American Planning Association
Alabama Chapter

AWARDS COMMITTEE
AWARDS PROGRAM, CATEGORIES AND NOMINATION CRITERIA

BACKGROUND

The Alabama Chapter American Planning Association (ALAPA) announces its 2019 Awards Program to be held in conjunction with the joint Alabama-Mississippi Chapter Conference on October 17, 2019, at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama. This program recognizes contributions of individuals, agencies, organizations, local governments, or private companies within the State of Alabama who have completed outstanding programs or projects, or have made notable contributions to the planning profession.

2019 AWARD CATEGORIES AND 2018 RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Leadership Awards

- Kenneth J. Groves Jr., Professional Planner – **Brandon S. Bias, Community and Regional Planner, Goodwin, Mills and Cawood, Inc.**
- Richard L. Platt Career Achievement Award – **James W. "Bill" Curtis, FAICP.**
- Distinguished Leadership Award for an Appointed Public Official – No Recipient.
- Distinguished Leadership Award for an Elected Public Official – No Recipient.
- Distinguished Leadership Award for a Planning Student Team – **Spring 2018, Sustainable Transportation Planning Class, Auburn University Community Planning Program, "Highway 84 East Corridor Redevelopment Project for the City of Dothan, Alabama".**
- Distinguished Leadership Award for a Planning Student: **Jay Howell, Auburn University Community Planning Program.**
- Dr. Robert J. Juster, Friend of Planning – No Recipient.
- Chapter Leadership Award – No Recipient.

Outstanding Planning Awards

- Outstanding Media Coverage Award – No Recipient.
- Outstanding Planning Award for a Comprehensive Plan for Communities with a Population Under 50,000 - No Recipient.
- Outstanding Planning Award for a Comprehensive Plan for Communities with a Population 50,000 or More – **City of Decatur, "One Decatur Comprehensive Plan".**
- Outstanding Planning Award for a Plan or Planning Program for Communities with a Population Under 50,000 – No Recipient.
- Outstanding Planning Award for a Plan or Planning Program for Communities with a Population 50,000 or More – **City of Auburn, "Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan".**
- Outstanding Planning Award for Project or Implementation Tool - **City of Alabaster, "State Route 119 Overlay District".**

- Franklin M. Setzer Outstanding Urban Design Project Award – **City of Montgomery, "Dexter Avenue Revitalization".**

Student Competition Awards

- First Place: **Rajas Narendra Bhalerao, "Rejuvenate: Re-development of Opelika's 1st Avenue".**

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The following information should be included with the nomination submission. **NOTE: CHANGES TO THE 2019 AWARDS PROGRAM ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW:**

1. Category title of award for which nomination is being made.
2. Nominee's name, address, e-mail address and telephone number (person, agency or organization being nominated).
3. Nominator's name, address, e-mail address and telephone number.
4. A written description/summary of the nomination with a complete explanation demonstrating how the nomination meets each of the criteria for the category in which the award was sought.
5. Supporting relevant information and materials may include reports, plans or other documents, letters of support/recommendation, photographs or other graphic renderings, newspaper clippings, etc.
6. Please note that all nomination submissions for a "person" award (Distinguished Leadership Awards, Chapter Leadership Award and the Richard L. Platt Career Achievement Award) **may** be submitted in a digital format (email or CD/DVD) but **must** be limited to no more than **10** pages. The Committee is not responsible for delivery failures and strongly suggests that any email submittal be sent "delivery receipt requested". All other award nominations **must** be submitted in HARD copy format. No email submissions will be accepted. Additionally, any plans, programs or reports submitted as a nomination or as supporting documentation to a nomination for a "person award" must be in HARD copy format, although digital (CD or DVD) copies may also be submitted to supplement any hard copy material. Hard copies of the plans, programs and reports will be returned upon request.
7. Nominators will be also asked to prepare and submit a brief description of the award nomination and a **maximum of five (5) UNFORMATTED PowerPoint images, three (3) if a video will be included** which will be used to facilitate the preparation of the presentation. Each slide shall be accompanied by a narrative description limited to 50 words each. Do not include any web links.
8. It will be the responsibility of the nominator to issue any information to the local media on behalf of the recipient.
9. Five (5) copies of the nomination with all supporting information should be mailed or delivered to:

Jeremy Griffith, AICP
City of Hartselle
200 Sparkman Street, NW
Hartselle, AL 35640
256-773-0188 (Phone) 256-773-2257 (Fax)
jgriffith@hartselle.org

For additional information, you may also call or email other Awards Committee Members:

Todd L. McDonald, AICP: (334) 615-4411 (tmcdonald@dothan.org)

Jonathan I. Smith: (334) 272-9883 (jsmith@pikeroad.us)
Sam Parsons: (205) (sparsons@rpcgb.org)
Andy B. Bauer, AICP: (251) 968-1151 (abauer@gulfshoresal.gov)

Complete Year 2019 nomination submissions must be received by **5:00 p.m. CST on July 19, 2019**. Complete submissions may be mailed or hand delivered to any of the above committee members in accordance with the deadline (date and time) established. Due to time necessary for program preparation, no exceptions for receiving nomination submissions beyond the set deadline can be made.

