



2025 PLANNING AWARDS

DEADLINE: April 18, 2025

It's time again for the Florida Planning and Zoning Awards! The FPZA Awards recognize outstanding land development and public/private sector planning statewide. For several decades, the awards program has been the centerpiece of FPZA's acknowledgment and promotion of best practices in planning throughout Florida.

FPZA encourages members to submit award applications. Projects must have been approved or completed during the last calendar year (2024). The categories are as follows:

1. **Outstanding Development/Design Excellence:** Newly planned, designed, or built "brick and mortar" projects that demonstrate superior form and function.
2. **Outstanding Redevelopment:** Reuse of a site, facility or structure.
3. **Outstanding Study/Plan:** Reports, studies, plans, documents, planning analysis, etc.
4. **Infrastructure:** Plans or projects that skillfully blend facilities or services into the community.
5. **Innovation:** Project or development that is unusual or ahead of its time.
6. **Education:** Plans or efforts that effectively promote planning and zoning best practices.
7. **Grassroots/Non-Profit Initiative:** Recognizes a nonprofit or neighborhood organization that has furthered the quality of life through the planning process within its community, such as: new or redevelopment, infrastructure, outreach, cultural events, education, health, festivals, tourism, and environmental.
8. **Sustainability:** Plans or projects that improve on and harmonize with the natural environment and reduce energy costs.
9. **Outstanding Elected Official:** Local, state or federal elected official who champions sound planning practices and accomplishes positive gains in areas of smart growth, environmental preservation, sustainable development, or equity planning.
10. **Outstanding Journalist:** Journalist who effectively and accurately puts forth information about planning and zoning issues to the public.
11. **Outstanding FPZA Chapter:** The chapter that increases or maintains their membership, achieves FPZA goals, and provides quality programs for its chapter members.
12. **George W. Simons, Jr. Award:** Candidate must be a current member of FPZA; evaluation is based upon the person's work and efforts over time, rather than just for the past year; and evaluation will also be based upon work directed towards the stated purposes, mission and goals of FPZA.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each award entry must state how the development, study, project, design, innovation, chapter or person meets one or more of the following purposes of FPZA:

- To promote cooperation among official planning and zoning boards and commissions, civic bodies, citizens, technicians and students interested in planning and zoning in Florida.
- To cultivate and stimulate interest in planning and zoning in the State of Florida.
- To encourage the observance of sound planning and zoning practices.
- To furnish information, advice and assistance to its members and provide a medium to exchange information, advice and assistance among them.
- To engage in research and issue publications on planning and zoning and related matters.
- To promote education concerning matters related to planning and zoning.

In addition, each award entry will be judged based upon the following criteria:

Background: History or context within which the project is significant; indication of expenditure of time, type of personnel, budget, population and size of jurisdiction.

Innovativeness: Use of an original concept or refinement of an existing technique or procedure.

Effectiveness: Project/strategy impact on the subject matter.

Implementation: Project/Strategy method or application to the subject matter; adaptability to changing conditions; and consideration of and solution to practical constraints.

Comprehensiveness: Scope and consideration of project/strategy in relationship to all aspects of the subject matter.

Clarity: Clearness of the award entry application.

SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES

- A cover letter that states the name of the nomination, the award that is sought, the name of the recipient(s), and the name, phone number, address and email of the applicant.
- A brief summary to be used for ceremony purposes, if selected. (100 words or less)
- A brief description of the nomination for the award relevant to the award category. (500 words or less)
- A narrative of the nomination which clearly demonstrates the evaluation criteria, as outlined on page one (1) of this “Call for Entries” (1,000 words or less).
- Applicable images and graphics representing the projects, in JPEG or PDF format.
- Letter(s) of recommendation.
- Nomination submittal packages on CD preferred but not required.

Submit nominations to: FPZA Administrator via email –info@fpza.org

NOTE: For the Outstanding Journalist and Chapter Awards, in lieu of the above submittal procedures, only a one (1) page statement in support of the nominee is required, while further supporting information is encouraged.

NOTE: For the George W. Simons, Jr. Award, the nomination application must be submitted by an FPZA member with a statement by FPZA member(s), however; additional endorsements included in the application may be from non-members.

The FPZA Awards Committee reserves the right to reclassify the category for any submittal.

Award recipients will be announced at the Awards Ceremony scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2025.