

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Governor's Historic Preservation Awards Program Background & Criteria

The Governor's Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually, under the sponsorship of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), to individuals, organizations, companies, and public agencies whose contributions demonstrate significant achievements in preserving the heritage of California. The purpose of the awards is to recognize meaningful achievements in historic preservation through increased public awareness, appreciation, and support for historic preservation throughout the state.

The Governor's Historic Preservation Awards were started in 1986 by Governor George Deukmejian. The Awards program is distinguished from other preservation awards in two important respects: it emphasizes involvement by community groups; and it recognizes a broad array of preservation activities, from building rehabilitation to archaeology, interpretation, and preservation planning. Since 1986, more than two hundred organizations, individuals, and agencies have been recognized for their outstanding work throughout the state on behalf of preservation.

Award recipients are selected by an independent jury of distinguished professionals representing a cross-section of disciplines in the field of historic preservation. Presentation of the awards takes place in Sacramento. This is an honorary award promoting exceptional commitment and achievement; no monetary awards are associated with this program.

Eligibility Categories and Criteria

1. Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies

Any individual, organization, company, or local, state or federal agency involved in historic preservation is eligible for nomination. Eligible nominees will have made significant contributions over time to the advancement of historic preservation and/or the preservation of historical resources in California. Nominations of those individuals and groups working at a grassroots level are especially encouraged.

Individuals may not self-nominate.

2. Projects

Projects shall have been completed within four years and not later than January 31st of the current award year.

- A. Restoration, rehabilitation or adaptive use of historic buildings, structures, sites, or cultural landscapes.
- B. Activities related to the identification, protection, and interpretation of historic and prehistoric resources.
 - Innovative efforts in historic preservation education, public outreach, or interpretive programs.

- Exemplary historic preservation planning documents, including design guidelines, general plan elements, and local ordinances.
- Surveys or National Register nominations that significantly contribute to statewide knowledge of historic resources and/or contexts.
- Projects that demonstrate new or novel approaches to the protection of historic and/or prehistoric archaeological sites.
- Exemplary historical research projects, including oral histories.

General Eligibility Information

Nominations should demonstrate creative solutions to the preservation and/or interpretation of California historic and/or prehistoric resources.

Nominations must clearly demonstrate how the project or activity conforms to applicable professional standards, such as the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation, or other standards for archaeology, interpretation, oral history, and other types of projects or activities.

Nominations of public agencies shall clearly demonstrate how the reason(s) for nomination is distinguished from those projects or activities that would normally fall within the agency's mandate to execute.

Nominations of firms or companies shall clearly demonstrate involvement beyond contractual scope.

For projects completed in compliance with local, state, or federal law, consideration is given only to those that exceed the legal requirements, include meaningful public participation, and demonstrate creative solutions to compliance requirements.

Project awards are given in recognition of the project and not to any one entity involved with the project. Awards for the drafting of legislation be it local, county, or statewide, will be presented to the elected official who carried it, along with those responsible for researching and drafting the legislation.

Special consideration will be given to historic preservation projects/activities that:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships;
- Benefit the community, and reflect community-centered and supported efforts;
- Promote sustainability and "green" design while preserving the historic fabric of a resource; or
- Broaden the ethnic and cultural diversity of historic preservation activities.

Nominees shall not be involved in any preservation-related violations, lawsuits, or complaints. Compliance checking is conducted to ensure all awards are appropriate.

Additional information about the awards program is available on the OHP website: www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/governorsawards.