



2025 PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD - SMALL CITIES/RURAL COMMUNITIES

AWARD CRITERIA

Purpose: The APWA Public Works Project of the Year Award for cities, counties, or tribal entities with a population of 50,000 or less is established to promote excellence in demonstrating creativity, ingenuity, and efficiency in the delivery of public works projects that have a profound impact on the community. The award is given for positive impact in the community as compared to dollar amount.

Project categories are:

- A. Structures** – to include new public structures or the preservation or rehabilitation of existing public structures including, municipal buildings and parks. Other structures as defined in the Historic Restoration/Preservation and Transportation categories shall not be considered in the structures category.
- B. Transportation** – to include roads, bridges, mass transit that serve any or all modes of travel including bicycles and foot traffic. Other transportation projects as defined in the Historical Restoration/Preservation and Structures categories shall not be considered in the Transportation category.
- C. Environment** – to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, and sewer projects.
- D. Historical Restoration/Preservation** – to include historical restoration, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, that are 75 years or older to qualify as historical
- E. Disaster or Emergency Construction Repair** – to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions and additional considerations.

Eligibility: Public works projects must be developed, owned, and maintained by public agencies. To be eligible for nomination, a project must have been “substantially completed” and available for public and/or agency use by December 31, 2024. If a project has multiple phases or segments, then “substantially completed” will be construed as that point when the final phase or segment is 90% completed and available for public and/or agency use. A project may only be nominated once for recognition as “Project of the Year” under any category.

Selection: The Project of the Year Committee reviews the nominations and selects the award winners.

Criteria: Criteria to be used in the selection process include:

1. Development of the project to meet a perceived need of the community.
2. Use of alternative materials, practices or funding that demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and/or use of sustainable infrastructure rating system or the equivalent.
3. Unique or unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions that dictated the defined action.
4. Economic challenges that the community faced, and the rationale of the option chosen.
5. Creative use of municipal resources, equipment, labor, or funds that produced measurable benefits to the community.

6. Construction processes that minimize the impact to the community and its residents during construction.
7. Demonstrate awareness of opportunities for environmental preservation during the project and how they were incorporated in the project design and construction.
8. Additional conditions deemed of importance to the public works agency, such as exceptional efforts to maintain quality control and, if value engineering is used, construction innovations as evidenced by time and/or money-saving techniques developed and/or successfully utilized.

Nomination Process: Nominations of projects can be made by the managing public agency or APWA chapters. Please refer to the Nomination Form for more directions.

Deadline: 12:00 Noon (Arizona Time), Monday, February 17, 2025 (only electronic submittals accepted)-late nominations will not be considered by the Awards Committee

Presentation: The winner is presented with a statue for the project owner, primary design consultant and primary contractor at the Awards Recognition Ceremony Luncheon during the Statewide Conference and featured in APWA publications. All applications will be forwarded by the Arizona Chapter to the APWA National Awards Committee for national award consideration. The Arizona Chapter and APWA National may make award selections in each category that differ.

Email nomination and attachment(s) to:

apwaaz@gmail.com

Attention: AZAPWA Awards Committee