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NJASLA CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE
2026 DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

CALL FOR
ENTRIES

New Jersey Chapter ASLA
Annual Meeting 2026
February 1-3
Harrah's Waterfront Resort
Atlantic City, NJ



ASLA
NEW JERSEY

DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

The New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is pleased to issue a call for entries for the 2026 Design Awards Program.

The awards program seeks to broaden professional boundaries, increase public awareness of the role of landscape architects, raise the standards of the discipline and bring recognition to organizations and individuals who demonstrate superior skill in the practice and study of landscape architecture.

A jury of qualified professionals from a sibling ASLA chapter will review each submittal and determine winners in each category. Award-winning projects will be featured in upcoming NJASLA newsletters, on our website, and in displays promoting the profession within the State.

We will honor award winners and showcase their projects live at our conference at Harrah's Waterfront in Atlantic City February 1st through 3rd. The awards presentation will feature images of the winning projects and emphasize the projects' program, design intent, challenges, and solutions. We hope to provide a more complete understanding of successful solutions to complex design problems and, thus, help us all become better landscape architects.

Please review the levels of recognition, awards categories, and eligibility requirements carefully.

LEVELS OF RECOGNITION

CHAPTER AWARD:

Our highest award. Only one award may be given annually, for exceptional performance in any category, as determined by a unanimous vote of the jury members.

HONOR AWARD:

A maximum of one award for every five entries may be given, in each category, for outstanding projects.

MERIT AWARD:

Any number of awards may be given in each category to recognize excellent professional accomplishment.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

May be given at the discretion of the jury in addition to levels of recognition.

GARDEN STATE AWARD:

A maximum of one award in Entry Categories I-VIII only; recognizing outstanding performance by independent NJ Landscape Architects and by NJ Firms. See Eligibility requirements for additional information.

EQUITY/JUSTICE AWARD:

A maximum of one award in Entry categories I-VIII; To recognize exemplary projects that demonstrate the value of prioritizing, equity, and inclusion in the landscape. See Eligibility requirements for additional information.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAPTER, HONOR & MERIT AWARDS

Entrants must be full or associate members of ASLA. Submissions may be any one of the following:

- A landscape architecture project in the state of New Jersey and designed by an ASLA member.
- Any project designed by a New Jersey-based individual, firm, or office. This may include New Jersey-based lead designer or project manager. Proof of residency may be requested to confirm eligibility.
- Faculty member of a New Jersey landscape architecture program, submitting work associated with their academic pursuits.
- Full-time New Jersey student in an accredited New Jersey or out-of-state landscape architecture program OR an out-of-state student in an accredited New Jersey program.
- Team entries are encouraged. Please note, it is the applicant's responsibility to credit ALL team members who have worked on the submitted projects. Applicant will be held responsible for any misrepresentation and will immediately be disqualified.

ELIGIBILITY FOR GARDEN STATE AWARD

To be eligible for the "Garden State Award", the nominee must be a New Jersey licensed landscape architecture firm of no more than seven total licensed landscape architects or non-licensed designers. Additionally, the firm must be one of the following:

- A sole practitioner: A resident of the State of New Jersey with a bona fide New Jersey Office.
- A partnership: The landscape architect signing and sealing for the project being submitted must be a New Jersey resident with a bona fide New Jersey Office.
- If a professional service corporation established pursuant to the "Professional Service Corporation Act," the landscape architect signing and sealing for the project being submitted must be a New Jersey resident with a bona fide New Jersey Office.
- If an LLC or a corporation possessing a Certificate of Authorization to render landscape architecture services in the State of New Jersey, the landscape architect signing and sealing for the project being submitted must be a New Jersey resident with a bona fide New Jersey Office.
- If applying for this award, please be sure to select the 'Garden State Award Entry' box found on the Entry form.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE EQUITY/JUSTICE AWARD

- Entrants must be full or associate members of ASLA.
- Entrants must also meet the eligibility requirements for the Chapter, Honor, and Merit Awards.

To recognize exemplary projects that demonstrate the value of prioritizing equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion in the landscape. Per ASLA, "Greater diversity brings new perspectives and thought leadership, strengthens professional/community connections, and supports social equity". Examples of strategies that showcase these ideals include equitable access, cultural expression in design, serving underrepresented/ underserved communities with an inclusive development process, and place keeping. Considering a framework of diversity, equity and inclusion as fundamental to good design, all project types are welcome.

If applying for this award, please be sure to select the 'Equity / Justice Award Entry' box found on the Entry form.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

I. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN:

Recognition of built, site-specific works of landscape architectural design. For large, phased projects, at least the first stage must be completed and be representative of the entire project to be eligible for entry (see Category VI for Unbuilt Projects).

