

APA CALIFORNIA NORTHERN 2017 PLANNING AWARDS LOCAL CHAPTER AWARDS

Special Recognition Awards

The special recognition awards highlight local efforts in planning that address social and environmental topics prominent in planning today. Although these categories are not offered at the state level, they cover critical topics that impact the quality of our built environment. Please complete the application for the APA Awards. **Applications are due March 20th, 2017.**

To increase awareness of these issues, recognize outstanding efforts in planning, and highlight the profession's ability to bridge planning with multiple social and environmental issues, the following local recognition awards are proposed:

Planning and health

This award honors a plan or project that advances public health into the planning process. Project and plans that demonstrate a commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the community, advance the discussion of health in planning, and incorporate health from the early planning stages.

Example projects include; stand alone health elements, health assessments, health in all policies, and health districts, public spaces that incorporate health elements, bike and pedestrian planning, complete streets.

- Criteria:
 - **Education:** Describe how the project advances health in the planning process and profession. Also include strategies used to educate the community or stakeholders about the co-benefits of health and community planning.
 - **Planning Process.** Describe the project/plans challenges and how the project/plan overcame obstacles to advance health in the planning process. Also include how community support was gained through the planning process.
 - **Effectiveness.** Explain the health benefits of the project and key outcomes that would not otherwise have been included without the planners advocacy role.

Social and environmental justice (Also available at the National APA Level)

This award honors a plan for project that addresses concerns and aims to improve a community that has historically been underrepresented. This includes projects/plans that explicitly contribute to improving the environmental conditions women and minorities through direct action, policy framework, or implementation strategies.

Example projects include comprehensive plans, specific plans, and development projects that dedicate efforts to improving the lives of underrepresented communities.

- Criteria:
 - **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?

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.

Planning and food systems

This award honors efforts to improve food systems in Northern California. Per the Sustainable Cities Institute, food systems include the growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consuming, and disposing of food. The goal of this award is to recognize planning efforts that help build and support food systems that provide for long-term health of our environment and communities. This includes projects, plans or programs that help create community food systems that directly connect to public health goals such as reducing hunger or obesity; the protection and conservation of natural resources including energy, water and soil; and supporting or facilitating local economic growth.

Example projects include; Citywide food access programs, tools that locate nearby fresh food, community gardens, research projects and policy framework to reduce food deserts.

- Criteria:
 - **Outreach and Results.** Describe how the program has increased access to health food, and how the project raises community awareness of fresh food establishments in neighborhoods.
 - **Effectiveness.** Explain the details of the project, and how community members will have increased access to fast food upon implementation of the program, plan, or project.

Great Places

This award honors a Great Place within the boundaries of the APA California Chapter Northern Section, which includes the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma. A Great Place is one that exemplifies character, quality, and excellent planning and is a place where people want to be. It can be anywhere from the beach to the mountains, from a large city to a small

community. It can be a vibrant downtown, a suburban gathering place, a historic small town, a public park, or preserved open space.

- Criteria:
 - **Form and Composition.** How does the Great Place fit in its natural setting and the surrounding environs? How does the Great Place foster social interaction and promote human contact? How is a sense of community and neighborliness created? Is the Great Place perceived as safe for children?
 - **Character and Personality.** What makes the Great Place stand out? What makes it extraordinary or memorable? What elements, features, and details reflect the community's local character and set the Great Place apart? Does the Great Place provide interesting visual experiences, vistas, natural features, or other qualities? How does the architecture of the buildings, landscape and/or streetscape create visual interest? What is the history of the space, and how is it remembered or passed on from one generation to the next?
 - **Features and Elements.** How does the Great Place accommodate pedestrians or others whose access to the space is by transit, bicycles, or other means? Is the space welcoming to those with physical disabilities or others with special needs? Does it provide interesting visual experiences, vistas, or other qualities? Is public art incorporated into the Great Place? Does it include any sustainability elements or features that improve the environment?
 - **Activities and Sociability attributes.** What activities make the Great Place attractive to people and encourage social interaction (commerce, entertainment or performances, recreational or sporting, cultural, markets or vending, exhibits, fairs, festivals, special events, etc.)? How does this Great Place encourage use by a diverse cross section of the public? Is this Great Place accessible to all people and income levels?