learned or accomplished by the students?

*Research and Resources:* Please detail what and how research was completed to prepare for



producing the final product? What resources were available to the students to prepare the paper or document?

*Challenges:* Please describe the challenges the student(s) face during the project.

*Results:* What was the basis for the paper or the project? What was the final outcome? How was the final product used?

### **17. Communications Initiative Award**

*Support of planning and planners.* Describe how your entry has built support for planning and increased understanding of the planning process. Describe why this effort was undertaken and the desired outcomes.

*Originality and innovation.* Describe how your entry engaged audiences in planning using innovative or unique communication approaches.

*Effectiveness and results.* State how your entry achieved its desired outcomes. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

### **18. Hard-Won Victories Award**

*Challenges or barriers.* What obstacles, whether physical, natural, social, or a combination thereof, were faced and addressed by the nominated effort? What is the extent of these challenges or other adversarial conditions, and what steps were undertaken to meet the difficult circumstances?

*Available resources.* What resources were available and how were these resources (financial, personnel, consultants, etc.) managed, leveraged, and deployed?

*Progress and positive effects.* What are the lasting effects the effort has had or is likely to have on planning in the community? Has the effort removed or mitigated the barriers and obstacles? How has or will the effort shape the future in the community or locale? What influence has the nominated effort had on community leaders and their views about the value and effectiveness of planning?

### **19. Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards**

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

#### Planning Landmark

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

- b) State significance: What effect or impact did the nominated landmark have on planning in California as a whole? What is the nominated landmark's state importance and influence in helping create communities or other places of lasting value throughout California?

#### Planning Pioneer

- a) Historical Significance: What are the nominated individual's innovations or new models that directly influenced the future of California Planning? How have the nominated individual's innovations or new models significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, theory, or organization? Nominated individual's contributions must be at least 25 years old as of the submittal deadline.
- b) State significance: What effect or impact did the nominated individual have on planning in California as a whole?

#### **D. NUMBER OF AWARDS**

Except for the Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer awards category, 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.

#### **XI. HONORING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Award recipients will be honored at the annual APA California Conference during an Awards Ceremony event, typically a luncheon or dinner. Each award recipient is provided with one Awards event ticket at no cost. First place winners will be honored with a trophy. Award of Merit winners will be honored with a plaque. One trophy or plaque per award will be provided to the recipient at no cost. Upon request, additional Awards event tickets, trophies, or plaques will be provided for individuals, firms or groups affiliated with the award winning project or program, but the recipients must pay for the cost.

In the event an in-person APA California Conference is not held and replaced by another conference format such as a remote conference, award recipients may be honored during an Awards Ceremony consistent with the alternative conference format. Examples include an awards ceremony held by video and audio conferencing.

## **XII. SECTION AWARDS PROGRAMS**

### **A. SECTION AWARDS POLICIES**

Each Section must offer the Chapter's award categories, and update their categories as the Chapter's are updated. Sections are encouraged to adopt formal Awards Policies based on those of the Chapter, but may also establish Awards Policies different from those of the Chapter at their discretion. Each Section wishing to participate in the Chapter Awards Program must appoint an Awards Chairperson to serve as contact with the Vice President for Administration or APA California Awards Coordinator concerning Awards Program matters and to coordinate awards activities for the Section. Each Section shall notify local award recipients no later than 30 days before the State Awards application deadline, generally May 15<sup>th</sup> each year, to give time for preparation of State award application.