



American Planning Association California Chapter, Central Section 2026 Awards Program Application and Submittal Requirements

The purpose of the APA California Central Section Awards Program is to encourage quality in planning and increase the public's awareness of the planning profession through recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field. Each year, the Section looks forward to honoring the most outstanding efforts in planning. The program honors innovative plans and projects, distinguished APA members, and lay contributors to planning and achievements of the Central Section. The Central Section region consists of Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne Counties.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Unless otherwise noted, the Central Section will accept nominations only for projects/plans located within the geographic boundaries of the Section.
- 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.
- Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report, or ordinance may only be entered in one award category per award year and are not eligible for the same or other award categories in the following years.
- Recipients of the Planning Agency, Planning Firm, or individual recipients of Advancing Diversity for and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff Award are ineligible to receive the same award for ten (10) years after accepting it.
- Anyone working on a plan or project may nominate that plan or project for an award.
- Members of the Awards Jury are not eligible to nominate or to receive individual awards. The jurors shall inform the award committee prior to and recuse themselves at the jury deliberations when they have a conflict of interest with a nomination.

Sections:

- I. Award Categories
- II. Awards Selection Process, Including Criteria
- III. Additional Information

Note: Eligibility to submit for a California Chapter Award requires an Excellence or Merit award at the Section level in the same award category to proceed to the Chapter awards program. Winners in Section-Only award categories do not advance to the Chapter awards program.

I. AWARD CATEGORIES

General Planning Awards

1. **Opportunity and Empowerment Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's Opportunity and Empowerment Award [Implementation])*

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.

2. **Comprehensive Plan** *(Corresponds to APA CA's and to APA National's Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan)*

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.

3. **Implementation Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's 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.

4. **Resilience and Sustainability Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's and APA National's Resilience and Sustainability Awards)*

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 3 action; public health efforts or economic development plans or initiatives that improve the overall human and fiscal health of the community, etc.

5. **Transportation Planning** *(Corresponds to APA CA's 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.

6. **Planning Excellence Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's and APA National's Planning Excellence Awards)*

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 plan, 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.

7. **Grassroots Initiative Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's Grassroots Initiative Award)*

Honoring an initiative that illustrates how an individual, 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 \$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.

8. **Urban Design Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's Urban Design Award)*

This award honors efforts to create a sense of place, whether a 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.

9. **Planning Firm Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's Planning Firm Award)*

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

10. **Planning Agency Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's Planning Agency Award)*

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.

11. **Advancing Diversity and Social Change Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's and APA National's 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 inclusions 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 (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.

12. **Academic Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's 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; 5 collaboration with public or private sectors through academic activities; academic programs/curriculums that create long-term positive impacts on generations of emerging planners.

13. **Communications Initiative and Outreach Award** *(Corresponds to APA CA's 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.

14. **Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards**

Nominations for Central Section Planning Landmark Awards may only be submitted for those projects, initiatives, or endeavors located in the Central Section, and nominations for Pioneer Awards may only be submitted for those individuals that are current, retired, or deceased Central Section members.

Planning Landmark Award *(Corresponds to APA CA's Planning Landmark Award)*

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

Planning Pioneer Award *(Corresponds to APA CA's Planning Pioneer Award)*

Presented to pioneers of the profession who have made personal and direct innovations in California planning that have significantly and positively redirected planning practices, education or theory with long-term results.

SECTION-ONLY AWARDS – PLANNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The following awards are given to individuals, programs or organizations for outstanding planning achievement. Nominations for Planning Achievement Awards will be accepted from any person, including members of the Central Section and Chapter (State) Board of Directors.

Winners in Section-only award categories do not advance to the Chapter awards program. Recipients of Planning Achievement Awards are ineligible to receive the same award for ten years after accepting it.