This category is divided into four separate groups:

A. RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Single or multi-unit residences, public or private gardens.

B. SITE DESIGN

Commercial, institutional, housing, parks, recreation, and specialty landscapes such as zoos or arboreta.

C. PLANTING DESIGN

The submission should represent a significant portion of a site, where the overall project has not been submitted. It should exhibit creative application of planting design principles resulting in exceptional space(s) within the larger landscape.

The jury will consider the clarity of the design narrative, identification of the project challenges, quality of the design solution, the quality and impact of the graphic presentation, functionality, context, appropriateness to the site and design solution significance.

II. HISTORIC LANDSCAPES:

Recognizes outstanding projects focused on historic preservation, renovation, adaptation, or accessibility improvements of historic landscapes. This category also recognizes landmark landscapes that have retained their original design for more than 15 years. These projects normally include in-depth exploration relative to the site, its historical significance, and the intent and function of the original design. Projects in this category must include completed restoration of the site in question and must be documented in the same manner as Landscape Architectural Design projects.

The jury will concentrate on the "authenticity" of the restoration and the research that led to the design solutions. Where compromises were made, the appropriateness and sophistication of the final solution will count heavily. The quality of the project in terms of historic preservation and/or interpretive renovation will be considered.

III. LANDSCAPE PLANNING AND ANALYSIS:

Recognition of the depth and breadth of professional practice with the process and research methodology that guides Landscape Architects in making planning and design decisions. Such projects normally include graphic as well as written components. Entrees may include master plans, visioning plans, feasibility studies, general development plans, transportation plans, government environmental studies, environmental assessment/site suitability studies, visual and/or natural resource inventories or post construction evaluations.

The jury will base their evaluations on the clarity and completeness of the presentation of the process that lead to the solutions and recommendations; the value of the project in demonstrating the appropriate and expanding role of landscape architects in the Land Planning/Design Process.



ENTRY CATEGORIES

IV. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL COMMUNICATION AND RESEARCH:

Recognition of communication and/ or research oriented projects. Rewards achievements in communication about the landscape architecture profession, both internally and to the general public. Includes written/published documents, graphic presentations and digital image presentations. Entries may include firm brochures; magazine articles; environmental educational materials; publications used to enhance the professional expertise of landscape architects; publications promoting visibility and the potential of the profession. Recognition of scholarly pursuits which provide information that advances the body of knowledge for the profession.

The jury will base the evaluation on the clarity and focus of the study, the thoroughness of the methodology and the presentation of results that will have a significant impact on the practicing Profession. Jury will be guided by the professional quality and visual impact of the communication effort; the clarity of the message and its significance and importance to the public and/or the profession.

V. CLIMATE, RESILIENCY, AND RESTORATION:

This award recognizes significant environmental and ecological enhancement improvements achieved through community involvement, with the participation/leadership of landscape architects. Rewards efforts at the community, county or state level focused on grass roots participation. Recognize projects focusing on sustainable design practices and construction methods and climate adaptability.

The jury will evaluate the effectiveness of the leadership and guidance provided by the landscape architect, the significance of the project to the community, and the degree and nature of the community involvement in the project. Visual documentation of the significance and success of the project is of great importance.

VI. THE UNBUILT PROJECT:

Occasionally, significant design projects commissioned to a landscape architect are fully designed, but for some reason beyond the control of the designer, is not constructed. Such projects may be submitted (normally under Category I) for award consideration under this category. This may include projects paused or cancelled due to funding issues, competition submissions that were not awarded, etc.

Since there are no photographs of an unbuilt project, the jury will base its evaluation solely on the project description, drawings, renderings, or other media representing the project and the explanation of the special circumstances. Detailed drawings are encouraged.

VII. COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Recognizing projects accomplished through significant volunteer service or pro-bono design by the landscape architect. Projects may be built or unbuilt.

VIII. STUDENT ENTRIES:

Students from New Jersey, enrolled in an accredited landscape architecture program, may enter outstanding projects in landscape architecture related to design, graphics, analysis, research, or communication. Student entries require the support of a course instructor or department chair.

Note: The Entries may include those students who have graduated within the past year. Entries will be judged by the criteria for the appropriate category of the submission. Team efforts are encouraged. Limited to one entry per student.

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All entry submissions must include a completed entry form and a check in the amount shown on the application form. The form and check should be mailed to:

NJASLA 2026 Awards
414 River View Plaza,
Trenton, NJ 08611-3420

- All submission material, identified by the specific category requirements below, and a PDF format of the entry form should be combined into a single .ZIP file and Submitted via email to: Receive.t42is2s1qz0o3ezl@u.box.com
- You will receive a confirmation email from Box.com stating your file has been uploaded. If you do not receive an email within 30 minutes of uploading (be sure to check your spam), please email the Awards Chair*.
- The .ZIP file should be named as follows: Firm Name_Project Title.zip.
- Hard copies of material will not be accepted.
- Submissions via share link will not be accepted. Submissions must be emailed to the link above. You may be required to compress files to successfully email your .ZIP attachment.

