



## 2025 APA Ohio Planning Awards Call for Nominations

Our biennial awards program honors outstanding planning and planning leadership in Ohio, recognizing the highest levels of achievement. This is an opportunity to highlight the best and brightest plans, projects, and people in Ohio.

**Please join us in celebrating planning accomplishments across Ohio.**

**Nominations for the 2025 APA Ohio Planning Awards are now being accepted. The deadline for nominations is **June 30, 2025 @ 5:00PM**.**

Awards are presented at the biennial APA Ohio State Planning Conference on Friday, September 26 in Toledo, Ohio. For more information on SPC25, visit [www.ohioplanning.org/conference](http://www.ohioplanning.org/conference).

Award nominations may be submitted in one or more of the following categories:

- ✧ Best Practice Award
- ✧ Because We Plan Award
- ✧ Comprehensive Plan Award
- ✧ Specialized Plan Award
- ✧ Planning Student(s) Showcase
- ✧ Advocacy Champion
- ✧ The Norman Krumholz Equity Award

## Award Category Descriptions

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### **Best Practice Innovation Award**

For development or application of a specific planning tool, practice, program, or process. This category demonstrates how innovative and state-of-the-art planning methods and practices help create communities of lasting value. Examples include applications of technology, codes, policies, design guidelines, handbooks, community engagement strategies, etc.

### **Because We Plan Award**

Formerly the *Great Places in Ohio* award program, this award recognizes existing built project of unusually high merit dealing with a focused subject such as economic development, environment, housing, preservation, transportation, urban design, etc.

### **Comprehensive Plan Award**

For a comprehensive plan of unusually high merit completed by, for, or within an Ohio jurisdiction.

### **Specialized Plan Award**

For a specialized plan of unusually high merit completed by, for, or within an Ohio jurisdiction. Examples of a specialized plan include but are not limited to neighborhood plans, economic development plans, transportation plans, environmental plans, etc.

### **Planning Student(s) Showcase**

To recognize a student or group of students in an Ohio undergraduate or graduate planning curriculum, individually or collectively, for excellence on a particular scholarly or community service project.

### **Advocacy Champion**

Recognizes an individual or organization who has worked to elevate the voice and influence of planning in federal, state, and/or local policy.

### **The Norman Krumholz Equity Award**

To recognize a person, policy or community engagement process which exemplifies the professional ideas of Mr. Krumholz a life-long champion of equity in planning and human betterment. Nominations should address how the achievements and actions further the cause of equity in planning and set new standards and/or push boundaries around the subject of equity. The Norman Krumholz Equity Award memorializes his advocacy for the poor and powerless in our communities. A strong civil rights advocate, he understood the need for planners in government to work strategically with communities of color and grass roots movements.

## Submission Schedule & Guidelines

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- APA Ohio Planning Awards schedule:
  - **May 5 - June 30, 2025**                      Nomination Period
  - **August 22, 2025**                              Award winners notified
  - **September 26, 2025**                      Awards presented at SPC25
- A completed online form and supporting documentation for each nomination is required for review. Only digital nominations submitted according to the procedures in this call will be accepted.

- All submissions become the property of APA Ohio. No submissions will be returned.
- The APA Ohio Planning Awards Committee will review all nominations for eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria. Submissions that do not meet the minimum submission requirements shall be ruled ineligible and discarded. The committee may reassign submissions to another appropriate award category.
- The awards will be juried by a committee of members from another chapter of APA.
- The committee may award co-winners and honorable mentions to nominations that the committee deems deserving. The committee is not obligated to select award winners in every category.
- Awards will be presented on Friday, September 29 in conjunction with the APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference (SPC23) keynote address and luncheon.
- The APA Ohio Awards Committee procedures prohibit communicating individually to any other committee or jury member on behalf of a nominee; such communication is grounds for disqualification

## Eligibility

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- Only the following entities are eligible to submit nominations for an award:
  - Members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association.
  - The head of an accredited planning degree program at an Ohio college or university.
- Nominations may be for your own work or the work of others.
- Any nominated comprehensive plan, focused planning project, focused built project, best practice or planning student project must have been completed after August 1, 2021.
- An award will not be given to the same project more than once.
- While it is appropriate for students to submit a project or paper on which a faculty member has given guidance, the topic, analysis, proposal, recommendations, or graphics should be primarily the work of the student(s).
- Members of the APA Ohio Board of Trustees may not receive leadership or citizen awards during his or her term.
- Members of the APA Ohio Awards Committee are not eligible for any awards during the year in which they serve on the committee.

## Selection Criteria

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- **Innovation:** Projects should demonstrate creative problem solving by using an innovative approach to the issues related to the project in areas such as, but not limited to, technology, foresight, equity, and youth.
- **Transferable:** Projects should be useful models for other planning professionals. The ability of the project to demonstrate appropriate, applicable solutions to common issues and to illustrate successful planning processes will be important.
- **Quality:** Projects should be well presented. Graphic and written materials should be clear, accurate and should communicate the ideas of the plan successfully.
- **Implementation:** Plans should include implementation strategies that are applicable to the context of the plan and be realistic and achievable.
- **Comprehensive:** Plans should address all the issues relevant to the project. They should encompass, as appropriate, all the elements of a planning process and all the variables that will

impact the plan's success.

- **Relevance:** Projects and plans should provide a historical summary outline of issues and problems that led to the development creation of the plan/project.
- **Interactive:** The extent to which decision makers and the public were involved to resolve conflicts where they existed will be examined.

## Required Nomination Materials

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- **Nomination Form:** Please complete the online nomination form located at [www.ohioplanning.org/awards](http://www.ohioplanning.org/awards). The information requested in this form includes:
  - **Nominee Information**
  - **Project Information**
  - **Nomination Summary:** Provide a short summary of the award nomination in the space provided in the online form [500 words maximum].
  - **Selection Criteria:** Include a narrative of how the nominated project/person meets each of the applicable category and selection criteria in the space provided in the online form [1500 words maximum].
- **Nomination Documentation:** Please upload the information requested below to a digital cloud folder and enter the link to that folder in the space provided in the nomination form. The Awards Committee will retrieve the files from your folder for judging. *Your link must work until August 18, 2025.*
  - **Project Report:** Submit the relevant project report, plan, class project, C.V., etc.
  - **Photos:** Include up to 5 photos in JPEG format. Please include as high a resolution as possible and be sure to clearly label what each photo is.
  - **Letters of Support/Recommendation:** Include up to four (4) letters of support or recommendation for your nomination.
  - **Media Coverage:** Include PDF documents of up to five (5) instances of media coverage.