

**DEADLINE: MAY 29 @ 5PM**



**ASLA**  
ILLINOIS

THE ILLINOIS CHAPTER OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

# ILASLA AWARDS

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

### PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Each year the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ILASLA) recognizes outstanding projects completed by individuals or organizations located in the State of Illinois. These awards are given in an effort to raise standards of excellence, heighten public appreciation of quality landscape architecture, and expand public awareness of the profession and ASLA. The award winners will be recognized at the ILASLA's annual awards event, be published in the widely distributed *Folio*, and have their projects highlighted on the ILASLA website.

#### Eligibility:

Projects submitted may be located anywhere but must have had project involvement by a landscape architect who is or was located in the State of Illinois at the time the project was designed. An individual or organization must have completed the project within the past five years, with the exception of the Landmark Award. Projects previously submitted which have not received an ILASLA award are eligible for re-submission. Projects which have already received an ILASLA award are ineligible for re-submission in the category in which the award was received. All entrants must meet at least one of the following classifications:

- Illinois Chapter ASLA Fellow, Full Member, Associate Member, or Student Member
- Non-Member Illinois-Licensed Landscape Architect
- Graduate of Landscape Architecture Degree Program in Illinois
- Faculty Member of Landscape Architecture Degree Program in Illinois

#### Categories:

Please select from one of the following categories for each award submission and circle the category on the entry form:

1. General Design - Constructed - Under \$250,000 Landscape Construction Budget
  2. General Design - Constructed - \$250,000 - \$1,000,000 Landscape Construction Budget
  3. General Design - Constructed - Over \$1,000,000 Landscape Construction Budget
  4. General Design - Unrealized Projects
  5. Residential Design
  6. Burnham Awards for Planning and Analysis
  7. Communications
  8. Landscape Architectural Research
  9. Historic Landscapes
  10. Landmark Award
  11. Ecological Integrity Award
  12. Community Impact Award
- Climate Action Green Ribbon Award\*

\* Projects in other categories may also enter this bonus award

## **Category Descriptions:**

### **Category 1: General Design - Constructed - Under \$250,000 Landscape Construction Budget**

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Recognizes site-specific works of landscape architecture within the sub-categories listed below. This category is for built works in landscape architectural design. For large incremental projects, at least the first stage of construction must be completed to be eligible for an award.

Typical entries include: public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential), green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design, transportation / infrastructure design, commercial, institutional; parks, recreation, trails, and open space; urban design, memorial, corporate, landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

### **Category 2: General Design - Constructed - \$250,000 - \$1,000,000 Landscape Construction Budget**

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Recognizes site-specific works of landscape architecture within the sub-categories listed below. This category is for built works in landscape architectural design. For large incremental projects, at least the first stage of construction must be completed to be eligible for an award.

Typical entries include: public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential), green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design, transportation / infrastructure design, commercial, institutional; parks, recreation, trails, and open space; urban design, memorial, corporate, landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

### **Category 3: General Design - Constructed - Over \$1,000,000 Landscape Construction Budget**

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Recognizes site-specific works of landscape architecture within the sub-categories listed below. This category is for built works in landscape architectural design. For large incremental projects, at least the first stage of construction must be completed to be eligible for an award.

Typical entries include: public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential), green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design, transportation / infrastructure design, commercial, institutional; parks, recreation, trails, and open space; urban design, memorial, corporate, landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

### **Category 4: General Design - Unrealized Projects**

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Recognizes excellence in design thinking and methodology for projects that have been designed but not constructed. This category is for designed works in landscape architecture for which implementation will not occur.

Typical entries include: public, institutional, or private landscapes of all kinds (except residential), green roofs, stormwater management, sustainable design, transportation / infrastructure design, commercial, institutional; parks, recreation, trails, and open space; urban design, memorial, corporate, landscape art or installation; interior landscape design; and more.

### **Category 5: Residential Design**

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Recognizes site-specific, built works of landscape architecture for residential use. Residential design-build work encouraged.

Typical entries include: single or multi-family residential projects; activity areas for cooking, entertaining, recreation, or relaxation; sustainable landscape applications; new construction or renovation projects; historic preservation; affordable landscape concepts and innovations; gardens, and more.

### **Category 6: Burnham Awards for Planning and Analysis**

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Recognizes the wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide, or evaluate landscape architectural design. Comprehensive plans, master plans, feasibility studies, and design guidelines and standards are examples of submissions for this category.

