



American Planning Association
**Texas Chapter
Midwest**

Creating Great Communities for All

2024 Call for Section Planning Awards

Awards Program Purpose

The Midwest Section of Texas APA has established an annual awards program to recognize students, individuals, and projects making significant contributions to planning. The awards for each category below will be select by a section awards committee based on the criteria described for each.

Planning Excellence - Recognition of an outstanding plan, study, or project that may be specific or comprehensive in nature and addresses development issues of an area, city, county, or region. Planning projects must have been completed in the last 3 years. (Awards committee may choose up to two awards) Criteria:

- Innovation. Describe how the submission involved an innovative or forward-looking approach that effectively addressed various community-wide needs and/or solved a perplexing problem?
- Equity and 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.
- 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.
- 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 Advocate - This award honors an appointed or elected official, journalist, or community leader who have advanced or promoted the cause of planning and demonstrates commitment to addressing the concerns of disadvantaged communities through planning practice. Criteria:

- 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.

Student Projects - Given in recognition of a research or planning project by an individual or team of students in an undergraduate or graduate planning program. Must have been completed within the past year. (Awards committee may choose up to two awards) 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.
- Engagement. Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement. Did your entry obtain public and private support? Clarify the role, significance, and participation of planners and any outcomes in terms of helping gain public support of planning.
- Integration. Describe how your entry has been/can be integrated into professional planning efforts such as a corresponding plan or initiatives currently relevant to a city in the region. Detail how your entry will help further the cause of good planning and support the broader needs of the community and surrounding region.
- 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.

Submission

Any member of the Texas APA may submit a nomination for any of the award categories. Please use the following SurveyMonkey link to complete the application: <https://form.jotform.com/240528685085161>

Deadline for award submissions is **Friday, March 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Awards Presentation

The Midwest Section Awards committee will notify all award honorees and invite them to attend the Midwest Section's Happy Hour event to be recognized, which will be held on Friday, April 26, 2024.

Contact Information

Send questions to dhawkins@cityofazle.org

Midwest Section Counties

Nominated plans, projects, groups and/or individuals should be primarily focused within the counties of the Midwest Section.

