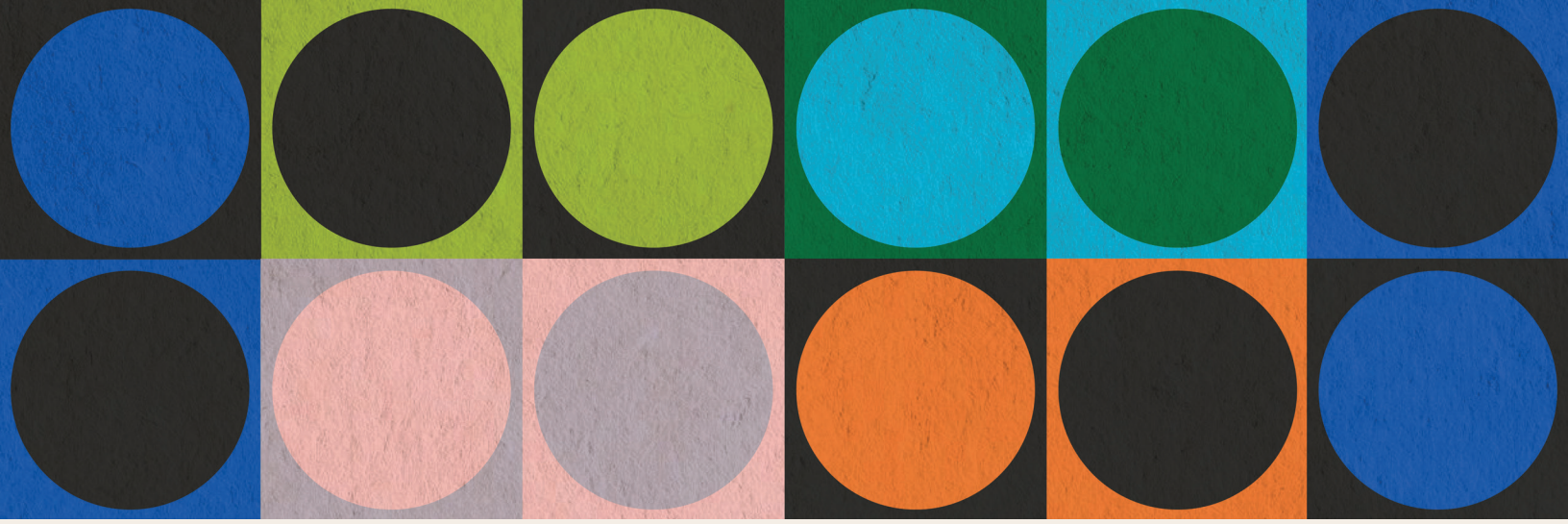


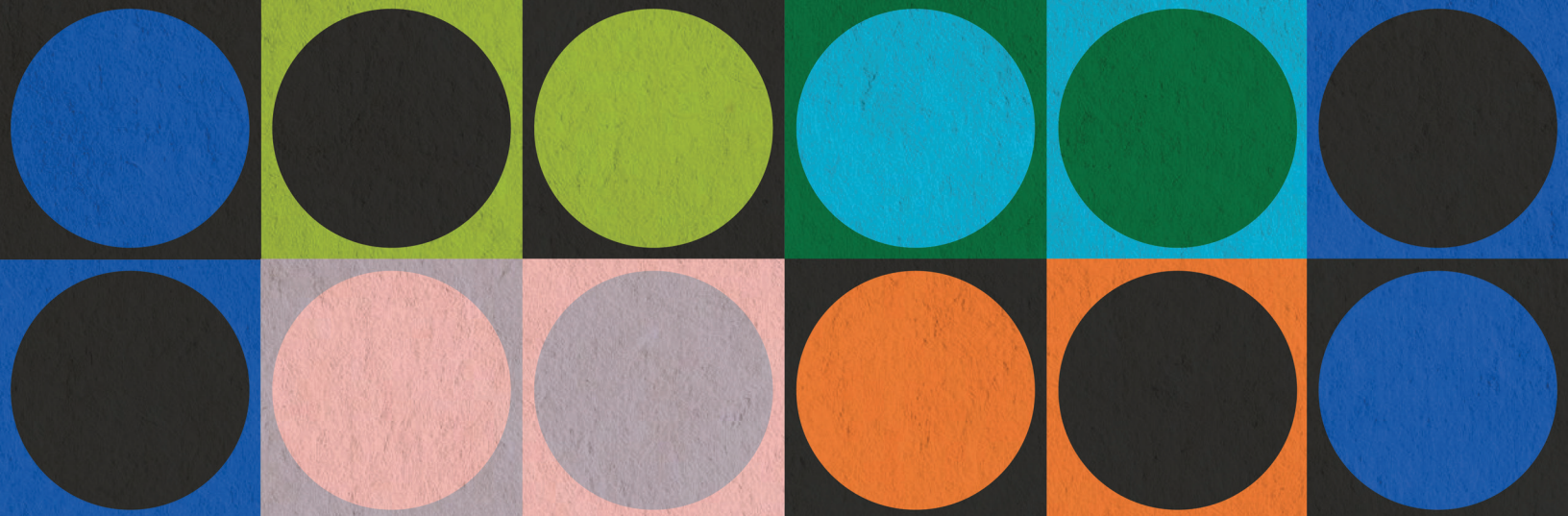


CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

2026 HONOR AWARDS FOR WASHINGTON ARCHITECTURE

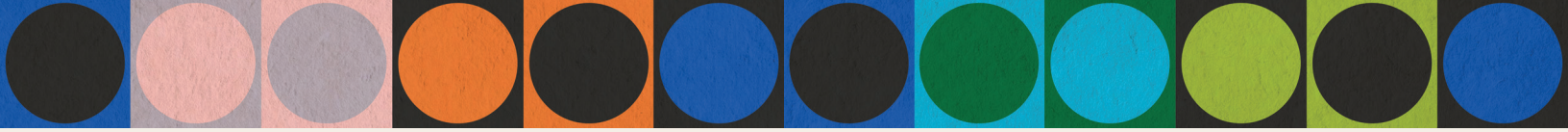


DUE SEPT 30



BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

INTRODUCTION & TIMELINE



AIA SEATTLE HONOR AWARDS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Design that Endures. Architecture is both a manifestation of where we are in time and an expression of what we aspire to become. Through artistry and stewardship, we shape places that future generations will inherit. In turn, we contribute to an ongoing conversation that reflects our values, imagination, and hope for the future. **Through thoughtful design and the act of making, architecture becomes more than the creation of buildings; it becomes a tangible record of who we are and our shared humanity.**

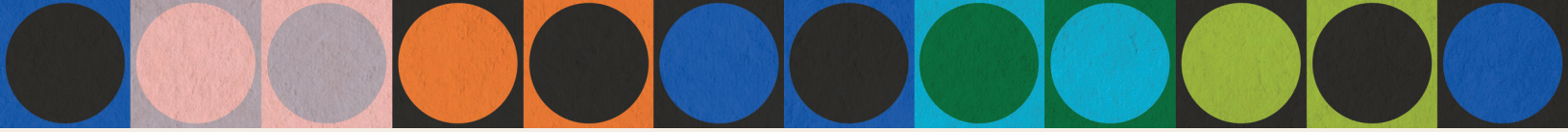
As tools and processes continue to evolve, so too does our opportunity to reaffirm what makes design deeply human. While every generation discovers new ways of imagining and making, architecture continues to give physical form to our ideas while shaping the places where we dwell, learn, and co-exist.

We invite you to share your work, at any scale, that reflects the making and impact of architecture and contributes to the broader design community. A few highlights and reminders for the 2026 Honor Awards:

- **We encourage submitters to celebrate the people and places that shape their projects,** highlighting the contributions of all collaborators and the collective vision behind the work.
- AIA Seattle remains committed to climate action as an imperative. **All BUILT submitters are required to convey their approach to sustainable design through the Performance Statement and to complete the 2026 Common App for Design Excellence** to the best of their ability.
- **We're continuing to ask submitters to include a "Project Context" page as part of your Submission Package** as an opportunity to expand on the project narrative and provide more context to the jury.
- We invite you to join colleagues and community to celebrate outstanding design. This year's **Live Event is on Monday, November 9 at Town Hall Seattle**, and we can't wait to start the party at 5:30pm!

On behalf of the Honor Awards Committee, we invite you to submit your work to AIA Seattle's 2026 Honor Awards for Washington Architecture—and to consider the lasting impact your project has on the people and community it serves.

— Alex Ayala AIA & Evgeniya Silvas AIA



KEY DETAILS

DATES + DEADLINES

July 30 — Call for submissions opens

September 16, 5pm — Early bird submission deadline

September 30, 5pm — Final submission deadline. *All submission form(s) and payment must be completed online by this deadline, no exceptions.*

