



American Planning Association
California Chapter
Orange Section

APA ORANGE SECTION 2025 AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

*Nominations are **due by 11:00 p.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025.***

Materials received after this date will not be accepted.

Name of Nominated Project, Plan, Program, Organization or Person

Award Nomination Category



APA ORANGE SECTION 2025 AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Nominator

The Nominator serves as the primary contact for all awards-related communications, and will receive correspondence directly from the Awards Chair. Please note that the Nominator may be different from the Primary Awards Recipient, such as a consultant.

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Primary Award Recipient

Organization _____

Name _____ Title _____

Recognition

One trophy will be provided without cost by the Orange Section. List the name(s) and/or organization(s) as you would like them printed on the trophies and address of trophies to be sent if necessary:

Trophy 1 Recipient Name _____

Recipient Organization _____

Address _____

Please list other supporting organizations, consultants, subconsultants, and/or individuals that should be recognized as part of the awards program. The nominator is responsible for identifying and acknowledging all contributors who deserve recognition in the awards program.

	Organization(s) / Name(s)	Affiliation to the Nominator
1)	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____
4)	_____	_____
5)	_____	_____

Trophies

If selected to win an APA Orange Section Award, how does the recipient plan to obtain their award?

- Receive in-person at Awards Ceremony (scheduled for fall 2025) Mail to the following address:

If selected to win an APA Orange Section Award, the nominator may purchase additional trophies at their own expense. Additional trophies would cost approximately \$90.00 each, and nominators would be invoiced prior to placing the trophy order.

Would the nominator be interested in purchasing additional trophies if selected as a winner?

- Yes, we would like to purchase additional trophies. No

Quantity: _____

Additional Trophy Order Form:

	Name	Organization
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____

*Any trophies not picked up in-person at the Awards Ceremony will be mailed to the mailing address listed above unless otherwise indicated.

Acknowledgement of Nominator

I acknowledge that the submitted work was done by the parties credited in this Awards Application Form, and that the work meets the eligibility and nomination submittal requirements listed in Sections II and III of the current APA Orange Section Awards Program Policies and Nomination Guidelines.

Signature of Nominator

Date

Printed Name of Nominator

Eligibility Requirements

1. Eligibility for awards extends to projects, programs, plans, individuals, and teams either located in Orange County or those that have demonstrated a significant impact on the planning profession in Orange County. Application materials must demonstrate the nominee's contribution to the planning, development, or enhancement of Orange County's communities, environments, or planning practices. This contribution can be through direct involvement, innovation, or leadership in initiatives that have a lasting impact on the region.
2. 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.
3. Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report, or ordinance may only be entered in one award category per award year.
4. The Awards Jury can, at their discretion, move an application to another more appropriate category, if it is felt the application was submitted incorrectly or is better represented in another category.
5. Eligibility to submit for a California Chapter award requires an Excellence or Merit award at the Orange Section level in the same award category to proceed to the Chapter awards program.
6. Recipients of the Planning Advocate award are ineligible to receive the same award for ten (10) years after accepting it.
7. Anyone working on a plan or project may nominate that plan or project for an award. However, an individual may not nominate himself/herself (the individual) for an award. Nominators may not be related by blood or marriage to any individual they wish to nominate.
8. Members of the Awards Jury are not eligible to nominate or to receive individual awards.

Full details regarding eligibility requirements, award categories and evaluation criteria found through OC-APA's website: www.oc-apa.org.

Nomination Submittal Requirements

All documents must be uploaded to Dropbox using the correct naming convention:
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/2sdRTapOC7hIU13KpEDs>

Submitted files must use the following naming convention:

Nomination Category – Nominee – Project Name – File Name

Example:

Planning Excellence Award – City Name – Project Name – Application

Planning Excellence Award – City Name – Project Name – Summary Description

Planning Excellence Award – City Name – Project Name – Award Criteria Discussion

Submissions made without the proper naming convention will be rejected. The following materials must be included with every submission:

1. **APPLICATION:** The completed Orange Section Awards Application Form.
2. **150-WORD SUMMARY:** An abbreviated summary that will be used for the awards presentation and/or publicity materials. Please include the following information:
 - a. Name of project/plan/person nominated.
 - b. Why the project/plan/person was nominated.
 - c. 3-4 sentences about how the nomination meets the awards criteria.
3. **SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** A one-page summary description of the submission or in the case of an individual, a one-page resume. This is an opportunity to provide basic project information and provide context for the award criteria discussion. For nominations of work not located in Orange County (e.g., projects with statewide influence, or program impacting multiple offices across California), the description should specify the nominee's unique contribution to Orange County's planning and development landscape.
4. **AWARD CRITERIA DISCUSSION:** A one- to two-page explanation demonstrating how the submission specifically meets each criterion in the order listed under the award category. Information regarding award category evaluation criteria is available online: www.oc-apa.org. For nominations not located in Orange County, the application materials must also demonstrate the nominee's contribution to the planning, development, or enhancement of Orange County's communities, environments, or planning practices. This contribution can be through direct involvement, innovation, or leadership in initiatives that have a lasting impact on the region.
5. **PROJECT OR PLAN:** Provide a PDF of the nominated document or plan. If nominating a long document or a series of plans, please save them as a single PDF. Do not provide a separate PDF for each chapter or graphic.
6. **IMAGES:** Three (3) to ten (10) high-resolution digital images in JPEG, TIFF, or PNG format. The images should be representative of the nomination, as they will be used during the Awards Ceremony. Please also include a document that lists all image names and provide a brief caption for each image. Leadership Award nominations need only supply one to three images of the individual nominated.

