



# 2024 ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE SPECIAL AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The [Architectural Excellence Special Awards](#) recognize significant achievements by architects, civic leaders, industry professionals, firms, and organizations who contribute to the built environment and the advancement of the profession in the Commonwealth.

[AIA Pennsylvania is accepting nominations from the AIA Pennsylvania membership for open Special Award categories through 11:59 pm Thursday, May 9, 2024.](#)

All 2024 Special Award recipients will be notified by late July. The Special Awards will be celebrated with the Architectural Excellence Awards Broadcast and Viewing Parties set for Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

## NOMINATOR & NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

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To be eligible to nominate an individual, firm, organization, or structure to the Special Awards program, the following must apply:

- The nominator must be a current AIA Pennsylvania member(s)
  - Additional nomination requirements & nominee eligibility for specific categories is outlined in the Open Nomination Categories detailed below
- The nomination requirements must be complete and accurate.
- AIA Pennsylvania members may nominate a candidate in more than one open award category, but each individual nomination will require a complete and separate submission.

AIA Pennsylvania member-led firms/members are eligible and encouraged to self-nominate for the Architecture Firm Award and Social Impact Award (Firm Nominee) without the endorsement of an outside "primary nominator."

AIA Pennsylvania members eligible for a Special Award in the category of Medal of Distinction, Social Impact Award (Individual Nominee), Young Architect Award, or Emerging Professional Award are encouraged to self-nominate with the support of a named "primary nominator," meaning nominees may fill out the nomination with the authorization of the "primary nominator." Members are encouraged to reach out to an AIA member(s) in their networks to request endorsement as the "primary nominator."

Please review additional eligibility requirements for each Special Award category as outlined in the open nomination category descriptions detailed in this document.

## ENTRY FEE

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There is no entry fee for nominations to the Architectural Excellence Special Awards.

## NOMINATION TASK FORCE

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The AIA Pennsylvania Board of Directors has authorized the AIA Pennsylvania Committee on Design (COD) to convene an annual Special Awards Nomination Task Force. The Committee on Design Chair recruits a chair and assists with recruitment of Task Force members to ensure perspectives from a diverse representation of the membership with local awareness of those making an impact on the profession.

It is the responsibility of the Special Awards Nomination Task Force to:

1. Receive and review all nominations from eligible members for all open nomination awards categories.
2. Make additional nominations for each of the open nomination award categories.
3. Impartially evaluate, select, and forward a final special award slate of recommendations to the AIA Pennsylvania Board of Directors for approval.

The Special Awards Nomination Task Force reserves the right to not put forth a Special Award recommendation in any category. Awards are granted at the discretion of the AIA Pennsylvania Board of Directors.

## OPEN NOMINATION CATEGORIES

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### **ARCHITECTURE FIRM AWARD**

Every year, AIA Pennsylvania recognizes one firm whose passion and practice have produced notable architecture for at least a decade. Deserving firms will have demonstrated excellence in design and leadership through any combination of the following criteria: the breadth and/or depth of their portfolio, a healthy firm culture, influence on the practice of architecture, exemplary outcomes for clients and/or society.

ELIGIBILITY: Firms with at least one AIA Pennsylvania principal owner that have been in operation for ten (10) years. Current AIA Pennsylvania Board Members' firms are ineligible.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS: Firms may entirely self-nominate if they fit all eligibility criteria. The primary nominator named should be a principal owner of the firm that maintains AIA membership.

### **MEDAL OF DISTINCTION**

The Medal of Distinction is the highest award bestowed by AIA Pennsylvania upon a living AIA Pennsylvania member. The recipient shall have made contributions to architecture that transcend local boundaries and have been of benefit to the profession and citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ELIGIBILITY: AIA Pennsylvania members. Current AIA Pennsylvania Board Members are ineligible.

