**TEXAS PLANNING AWARDS**

**Instructions:**

Please locate your award category in the pages below for the required award criteria responses. There is a maximum of 300 word limit per each award criteria item. Please do not exceed the 300 word limit or your application will be disqualified. Complete the responses using this word document and upload into ZoomGrants under the Documents tab. Applicants may upload only the page(s) related to their award category into ZoomGrants. Please provide the text responses only without any supporting photos, graphics, or materials. Other supporting documents and graphics can be uploaded separately into ZoomGrants under the Documents tab.

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# Award Category: Advancing Diversity & Social Change

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.

*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.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members and nonmembers. Individuals, including private consulting firms, cannot self-nominate.

**Award Criteria**Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria)

1. 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?
2. Effectiveness and 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.

**TEXAS PLANNING AWARDS**

# Award Category: Comprehensive Plan

For a comprehensive or general plan that advances the science and art of planning. Maximum 2 awards given for this award.

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members. The award is given for group achievement and may be made to a planning agency, community group, or local authority. There are no limits on the size of jurisdiction. The plan must have been adopted prior to submittal.

**Award Criteria**Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. Quality. Explain how your plan is state-of-the-art in terms of presentation and methodology. Identify what makes this plan exceptional or stand out compared to other comprehensive plans.
3. Engagement. Explain how various stakeholder 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.
4. Implementation and Effectiveness. Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for following and implementing the plan. 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. State the positive or unintended outcomes.
5. Promotion of Planning. 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.

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# Award Category: Planning Advocate

This award honors an individual, appointed, or elected official who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. Maximum 2 awards given (1 elected and 1 appointed). **No application fee required for this category.**

*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 councils, or other appointed officials; elected officials holding office at the local, regional, or state level; citizen activists or neighborhood leaders.*

**Eligibility**

Individuals may not self-nominate and cannot earn their living as a planner. Open to APA and Non-APA members.

**Award Criteria**Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria)

1. 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.
2. 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.

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# Award Category: Planning Landmark

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# Recognizing a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that is historically significant and that may be used or accessed by the public. No application fee is required for this award category.

# Eligibility

# Nominated landmarks must date back at least 25 years from the nomination deadline (July 8, 2022).

**Award Criteria**Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria)

1. Historical significance. Explain the nomination's historical significance in terms of at least one of the following: pioneering work or a documented first; historically significant, unique, and outstanding; having initiative a new direction in planning that has had a lasting effect or other impact; having an impact on American planning, cities, or regions during a broad range of time, space, or both time and space.
2. State or National significance. Document the effect or impact the nominated landmark had on planning in Texas or the United States as a whole and creating communities or other places of lasting value throughout the country. Who were the significant planners or others who were involved or responsible for the accomplishments of the nominated landmark?

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**Award Category: Student Project**

The Student Project Award recognizes an outstanding class project or paper by a student or group of students in Planning Accreditation Board-accredited planning programs that contribute to advances in the field of planning. This awards program 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.

# Eligibility

# Open to APA members APA student members.

# Award Criteria

# Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

# Innovation. Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures

# Transferability. 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)

# Application. Planning principles have been applied or observed, especially in considering a project's effects on other public objectives

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# Award Category: Journalism

This award is given to a Texas newspaper, magazine, or TV station for a story/series on Texas planning.

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members and nonmembers.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria)**.**

1. Support of planning and planners**.** Illustrate how the nominee's work has increased the understanding of the planning process and/or make an impact on the planning profession. Indicate how the nominee has shown a clear understanding of, and support for, the role of planners in public life.

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# Award Category: Community of the Year

Given to a town, city, or county for providing an outstanding contribution to planning.

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. Demonstration of the connection between the community's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning.

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# Award Category: 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.*

**Eligibility**

Any planning agency, 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. Nomination must be made by an APA member.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. Implementation and Transferability. 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.
3. Engagement. 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.
4. 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.