1. **Planning Project Award** To a specific planning project of unusually high merit that is in the process of being constructed or has been completed within the last year.
Examples: Downtown specific plans, affordable housing plans, design guidelines, applications of technology, fostering greater public engagement in planning processes, transportation options, efforts that create a sense of place.
2. **Focused Issue Planning Award** For a planning document of unusually high merit completed or published in the past three years, dealing with a specific aspect of the planning process.
Examples: Environmental Impact Report; Housing Needs Assessment; Neighborhood Plan; Specific Plan.
3. **Best Practices Award** 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.

SECTION-ONLY AWARD – CENTRAL SECTION ACTIVITY AWARD

The Central Section Activity Award recognizes the outstanding work in the Central Section that has been established or implemented, such as an activity or program of unusually high merit within the past two years. Section Activity Award winners are only eligible to receive the award once every three years. Any person, including a member of the Central Section and/or Chapter Board, can make nominations for this award. Self-nominations are allowed for this award category.

II. AWARDS SELECTION PROCESS, INCLUDING CRITERIA

SECTION JURY COMPOSITION

The Central Section Awards Chair shall appoint a jury annually to judge the entries. An open solicitation of the Section membership shall be used. Jurors shall reflect the Section membership and be chosen to represent different areas of expertise, geographic locations, and professional experiences in the private/public sector, to achieve an overall balance of the jury. The diversity in jurors will also be considered. The decision of the majority of the jury shall be final. All award categories are reviewed and selected by the appointed Jury.

SECTION JURY MAY MOVE NOMINATIONS TO A DIFFERENT CATEGORY

Normally, nominations will be evaluated for the award category in which they were submitted. However, the Section jury may, upon majority vote, move a nomination to a different category as appropriate.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING AWARD ENTRIES

Entries shall be judged according to the following criteria:

1. **Opportunity and Empowerment Award**

Challenges or Barriers. What obstacles, whether physical, natural, social, financial, political, or a combination thereof, were faced and addressed by the nominated effort? What is the extent of these challenges or other adversarial conditions, and what steps were undertaken to meet the difficult circumstances? What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support? Detail any changes, derailments, or improvements throughout the implementation phase. What were the funding challenges or support for this effort? What were the political changes, if any, that affected, for better or worse, the effort's long-term positive impact?

Available Resources. What resources were available and how were these resources (financial, personnel, consultants, etc.) managed, leveraged, and deployed?

Planning. Explain how the submission addresses a real-world challenge in the community as identified by an existing comprehensive, regional or neighborhood plan. How did the program or project integrate or maintain the cultural context and social fabric of the community? What specific role did planners play in achieving these results? How was the planning process sustained through the implementation stage and beyond? How involved were community residents, civic and advocacy groups, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations throughout the planning stage and beyond?

Results. Describe in detail how the plan, project or program achieved measurable outcomes. Examples of outcomes include: the number of jobs created and retained; improvement in education outcomes (i.e., graduation rates); the number of affordable housing units created or preserved; a disaster mitigation plan; a decline in the homeless, crime, and/or poverty rates. In addition, explain how outcomes are sustained and proved to be cost effective over time. The submission must include baseline data, beginning and end dates, detailed budget, and a description of savings and outcomes. For projects leveraging HUD funding, such as HOME and CDBG, or other financing tools (i.e., Low-Income Housing Tax Credit), explain how the submission exceeds the basic requirements of these programs to achieve results.

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. Explain how the submission clearly addressed social equity through the planning process and civic engagement efforts. Describe the specific activities and efforts incorporated into the plan, program, or project that advance social equity goals. How involved was the public — particularly historically underrepresented groups — in the planning process from the initial stage to the implementation stage and beyond? Explain how the results of the plan, project, or program enhanced the quality of life for vulnerable populations, including the homeless, older persons, persons with a disability, low-income individuals and families, and veterans.

Transferability. How, and to what extent, has the submission served as an example for other localities working to address challenges? How does the program provide useful prescriptive measures for other communities addressing a similar challenge? How well does the submission demonstrate that the project overcame challenges to implement a successful program where the results are sustained over time?