## **SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD**

*Formerly the Impact Designer Award*

The Social Impact Award recognizes a wide range of design disciplines held together by a common goal to design and create a better world through innovative, scalable, and measurable solutions. Impact design is rooted in the core belief that design can be used to create positive social, environmental, and economic change, and focuses on actively measuring impact to inform and direct the design process.

**ELIGIBILITY:** AIA Pennsylvania members, architecture firms with at least one AIA Pennsylvania principal owner, or allied organizations with employees' ineligible for AIA Pennsylvania membership.

## **YOUNG ARCHITECT AWARD**

*Formerly the Emerging Professional Award*

The Young Architect Award seeks to recognize the exceptional achievements and future promise of a licensed architect and to promote their continuing development. The applicant's contribution to the profession can be through one or more of the following: design excellence, leadership in practice, leadership in education, or service to the profession or society.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Registered architect members of AIA Pennsylvania whose date of initial licensure is less than 10 years ago, as of the date of the submission deadline.

**NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A letter of recommendation endorsed by the primary nominator (AIA PA member) or another AIA PA member.

## **EMERGING PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

*Formerly the Associate Award*

The Emerging Professional Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, creativity, and significant contributions to their communities, the architecture profession, and the AIA.

**ELIGIBILITY:** AIA Pennsylvania Associate members who have completed their academic studies up to the point of licensure or up to 10 years after completion of their academic studies

**NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A formal letter of recommendation should be endorsed by the primary nominator (AIA PA member) or another AIA PA member.

## **RAYMOND J. SINAGRA ALLIED TRADES AWARD**

The Allied Trades Award, renamed in 2019 in honor of Raymond J. Sinagra's collaborative, whatever-it-takes spirit and dedication to the AEC community, is presented for contributions to the built environment by a contractor, developer, civil engineer, or other allied professional. The award honors those professionals who bring architects' work into reality and who uphold the tenets of design, sustainability and collaboration.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Non-member allied professionals and firms/companies/organizations including AIA PA allied members and preferred partners.

### **CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFESSION BY A NON-ARCHITECT**

The Contribution to the Profession by a Non-Architect Award honors individuals, corporations, associations, or other groups who do not practice architecture. Recipients will be cited for their direct contributions to the profession such as a building program, a public works project, publications, theoretical or applied research in zoning, urban design, interiors, planning, energy conservation, preservation, restoration transportation, industrial design, artistic endeavors, or other significant disciplines which have had a strong influence on the field of architecture.

ELIGIBILITY: Non-member professionals and firms/companies/organizations.

### **GOVERNMENT AWARD**

The Government Award is given in recognition of significant contributions to, or particular support of, the profession and business of Architecture and/or the built environment. Anyone working in state or local government such as legislators, department secretaries, township officials, etc. are eligible for the award as an individual or specified group.

ELIGIBILITY: Individual or specified group working in state or local government, such as a legislator, state, or township official, etc.

### **50 YEAR TIMELESS ARCHITECTURE AWARD**

The 50 Year Timeless Architecture Award recognizes a building that has endured the test of time and still resonates with the design community and the public.

ELIGIBILITY: Buildings must be at least fifty (50) years old established from the date of completion to the date of the submission deadline and be located in the State of Pennsylvania.

## **NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS**

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[After creating an account or logging in\\* to the awards nomination program platform,](#) nominators/nominees will be able to preview and save the submission as they work to complete the submission. Applicants may log back in at any time to complete submission before the submission cutoff date.

Preview the required and optional fields for the Special Awards categories as reflected in the submission site fields detailed in the following tables.