AWARDS NOTIFICATION AND RECOGNITION

Award recipients, along with the nominators, will be notified of the award selection in advance of the annual meeting. We ask that award recipients make every effort to be present to receive the awards at the Awards Ceremony. The award recipients will be provided an opportunity to make some brief remarks following a presentation of the award nomination by the Awards Committee.

2019 AWARDS CATEGORIES AND NOMINATION CRITERIA

1. DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARDS –

a. KENNETH J. GROVES JR. DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR A PROFESSIONAL PLANNER. In memory of Kenneth J. Groves, Jr., former Director of Planning and Development of the City of Montgomery, this award honors an individual for his/her significant/sustained contributions to the planning profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing. (This person must currently make his/her living through the practice of planning, either in the public, private or education sectors.)

Eligibility: APA Membership: APA and Alabama APA membership is required for a person to be nominated to this category.

Criteria:

i. Support of Planning: To what extent has the nominee's work increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process?
ii. Effectiveness/Results: The level of positive influence and contributions the nominee has on the planning profession and/or quality of life in the community, region, or state.
iii. Risks: What degree of professional risk was taken by this person in order to support sound planning principles?

b. For an **ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL** – This award recognizes an elected city, town, county or state public official who has made significant, positive contributions to and/or demonstrated a strong support of planning in Alabama. Nominations may be submitted for any elected public official such as mayor, councilperson, county commissioner, or other elected official.

Eligibility: Nominee does not have to be an APA member, but must be elected and currently holding office in the public official position that he/she is being nominated for at the time of nomination. Candidates may not be self-nominated.

Criteria:

i. Risks: What degree of personal risks was taken by this person in order to support sound planning principles?

ii. Effectiveness/Results: To what extent has the nominee been effective in furthering the cause of excellence in planning? Within what sphere of influence has the effectiveness been realized?
iii. Support of Planning: To what extent has the nominee's career (professional/political) increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process? How has the nominee shown a clear understanding and support for planning?

c. For an **APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL** – This award recognizes an appointed city, town, county or state public official who has made significant, positive contributions to and/or demonstrated a strong support of planning in Alabama. Nominations may be submitted for any public official, who is a full time paid employee and appointed by the governing authority, such as a city/town manager, administrator or clerk, county manager, administrator or clerk, city or county attorney or other appointed public official, but who is not a professional planner.

Eligibility: Nominee does not have to be an APA member, but must be serving and currently employed in the public official position that he/she is being nominated for at the time of nomination. Candidates may not be self-nominated.

Criteria:
i. Risks: What degree of personal risks was taken by this person in order to support sound planning principles?
ii. Effectiveness/Results: To what extent has the nominee been effective in furthering the cause of excellence in planning? Within what sphere of influence has the effectiveness been realized?
iii. Support of Planning: To what extent has the nominee's career (professional/political) increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process? How has the nominee shown a clear understanding and support for planning?

d. For a **PLANNING STUDENT/STUDENT TEAM** - This award recognizes an exceptional individual student or student team for an outstanding paper or project, which may include a video production. The award may also be given to a student or student team for a significant attainment in the study of planning or personal contributions to the planning profession while enrolled as a full-time student(s). As an incentive to promote the nomination of this award category, the student or student team selected for the award will be eligible to receive financial assistance to the Alabama APA Annual (spring) Conference as follows:
1) Individual Student: (a) one free full registration (b) reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses to the conference up to, but not to exceed, a total of $250.00.
2) Student Team: (a) free registration for up to, but not more than, 3 team members (b) reimbursement for travel and lodging expenses to the conference up to, but not to exceed, a total of $400.00 for the total team attending.
3) Requests for reimbursement shall be sent to the awards committee chair with full documentation including original receipts.

Eligibility: Must be currently enrolled or graduated within the last nine months with a degree (Bachelor's or Masters) in planning or a related field from a school of higher education in the State of Alabama.

Criteria:
i. If the award is for a project:
    1. Innovativeness: Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques. Is this the first of a kind in Alabama?
    2. Transferability: Potential applications in other areas or to other programs.