Typical entries include: comprehensive plans, master plans, feasibility studies, design guidelines and standards, urban, suburban, rural or regional planning efforts; development guidelines; transportation, town or campus planning; plans for reclamation of brownfield sites; environmental planning in relation to legislative or policy initiatives or regulator controls; cultural resource reports; natural resources protection; historic preservation planning, and more.

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### **Category 7: Communications**

Recognizes achievements in communicating landscape architecture information, technology, theory, or practices to those within or outside the profession.

Typical entries include: print media, film, video, audio, presentations, online communications; interpretive design; and exhibition design. Also includes public or written documents such as books, articles, videos, and audio recordings of presentations on landscape architecture history, art, or technology; educational material intended for the non-technical consumer; events or public service; or material that increases awareness of landscape design, environmental or conservation issues.

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### **Category 8: Landscape Architectural Research**

Recognizes research projects that identify, examine, and address challenges and problems that are resolved using solutions of value to the profession. Typical entries include: investigations into methods, techniques, or materials related to landscape architecture practice; studies of relationships of landscape architecture to law, education, public health and safety, or public policy; and more.

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### **Category 9: Historic Landscapes**

Recognizes the restoration and/or renovation of historically significant landscapes. Entries may include parks, residential, institutional, and any historical renovation projects.

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### **Category 10: Landmark Award**

Recognizes a distinguished landscape architecture project completed between 15 and 50 years ago that retains its original design integrity and contributes significantly to the public realm of the community in which it is located. Typical entries include: parks, plazas, sculpture gardens, botanical gardens, river walks, and more. Public officials and agencies, civil and historic preservation organizations, and interested individuals and entities are encouraged to submit to this category.

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### **Category 11: Ecological Identity Award**

Recognizes landscape architectural design that reflects the ecological identity and values of localized landscapes. This category honors built or unbuilt projects that draw inspiration from native plant communities, natural systems, and land-based heritage. The project should emphasize harmony between people and place, highlight ecological processes and contribute to the restoration and long-term care of natural resources.

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### **Category 12: Community Impact Award**

This award recognizes landscape architecture projects, initiatives, or collaborations that advance equity, inclusion, and justice in the planning, design, and experience of landscapes. It honors built and unbuilt works that:

- Responds meaningfully to the needs of historically underserved or marginalized communities, helping to dismantle barriers to access, participation, and benefit in public spaces.
- Elevates underrepresented voices through community co-design, partnership, stewardship, or leadership roles, ensuring that diverse cultural experiences and perspectives shape the outcome.
- Promotes equitable access to environmental, social, cultural, and recreational resources, fostering long-term inclusion, belonging, and community well-being.
- Demonstrates thoughtful engagement, advocacy, or policy work that leads to more just, resilient, and inclusive landscapes.
- Strengthens intercultural understanding, community empowerment, and measurable improvements to quality of life.

This award celebrates design as a tool for social transformation, recognizing work that builds more welcoming, inclusive, and equitable places for all. Typical entries include: Community Impact Project description, presentation file and online form

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### **Climate Action Green Ribbon Award\***

Projects submitted in other awards categories may also be submitted for a Climate Action Green Ribbon Award to receive additional recognition. Green Ribbons will be awarded at the discretion of the awards jury to recognize projects that demonstrate a landscape architect's influence in addressing the goals of ASLA's Climate Action Plan through Practice, Equity, and Advocacy.

## **Awards:**

### **President's Award**

Only one President's Award of Excellence may be given to a project in each entry category, and only when merited by the jury. This award is given for an outstanding advancement of the landscape architecture profession, and for projects that exemplify the land stewardship ethics upon which the profession was founded.

**Honor Award**

A maximum of 20% of the entries in any of the categories may be given this award for superior professional achievement.

**Merit Award**

Projects which demonstrate merit in design and/or environmental responsibility shall be given this distinction. Any number of entries in any of the categories may be given this award.

**Landmark Award**

Only one Landmark Award may be given to a project. This award is given for superior achievement in retaining the original design intent and contributing significantly to the public realm of the community in which it is located.

