Evaluation Criteria

Comprehensive Plan Award | Large and Small Jurisdictions

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?

Engagement.
›   How were various public interests involved and the extent of that involvement?
›   How was public and private support obtained?
    Competitive entries demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who historically have been left out of the planning process.

Role of planners.
›   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?

Implementation.
›   What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for following and implementing the plan?

Effectiveness.
›   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?
    An entry should convey the level of effectiveness it can have over time.

Best Planning Practice

Originality and Innovation.
›   Does the entry presents 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 the 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?

Implementation Award | Large and Small Jurisdictions

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

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?

Overcoming Challenges.
› What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support?
› 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?

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

Innovation in Green Community Planning

Originality and Innovation.
› What critical green planning elements are addressed by the nominated effort terms of lessening or mitigating adverse impacts from development and everyday living?
› In what ways did the plan or planning effort seek to create a community that is truly sustainable and compatible with the natural resources and environmental system upon which its existence depends?

Implementation.
› What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support?
› How does your entry apply to others and how useful are the component and methodology to further the cause of good planning?

Integration.
› How is the green community planning integrated into a corresponding comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, capital improvement program, or other related initiative?
› In what ways does the green planning support the broader needs of the community and surrounding region or address community-wide objectives?

Engagement.
› What was done to ensure the widest variety of resident and stakeholder participation in the plan and planning process?

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?

Grassroots Initiative

Effectiveness and Results.
› Does the entry address the need of problem in a visionary or innovative manner that prompted its initiation, within a budget not exceeding $25,000?
› How have the results made a difference in the lives of the people affected?
› Does the entry convey effectiveness over time?

Education.
› Did the entry encourage community leaders to revise their opinions about varied uses and broad applications of the planning process?
› Did the entry influence public awareness beyond those immediately affected?

Collaboration.
› Does the entry display collaboration between leadership and competing interests?
› Were those affected brought into the planning process through this initiative?

Economic Development

Originality and Innovation.
› Does the entry presents 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.
› What steps have been taken to build momentum and public support?
› How does the entry have potential application for others and how will use of the components and methodology further the cause of good planning?

Integration.
› How was the entry integrated into other planning efforts such as a corresponding comprehensive or master plan or other related initiatives?
› How will the entry help further the cause of good planning and support the broader needs of the community and surrounding region?

Engagement.
› How were various public interests involved and the extent of that involvement?
› How was public and private support obtained?
› What was the role, significance, and participation of planners and any outcomes in terms of helping gain public support of planning?

Urban Design

Originality and Innovation.
› How does the entry present a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs?
› How did the use of the planning process broaden traditional planning principles?
› Compatibility.
› How does the entry integrate and support the overall planning goals of the neighborhood or community?

Effectiveness and results.
› How has the entry made a difference in the lives of the people affected?
› How has the entry been effective over time?

Engagement.
› How were various public interests involved?
› Does the entry display collaboration between leadership and competing interests?
› Were those affected brought into the planning process through this initiative?

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?
› Compatibility.
› How does the entry integrate into community planning?
› How does the entry connect to both 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 people affected?
› What level of effectiveness can the entry have over time?

Neighborhood Planning

Planning and Innovation.
› What critical planning elements are addressed by the nominated effort in terms of creating new neighborhoods and redesigning older neighborhoods?
› As an example, but not limited to, how does the entry contribute to residents doing more walking, biking, or taking part in other physical activities?
› Does the entry call for placing schools closer to the homes where students and their families live?
› How are smart growth principles used to guide design of new neighborhoods as well as reinvestment decisions affecting older areas?
› How does the plan help create more diverse housing opportunities and address affordable housing needs?

Plan Compatibility.
› How is the entry compatible with the corresponding city comprehensive or master plan, district or special-use plans, city recreational plans, economic development plans, conservation area plans, environmental planning, capital improvement programs, zoning ordinances, or other related planning initiatives?
› In what ways does the entry support the broader needs of the community and surrounding region or addresses citywide objectives?

Collaboration and Partnerships.
› What formal and informal steps were taken for neighborhood leaders to meet among themselves and with local officials to discuss the plan and plan implementation?
› What strategic partnerships or alliances were developed to help meet the goals and objectives of the nominated effort?

Social Concerns.
› How does the entry address not only physical conditions of the neighborhood, but also issues involving the diversity and social makeup of the neighborhood?
› Does the entry facilitate the development of mixed-income neighborhoods?

Environmental Planning

Originality and Innovation.
› Does the plan exhibit a refinement of existing techniques or procedures?

Transferability.
› Does the plan have potential applicability in other areas or to other projects?

Quality.
› Does the plan exhibit excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and character of presentation?

Implementation.
› Was the plan effective?
› Has the proposal been carried out or show promise of being carried out?