2. Comprehensive Plan Award

Originality and Innovation. How does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs? How did the planning process in this context broaden accepted planning principles within the context of the situation?

Quality. How is the plan state-of-the-art in terms of presentation and methodology? Identify what makes this plan exceptional or stand out compared to other comprehensive plans.

Engagement. How were various public interests 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. How was public and private support obtained?

Promotion of Planning. What was the role, significance and participation of planners? What is the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning?

Effectiveness and Results. How did your entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? Be explicit about how the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? State the positive or unintended outcomes. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

3. Implementation Award:

Challenges or Barriers. What obstacles, whether physical, natural, social, financial, political, or a combination thereof, were faced and addressed by the nominated effort? What is the extent of these challenges or other adversarial conditions, and what steps were undertaken to meet the difficult circumstances? What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support? Detail any changes, derailments, or improvements throughout the implementation phase. What were the funding challenges or support for this effort? What were the political changes, if any, that affected, for better or worse, the effort's long-term funding?

Available Resources. What resources were available and how were these resources (financial, personnel, consultants, etc.) managed, leveraged, and deployed?

Originality and Innovation. How does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs? How did the planning process in this context broaden accepted planning principles within the context of the situation? 10

Effectiveness. What is the level of consistency of this implementation effort since its start? How was the need or problem addressed that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What is the level of effectiveness the entry can have over time?

Engagement. Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement? How was public and private support obtained? What was the role, significance, and participation of planners?

Transferability. How, and to what extent, has the submission served as an example for other localities working to address challenges? How does the program provide useful prescriptive measures for other communities addressing a similar challenge? How well does the submission demonstrate that the project overcame challenges to implement a successful program where the results are sustained over time?

4. Resilience and Sustainability Award

Originality and Innovation. Identify how the strategy builds upon best practices and identifies innovative approaches for addressing a community's specific needs or reducing its risks. How does the initiative improve recovery efforts if a disaster does strike, or address cascading disasters or stresses (i.e., landslides result from excessive rains, public health emergencies create economic stress)?

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 so all community members' voices are represented. Describe what steps were taken to build momentum and support for your entry. Explain how planners helped facilitate outcomes that gained support for planning practices.

Integration. Describe how the strategy integrates or augments existing planning efforts within the community, county, or region such as corresponding comprehensive or master plans or other related initiatives. Explain how the effort or initiative can be adapted or applied by other jurisdictions and supports the broader needs of the community and surrounding region.

Economic Impacts. Describe how the strategy represents realizable and practical actions, leveraging multiple funding sources and partnerships to deliver co-benefits for diverse populations. How will the effort lessen the financial impact disasters or economic downturns can have on communities?

Effectiveness and Results. Demonstrate how the initiative has strengthened the resiliency of the community. Identify what benchmarks were used to determine success and be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of people affected. How has this initiative increased resident understanding and awareness about potential disasters, as well as the roles and responsibilities of individual community members, along with the community as a whole, in helping to mitigate the severity of potential disasters? How has this initiative positioned the community for a stronger, more resilient future?

5. Transportation Planning

Planning and Innovation. What are the critical transportation elements which lessen or mitigate adverse impacts from development and everyday living? What was the role of planning or planners involved in the development process?

Challenges or Barriers. What obstacles, whether physical, natural, social, or a combination thereof, were faced and addressed by the nominated effort? What is the extent of these challenges or other adversarial conditions, and what steps were undertaken to meet the difficult circumstances?

Compatibility. How does transportation planning integrate into community planning? How does the entry connect to both the environment and the economy?

Engagement. What was the public education and participation process? How was support generated?

Effectiveness and Results. How does the entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What level of effectiveness can the entry have over time?

Transferability. How, and to what extent, has the submission served as an example for other localities working to address challenges? How does the program provide useful prescriptive measures for other communities addressing a similar challenge? How well does the submission demonstrate that the project overcame challenges to implement a successful program where the results are sustained over time?