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# Award Category: Economic Development Planning

This award honors efforts to transform economies and stimulate economic development in communities of all sizes.

*Examples: Economic development plans, economic recovery initiatives, urban and regional economic analyses, commercial district revitalization, corridor revitalization, town center developments, and strategic plans for economic development; market studies.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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# Award Category: Environmental Planning

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

*Examples: Green infrastructure plans; resource conversation efforts; alternative energy programs; climate action plans and disaster recovery plans;; public health initiatives; sustainability plans.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members and nonmembers.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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# Award Category: 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 $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.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members and nonmembers.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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# Award Category: 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, citizen participation, neighborhood improvement, transportation management, or sustained economic development.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Engagement. 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.
5. 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.

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# Award Category: Public Outreach

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; newspaper articles or a series of blog posts; publications (books or magazines); websites; podcasts; or films.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Engagement. 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.
4. 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.

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# Award Category: Resilience Award

This award recognizes a strategy that increases the ability of a community to recover from and adapt to shocks and stresses (natural disasters, human-caused disasters, climate change, etc.), resulting in it becoming stronger and better prepared than ever before.

**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; etc.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. Planning and Innovation: Identify how the strategy builds upon best practices and identifies innovative approaches for reducing a community’s hazard risks. How does the initiative improve recovery efforts if a disaster does strike, or addresses if cascading disasters (i.e. landslides result from excessive rains).
2. Engagement: Describe how the strategy used an inclusive planning process and engages diverse partners and stakeholders, and/or breaks down institutional or structural barriers to facilitate decision making. Illustrate how private, nonprofit, and public partners at multiple levels are represented. Identify steps taken to engage community residents, especially underrepresented populations, during the planning process.
3. Integration: Describe how the strategy integrates or augments existing planning efforts within the community or region. Explain how the effort or initiative can be adapted or applied by other jurisdictions.
4. Economic Impacts: Describe how the strategy represents realizable and practical actions, leveraging multiple funding sources and partnerships to deliver co-benefits for diverse populations. Explain how these efforts address not only the community-wide economic base but address the needs of individuals within the community such as available jobs, resources for developing new job skills and reducing time away from work. How will the effort lessen the financial impact disasters can place upon communities?
5. Effectiveness and Results: Demonstrate how the initiative has strengthened the resiliency of the community. How has this initiative increased resident understanding and awareness about potential disasters, as well as the roles and responsibilities of individual community members in helping to mitigate the severity of potential disasters? Identify what benchmarks were used to determine success.

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# Award Category: Transportation Planning

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; plans for pedestrian, streets, highways, aviation, parking, maritime, freight, transit or rail; development and expansion of transportation systems; development and expansion of trail systems.

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. Planning and innovation. Describe the critical transportation elements that are addressed by your entry in terms of lessening or mitigating adverse impacts from development and everyday living. Illustrate how the role of planning or planners were involved in the development process of your entry.
2. Compatibility. Demonstrate how your entry integrates transportation planning into community planning. Describe how your entry connects to both environment and the economy.
3. Engagement. Describe the public education and participation process. Describe how support was generated for your entry.
4. 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 people affected and benefits the overall community.

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# Award Category: Historic Preservation

# This award recognizes a planning project, initiative, or endeavor that is historically significant and that may be used or accessed by the public.

**Examples:** *Historic preservation plans, historic surveys, design standards for historic districts, state marker applications, National Register of Historic Places nominations, cemetery restorations, marketing or tourism events, historic building renovations or restorations, development of local historic districts.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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# Award Category: Urban Design

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

**Example:** *Streetscape plans; public space plans; hospital, college or other campus plan.*

**Eligibility**

Open to APA members.

**Award Criteria**

Describe how the entry satisfies the award criteria (Maximum of 300 words per each item listed under category criteria).

1. Originality, Excellence 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.
2. Compatibility. Demonstrate how your entry integrates and supports the overall planning goals of the neighborhood or community.
3. 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.
4. 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.