

2025 CALL FOR AWARDS ENTRIES



CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Prairie Gateway Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects is pleased to issue this formal Call for Entries for the 2025 PGASLA Awards Program. Award Winners will be honored on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025 at our Annual Meeting and Awards Event.

Participation in the awards program helps broaden professional boundaries, increases public awareness of the role of landscape architects, raises the standards of the discipline, and brings recognition to organizations and individuals who demonstrate superior skill in the practice and/or study of landscape architecture.

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

Professionals and Students may submit in the following categories: Design (Built), Design (Unbuilt), Planning & Analysis, Research, and Communication.

In addition, any PGASLA member in good standing may nominate submissions for the following chapter awards: Alton Thomas Award, Kessler Legacy Award, and Metrogreen Visionary Award.

ENTRANT ELIGIBILITY

Any individual, firm, agency, or academic institution may enter a submission by meeting one of the below classifications:

- Fellow, Member, or Associate member of Prairie Gateway Chapter of ASLA.
- Full-time student currently enrolled in a Landscape Architecture program at a University in Missouri or Kansas
- Student who graduated with a Landscape Architecture degree in 2024 at a University in Missouri or Kansas.
- Non-members submitting in a Research and Communication category.

In addition, any project submitted must meet at least one of the following categories:

- Project must be located within the PGASLA chapter boundary.
- An out-of-boundary project must be completed by a PGASLA member who practices within the PGASLA boundary, or by a student that meets the stated requirements above.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

- Complete entry form on PGASLA website.
- Ensure anonymity on all materials except the entry form.
- Upload award submittal contents on the PGASLA website.
- Provide payment (credit card or check) as indicated on the website.

All submittal materials for award entries will become property of PGASLA and will not be returned.

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JURY INFORMATION

This year's submissions will be judged by the New Jersey ASLA Chapter.

ENTRY FEES

ASLA Member, Associate, or Fellow: \$125
Professional Non-Member: \$200
Government Agencies (City, County, State): \$50
Students: Free

Provide payment as indicated on the website. Checks are payable to PGASLA.

AWARDS TIMELINE

Call of Entries Released: June 23, 2025
Award Submittals Due: July 25, 2025
Winners Notified by: August 27, 2025
Presentation of Awards: September 10, 2025

SUBMITTAL FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

All submittals are required to be prepared in PDF files. Remove authorship and/or all reference to the firm and/or individual's name from the all properties of the submission.

1. AWARD PRESENTATION

- Presentation files shall be 16:9 PDF format.
- Maximum 20 pages.
- 15MB or smaller.
- Page 1: Clearly state the following:
 - Category Name
 - Project Name and Location
 - Project purpose: list requirements, scope, philosophy, intent
- Page 2: Clearly state the following:
 - Role of the landscape architect/entrant vs. role of other participants, including owner/client and collaborators.
- Page 3: Clearly state the following:
 - Special Factors: explain the project's uniqueness and any unusual problems.
 - Explain how the project meets judging criteria for the category.
- Pages 4-20: Provide text and/or images describing the projects.

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2. PROJECT NARRATIVE

- Provide a narrative for the submittal. Description is limited one-page with minimum 11pt font size. Including the following aspects:
 - Project Name and Location
 - Purpose of the Project: list requirements, scope, philosophy, intent
 - Role of the Entrant: Role of the landscape architect/entrant vs. role of other participants, including owner/client and collaborators.
 - Special Factors: explain the project's uniqueness and any unusual problems.
- Provide a project summary (100 words or less) for highlighting the project at the Awards event.

3. PROJECT IMAGERY

- Two images to best portray the project. Images will be used for winning projects at the awards event and on social media.
- Minimum of 150 DPI, JPG format, Maximum 10 MB.

4. SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

- For Planning/Analysis, Research, and Communication categories only
- PDF copy of the master plan report, research report, communication materials, or brochures. Support materials are optional and at the discretion of the application.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1: DESIGN (BUILT)

Category one recognizes construction site-specific works of landscape architectural design (including urban design).

For large incremental projects, at least the first stage must be completed to be eligible for an award. Design entries should exhibit a relationship to planning and a framework for larger than the immediate site.

Typical entries in this category may include: communities and housing; urban design, streets and public spaces; parks and recreational facilities; transportation corridors and facilities; residences and gardens; commercial facilities; resorts; institutions; historic preservation and restoration; reclamation and conservation; landscape art and earth sculpture; interior landscapes.