6. **Planning Excellence Award**

Originality and Innovation. 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 compliments 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?

Methodology and Transferability. 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.

Engagement. 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.

Effectiveness and Results. 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?

7. **Grassroots Initiative Award**

Effectiveness and Results. State how your entry addressed the need or problem in a visionary or innovative manner that prompted its initiation, or increased the understanding of the planning

process or impacts, or raised public awareness of one planning topic or issue, within a budget not exceeding \$200,000. 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 have been historically 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, or the initiative has been effective in formulating and implementing plans and ideas in support of good planning. State the influence your entry has had on public awareness beyond those immediately affected. Identify the level of influence and effectiveness achieved within different segments of the community.

8. Urban Design Award

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.

Compatibility. Demonstrate how your entry integrates and supports the overall planning goals of the neighborhood or community.

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.

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.

9. Planning Firm Award

Quality. Demonstrate consistent quality of the firm's work and its recognition by the general public or those who practice or sponsor planning, teach planning, or develop communities. Elements of quality include graphic design, content, and evidence of implementation by clients.

Influence. Detail the firm's positive influence on the direction and professional advancement of planning, for example promoting new technologies, collaboration among other design disciplines, innovations in practice, and advances in the art and science of planning. Identify the number of planners on staff.

Ethical Practice. Explain how the firm consistently upholds and champions the highest standards of ethics in terms of the public trust and guiding and educating its staff on the importance of ethics.

Outreach and Engagement. Demonstrate the firm's efforts and skills in engaging stakeholders and resolving community conflicts with positive outcomes. Demonstrate responsiveness to the client and the various elements of the community in the planning process and willingness to incorporate ideas and suggestions from the community.

10. Planning Agency Award

Quality. Demonstrate consistent quality of the agency's work. Describe how the agency's program of work has elevated awareness about planning and built community support for planning. Describe the number of staffers, their various roles, and if any members have specific certifications.

Outreach and Engagement. Demonstrate the agency's efforts and skills in 14 engaging community members, business leaders and other stakeholders, and in resolving community conflicts with positive outcomes. Describe efforts undertaken to engage community members, especially those often overlooked, in planning processes.

Innovation. Describe how your agency has addressed concerns or issues within the community in a visionary or innovative manner. Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry's effects on other public objectives.

Implementation. Describe the program of work that has resulted in identified and meaningful outcomes that raise the quality of life for all citizens. Demonstrate the connection between planning and implementation with tools such as capital budgets.

11. Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff Award

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?

Engagement. 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.

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. Share how this effort has elevated the value and importance of planning within the community.

12. Academic Award

Purpose. What was the purpose of the project, program, or research? What was learned in the research or project, or what has achieved by this program?

Research and Resources. For a project or research, please detail what and how research was completed to prepare for producing the final product. What resources were available to the faculty to prepare the paper or document?

Challenges. Please describe the challenges during the project, program, or research.

Results. What was the basis for the paper or the project? What was the final outcome? How was the final product used? How did your entry address the 15 need or problem that prompted its initiation in real-world planning practice? Be explicit about how the results have generated or might generate perspective benefits or inspirations to the current planning practice. State the positive or unintended outcomes. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

13. Communications Initiative and Outreach Award

Challenges or Barriers. What obstacles, whether physical, natural, social, or a combination thereof, were faced and addressed by the nominated effort? What is the extent of these challenges or other adversarial conditions, and what steps were undertaken to meet the difficult circumstances?

Originality and Innovation. Describe how your entry engaged audiences in planning using innovative or unique communication approaches. How does the program use new ideas or combine tools to address a demonstrated need for planning information or education within the community? How does the entry have potential application for others and how use of the 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 built support for planning and 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.

14. Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards

Planning Landmark

Historical Significance. What is the nomination's historical significance in terms of at least one of the following: being a pioneering work or a documented first; being historically significant, unique, and outstanding; having initiated a new direction in planning that has had a lasting effect or other impact; or having impact on California planning, cities, or regions during a broad range of time, space, or both time and space? Nominated landmarks contributions must be at least 16 25 years old as of the submittal deadline.

State Significance. What effect or impact did the nominated landmark have on planning in California as a whole? What is the nominated landmark's state importance and influence in helping create communities or other places of lasting value throughout California?

Planning Pioneer

Historical Significance. What are the nominated individual's innovations or new models that directly influenced the future of California Planning? How have the nominated individual's innovations or new models significantly and positively redirected planning practice, education, theory, or organization? Nominated individual's contributions must be at least 25 years old as of the submittal deadline.

State Significance. What effect or impact did the nominated individual have on planning in California as a whole?

SECTION-ONLY AWARDS CRITERIA

1. Planning Project Award

Originality: Is there a visionary approach or innovative concept that results in a meaningful advance in the planning process?

Transferability: To what extent is there a potential application in other areas or to other projects?

Quality: To what extent is there excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and ethical planning process?

Implementation: How did the project address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? What is the level of effectiveness as evidenced by the project's degree of post-completion or post-adoption activity? What level of effectiveness do you anticipate over time? How much local support is there for the plan and its implementation?

Comprehensiveness: To what extent have planning principles been observed, especially consideration of the projects' effects in other public objectives?

Public Participation: To what extent was the public involved in this project and how both public and private support was obtained?

Role of Planners: What role did planners play in the project?

2. Focused Issue Planning Award

Originality: Is there a visionary approach or innovative concept that results in a meaningful advance in the planning process?

Transferability: To what extent is there a potential application in other areas or to other projects?

Quality: To what extent is there excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and ethical planning process?

Implementation: How did the project address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? What is the level of effectiveness as evidenced by the project's degree of post-completion or post-adoption activity? What level of effectiveness do you anticipate over time? How much local support is there for the plan and its implementation?

Comprehensiveness: To what extent have planning principles been observed, especially consideration of the projects' effects in other public objectives?

Public Participation: To what extent was the public involved in this project and how both public and private support was obtained?

Role of Planners: What role did planners play in the project?

3. Best Practices Award

Originality and Innovation. Does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address specific needs? How were the planning principles observed, especially in consideration of the effects on other public objectives?

Implementation and Transferability. What steps were taken to build momentum and public support for your entry? How does the entry have potential application for others and how will use of the components and methodology further the cause of good planning?

Participation. How were various public interests involved and the extent of that involvement, including those who historically have been left out of the planning process? How was public and private support obtained? What was the role, significance, and participation of planners? What is the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning.

Effectiveness and Results. How does the entry address the need or problem that prompted its initiation? How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected? What level of effectiveness can the entry have over time?

III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Central Section Awards Process

The Section Awards Jury may award only one (1) first-place Award of Excellence per category each year. When exceptional circumstances warrant, one (1) Award of Merit may also be given per category. If the jury finds that none of the nominations in a particular category meets the desirable standards of excellence, they may grant only an Award of Merit or grant no award in that category.

B. Honoring the Central Section Award Recipients

Award recipients are typically recognized at presentations before Councils, Boards and other Agency/Organization related meetings. First place winners will be honored with a trophy, plaque, or framed certificate. Award of Merit winners will be honored with a plaque or certificate. One trophy, plaque, or framed certificate per award will be provided to the recipient, at no cost. Upon request, additional trophies, plaques and framed or unframed certificates will be provided for individuals, firms or groups affiliated with the award-winning project or program, but the recipients must pay for the cost.

C. Central Section Awards Policies

The Central Section may establish Awards Policies different from those of the State Chapter at their own discretion. In order to participate in the California Chapter's Awards Program, the Central Section Awards Coordinator will be the point of contact with the Chapter's Vice President for Administration or Awards Coordinator, concerning Awards Program matters and to coordinate awards activities for the Section.