The Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association is pleased to invite nominations for the 2015 TAPA Planning Awards to be presented at the Annual Conference, September 30 – October 2, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This is a great opportunity to showcase distinguished individuals and successful planning projects!

Nomination forms, award categories, criteria and submission requirements, can be found on the TAPA website at [www.tnapa.org](http://www.tnapa.org).

### Deadline

Nominations and all accompanying materials must be received no later than **July 24, 2015**. Any nomination forms or supporting material received after this deadline will not be eligible for consideration.

### Awards Ceremony

In order to provide the maximum number of AICP credits possible to conference attendees, the 2015 Awards Luncheon will include a panel discussion with ALL Award Winners. Each nominator must identify one person to represent the plan or project on this panel.

This person should have an in-depth knowledge of the plan or project and be prepared to discuss its public engagement or civic capacity-building process. This person should be prepared to answer the following questions:

- What kinds of community outreach methods were included?
- What level of community participation was reached?
- How was the plan or project impacted by this outreach and participation? Positive or negative.
- What would you do differently?

**NOTE:** Nominees for the Distinguished Leadership Award and Planning Advocate Award are not required to participate on the panel.

### Award Categories and Criteria

**NOTE:** Awards for I.) Outstanding Plan, II.) Outstanding Project/Program/Tool, and III.) Outstanding Implementation will be separated into large and small jurisdictions. Small is considered to be a city/county/region under 50,000 in population.

I. **Outstanding Plan**
   For a plan of exceptional merit. Examples include, but are not limited to, neighborhood, economic development, conservation, transportation, and other comprehensive plans. Technical reports and site plans are not eligible for this award.
1. **Originality and innovation.** Document how your entry presents a visionary approach, or innovative concept, to address needs.

2. **Transferability.** Illustrate how the entry has potential application for other communities and how applying the components and methodology of your entry would further the cause of good planning.

3. **Quality.** Winning entries will represent excellence of thought, analysis, writing, and graphics throughout, regardless of budgetary limitations. Indicate how available resources were used.

4. **Effectiveness and results.** State how your entry addressed the need or problem that prompted its initiation. Be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of the people affected. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

5. **Comprehensiveness.** Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry’s effects on other public objectives. Identify to what extent your entry includes elements important to the local community and affecting the community's built environment, natural resources, economy, and social aspects.

6. **Public participation.** Explain the level of public participation in this effort. The winning entries will demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who historically have been left out of the planning process. Show how your entry obtained public and private support.

7. **Roles and Responsibilities.** In order to minimize the potential for a nominee to receive recognition for the work of others, if a nominated project, person, or organization is part of a larger planning effort involving other planning professionals or project components not included in the nomination, the nominator must clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the individuals or organizations involved, and detail which portion of the larger effort can be attributed to the nominated person or organization. This criterion may not be applicable to all projects.

II. **Outstanding Project/Program/Tool**
For a project, program or tool that advances good planning. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how a project, program, or tool implemented a plan. The submissions can be regulations, ordinances or codes, growth management guidelines or ordinances, transferable development rights programs, land acquisition efforts, tax abatement initiatives, projects that encourage participation by those who do not typically participate in setting community/public agendas, or similar projects, programs or tools which meet the following criteria.

1. **Originality and innovation.** Document how your entry presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs.

2. **Transferability.** Illustrate how the entry has potential application for other communities and how applying the components and methodology of your entry would further the cause of good planning.

3. **Quality.** Winning entries will represent excellence of thought, analysis, writing, and graphics throughout the nomination, regardless of budgetary limitations. Indicate how available resources were used.
4. **Effectiveness and results.** How long has this project/program/tool been in place? State how your entry addressed the need or problem that prompted its initiation. Be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of the people affected. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

5. **Comprehensiveness.** Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry's effects on other public objectives. Identify to what extent your entry includes elements important to the local community and affecting the community's built environment, natural resources, economy, and social aspects.

6. **Public participation.** Explain the level of public participation in this effort. The winning entries will demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who historically have been left out of the planning process. Show how your entry obtained public and private support.

7. **Roles and Responsibilities.** In order to minimize the potential for a nominee to receive recognition for the work of others, if a nominated project, person, or organization is part of a larger planning effort involving other planning professionals or project components not included in the nomination, the nominator must clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the individuals or organizations involved, and detail which portion of the larger effort can be attributed to the nominated person or organization. This criterion may not be applicable to all projects.

III. **Outstanding Implementation**

To a specific planning project or initiative of exceptional merit, for which there are demonstrated “on-the-ground” results that are supported by documentable physical or social change.

1. **Originality and innovation.** Document how your entry presents a visionary approach or innovative concept to address needs.

2. **Transferability.** Illustrate how the entry has potential application for other communities and how applying the components and methodology of your entry would further the cause of good planning.