Main Criteria for Judging Design (Built)

- Quality of design
- Functionalism
- Relationship to context
- Environmental responsibility
- Relevance to the profession, the public and the environment

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CATEGORY 2: DESIGN (UNBUILT)

Category two recognizes un-realized works of landscape architectural design (including urban design).

Design entries should exhibit a relationship to planning and a framework for an area larger than the immediate site.

Typical entries in this category may include: communities and housing; urban design, streets and public spaces; parks and recreational facilities; transportation corridors and facilities; residences and gardens; commercial facilities; resorts; institutions; historic preservation and restoration; reclamation and conservation; landscape art and earth sculpture; interior landscapes.

Main Criteria for Judging Design (Unbuilt)

- Quality of design
- Functionalism
- Relationship to context
- Environmental responsibility
- Relevance to the profession, the public and the environment

CATEGORY 3: PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

Category three category recognizes the wide variety of professional activities that lead to, guide or evaluate landscape architectural design.

Typical entries in this category may include: general development, regional, transportation, recreation or town plans; urban planning, government policies or programs; legislation or regulations; landscape analysis such as environmental assessments and natural- and visual-resource inventories; natural- resource protection, conservation, restoration, and/or reclamation plans.

Main Criteria for Judging Planning and Analysis:

- Quality of planning and analysis
- Functionalism
- Relationship to context
- Environmental Responsibility
- Effective Use, presentation or programming of landscape architectural techniques
- Opportunities for landscape architecture to have a significant impact on the environment or environmental decision making
- Overall relevance to landscape architecture, the public and the environment.

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CATEGORY 4: RESEARCH

Category four recognizes work of rigor and historical research that gives evidence of examination of a problem using accepted methods and arriving at supported and original findings or solutions of value to the profession.

Entries in this category should show the use of directed inquiry comprising of the following:

- Problem Statement: identification of problem to be researched
- Issues: statements identifying possible relationships to be investigated
- Procedure: Method of inquiry used
- Results: Report of results of the research, which may include an analysis (statistical or other)
- Conclusions: Researcher's findings concerning significance of the results, their comparability with past research, their applicability to landscape architecture and the need for new or further research.

Main Criteria for Judging Research:

- The clarity and adequacy of the five steps (above)
- The work's overall significance and relevance to the profession
- Quality of presentation.

CATEGORY 5: COMMUNICATION

Category five recognizes design achievements in communicating landscape architectural information, technology, theory or practice to those within or outside the profession.

This category includes published or written documents, multimedia or electronic communications. Typical entries in this category may include: presentations on landscape architectural history, art or technology; educational material intended for the non-technical consumer; material that increases awareness of landscape architectural design, environmental or conservation issues; private or public marketing materials.

Main Criteria for Judging Communication

- Quality of content and presentation.
- Usefulness to the intended reader or viewer.
- Overall significance and relevance to the profession, the public or the environment.

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SUMMARY OF AWARDS

EXCELLENCE AWARD: The highest award given to one Honor Award recipient.

HONOR AWARD: The highest award in each category.

MERIT AWARD: An award of recognition of superior professional accomplishment.

CHAPTER AWARDS + CRITERIA

Members are invited to nominate eligible, qualified people and projects for the following awards. Nominations will be reviewed by the Prairie Gateway Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will review nominations and select, at their discretion, worthy recipients. The Executive Committee reserves the right to accept or deny any awards in any or all of the categories.

ALTON THOMAS AWARD

PGASLA's highest honor and only given to a member, affiliate, outstanding citizen or politician who has performed in a manner above and beyond what would be considered normal with the result of this effort either directly promoting or enhancing the image of landscape architecture.

KESSLER LEGACY AWARD

PGASLA recognizes those works of Landscape Architecture that have endured in the Prairie Gateway region and are a viable component of our regional landscape heritage. The works must be located within the Prairie Gateway boundary, must be constructed and/or completed at least twenty years ago and must remain as viable today as they were when originally completed. Originally called the Landscape Legacy Award, the name was changed to the Kessler Legacy Award to honor George Kessler who first helped promote the City Beautiful movement in Kansas City.

METROGREEN VISIONARY AWARD

In association with the 1991 ASLA National Annual Meeting, held in Kansas City, the Prairie Gateway Chapter facilitated a local service project. Inspired by the Kessler Plan, the MetroGreen Plan identified a regional greenway system for the metro area linking existing parks, urban spaces and rural greenspaces by proposing a system of trails and bike paths. This award celebrates the vision that the MetroGreen Plan started, but awarded to the city, county or governmental agency within the PGASLA boundary that conducts outstanding efforts to promote trails and greenways, like MetroGreen does.