



American Planning Association
Nebraska Chapter

AWARDS PROGRAM RULES AND AWARDS CATEGORIES

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AWARDS PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

Nomination Overview

All nominations must be submitted via e-mail. Please refer to each award category for specific criteria. A plan, project, program, tool, process, report, or ordinance may only be entered once per award year. An individual may submit more than one nomination but may not submit the same plan or project in multiple award categories.

Following the nomination period, the APA-Nebraska Chapter Awards Committee will assemble the applications and submit to the out-of-state awards jury to review applications.

Award winners and Submission Coordinators will be notified once the out-of-state jury has reviewed applications.

Eligibility and Information

Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report, or ordinance must have been published, implemented, or completed within three (3) years of the date of submission except for the Implementation award category.

Who can enter?

- Individual recipients are ineligible to receive the same award for 10 years after acceptance.
- Members of the APA-Nebraska Board of Directors are not eligible to enter or receive individual awards.
- Nonmembers of APA are excluded from submitting a nomination for the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner category.

Application

Requirements for submission for an APA-Nebraska Chapter Awards are the same as the National APA awards requirements with a few exceptions. This was done to encourage submission of the nomination for the National Award Program.

All APA-Nebraska Chapter nominations must be submitted via e-mail. Nominators will receive a confirmation e-mail when the nomination is processed.

There is no entry fee.

Each nomination shall include the following for each award submittal:



Application Form.



Word Document Narrative. Applicants must submit how the entry satisfies the award criteria (maximum of 1,000 words). Be as succinct as possible and address each criteria. Emphasize results, innovations and the outcomes of planning.



Copyright-Free Images. Applicants must submit a minimum of 3 high resolution images to be used for publication (i.e. newsletter, etc.).



OPTIONAL: Letters of Support and Supplemental Materials. Up to five (5) letters are permitted. Letters may not be written by the nominator of the submission, by the nominated individual, or anyone who directly worked daily on the project. Letter(s) from chapters, divisions, members, and other stakeholders involved with the subject of the nomination are strongly encouraged. Supplemental materials includes the final plan document(s), reviews of the effort, analysis of results, newspaper clippings, editorials, websites, etc.

Tips for a Successful Nomination

The following will help you prepare a nomination for consideration by the jury. Do not wait until the last minute to prepare your nomination. All sections of the application/ criteria are very important and should be assembled with careful consideration.

Narrations:

Your narration should emphasize results and planning outcomes. Illustrate how your entry is different or innovative. The jury looks for innovative efforts that can be replicated across the state or a new solution to a planning challenge. APA-Nebraska award recipients should serve as a benchmark or model for other communities.

Supplemental Materials:

Include a copy of your plan! If your entry includes design guidelines, a plan, or some other document, be sure to submit it along with your application. Supplemental materials are **optional**.

Letters of Support:

Letters of support are **optional**. If included, obtain letters that highlight the value or positive impact of your planning efforts from a variety of stakeholders - mayors, commissioners, business leaders, etc.

Judging and Awards Ceremony

Judging for APA-Nebraska Planning Awards will be performed by an out-of-state jury and are under no obligation to grant an award in any category or subcategory. Nominators of submissions will be notified by email.

Presentation of awards will be made at the Annual Nebraska Planning Conference scheduled in March at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska. APA-Nebraska Award winners will be presented with a personalized award or certificate (depending on the category) at the conference and will be featured in an edition of the APA-Nebraska Newsletter. APA-Nebraska will provide up to one award per winner. More awards can be provided, at the winner's cost.

Submission Address / Contact Information

E-mail submissions to:
apanebraska@gmail.com

If you have questions, contact this year's Awards Coordinator: Caitlin Bolte, cbolte@thinkconfluence.com

APA-NEBRASKA 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Every two years, APA Nebraska members elect four individuals to serve as Chapter President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The current term is from January 2024 through December of 2025. Other members of the APA Nebraska Board of Directors include Past President, NPZA Liaison, Allied Professionals Liaison, Student Planning Association of Nebraska Liaison (SPAN), and UNL Planning Faculty Liaison.

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AWARDS CATEGORIES

Application Required

- Daniel Burnham Award for A Comprehensive Plan
- Planning Excellence Award
- Great Places in Nebraska
- Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff
- Implementation

DANIEL BURNHAM AWARD FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

DEFINITION

For a comprehensive 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.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to APA members and non-members. The award is given for group achievement and may be made to a planning agency, planning team or firm, community group or local authority. There are no limits on the size of jurisdiction.

CRITERIA

<i>Originality and Innovation.</i>	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.
<i>Partnership and Meaningful Engagement.</i>	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 historically have been left out of the planning process. Show how the nominated plan obtained public and private support.
<i>Role of Planners.</i>	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.
<i>Implementation.</i>	Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for following and implementing the plan.
<i>Effectiveness and Results.</i>	State how your entry addressed the need of the problem that prompted its initiation. 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 overtime.