October 8 — Submissions posted to the online gallery for public viewing

November 9 — 2026 Honor Awards Live Event

EARLY BIRD ENTRY FEES

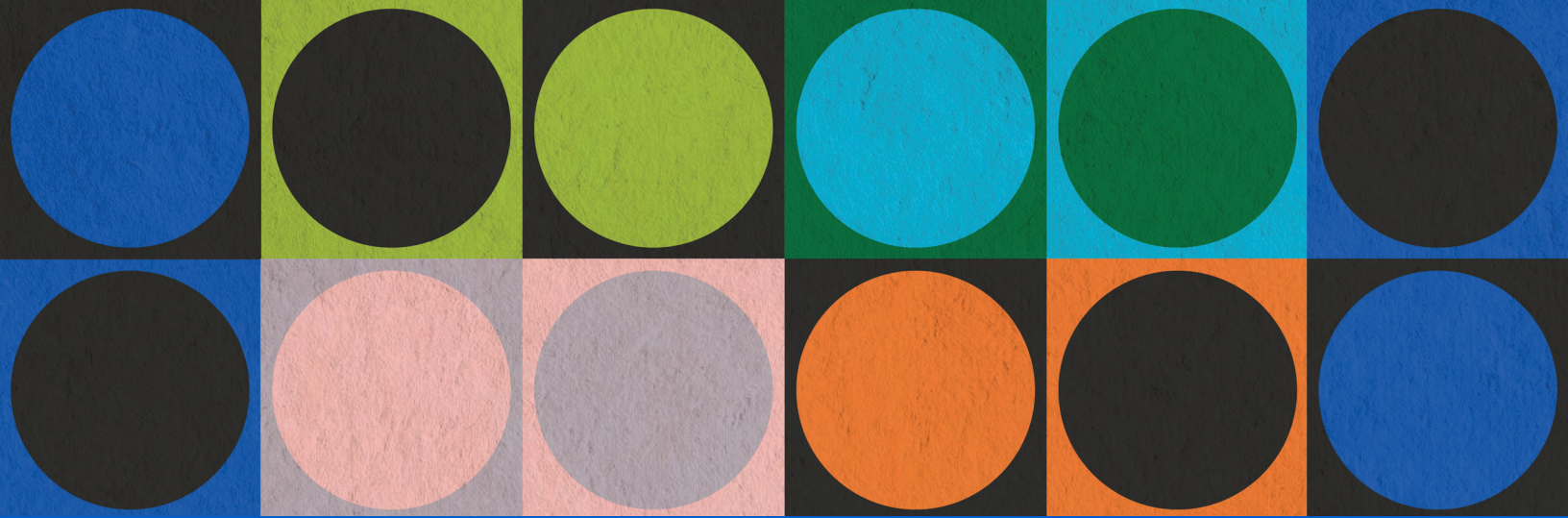
Prices below increase 15% after 5pm PDT September 16, 2026

	FIRM NETWORK MEMBER*	INDIVIDUAL AIA / ALLIED MEMBER*	NON- MEMBER	EMERGING PROFESSIONAL*	STUDENT
BUILT	\$440	\$490	\$585	\$215	\$40
CONCEPTUAL	\$250	\$285	\$440	\$150	\$40
RESEARCH & INNOVATION	\$250	\$285	\$440	\$150	\$40

*Fee is based on active membership status + submission category. Learn more about the benefits of [membership](#).

**Emerging Professionals are licensed architects or design professionals with less than 10 years of experience. Any work produced for a firm is not eligible for submission at the Emerging Professional price.

Reduced rate options are available! Submit the [Scholarship / Reduced Rate Request Form](#) to pamelat@aiaseattle.org by 5pm September 10.



READY TO SUBMIT?

REQUIREMENTS & STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

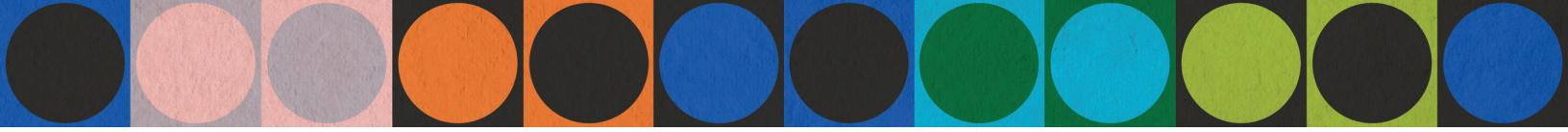
SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

The AIA Seattle Honor Awards seeks submissions in the categories of **BUILT**, **CONCEPTUAL**, and **RESEARCH & INNOVATION** which encompass and celebrate the forefront of Washington architectural design.

	BUILT	CONCEPTUAL	RESEARCH & INNOVATION
CHOOSING A CATEGORY	Submit completed built works to the BUILT category	Submit unbuilt works to the CONCEPTUAL category	Submit projects, components or processes focused on innovative design strategies, systems and technologies to the RESEARCH & INNOVATION category
PURPOSE + RECOGNITION	Recognizes a diversity of built project scales, from smaller human-scaled work (i.e. installations) to traditional building-scaled work (i.e. residential or institutional projects) to larger civic-scaled plans (i.e. TOD developments)	Recognizes the unbuilt projects that inspire us, further our understanding of design, and encourage our creative exploration of the built environment	Recognizes forward-thinking advancements and the exemplary application of research used to inform practice
EXAMPLES INCLUDE, BUT AREN'T LIMITED TO:	• Details • Furniture • Installations • Unenclosed Structures • Residential • Institutional • Commercial • Civic • Master Plans/Campus Plans • Urban District Plans • Transit Oriented Development Districts • Civic Improvements • Redevelopment	• Competition Entries • Student or Thesis Work • Unbuilt Projects	• Research & Development • Technologies • Fabrication • Building Components or Systems • Sustainable Strategies • Resiliency/Adaptation • Construction Details • Design Process • Social/Community Impact • Research-focused Student or Thesis Work