3. **Quality.** Winning entries will represent excellence of thought, analysis, writing, and graphics throughout the nomination, regardless of budgetary limitations. Indicate how available resources were used.

4. **Effectiveness and results.** When was this project or initiative implemented? State how your entry addressed the need or problem that prompted its initiation. Be explicit about how the results have made a difference in the lives of the people affected. Convey the level of effectiveness your entry can have over time.

5. **Comprehensiveness.** Specify how planning principles have been observed, especially in consideration of your entry's effects on other public objectives. Identify to what extent your entry includes elements important to the local community and affecting the community's built environment, natural resources, economy, and social aspects.

6. **Public participation.** Explain the level of public participation in this effort. The winning entries will demonstrate a strong effort to solicit input from those who historically have been left out of the planning process. Show how your entry obtained public and private support.
7. **Roles and Responsibilities.** In order to minimize the potential for a nominee to receive recognition for the work of others, if a nominated project, person, or organization is part of a larger planning effort involving other planning professionals or project components not included in the nomination, the nominator must clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the individuals or organizations involved, and detail which portion of the larger effort can be attributed to the nominated person or organization. This criterion may not be applicable to all projects.

IV. **Outstanding Student Project**
This recognizes a project of exceptional merit in the field of planning, and executed by a student, group of students, or class. The project must deal with a place or issue in Tennessee and should demonstrate innovation and a keen understanding of planning principles and practice. This category will be judged based on originality, transferability from the academic setting to the planning profession, quality, collaboration, and effectiveness. The submission should be primarily the work of the students from any secondary education institution in Tennessee.

V. **Distinguished Leadership Award**
This award recognizes a professional planner who has recently contributed to the planning profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing. This person must make (or have made) his/her living in the practice of planning, whether in the public, private, or education sector. APA national, or TAPA chapter, membership and three (3) years of professional planning experience is required for a person to be nominated for this category.

- To what extent has the nominee’s work increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process?
- How has the nominee made a positive impact on the citizens, or quality of life, of the community, region, or state?
- What degree of professional risk was taken by this person in order to support sound planning principles?
- What significant accomplishments has the nominee made in the area of planning outreach? Was it innovative or unique? How effective was it?
- What professional contributions has the nominee made (may include presentations and publications)?
- How has the nominee influenced young planners and/or students?
- What is the nominee’s level of involvement in professional associations, civic, or community activities?

VI. **Planning Advocate Award**
Nominees for this category may be from either of the following two (2) categories:

A. **Elected/Appointed Official**
This award recognizes an elected or appointed municipal, county, or state public official who has made significant positive contributions to, and/or demonstrated a strong support of, planning in Tennessee. The nominee does not have to be an APA or TAPA member, but must be elected or appointed and
currently holding office, or in the official public position that he/she is being nominated for, at the time of nomination. Appointed officials may include those appointed by the governing authority, such as a planning commissioner, city/town manager, administrator or clerk, county manager, city or county attorney, or other appointed public official, but who is not a professional planner. Candidates may not be self-nominated.

- What degree of personal risk was taken by this person in order to support sound planning principles?
- To what extent has the nominee been effective in furthering excellence in planning? Within what sphere of influence has the effectiveness been realized?
- To what extent has the nominee’s career increased the understanding of planning principles and the planning process? How has the nominee shown a clear understanding of and support for planning?

B. Friend of Planning (media, community advocate, etc.)
This award recognizes an individual who has advanced or promoted the cause of planning in the public arena. Those nominated may include members of the media, citizen advocates, neighborhood leaders, etc. Persons earning their living as a planner, or who are public officials, are not eligible for this award.

- 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?
- 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?

**Award Submittal Requirements**

Everything must be submitted digitally. No paper copies will be accepted.

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Nominations for I.) Outstanding Plan, II.) Outstanding Project/Program/Tool, and III.) Outstanding Implementation must include ALL of the following elements to be considered for award selection:

1. Nomination form
2. Narrative responses to the award criteria (maximum two pages)
3. Copy of a planning document, or other product, that represents the project; and
4. PowerPoint file with up to 10 slides that visually represents the project or plan (to be used at the Awards Ceremony, if selected to receive an award)
5. A 10-point, or larger, font is required.
Nominations for IV.) Outstanding Student Project, V.) Distinguished Leadership Award, and VI.) Planning Advocate Award must include ALL of the following elements to be considered for award selection:

1. Nomination form
2. Biographical Data of Nominee (maximum one page, one side only);
3. Narrative responses to the award criteria (maximum two pages)
4. Letters of endorsement for the nominee (a minimum of three, maximum of six). Each letter must be limited to one page. These letters may be submitted by any colleague, supervisor, administrator, community leader, etc.
5. A digital picture of the nominee
6. A 10-point, or larger, font is required.