**Climate Action Green Ribbon Award:\***

Two total Green Ribbon Awards may be selected per awards program year:

- For a constructed project or for an unbuilt project (unrealized, planning, or research)

**Jury:**

Entries to the ILASLA Awards Program will be juried by peers of the design profession from another ASLA chapter. Jurors will remain anonymous until after all entries are judged. Jurors are under no obligation to grant an award in any or all categories and have the ability to switch an entry to another category as they deem necessary.

**Judging Criteria:**

**Category 1: General Design - Constructed - Under \$250,000 Landscape Construction Budget**

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- Quality and functionality of the design
- Relationship to context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility
- Relevance to the profession, the public, and the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

**Category 2: General Design - Constructed - \$250,000 - \$1,000,000 Landscape Construction Budget**

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- Quality and functionality of the design
- Relationship to context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility
- Relevance to the profession, the public, and the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

**Category 3: General Design - Constructed - Over \$1,000,000 Landscape Construction Budget**

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- Quality and functionality of the design
- Relationship to context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility
- Relevance to the profession, the public, and the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

**Category 4: General Design - Unrealized Projects**

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- Quality and functionality of the design
- Relationship to context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility
- Relevance to the profession, the public, and the environment
- Project description
- Presentation clearly communicates the written explanation of project’s merit
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

**Category 5: Residential Design**

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- Quality and functionality of the design
- Relationship to context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility and stewardship
- Relevance to the profession, in the public, and / or the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

**Category 6: Burnham Awards for Planning and Analysis**

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- Quality of planning and analysis
- Relationship to context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility
- Opportunities for landscape architecture to have a significant impact on the environment or environmental decision making
- Relevance to the profession, the public, or the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

### **Category 7: Communications**

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- Quality of content and presentation
- Usefulness to the intended reader or viewer
- Overall significance to the profession, the public, or the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

### **Category 8: Landscape Architectural Research**

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- Clarity and adequacy of problem statement, issue statements, procedure, results and conclusions
- Overall significance to the profession, the public, or the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

### **Category 9: Historic Landscapes**

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- Quality and functionality of restoration and/or renovation, including clear identification of the original/existing/proposed conditions
- Relationship to context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility and stewardship
- Overall significance to the profession, the public, or the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

### **Climate Action Green Ribbon Award\***

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- Relevant and timely to current climate issues
- Environmental sensitivity and sustainability
- Minimizing vulnerability to climate-related hazards
- Climate adaptation, and resilience strategies
- Measurable and positive outcomes
- Community engagement to prioritize equity and inclusivity
- Adoption and scalability potential
- Use of sustainable materials and responsible resource
- Educational components or advocacy efforts
- Innovation and technology to enhance climate resilience
- Design value to the client, community, and other designers

### **Category 10: The Landmark Award**

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- Projects sustained value to the community it serves
- Continued relevance of the project's design expression
- Overall significance to the profession, the public, and the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

### **Category 11: Ecological Integrity Award**

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- Quality and functionality of the design
- Relationship to the context and stated program
- Environmental responsibility and stewardship
- Overall significance to the profession, the public, and the environment
- Project description
- Quality of submission, including graphic content

### **Category 12: Community Impact Award**

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- Relevance to equity, inclusion, and social justice in today's built environment.
- Meaningful engagement with historically marginalized or underserved communities.
- Depth and authenticity of community partnerships and co-creation.
- Equitable access to environmental, social, cultural, and recreational resources.
- Measurable positive impacts on community well-being and quality of life.
- Long-term inclusion, stewardship, and sustainability of outcomes.
- Policy, advocacy, or institutional impact that supports just landscapes.
- Design excellence that reflects community awareness and respect.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Submissions:**

#### **Required Documents and Forms:**

- **Entry form (Online form):** The entry form is a Google Form, and all information must be entered digitally. Please note: The online form should allow you to close out and come back to a partially completed form. However, for best results, please have your entry text in a separate file to avoid any technology issues.
- **Terms and Conditions:** The completed terms and conditions form must be filled out and signed by both the entrant and client.
- **Project Description (PDF):** The project description is an editable PDF and all information must be entered digitally. PDF must be uploaded through the online form.

