



Kentucky SERVICE AWARDS

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION



THE PROGRAM

The leaders of the three local AIA Kentucky Components are now accepting nominations for the 2026 AIA Kentucky Special Awards. All members of AIA Kentucky are encouraged to give consideration to individuals and firms, both within the profession and without, who merit recognition for their accomplishments on behalf of the architectural profession. Nominations for each award category must be made, in writing, to one of the Component Presidents no later than **Friday, May 29, 2026**.

THE AWARDS

C. Julian Oberwarth Gold Medal

To recognize and honor an individual Member who has displayed a long-standing commitment to the betterment of the profession and well-being of architects in Kentucky, and who has dedicated extraordinary time and talent to this end.

Distinguished Service Award

To honor an individual Member for a specific contribution or for their dedication and service which has significantly furthered the purposes of AIA Kentucky.

Distinguished Firm Award

To recognize a Member Firm which, through consistent leadership, vision and ability, has distinguished itself over the past decade through design and implementation of works of architecture that enhance the quality of our environment.

Honorary Membership

To honor an individual not otherwise eligible for membership who, with unselfish energy and support, has made a significant contribution to forwarding the goals of AIA Kentucky.

John Russell Groves Citizens Laureate Award

To honor an individual and advocate who has consistently supported and encouraged the values of quality architecture in their community through leadership, service and dedication to a better living environment.

Public Advocate Award

To honor an individual and advocate who in their elected or appointed public position has consistently supported and encouraged the values of quality architecture in their community through leadership, service and dedication to a better living environment.

Emerging Professional Award

To recognize an individual Associate AIA member or an AIA Architect member who has been registered 10 years or less who exemplifies the highest qualities of leadership and who has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to their AIA component or region, to the design and construction industry, to the community, and/or to other professional organizations.

Allied Professional Award

To pay tribute to an individual or firm directly involved in the A/E/C industry which has constantly endeavored to work harmoniously with architects and other allied professionals toward the implementation of creative and innovative design solutions.

Thomas E. Lett III Citizen Architect Award

To pay tribute to an individual architect who has consistently applied their talents, skills & expertise to advocate for and raise awareness of the broader purpose of architecture and the built environment in their communities.

Equitable Firm Award

To recognize a member firm who advances equity in the profession through engagement of their local communities, internal initiatives, and their architectural design.

NOMINATIONS

Nomination Deadline: May 29, 2026

Complete the nomination form and send with accompanying documentation to the leadership of the component of which the nominee is a member. In the case of non-members, submit to the component which is nearest to the nominee's home/business.

Each component will evaluate all nominations it receives and forward recommendations in any or all award categories to the AIA Kentucky Special Awards Committee for consideration.

The Committee will consider the chapter nominations and recommend award recipients to the AIA Kentucky Board of Directors for acceptance.

The awards will be presented at the AIA Kentucky Convention and Awards Banquet on September 22, 2026 in Louisville, KY.

SPECIAL AWARDS CHAIR

Ben Barlage, AIA
bbarlage@gbbn.com

SEND NOMINATIONS TO YOUR LOCAL COMPONENT

David Mayo, AIA
AIA Central Kentucky
mayo.dave@studiomayo.com

Alexander Short, Assoc. AIA
AIA East Kentucky
ashort@rosstarrant.com

Kelly E. Ives, AIA
(for AIA Northern Kentucky nominations)
kives@aiaky.org

2026 AIA KENTUCKY SPECIAL AWARDS

NOMINEE DATA

Name _____

Firm or Business _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

AWARD CATEGORY (list only one)

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY: (MUST be an AIA Kentucky Member - Architect, Emeritus, Associate or Allied)

Name _____

Firm or Business _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Signature _____

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Please complete one form per nominee and provide a summary of no longer than two-pages outlining each nominee's qualifications or accomplishments. It is important to identify how the nominee fulfills the criteria of the award for which he or she is to be considered. Please read the description of each award category carefully and craft your nomination accordingly. It is recommended that the summary include:

- A concise statement of why the individual is being nominated for the specific award
- A description of the nominee's contributions to the Institute and to the profession
- A description of the nominee's contributions to their community
- Applicants for the Equitable Firm Award only must complete this [questionnaire](#)

You are encouraged to submit up to three (3) additional pages of supporting documentation including, but not limited to, the following:

- A brief biography listing positions held, honors, achievements, publications, presentations, etc.
- Up to 3 statements by others who know the nominee in support of the nomination
- Additional photos, articles, clippings, etc.

A listing of previous winners in each category is available [here](#).

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Nominations must be sent **to the appropriate component leader**, listed on prior page.

Nomination forms must be **received no later than Friday May 29, 2026.**

