

# 2009 Project Awards Program

## American Planning Association, Florida Chapter

APA Florida is pleased to announce the opening of its 2009 Project Awards Program application cycle. This program provides APA Florida the opportunity to recognize outstanding planning projects in the State of Florida at its annual conference. The program provides APA Florida members with the chance to see and learn about development, conservation, government, or environmental projects, where planning has had a positive impact on the outcome. Judges will be looking for innovativeness and quality, and the potential for use in other areas.

### **Awards of Excellence and Merit**

Eligible planning projects are those completed within the last two years in Florida. An awards application should include a copy of the planning document, a summary of the project, and responses to the awards judging criteria. Each member of the Awards Committee must receive an award application by **May 1, 2009**. Incomplete applications or those not received by each juror by the deadline **will not be considered**. Addresses for each of this year's Jurors are listed below. Space permitting, award recipients may have the opportunity to display their projects at the APA Florida Annual Conference in Jacksonville, September 15-18, 2009. The Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit will be presented to the recipients at the **opening morning session, Wednesday, September 16, 2009**. Typically, five to six awards are presented each year. The jurors make the distinction between Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit based on scoring.

Projects must fall under one of the following categories:

**Planning Project Award**: To a specific planning project that is in the process of being constructed or has been completed within the last two years.

**Best Practices Award**: 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. Nominations may include such things as regulations and codes, tax policies or initiatives, growth management or design guidelines, transferable development rights program, land acquisition efforts, public/private partnerships, applications of technology, handbooks, or efforts to foster greater participation in community planning.

**Grassroots Initiative Award**: 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. Nominated projects should expand public understanding of the planning process. This could include such efforts as 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, or focused tourism ventures.

**Neighborhood Planning Award**: This award will go to a neighborhood plan, program, design, or related effort that demonstrates innovative planning principles and measures that create sustainable neighborhoods that have lasting value.

Nominations will be evaluated for the award category in which they are submitted. However, the Awards Committee may upon majority vote, move a nomination to a different category, if appropriate. Only one Award of Excellence and one Award of Merit may be granted per category each year. If the Awards Committee finds that none of the nominations in a particular category meets the desirable standards, they may grant no award in that category for that year.

### **A Complete Award Package must include the Following Documents:**

1. The planning document or project being submitted.
2. A brief description of the project, including the setting, time frame, significance to the planning field, innovations in theory, methodology and/or practice and other unique aspects to the application.

3. A brief discussion demonstrating how the project meets the following criteria:  
**Innovation** – Introduction of an original concept or a refinement of an existing technique or procedure.  
**Transferability** – Potential applicability in other areas of the state or to other planning projects.  
**Quality** – Excellence of analysis, writing, graphics and character of presentation.  
**Implementation** – Effectiveness of the work – i.e. proposals have been carried out or show promise of being carried out in the near future.  
**Comprehensiveness** – Planning principles have been observed, especially in considering a project's effects on other public objectives and the surrounding environment.  
*Responses to items 2 and 3 should total no more than four pages.*
4. At least four graphics or images (jpg format) that illustrate the planning area or project that is being submitted.
5. Name, address, daytime telephone, email, and FAX numbers of the person(s) to contact regarding the application: project author(s), and project client.
6. Application fee: \$50 for APA Florida member/\$75 Non-member, payable to Florida APA and mailed to the Florida Chapter at 2040 Delta Way, Tallahassee, FL 32303. **Please notate the project name on the check.**

**A complete award package, both a hard copy and an electronic version on a CD, must be received by each juror no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2009 (no exceptions).** Please direct any questions about the awards program to Timothy Brown, Chair, Awards Committee at (850) 892-8157 or by email to [downtown54@hotmail.com](mailto:downtown54@hotmail.com).

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