Comprehensiveness.
› Were planning, environmental, and CEQA principals observed, considering a project's effects on public objectives?

Public Outreach

Originality and Transferability.
› How does the program use new ideas or combines tools to address a demonstrated need for planning information or education within the community?
› How does the entry have potential application for others?
› Does the entry use components and methodology that would further the cause of good planning?

Effectiveness and results.
› Does the entry address 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.
› How were the various public interests involved?
› How did the entry obtain 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.*
› Does the entry demonstrate the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning?

Communications Initiative

Support of Planning and Planners.
› Has the entry built support for planning and increased understanding of the planning process?

Originality and innovation.
› How has the entry engaged audiences in planning using innovative or unique communication approaches?

Effectiveness and results.
› How has the entry achieved its desired outcomes?
› What level of effectiveness can the entry can have over time?

Planning Landmark Award

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 had a lasting effect or other impact;*
  • *or having impact on American planning, cities, or regions during a broad range of time, space, or both time and space?*
› Is the entry at least 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 Award

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?
› Is the entry 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?

Innovative Use of Technology

Originality and innovation.
› How did the entry used technology in new and innovative ways to achieve projects in the planning field?

Effectiveness and results.
› How did the entry achieved its desired outcomes?
› Did the new use of technology make an impact over time and inspire others over time?

Social Change and Diversity

Social and Economic.
› How does the entry address the needs of at-risk individuals or populations that society typically overlooks?
› How does the entry's efforts advance or sustain sound, ethical, and inclusionary planning within the planning field, within a specific community, or in society at large?

Effectiveness & Results.
› How does the entry had a positive impact on the lives of those it was intended to help?
› Did the effort touch a wider audience, help increase diversity and inclusiveness within the planning field, or in help support diverse populations?

Opportunity and Empowerment

Planning.
› What was the role of planners and the planning process in achieving results?
› How did the submission relate to existing plans? What role did planners play in achieving the results?
› How was the planning process important to subsequent implementation?
› 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.
› How was 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 addressed and documented?
› How were these efforts cost effective?
    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.
› What innovative, forward-looking approaches were used to address various communitywide needs?
› Is your entry replicable in other neighborhood or community contexts?

Transferability.
› How does the entry serve 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?

Hard-Won Victory

Challenges or Barriers.
› What obstacles, whether physical, natural, social, or a combination thereof, was 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?

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

Progress and positive effects.
› What are the lasting effects the effort has had or is likely to have on planning in the community?
› Has the effort removed or mitigated the barriers and obstacles?
› How has or will the effort shape the future in the community or locale?

Academic Award

Purpose.
- › What was the purpose of the project?
- › What was learned or accomplished by the students?

Research and Resources.
- › How was research completed to prepare for producing the final product?
- › What resources were available to the students to prepare the paper or document?

Challenges.
- › What challenges did the student(s) face during the project.

Results.
- › What was the basis for the paper or the project?
- › What was the final outcome?
- › How was the final product used?

Distinguished Leadership Award | Planning Firm

Quality.
- › Does the firm demonstrate consistent quality work? Elements of quality include graphic design, content, evidence of implementation by clients.

Influence.
- › Does the firm have a positive influence on the direction and professional advancement of planning?

Ethical Practice.
- › How does the firm consistently uphold and champion 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.
- › Does the firm demonstrate skills in engaging stakeholders and resolving community conflicts with positive outcomes?
- › Does the firm 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?

Distinguished Leadership Award | Planning Agency

Quality.
- › Does the agency demonstrate consistent quality 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.
- › Does the entry demonstrate the agency's efforts and skills in 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.
- › Does the agency address concerns or issues within the community in a visionary or innovative manner?

Implementation.
- › Has the work resulted in identified and meaningful outcomes that raise the quality of life for all citizens?
- › Has the entry demonstrated a connection between planning and implementation with tools such as capital budgets?

Emerging Planning and Design Firm

Quality.
› Does the entry 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, evidence of implementation by clients. Influence.
› Does entry 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?

Ethical Practice.
› Does the entry 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.
› Does the entry demonstrate the firm's efforts and skills in engaging stakeholders and resolving community conflicts with positive outcomes?
› Does the entry 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?

John Chase Visionary Award

Significant Contribution:
› How has the nominee made a significant contribution in urban design, writing, architecture, planning or any other related area of practice where creativity, critical thinking, mentorship, or a combination thereof, demonstrate a passion for planning as a true visionary?

Emerging Young Planner

Exemplary & Valuable Contribution.
› How has the nominee made an exemplary and valuable contribution in urban planning or any other related area of practice where professional, educational, and philanthropic leadership have been demonstrated?
    Use specific examples of projects, programs, initiatives, or a combination thereof, to showcase why this nominee should be chosen.