

2012 Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association Planning Awards

These awards honor outstanding efforts in planning and planning leadership, including cutting-edge achievements and planning under difficult or adverse circumstances. The Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA MI) invites you to participate in celebrating the best of planning by nominating projects and individuals you think deserve such recognition.

Call for Entries

Nominations for 2012 Planning Awards are now open. The deadline for nominations is Monday, May 21, 2012, 4:30 p.m. in the APA MI office. Late submissions or postmarked packages (with the date of May 22, 2012) will not be accepted. Nomination applications must be complete. Incomplete nomination applications will not be forwarded to the jury for judging.

How to Nominate an Entry

The following details the steps it takes to submit a nomination for an award.

1. Identify the appropriate award category. Read the eligibility requirements to ensure your nomination satisfies the criteria.
2. Read the requirements section to learn what you will need to complete the nomination form.
3. Use one form for each nomination you wish to enter. There is no limit on the number of nominations you may submit.

Award Categories

Each award category has specific eligibility requirements. The following details general requirements for the Planning Excellence and Leadership Awards.

General Eligibility Requirements

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.

Recipients of the Planning Leadership awards are ineligible to receive the same award for 10 years after accepting it.

Members of the APA MI Conference Committee, APA MI staff, and APA MI Board of Directors are not eligible to enter or to receive individual awards.

Planning Excellence Awards

The following awards recognize group achievement by a planning agency, planning team or firm, community group, or local authority in helping civic leaders and citizens play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives:

General Eligibility & Criteria for Excellence Awards

ELIGIBILITY: There are no restrictions on the size of jurisdiction.

CRITERIA: Each nomination must address all of the following criteria **in addition** to the specific requirements (if any) listed for each category:

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.

Transferability. Illustrate how the nominated comprehensive plan has potential application for others and how use of your entry's components and methodology would further the cause of good planning.

Quality. Competitive entries will represent excellence of thought, analysis, writing, and graphics throughout the plan, regardless of budgetary limitations. Indicate how available resources were used in a thoughtful and ethical process.

Comprehensiveness. Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry's effects on other public objectives.

Public participation. Explain how various public interests were involved and the extent of that involvement. Competitive entries demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who historically have been left out of the planning process. Show how the nominated plan obtained public and private support.

Role of planners. Clarify the role, significance and participation of planners. Demonstrate the connection between the effort's success and increased awareness in the community of planners and planning.

Implementation strategy. Address what steps have been taken to build momentum and public support for following and implementing the plan.

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.

Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan

Honoring a comprehensive or general plan that advances the science and art of planning. Given for a group achievement and may be made to a planning agency, planning team or firm, community group, or local authority.

Eligibility & Criteria

ABOUT: For a comprehensive or general plan that advances the science and art of planning. The award honors America's most famous planner, Daniel Burnham, for his contributions to the planning profession and to a greater awareness of the benefits of good planning.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to APA MI members and non-members. The award is given for group achievement and may be made to a planning agency, planning team or firm, community group, or local authority. There are no limits on the size of jurisdiction.

Best Practice

For a specific planning tool, practice, program, project, or process. This award emphasizes results.

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.

Eligibility & Criteria

ABOUT: For a specific planning tool, practice, program, project, or process that is a significant advancement to specific elements of planning. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how innovative and state-of-the-art planning methods and practices helped to implement a plan. Entries may include such things as 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: Open to APA MI members and non-members.

Grassroots Initiative

Honoring an initiative that illustrates how a community utilized the planning process to address a need extending beyond the traditional scope of planning.

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, focused tourism ventures.

Eligibility & Criteria

ABOUT: For an initiative that illustrates how a community utilized the planning process to address a need that extends beyond the traditional scope of planning. Emphasis is placed on the success of planning in new or different settings. Winning projects will expand public understanding of the planning process.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to APA MI members and non-members.

CRITERIA:

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.

Collaboration. Describe the level of collaboration between leadership and competing interests. Explain how those affected were brought into the planning process for this initiative.

Implementation

Demonstrates a significant achievement for an area — a single community or a region — in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. Emphasizes long-term, measurable results. Nominated efforts should have been in continuous effect for a minimum of five (5) years.

Examples: plans for smart growth, signage, farmland preservation, urban design, wetland mitigation, resource conservation, capital improvements, citizen participation, neighborhood improvement, transportation management, sustained economic development.

Eligibility & Criteria

ABOUT: For an effort that demonstrates a significant achievement for a single community or a region in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. This category emphasizes long-term, measurable results to demonstrate that sustained implementation makes a difference.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to APA MI members and non-members. Nominated efforts should have been in continuous effect for a minimum of five years.

CRITERIA:

Sustained improvement. Indicate the level of consistency of this implementation effort since its start. Detail any changes, derailments, or improvements throughout the implementation phase.

Funding. 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.

Community acceptance and support. 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.

Environmental planning and impacts. Address how the nominated effort identified, evaluated, and addressed potential beneficial and adverse consequences of implementing a project, development, or program on the surrounding environment.

Public Outreach

Recognizes an individual, project, or program that uses information and education about the value of planning and how planning improves a community 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.

Eligibility & Criteria

ABOUT: For 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.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to APA MI members and non-members.

CRITERIA:

Originality. Document how the program uses new ideas or combines tools to address a demonstrated need for planning information or education within the community.

Quality. Competitive entries will represent excellence of thought, analysis, writing, and graphics throughout the plan, regardless of budgetary limitations. Indicate how available resources were used in a thoughtful and ethical process.