3. Quality: Quality of writing, graphics and analysis of presented materials.
4. Effectiveness: Effectiveness of the work being implemented
5. Comprehensiveness: Impact upon other public objectives.
6. Time Frame: Project must have been completed within the last year.

ii. If the award is for an individual student:

1. Support of Planning: Illustrate how the nominee's academic achievement has demonstrated comprehension of planning principles and the planning process.
2. Effectiveness/Results: Document the personal activities of the individual or the team, which contributed to a local/regional planning staff in the actual practice of planning. Was the activities part of an actual program or plan development?
3. Potential: Did the student(s) participate in the local/regional planning process outside of academic requirements and internships? Demonstrate a significant level of personal activity and what the potential of the nominee is for success as a professional planner.
4. Student Team Identification: The nomination for the Student team award must provide a list of the student team members, providing the name of each student, the field of study of the student and the role of each student in the team project.

e. ROBERT J. JUSTER DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR A FRIEND OF PLANNING – In memory of Dr. Robert J. Juster, former Planning Director of the City of Auburn, this award recognizes an individual who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. Those nominated may include members of planning commissions, boards of zoning appeals/adjustment, environmental or historic preservation councils or other similar volunteers. It could also include the more non-traditional role of citizen planners or neighborhood leaders.

Eligibility: Persons earning their living as planners or who are public officials are not eligible for this award.

Criteria:

i. Support of Planning: To what extent has the nominee's time and dedication increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process as well as the goals of the organization of which he/she is a part? How has this advocacy role been pursued?
ii. Effectiveness: To what extent has the nominee promoted the cause and advanced the merits of planning? Within what sphere of influence has this effectiveness been realized?

f. For **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP** – This award recognizes an Alabama APA chapter member who has contributed to the development of the Chapter in a substantial manner.

Eligibility: APA Membership. Alabama APA membership is required for a person nominated to this category.

Criteria:

i. Support of ALAPA: Detail how the nominee's participation in and contribution to the Alabama Chapter furthered the cause of the association, such as a Chapter Officer, Section Representative, committee member, etc.
ii. Effectiveness: Describe the level of effectiveness the nominee has had in formulating and implementing his/her ideas, subsequently furthering the cause of planning and ALAPA.

2. **RICHARD L. PLATT CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** – In memory of Richard L. Platt, former Director of Planning of the City of Northport, the Chapter will present an award to a person who has provided outstanding contributions to the planning profession and who is near or at retirement in his/her career.

   Eligibility: a. APA Membership: Member of APA during his/her professional career.
   b. Length of Career: 20+ years as a practicing planner or planner educator and has retired from the planning profession or is near retirement in career.

   Criteria:
   a. Career Highlights (positions-education).
   b. Major Accomplishments/Achievements.
   c. Impacts on profession, quality of life, and accomplishments: The level of positive influence and contributions this person has had on the planning profession; the impacts upon quality of life wherever he/she has worked and the contribution to the advancement of the planning profession.

3. **OUTSTANDING MEDIA COVERAGE** – An award to recognize outstanding media coverage of planning issues in written or broadcast media by a newspaper, television station, magazine, or radio station.

   Criteria:
   a. Coverage: To what extent was a planning story, event or community problem covered?
   b. Impartiality: Were both sides of an issue covered and adequate time or space given to each view?
   c. Support: To what degree did the media support the planning profession and the planning process and was this support expressed in editorials or other media coverage?

OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – An award to recognize an outstanding comprehensive plan addressing the long-range development of an area, town, city, county or region. Nominations for this Award will be considered in two (2) categories:

a. Comprehensive Plan for jurisdictions with population of under 50,000, or
b. Comprehensive Plan for jurisdictions with population of 50,000 or more.

Eligibility: The Comprehensive plan must be adopted by the Planning Commission or the governing body and at a minimum, contain elements on land use, housing, transportation, public facilities and the environment. Additional consideration will be given to those Plans which have been adopted by both the Planning Commission and the governing body. A Resolution approved by the adopting bodies must be included with the award nomination. Nominations of Comprehensive Plans produced by a consultant for a governmental organization or entity must originate and be endorsed by the sponsoring governmental organization or entity.

Criteria:

a. Originality/Innovation: Explain how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address the needs of the area covered by the plan. Is this a first of a kind in Alabama?
b. Transferability: Illustrate how the plan has potential application for others and how application of the plan would further the cause of good planning.
c. Quality: Quality of writing, graphics, and analysis of presented materials.
d. Comprehensiveness: Specify how planning principles have been observed and the nomination impacts other public objectives. To what extent does the plan include elements important to the local community or area covered by the plan?
e. Public Participation: Explain the level of public participation. Show how the nomination achieved support from the public and private interests.

f. Role of Planners: Clarify the role, significance and participation of the planner, for instance how in-house planners and consultant worked together. How did the effort increase the awareness of planners and the planning process?
g. Effectiveness/Results: State how the nomination addressed the need or problem that prompted the plan or update's initiation. Explain how the plan's implementation has made a difference in the lives of the people affected.

OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR A PLAN OR PLANNING PROGRAM - This award recognizes an outstanding plan or planning program other than a comprehensive plan. The types of plans eligible for this award may include, but are not limited to land use plans, neighborhood plans, environmental plans, historic plans, redevelopment plans, and transportation plans. Nominations may also be for an ongoing program designed to support the creation of other plans or projects that implements the goals or objectives contained in a Plan or Comprehensive Plan. The plan may be for a city, town, county, region, or special district. Nominations for this Award will be considered in two (2) categories:

a. Plan or Planning Program for jurisdictions with population of under 50,000, or
b. Plan or Planning Program for jurisdictions with population of 50,000 or more.

Eligibility: The Planning Commission or the governing body must have adopted the plan. Additional consideration will be given to those plans which have been adopted by both the Planning Commission and the governing body. A Resolution approved by the adopting bodies must be included with the award nomination. Nominations of Plans produced by a consultant for a governmental organization or entity must originate and be endorsed by the sponsoring governmental organization or entity.

Criteria:

a. Originality/Innovation: Explain how the nomination presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address the needs of the area covered by the plan. Is this a first of a kind in Alabama?
b. Transferability: Illustrate how the plan has potential application for others and how application of the plan would further the cause of good planning.
c. Quality: Quality of writing, graphics, and analysis of presented materials.
d. Comprehensiveness: Specify how planning principles have been observed and the nomination impacts other public objectives. To what extent does the plan include elements important to the community or area covered by the plan?
e. Public Participation: Explain the level of public participation. Show how the nomination achieved support from the public and private interests.
f. Role of Planners: Clarify the role, significance and participation of the planner, for instance how in-house planners and consultant worked together. How did the effort increase the awareness of planners and the planning process?
g. Effectiveness/Results: State how the nomination addressed the need or problem that prompted the plan or update's initiation. Explain how the plan's implementation has made a difference in the lives of the people affected.

4. **OUTSTANDING PLANNING AWARD FOR A PROJECT OR IMPLEMENTATION TOOL** – This award recognizes an outstanding project or tool that is a significant advancement to the cause of planning. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how a project or tool implements a plan. Nominations can be for regulations, codes or ordinances, growth management guidelines, public/private partnerships, technology, etc. A planning project that encourages participation by those who do not typically participate in setting community agendas or that advances a goal or objective adopted as part of a Plan or Comprehensive Plan are also eligible under this category.

Eligibility: Projects must have the endorsement of the local governing body indicating that it advances a plan goal or objective. This endorsement must be in the form of a letter or resolution and must be provided with the award nomination. Implementation tools created and developed by a governmental body or if produced by a consultant for a governmental organization or entity must be adopted by the local governing body or the entity with jurisdiction over the implementation tool. The Ordinance or Resolution approved by the adopting body must be included with the award nomination.

Criteria:

a. Originality/Innovation: To what extent are creative and innovative ideas used to address a demonstrated need or problem? How have these ideas expanded the envelope of accepted planning principles and led to a greater level of success?
b. Transferability: Illustrate how the project/program/tool has potential application for others and how application of the plan would further the cause of good planning.
c. Quality: To what extent does the submission show excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and applying ethical planning principles? How were the available resources used in a well-conceived and appropriate format to produce results?
d. Comprehensiveness: Specify how planning principles have been observed and the nomination impacts other public objectives. To what extent does the submission produce results for other programs important to the local community?
e. Public Participation: Explain the level of public participation. Show how the nomination achieved support from the public and private interests.
f. Role of Planners: Clarify the role, significance and participation of the planner, for instance how in-house planners and consultant worked together. How did the effort increase the awareness of planners and the planning process?
g. Effectiveness/Results: State how the nomination addressed the need or problem that prompted the project/program/tool's initiation. Explain how the plan's implementation has made a difference in the lives of the people affected.

5. **FRANKLIN M. SETZER OUTSTANDING URBAN DESIGN PROJECT** – In memory of Frank Setzer, former director of the Auburn University Architecture and Urban Studies Center in Birmingham, this award will be presented for a project in which design is an integral part of the planning process and is a major concern of the built environment.

Criteria:

a. Concept Application: Major concern is the design of the built environment, such as development or redevelopment plans to residential developments or business districts, including programs or proposals for incorporating design standards into development regulations for governmental jurisdictions, or any other project or program in which design is the paramount concern.
b. Transferability: Illustrate how the project has potential application for other projects and how application of the projects' components would further the cause of good planning.