<b>Special Award Category Selection &amp; Nominee/Nominator Information</b>	
Special Award Category Selection & Nominee/Nominator Information*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Architecture Firm Award</li> <li>○ Medal of Distinction</li> <li>○ Social Impact Award</li> <li>○ Young Architect Award</li> <li>○ Emerging Professional Award</li> <li>○ 50 Year/ Timeless Award</li> <li>○ Government Award</li> <li>○ Contributions to the Profession by a Non-Architect Award</li> <li>○ Raymond J. Sinagra Allied Trades Award</li> </ul>
	○ Select the 1 <sup>st</sup> dropdown option in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dropdown field, "Nominator is an AIA PA Member."
Nominee Information*	Identify the nominee in the field below. May be an individual (full name), firm, or organization depending on Special Award category.
Nominee Identification*	Identify the nominee in the field below. May be an individual (full name), firm, or organization depending on Special Award category.
Nominee's AIA Member # (Requirement for applicable Special Award categories)	
Nominee's Firm/Organization Affiliation*	
Nominee's Title/Role*	
Nominee's E-mail*	
Nominee's Phone Number*	
<b>Primary Nominator Information</b>	
For the Architecture Firm Award or Social Impact Award (Firm Nominee), the primary nominator named may be a principal owner of the firm that maintains AIA membership.	
Primary Nominator's First Name*	
Primary Nominator's Last Name*	
Primary Nominator's AIA Member #*	
Primary Nominator's Firm/Organization Affiliation*	
Primary Nominator's E-mail*	
Primary Nominator's Phone Number*	

## Nomination Materials & Supporting Documents

### Nomination Materials & Supporting Documents Upload\*

.PDF File Upload

The upload (single PDF file) should not exceed eight (8), 8.5x11 pages (portrait or landscape orientation), and 25 MB, in the order as outlined in the general guidelines below:

**PAGE 1: Introductory Information Page (REQUIRED FOR ALL CATEGORIES)** must include the following -

- Special Award Category of Nomination
- Nominee Identification
- Nomination Narrative
  - 300-500 word essay introducing the nominee and why the candidate is merited

**PAGE 2: Letter of Recommendation**

- **REQUIRED** for the Emerging Professional Award and Young Architect Award
  - The formal letter of recommendation should be endorsed by the primary nominator (AIA PA member) or another AIA PA member. The letter may reiterate points covered in the “Nomination Narrative.”
- In categories that do not require this recommendation, please treat page two as another optional page to include supporting narrative and imagery.

**PAGES 3 - 8: Supporting Documentation (OPTIONAL)**

- Any supporting short narratives, images, activities, previous honors, work, or other accomplishments that support the required 300-500-word essay noted above.
- Any additional information in support of the nomination relevant to the first-page narrative and nomination category such as brief:
  - biography/CV
  - achievements and awards
  - example work and images
  - clippings and articles

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ historic significance, building plans and images, notable mentions [50 Year/Timeless Architecture Award]</li><li>○ firm principals and history; achievements and awards; portfolio images and drawings [Architecture Firm Award]</li></ul>
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## REPURPOSING PAST NOMINATIONS

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Any nominations dating back to 2020 that are still eligible are accessible in the nomination platform to copy over and edit for nomination in 2024. [Log in via this link with the applicant account used to previously apply to access and copy over past nominations.](#)

You will be prompted to select the dropdown for a previous cycle of the awards program, hit search and any previous submission(s) should populate, hit the "Use this application" blue text link any fields and uploads from past submission(s) will be auto-populated into a new submission for entry in 2024's program.

## MANAGING MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS

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[Log in with an existing account or create one via the program page](#) to start or complete a nomination. Depending on whether you have started a nomination or would like to begin a new nomination, you will see options linked in blue copy in the body of the page to either review past submissions or begin a new submission.

If you are logged in and working on a nomination, you can save it and re-visit the program page for the option to begin a new submission/nomination.

## QUESTIONS

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Contact Olivia at [operry@aiapa.org](mailto:operry@aiapa.org) or (717) 236 4055 ext. 3

\*If you participated in the Architectural Excellence Design, COTE, or Special Awards (2020 onward), the account you created is still on file and retains your previous submissions/nominations. If you cannot recall your password, there is a self-service "lost password" feature in the submission/nomination portal.

If you cannot recall which e-mail address you used to register an account and manage your submissions/nominations last year, please reach out to Olivia.