PLANNING EXCELLENCE AWARD

DEFINITION

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. This award may be given to more than one project, based on specialty area.

ELIGIBILITY

Any planning agency, planning team or firm, community group, or local authority helping civic leaders and citizens play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives may submit a nomination. No restrictions on the size of the jurisdiction. For efforts within the United States.

EXAMPLE

Example of potential plans to include: Environmental Plans, Housing Studies, Economic Plans, Strategic Plans, Downtown or Neighborhood Plans, Zoning or Subdivision Regulations, Streetscape Plans, Campus Plans, Transportation Plans, etc.

CRITERIA

<i>Originality and Innovation.</i>	Describe how your entry addresses a known community need or challenge, and better positions the community for a stronger, more equitable future for all. Identify any tools, resources, or skills that helped to advance the effort within the community. Demonstrate how this effort complements or builds upon existing planning efforts and supports the overall planning goals of the community. Explain how this effort also helps move the planning profession forward.
<i>Methodology and Transferability.</i>	Explain the process, budget, and project timeline for the nominated effort. Identify how planning and/or planners were instrumental in this effort. Share how the community is kept updated and informed of progress and implementation of the effort. Demonstrate how your effort can be applied in other communities and the methodology used to help advance the value of planning.
<i>Partnership and Meaningful Engagement.</i>	Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for your entry. Share how all community members were involved, including those who historically have been left out of the planning process. How did planners help facilitate bringing together competing community interests for the betterment of the whole community? Describe stakeholder involvement and how the entry brought together elected leaders, public, private, and non-profit stakeholders, and community members. Identify, if applicable, any unique strategic partnerships or funding sources that was used to help move the effort forward.
<i>Effectiveness and Results.</i>	Provide measurable results or how success will be tracked. What are the long-term outcomes generated or expected from the effort? Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time or be a catalyst to future efforts. Be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of those who live in the community. How has this entry positioned the community for a stronger, more resilient and equitable future?

GREAT PLACES IN NEBRASKA

DEFINITION

This award is to recognize and celebrate great urban and rural places of exemplary character, quality, and planning. These areas represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, culture and historic interest, community involvement and a vision for tomorrow. This award category is modeled on the National APA award category and may lead to nomination as a candidate for national recognition.

ELIGIBILITY

Any planning agency, neighborhood association, or project champion. Any nomination must be endorsed by the municipality in which it exists. Great Places in Nebraska will fall into two categories: Urban (cities with more than 5,000 residents); Rural (cities with fewer than 5,000 residents).

CRITERIA

<i>Originality and Innovation.</i>	Document how the place embodies a visionary approach or innovative concept. Explain how the use of the planning process enabled or supported the creation or preservation of the place.
<i>Partnership and Meaningful Engagement.</i>	Explain how various public interests were involved and how the entry obtained public and private support. Competitive entries demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input and create meaningful engagement for partner organizations and residents.
<i>Implementation.</i>	Explain how the entry became a great place. The nomination should describe: the conception of the idea; the character of the area and the stakeholder groups; any catalyst project, person, or turn of events that led to implementation; and the chronology of how the entry became a 'great place'.
<i>Effectiveness and Results.</i>	Describe the place. What makes the entry a great place and why is its creation/preservation special?

ADVANCING DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN HONOR OF PAUL DAVIDOFF

DEFINITION

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.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to APA members and nonmembers. Individuals cannot self-nominate. Open to efforts within the United States.

CRITERIA

<i>Social and Economic.</i>	Describe how the nominated effort addresses the needs of at-risk individuals or populations that society typically overlooks. How does the effort advance or sustain sound, ethical, and inclusionary planning within the planning field, within a specific community, or in society at large?
<i>Partnership and Meaningful Engagement.</i>	Explain how various stakeholders and community members were engaged in the planning process. How were typically hard-to-reach populations included in the planning process? Detail any non-traditional engagement efforts used to obtain community input. Share how challenges such as limited accessibility and digital divides were addressed.
<i>Effectiveness and Results.</i>	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. Share how this effort has elevated the value and importance of planning within the community.

IMPLEMENTATION

DEFINITION

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.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to APA members and nonmembers.

CRITERIA

<i>Originality and Innovation.</i>	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.
<i>Overcoming Challenges.</i>	Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for your entry. Detail any changes, derailments, or improvements throughout the implementation phase. Identify funding challenges or support for this effort. Report any political changes that might affect, for better or worse, the effort's long-term funding.
<i>Partnership and Meaningful Engagement.</i>	Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement. Describe how your entry obtained public and private support. Clarify the role, significance, and participation of planners.
<i>Effectiveness and Results.</i>	Indicate the level of consistency of this implementation effort since its start. State how your entry addressed the need or problem that prompted its initiation. 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. Describe how the longevity of this effort has increased the community's appetite for planning and the pursuit of similar initiatives. Clarify the extent that this effort's sustained success has been achieved beyond its general audience.



American Planning Association Nebraska Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen