

2017 Planning Awards Call for Nominations

Honoring The Best & Brightest in Pennsylvania Planning

The PA Chapter of APA is pleased to invite nominations for the 2017 PA Chapter of APA Planning Awards, to be presented at the Annual Conference, October 22-24, 2017, in State College. This is a great opportunity to showcase distinguished individuals and successful planning projects – the best and brightest in Pennsylvania planning!
It's your turn to be recognized for great work:

- The inspiring plan.
- The innovative ordinance or program.
- The model development project.

We look forward to receiving your award nomination by June 23 deadline. Anyone can do it. 1. Enter information on the online form. 2. Attach a narrative. 3. Attach support docs and images that help tell the story.

Good luck!

Denny Puko
 Awards Committee Chairman

A Pennsylvania Legacy

A planner you know deserves to be added to the legacy of Pennsylvania planners.

- A dedicated co-worker.
- An elected official or planning commissioner making a difference.

Nominate that person for an APA-PA award this year!

Don't know if a person has ever received an APA-PA award?

Check out the list of prior individual award winners at <http://planningpa.org/events-training/annual-awards/annual-awards-archive/>

Pennsylvania Chapter Awards Committee Members

Denny Puko, Chairman
 Planner
 PA Department of Community and Economic Development

Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP
 Principal
 Applied Urban Solutions

Brian O'Leary, AICP
 Executive Director
 Chester County Planning Commission

Robert M. Behling
 Chairman
 South Heidelberg Township Planning Commission

Jonathan Heilman, AICP
 Transportation Planner
 Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Brandi Rosselli, AICP
 Manager, Planning Services
 Mackin Engineering

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Submission Requirements:

- **Complete the on-line submission form and attach required documents.** Go to www.planningpa.org, Events & Training, Annual Awards and follow instructions.
- **Brevity and simplicity are strongly encouraged.** Nominations should not exceed the maximum of words indicated below. Nominators should consider including only enough referenced information to demonstrate adherence with the published criteria.

All Nominations MUST Include:

1. PA Chapter Awards Submission form completed on line.
2. A narrative in Microsoft Word or PDF format (1,200 words maximum). It must include a summary describing purpose, process, responsible parties, products, results, etc. for a nominated plan, project, or effort, or significant work and accomplishments for a nominated person; plus a justification describing how the nomination meets each of the published criteria for the category in which the award is sought. Nominators should cite specific examples that illustrate those points.
3. A complete copy of a nominated document in PDF format, or a reliable, working URL link to the complete document on a publicly-accessible web site.
4. At least one (1) but no more than five (5) one-page letters of support in PDF or JPG format. Letter(s) should offer support for the value of the nominated effort. Letter(s) may not be written by the nominator of the submission, by the nominated individual, or by anyone who directly performed the nominated work.
5. Nominations may include newspaper articles or other support documents in PDF or JPG format testifying to the nominated effort or person.
6. Nominations may include images that provide context and help describe the significant work and results of the nominated effort or person. Captions must be included for each image. Images and captions may be arranged in Microsoft Word or PDF format or submitted as JPGs.
7. Should the nomination be selected for an award, the nominator will be required to submit up to 10 images for a plan, project, or effort, or one photo of the nominated individual plus 5 representative images. Images must be copyright-free and in JPG format.

Awards Eligibility:

- Awards are open to PA Chapter of APA members and non-members except where noted. Applications should reflect work conducted in Pennsylvania.
- All applications must be certified by the nominator. Submissions lacking certification may be rejected.
- With the exception of the Implementation Award, any plan, program, project, tool, process, report, or ordinance must have been published, implemented, or completed within three years of the date of submission.
- Nominators are asked to select an appropriate category/sub-category for the submission. However, the Awards Committee will be flexible and may consider a nomination in a category other than it was submitted.
- Awards in the Planning Excellence category will be given to the most exceptional projects, programs, tools, processes, etc. There may be more than one award in a sub-category. There may not be one award in each sub-category.
- Recipients of a Planning Leadership award are ineligible to receive the same award for ten years after accepting it.
- Plans, programs, projects, tools, processes, reports, or ordinances are ineligible to receive the same award more than once.
- Any person, agency, firm, or organization may submit a nomination. Persons may not nominate themselves for individual awards. Only PA Chapter members may nominate other members for a Distinguished Service Award.
- Members of the PA Chapter Awards Committee, staff, and Board of Directors are not eligible to enter or be nominated to receive individual awards.
- The Awards Committee's procedures prohibit any communication with jurors on behalf of a nominee. Such communication is reason for disqualification.
- Winning submissions become the property of the PA Chapter and will not be returned. Exceptions will be considered only upon consultation with the Chapter.

Submission Deadline:

Completed nomination entries and all accompanying materials must be received via on-line submission by 11:59 PM, June 23, 2017. Application forms and supporting materials received after that date will not be accepted.

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Award Categories

Daniel Burnham Award For A Comprehensive Plan

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.

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:

- 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.
- 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 historically have been left out of the planning process. Show how the nominated plan obtained public and private support.
- Role of planners. 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.
- Implementation. Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for following and implementing the plan.
- Effectiveness. 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.

Planning Excellence Awards

The following five awards (Best Practice, Grassroots Initiative, Implementation, Public Outreach, and Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan) recognize group achievement by a planning agency, planning team or firm, community group, or local authority in helping civic leaders and citizens play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. There are no restrictions on the size of jurisdiction.

Best Practice

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.

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Criteria:

- **Originality and innovation.** Document how your entry presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address specific needs. Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry's effects on other public objectives.
- **Implementation.** Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for your entry.
- **Transferability.** Illustrate how your entry has potential application for others and how use of your entry's components and methodology would further the cause of good planning.
- **Participation.** Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement, including those who historically have been left out of the planning process. Show how your entry obtained public and private support. 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.
- **Effectiveness and results.** 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.

Grassroots Initiative

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 \$25,000. 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.

Criteria:

- **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 \$25,000. 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 historically have been 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.

Implementation

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,

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citizen participation, neighborhood improvement, transportation management, or sustained economic development.

Criteria:

- **Effectiveness.** 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.
- **Overcoming challenges.** 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.
- **Participation.** 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.
- **Achievement.** 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.

Public Outreach

This award honors a project or program that uses information, communication, 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.

Criteria:

- **Originality and transferability.** Document how the program uses new ideas or combines tools to address a demonstrated need for planning information or education within the community. Illustrate how your entry has potential application for others and how use of your entry's 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.

Plan Other Than a Comprehensive Plan

This award is for a plan other than a comprehensive plan that will have a positive impact on a community and its quality of life. This category includes plans that include greater depth and detail to address specific functions, topics, or areas of a community. Examples: Downtown or neighborhood revitalization, corridor revitalization, economic development, transportation plans, housing plans, green infrastructure plans, urban design, environmental planning, public space and recreation plans.

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Criteria:

- **Originality and innovation.** Document how your entry presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address specific needs. Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry's effects on other public objectives.
- **Implementation.** Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for your entry. Illustrate how your entry has potential application for others and how use of your entry's components and methodology would further the cause of good planning.
- **Integration.** Describe how your entry has been integrated into other planning efforts such as a corresponding comprehensive or master plan or other related initiatives. Detail how your entry will help further the cause of good planning and support the broader needs of the community and surrounding region.
- **Engagement.** Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement. Show how your entry obtained public and private support. Clarify the role, significance, and participation of planners and any outcomes in terms of helping gain public support of planning.
- **Effectiveness and results.** 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.

Planning Achievement Awards

Advancing Social Change and Diversity

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.

Criteria:

- **Planning.** Explain the role of planners and/or the planning process in achieving results. How did the submission relate to existing plans or planning efforts? What role did these plans or planning efforts play in achieving the results? How was the planning process important to the subsequent implementation? Finally, how involved in the program were various groups and individuals, especially those populations which are targeted by the program.
- **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.

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- **Transferability.** Illustrate how the entry can serve as an example for other people, groups, or organizations to emulate to address similar issues in their communities. How did the program overcome difficulties that may be encountered when attempting to implement a similar program in another area? Describe the aspects of the program that are most easily transferred to another location.

Opportunity and Empowerment

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.

Nominees should show how they have overcome difficult community issues to achieve measurable, effective outcomes. The strategy should employ a variety of actions that maximize increased choice and opportunity for all citizens in the community. To the maximum extent possible, submissions should involve formal community planning efforts and include physical improvements or interventions (though the latter is not required). The strategy submitted should have been in effect a minimum of three years.