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- **Presentation file (PDF)** with a 15 slides maximum limit. PDF must be uploaded through the online form. InDesign and PowerPoint templates downloadable on [www.il-asla.org](http://www.il-asla.org) must be used to complete the presentation. Background color and font must not be edited. PDF must be uploaded through the online form. The presentation must include the following:
  - Slide 1: Submission category
  - Slide 2: Project name and concise project description
  - Slides 3-15: Images representing the submission (300dpi). One image per slide, except in the instance of “before and after” image sequences wherein two images are allowed per slide. Each slide must include:
    - Project name
    - Up to five sentences describing each drawing or photograph
    - Submission category and image / slide number. Numbering must start at 1.
- **Copy of original documents (PDF)** for submissions for the Planning and Analysis, Landscape Architectural Research, and Communication only if necessary. Do not submit a hard copy. No other categories are eligible for submission of additional documents. All references to firms involved must be removed. PDF must be uploaded through the online form.
- **Entry fee receipt (PDF):** Entry fee must be submitted through the link on the ILASLA website and received by the submission deadline. PDF must be uploaded through the online form.

### File Naming Requirements

- **Project Description form:** CategoryNumber\_projectname\_description
- **Presentation:** CategoryNumber\_projectname\_presentation
- **Original documents:** CategoryNumber\_projectname\_documents
- **Entry fee receipt:** CategoryNumber\_projectname\_receipt

### Additional Information

- Carefully review all text, photographs, graphic images, publications, reports and other enclosures and mask ALL written and graphic references to the identity of the entrant and design team in the entry submission and original document if included. The only exception is the marketing description which may include references to the identity of the entrant and design team.
- Submissions with hard copies of any of the files will be disqualified.
- A complete submission is required and entries not conforming to these requirements will be disqualified.

### Climate Action Green Ribbon Award\*

- If you would like to submit your project for consideration for the Climate Action Green Ribbon Award, you can do so within the same Google Form used for submitting your project in one of the 12 awards categories. Simply indicate ‘yes’ when prompted, specify if your project is constructed or unbuilt, and upload a 250-word PDF explaining how it aligns with the ASLA Climate Action Plan and at least five judging criteria.

### Entry Fee - Per Entry:

Submit payment through the link on the ILASLA website. When submitting your application online, you will be directed to the ILASLA website at the end of the entry form.

#### ASLA Member

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Public Practice:	\$75
Private Practice:	
One Submittal:	\$175
Two Submittals:	\$150 each
Three or more:	\$125 each
First-time discount*:	25% off total fee

*\*The first time discount applies to entrants who have not submitted for an award in the last three years.*

#### Non-ILASLA Member

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Public Practice	\$175
Private Practice:	\$325

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Folio, Framing, and Publication Fee:**

Private Practice – Members: \$400 per award-winning project

Public Practice - \$300 per award-winning project

Non-Members - \$600 per award-winning project

Folio is a yearly publication that has the goal to increase public awareness of landscape architecture as a profession and recognize the works of our profession that bring honor to us all. In particular, it offers the readers a glimpse into a number of unique projects that highlight the exemplary work of Illinois landscape architects.

Framing includes 1 framed certificate per award. You will have the opportunity to purchase additional framed certificates before the event for an additional cost.

### **Awards Ceremony:**

Award winners will be announced and celebrated at the ILASLA Awards Ceremony.

### **Deadline for Submissions:**

The ILASLA Awards Committee must receive all entries no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026**. Entries include the online form and the entry fee. Presentation template(s) will be downloadable on [www.il-asla.org](http://www.il-asla.org). Late submissions will not be accepted.

All entrants will be notified of the results via email. All submissions become property of the ILASLA and will not be returned.

### **Publicity of Award Recipients:**

All award recipients may have a project name and photo publicly displayed online via the ILASLA website prior to and after awards announcement. Awardees are kindly asked to refrain from posting results publicly until after the ILASLA Awards

Ceremony.

### **Inquiries:**

Please contact the ILASLA Awards Chair, Michele Totoy: [awards@il-asla.org](mailto:awards@il-asla.org)

### **Reminders and Suggestions:**

Please note: Press releases, newsletter articles, magazine features and Awards Ceremony presentation will be written with the information provided on the entry form. Be thorough and accurate! The graphic material supplied will be used to represent the project in Chapter publications, the Awards Ceremony and the traveling display. Please take care to submit quality graphic material and photographs that are in focus.

Award winners will be required to submit high quality, high resolution (300dpi) JPEGs of select images used in their submission presentation file. With that in mind, please take care to only include images in your presentation of 300dpi or more.