7. **OPTIONAL LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT:** Provide a letter of support, one-page in length, in support of the entry from someone familiar with the nominated project or person. Neither the nominator nor any member of the project team is eligible to write a letter of support. A maximum of five letters will be accepted. Letter(s) of support are recommended, but not required by APA Orange Section. ****Note:** This is a required task/submission if the award winner chooses to proceed to the statewide awards competition.

8. **OPTIONAL:** Any relevant additional digital materials not expressly requested are welcome. Resumes of individuals, published reports or articles, audio or video materials, and other materials appropriate to the submission. These materials should be concise, given the limited time available for Jury deliberations.

All submissions must be received by the **11:00 p.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025**, and strictly follow the requirements outlined in the current APA Orange Section Awards Program Policies and Nomination Guidelines. Nomination materials must be uploaded to Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/2sdRTapOC7hIU13KpEDs>

Submissions received before the deadline not meeting the requirements may be returned and resubmitted before the deadline at the discretion of the Orange Section Awards Chair. For questions or assistance, please contact Stephanie Tomaino, Section Director, via email: director@oc-apa.org.



Application details and deadlines will be announced by the end of February

STATE-ELIGIBLE AWARD CATEGORIES

NOTE: The California Chapter Awards Program will require an Excellence (first place) award at the Section level to proceed to the Chapter awards program for several specific categories. For information regarding the California Chapter application process, please visit <https://www.apacalifornia.org/events/awards-program/>

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: Implementation of general plans, specific plans, strategic plans, or economic plans; Regulatory reform; workforce development; affordable housing preservation; growth management; public-private partnerships; transportation innovations; economic recovery initiatives, commercial district revitalization, capital improvements; community participation; and diverse housing planning.

Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan Award

To a comprehensive plan or general plan that advances the science and art of planning. The award honors America's most famous planner, Daniel Burnham, for his contributions to the planning profession and to a greater awareness of the benefits of good planning. The nominated effort helps advance communities toward a safe, stronger, and more equitable future.

Examples: General Plan updates and Specific Plans.

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: Implementation of general plans, specific plans, strategic plans, or economic plans; smart growth, urban design, or signage; farmland preservation, wetland mitigation, or resource conservation; capital improvements, economic recovery initiatives, commercial district revitalization; citizen participation, neighborhood improvement, ; transportation management, or sustained economic development.

Resilience and Sustainability Award

This award recognizes a strategy that creates a more sustainable community and/or increases the ability of a community to recover from and adapt to shocks and stresses (economic impacts, natural disasters, human-caused disasters, climate change, etc.), resulting in it becoming stronger, more equitable, and better prepared for the future.

Examples: A comprehensive plan, climate adaptation plan, or other plan that addresses resilience in substantive and innovative ways; a program or project such as use of green infrastructure to protect a community from hazards and build resilience; community engagement that increases understanding of resilience and leads to action; public health efforts or economic development plans or initiatives that improve the overall human and fiscal health of the community, etc.

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.

Planning Excellence Award

This award recognizes how planning is essential to addressing desires, needs, or challenges

within a community, county, region, or specific geographic location. This category emphasizes outcomes and demonstrates how planning helps to create stronger, more equitable communities.

Examples: Affordable housing plans, growth management or design guidelines, applications of technology, fostering greater public engagement in planning processes, transportation options, or efforts that create a sense of place.

Grassroots Initiative Award

Honoring an initiative that illustrates how an individual, neighborhood, community group or other local non-governmental entity utilized the planning process to address a specific need or issue within the community, or to advance or promote the cause of planning in the public arena. 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 \$200,000.

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; or exhibition, videos, films, or public campaigns/petitions.

Urban Design Award

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

Examples: Streetscape plans, design guidelines, objective design standards, downtown and neighborhood districts, public space plans, hospital, college or other campus plans.

Planning Firm Award (private sector)

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

NOTE: Requires first place win at the Section level (no ties) for the same year. This category only offers Excellence Award at the Chapter level.

Planning Agency Award (public sector)

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.

NOTE: Requires first place win at the Section level (no ties) for the same year. This category only offers Excellence Award at the Chapter level.

Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff Award

This award honors an individual, project, group, or organization that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion. The nominated effort demonstrates a sustained commitment to advocacy by addressing the concerns of women or minority groups 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 (e.g. engaged citizens demonstrating outstanding leadership and impacts 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), a policy that addresses a need not currently met through other efforts (e.g. Community policing or drug prevention, programs designed for special populations, public art or cultural efforts, community festivals, summer recreational initiatives for children, vacant lot management, transportation innovations, or focused tourism ventures).

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.

Examples: Research, tool, or project that benefit real-world city planning at large; collaboration with public or private sectors through academic activities; academic programs/curriculums that create long-term positive impacts on generations of emerging planners.

Communications Initiative and 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. This award also 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, curricula designed to teach children about planning, neighborhood empowerment programs, use of technology to expand public participation in planning, or Broad community efforts showing how planning can make a difference.

Planning Landmark and Planning Pioneer Awards

Nominations for Planning Landmark Awards may only be submitted for those projects, initiatives, or endeavors located in the Section, and nominations for Pioneer Awards may only be submitted for those individuals that are current, retired, or deceased Section members. Special criteria have been established for these two award categories.

Planning Landmark Award: The Planning Landmark Award is for a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that is at least 25 years old that is historically significant, initiated a new direction in planning or impacted American planning, cities or regions over a broad range of time or space.

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.