Criteria:

- **Planning.** Explain the role of planners and the planning process in achieving results. How did the submission relate to existing plans (comprehensive, regional, and neighborhood)? What role did planners play in achieving the results? How was the planning process important to subsequent implementation? Finally, how involved in the plan were specific groups and individuals from private, nonprofit, and public perspectives, particularly those who may have been left out of similar efforts in the past? Was there a collaborative effort between public and private entities?
- **Results.** State how your entry addressed and documented the need for increased and sustained employment opportunities, quality education, and access to affordable housing or housing choice and mobility among low- and moderate-income residents through effective transportation. Explain how these efforts were cost effective and how they improved quality assurance. Include the beginning and end date, detailed cost and funding data, and information about when the results were implemented. Information must be included describing how the nominated effort has exceeded any minimum requirements imposed by the source or sources of grants, loans, or other funding, whether government or private, obtained and used by the program, project, or effort.
- **Innovation.** Document how your entry used innovative, forward-looking approaches to address various communitywide needs. Explain how your entry is innovative for the locality and how are these efforts applicable on a national scale. Is your entry replicable in other neighborhood or community contexts? For projects using HOPE VI funds, describe how the entry exceeded basic requirements of the HOPE VI program demonstrated through measurable outcomes (e.g. number of jobs and affordable housing units created and preserved, homeownership rates, education outcomes, crime and poverty rates).
- **Transferability.** Illustrate how and to what extent, the entry served as an example for other localities working to address challenges inherent in the neighborhood or community? How does the program provide useful prescriptive measures for other communities similarly situated? How does the submission explicitly demonstrate that the project overcame these challenges to implement a successful program?

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Planning Leadership Awards

The following five awards (Professional Planner, Citizen Planner, Elected Official, Emerging Planner, and Distinguished Service) honor individuals for outstanding, significant, and sustained contributions to, and in support of, planning and the planning profession.

Professional Planner

Recognizes a sustained contribution to the profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing. Nominated individuals must be employed within the practice of planning, whether in the public, for-profit, or nonprofit sector.

Citizen Planner

This award recognizes a volunteer citizen who in that role advanced or promoted planning in the public arena and demonstrated outstanding leadership in a community, region, or state. Nominees may be members of planning commissions, zoning boards, economic development boards, environmental or historic preservation councils, or other appointed officials. Nominees may also include citizen activists or neighborhood leaders.

Elected Official

This award recognizes an elected official who in that role advanced or promoted planning in the public arena and was instrumental in planning accomplishments in his or her jurisdiction.

Emerging Planner

This award recognizes an individual who has been active in planning – as a professional, citizen planner, or elected official – for less than 10 years. The award recognizes demonstrated efforts to advance and innovate planning, plus involvement with APA-PA and the community.

Criteria for Professional Planner, Citizen Planner, Elected Official, and Emerging Planner Awards:

- 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.

Distinguished Service Award

This award is given to a Pennsylvania Chapter member who contributed to planning in Pennsylvania and the development and mission of the Pennsylvania Chapter in a substantial manner over a sustained period.

Criteria:

- Support of the Chapter. Detail how the nominee's participation in, and contribution to, the Chapter furthered the cause of the organization.
- Support of Planning. Specify how the nominee's work increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process.

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- Effectiveness. Describe the level of effectiveness the nominee has had in formulating and implementing his/her ideas, subsequently furthering the cause of planning and the Chapter.

Student Project Award

The Student Project Awards recognize outstanding class projects, planning activities, or papers by a student or group of students. This category is intended to recognize exceptional work by the student(s). While it is appropriate to submit a project or paper on which a faculty member(s) has given guidance, the submission should be primarily the work of the students. The Chapter may choose to grant awards to both undergraduate and graduate projects.

Criteria:

- Innovative: Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures
- Transferable: Potential application to other locations, projects, or areas of planning interest
- Quality: Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and character of presentation
- Implementation: Effectiveness of the work (proposals have been carried out, show promise of being carried out, or demonstrate an effective implementation technique)
- Comprehensive: Planning principles have been observed, especially in considering a project's effects on other public objectives.

Media Award

This award is given for excellent newspaper, magazine, radio or television, online or other coverage of planning issues. Nominations can be for coverage of a planning issue in Pennsylvania or a Pennsylvania community, or for coverage of planning issues on a larger scale – regional, national, or international – by a Pennsylvania source to inform principally a Pennsylvania audience. Nominations should demonstrate how they engaged readers and the community, effectively and factually portrayed planning, overcame obstacles to reporting, and used available resources.