Education. Show how the program has increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process. Explain how the results have been measured and internalized.

Transferability. Illustrate how the entry has potential application for others. Describe how widespread application would be in the interest of the planning profession.

Effectiveness and results. Specify the extent that the program, if directed to adults or designed as a general education effort, has been effective in implementing plans and ideas. Show how the program has furthered the cause of sound planning. Provide measurable results if possible or appropriate (for example, pre- and post-outreach effort poll results).

Innovation in Regional Planning

Honoring leading regional planning practices that promote and strengthen support for regional planning at all levels.

Examples: Innovative plans, programs, tools, or related efforts that demonstrated advancement in planners' efforts to address the issues of planning at a regional, multi-jurisdictional level.

Eligibility & Criteria

ABOUT: Many of today's most pressing issues cannot be addressed within local jurisdictions alone. Environmental conservation, disaster mitigation, economic strategies, transportation and demographic shifts all require regional thinking and regional solutions. APA seeks to identify the leading regional planning practices to promote and strengthen support for regional planning at all levels. This award category is part of APA MI's larger effort to call attention to the need for regional planning. For 2009, the awards program seeks examples of innovative plans, programs, tools, or related efforts that demonstrate advancement in planners' efforts to address the issues of planning at a regional, multi-jurisdictional level.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to APA MI members and non-members.

CRITERIA:

Planning and innovation. Regional plans and planning should both address a wide range of issues such as energy conservation, sustainability, and natural habitat protection. What critical regional planning elements are addressed by the nominated effort in terms of lessening and mitigating adverse impacts from development and everyday living

Plan compatibility. Demonstrate how regional planning effort supports the broader needs of the community and surrounding area or supports community-wide objectives. Is the nominated effort integrated with corresponding comprehensive or master plans, district or special-use plans, recreational plans, economic development plans, capital improvement programs, zoning ordinances, or other related initiatives?

Citizen participation. Explain what was done to ensure the widest variety of resident and stakeholder participation in the plan and planning process.

Collaboration and partnerships. Describe what strategic partnerships or alliances were developed to help meet the goals and objectives of the nominated effort. Explain what formal and informal steps were taken to engage community leaders and local officials so as to gain broad public support for the plan.

Social and economic concerns. Show how the nominated effort addresses a community's social and economic concerns and issues. The nomination should demonstrate ways to offer more housing choices, job creation and transportation options across the spectrum of communities in the region.

Outstanding Student Project Award

The Outstanding Student Project Award recognizes outstanding class projects or papers by a student or group of students in 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

A project may receive this award one time.

1. A nomination for this award may be submitted by **either**:
 - the Head of a university planning program,
 - **or** the duly elected or appointed Planning Student Organization (PSO) Student Representative of a program.
2. Projects completed in the previous three years are eligible. For the 2009 program eligibility dates are from December 2005 to December 2008.
3. **NOTE:** A program may submit only one nomination for this award.

Criteria

Innovative: Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures

Transferable: Potential application to other locations, projects, or areas of planning interest

Quality: Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and character of presentation

Implementation: Effectiveness of the work (proposals have been carried out, show promise of being carried out, or demonstrate an effective implementation technique)

Comprehensive: Planning principles have been observed, especially in considering a project's effects on other public objectives

Planning Leadership Awards

The following awards honor individuals for outstanding, significant, and sustained contributions to, and in support of, planning and the planning profession.

Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

Recognizes a sustained contribution to the profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing.

Eligibility & Criteria

ABOUT: Recognizes a sustained contribution to the profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing.

ELIGIBILITY: Nominated individuals may not enter themselves and must be employed within the practice of planning, whether in the public, for-profit, or nonprofit sector. AICP membership is required.

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.

Outstanding Community Administrator's Award

This award was posthumously established in 1982 in recognition of Edward Potthoff, former MSPO Board of Director member who served as city manager of Saginaw and Cadillac. In honor of the recipient's award, a letter of recognition will be presented to the community, acknowledging its contributions.

The **Outstanding Community Administrator's Award** honors a city, village, township, county or regional community administrator who has made significant, positive contributions to comprehensive community planning in Michigan. Nominations may be submitted for any community administrator such as a mayor, village president, city/township/village manager, county commission chairperson, county administrator/ controller/coordinator/executive, township supervisor/clerk, or regional council president/chair-person.

Criteria:

Support of Planning. To what extent has the nominee's career increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process? How has the nominee shown a clear understanding and support for planning?

Effectiveness/results. To what extent has the nominee been effective in furthering the cause of excellence in planning? Within what sphere of influence has this effectiveness been realized?

Helen S. Willis Outstanding Commissioner Award

This award was established in 1994. It was named to honor the vast contributions Helen S. Willis made to MSPO during her **10 years** as MSPO's executive director.

The **Helen S. Willis Outstanding Commissioner Award** honors an individual who advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. This could include members of planning commissions, boards of zoning appeals, economic development board member, or other appointed board officials. (Persons earning their living as planners and elected officials are not eligible for this award.)

Criteria:

Support of Planning. To what extent has the nominee's time and dedication increased the understanding of planning principles as well as the goals of the organization of which he/she is a part? How has this advocacy role been pursued?

Effectiveness. To what extent has the nominee promoted the cause and advanced the merits of planning? Within what sphere of influence has this effectiveness been realized?