**See contact information on page 8.*

RIGHTS TO IMAGES AND MATERIALS

Entrants may only submit images to which they own the rights, or if explicitly given permission by their owner.

All materials submitted will become the property of the NJASLA and will be disposed of after a period of time. NJASLA reserves the right to use submitted materials to promote NJASLA and the profession in general. Any entrant wishing to have materials returned must make arrangements with the Awards Chair no later than December 5, 2025.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CATEGORIES

No other items shall be submitted, except when outlined below:

ENTRY FORM:

Completed entry form in PDF format. Include hard copy of form with payment and PDF copy with digital submission.

PROJECT NARRATIVE:

The project narrative should include the design intent, challenges posed, and the successful design solution(s). The narrative must also describe the client, the size of the site and the project, the general location and context (surrounding area) of the site. Project Narrative should clearly state role of the Landscape Architect(s) for work submitted and why the project is award worthy. This description must not exceed 500 words on a single 8½"x11" sheet with one-inch margins and 14-pt type. Entries exceeding one page will not be accepted.

SITE PLAN:

At least (1) site plan with image key in PDF format is required.

POWER POINT:

17 PAGE LIMIT. PowerPoint template can be downloaded by copying and pasting this link into your web browser: <https://njasla.box.com/s/c420e99c4utanet9tsfzcomwewhl1tb5>

This file must be used to complete the presentation. Background color and font must not be edited. The presentation must include the following:

- Slide 1: Submission category
- Slide 2: Project name and concise project description
- Slides 3-17: 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.

Narrative, site plan, slides, and high-res photo must not reveal the entrant's identity and shall be anonymous to the jury.

HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTO:

One (1) 300dpi photo in .jpeg format. This photo will be used during the Annual Meeting and for promotional materials for winning projects. Please label the photo with ONLY the project name.

FILE NAMING REQUIREMENTS:

Please name the files, as follows:

- Entry Form: projectname_entryform
- Project Narrative: projectname_projectnarrative
- Site plan: projectname_siteplan
- Power Point: projectname_powerpoint
- High-resolution photo: projectname_highresphoto



ADDITIONAL CATEGORY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

HISTORIC LANDSCAPES:

Please provide an original site plan in PDF format (if available).

LANDSCAPE PLANNING AND ANALYSIS; RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION CATEGORIES:

If applicable, please provide a PDF version of any booklet, analysis document, or photo of document/article/ display. Hardcopies will not be accepted.

It is the entrant's responsibility to conceal any information that may reveal their identity.

STUDENT ENTRIES:

A PDF letter of endorsement from a Landscape Architecture faculty member familiar with the project is required.

WINNING ENTRIES RECEIVE

- A framed award certificate
- Recognition in the NJASLA Newsletter, website, and social media
- Presentation of project slides at the Conference

AWARD RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- All entrants will receive notification on whether their project has received an award by the week of December 5, 2025 via email.
- Award winners must submit release authorization for their materials and images as part of the completion of their acceptance of the award.
- Award recipients are required to attend the Awards Ceremony at Harrah's Waterfront on February 2, 2026. Any conflicts can be discussed with the Awards Chair.
- Non-compliance with the requirements for award recipients may result in loss of the award.

CONTACT

Please read these instructions carefully. Don't hesitate to contact the Awards Chair with questions. Contact Ted Aretakis at awards@njasla.org.

DEADLINE

All entries must be received by Friday, October 24, 2025.



NJASLA AWARDS PROGRAM ENTRY FORM

PROJECT

A separate form is required for each project

Name of Project

Entry Category (see category descriptions)

Date Project Completed

Client's Name

Client's Address

Client's Phone

Client's Fax

Client's Email Address

Project Location (street, city, state)

- ☐ Check this box if your project qualifies for the 'Garden State Award'
- ☐ Check this box if your project qualifies for the 'Equity/Justice Award'

ENTRANT (Firm or LA submitting the project)

Entrant Name

Entrant Address

Entrant Phone

Entrant Email Address

ENTRANT MUST MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Be sure to check eligibility requirements on page 3, as they have been updated.

Entrant Printed Name

Entrant Signature

Date

LLA # or ASLA #

- Entry fee is \$75.00 for NJASLA members, \$150.00 for non-members and \$25.00 for students.
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO NJASLA 2026 AWARDS.

- Separate form and entry fee is required for each submission. Please type or print all information.

- See Call for Entries for categories and detailed submission requirements.

- Deliver completed form(s) and entry fee(s) to:

NJASLA 2026 AWARDS
414 River View Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08611-3420

CONTACT:

Ted Aretakis at
awards@njasla.org

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