ELIGIBILITY

	BUILT	CONCEPTUAL	RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROJECT ELIGIBILITY	Eligible if completed after November 2021	Eligible if initiated after November 2021	Eligible if completed or initiated after November 2021
SUBMITTER ELIGIBILITY	Professional license is required by at least one person on the design team	Professional license is not required	Professional license is not required
	Registered architects or designers practicing in Washington are eligible regardless of the project's location. Out of state architects and their offices are also eligible, provided that their submitted Built projects are located within Washington State. If the design team includes more than one office of practice, any member of the project team may submit the joint project. All members of the design team must be acknowledged in the entry and should be aware of the submission.		
AWARD ELIGIBILITY	Eligible for Honor, Merit, Honorable Mention, and Energy in Design Awards + Young Voices Selection	Eligible for Merit and Honorable Mention Awards	Eligible for Merit and Honorable Mention Awards
	Firms are encouraged to re-enter projects previously submitted if they did not win an award. Projects that have received an AIA Seattle award are not eligible for another award. Any project that credits a juror as architect, associate architect, consultant, or client is ineligible and will be disqualified if submitted. If a juror is aware of the firm submitting a project, for any reason, they must recuse themselves from commentary or discussion of that submission.		



TELL YOUR PROJECT STORY

DESIGN THAT ENDURES

Every year, jurors praise submissions that clearly communicate the project story. *What concepts and considerations drove the design? How did the design team creatively address the project parameters and client goals? What benefit or impact does the project create for its occupants and for the larger context? Ultimately, what makes this an award-winning project?*

Submit to start a dialogue.

➤ Consider how the jury will interpret one or more Jury Considerations when developing your Project Story (see pg. 15).

WHAT MAKES A GOOD SUBMISSION?

The submitted projects that receive awards have one thing in common; they clearly convey the design process in a way that answers the What, Where, Why, and How of the project.

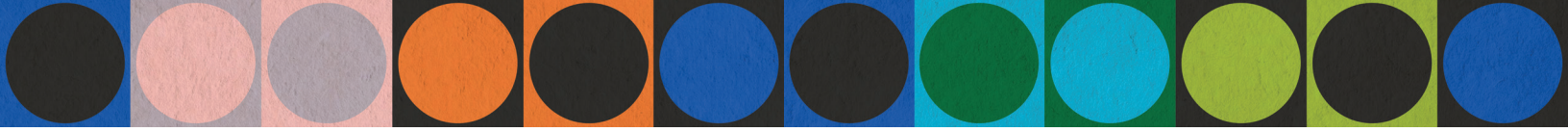
Check out the [What Makes a Good Submission?](#) video resource pulled together by members of the Honor Awards Committee to demonstrate how some of the past award winners crafted their project story.

Get inspired! Refer to [past galleries](#) for examples of award-winning submissions!

WE ENCOURAGE SUBMITTERS TO USE THE PROJECT NARRATIVE, CAPTIONS, AND INCLUSION OF DIAGRAMS AND PROCESS WORK AS OPPORTUNITIES TO GRAPHICALLY TELL A DESIGN STORY.

Submit before the final deadline
5pm PDT on
September 30, 2026.

[AIASEATTLE.
SUBMITTABLE.COM
/SUBMIT](https://aiaseattle.submittable.com/submit)



SHARE YOUR PROJECT CONTEXT

HOW DOES YOUR WORK RESPOND TO ITS CONTEXT?

New in 2025, we're asking submitters to include a "Project Context" page as part of their Submission Package.

Every year, jurors want to better understand how a project is situated and what conditions informed design decisions. *How does the project reflect or shift the story of its place? What is notable about the project's location, site, or surroundings? What are the current site conditions (e.g., neighborhood, urban/rural, greenfield, brownfield, adaptive reuse, etc)? How does the project respond to or interact with its environment? If the jury were to visit the project, what else would they see? What does the jury need to know in order to truly understand the project and its context?*

EVERY PROJECT IS DIFFERENT

What political, cultural, economical, historical, and/or physical contexts shaped the project?

While this is a 1-page requirement, submitters are welcome to continue expanding on their project's context throughout the rest of their Submission Package (see pgs 10-11).

[Paint a picture for the jury.](#)

EXPAND ON YOUR PROJECT STORY

Consider what additional Project Context is important and should be shared with the jury.

YOU MAY CHOOSE TO INCLUDE MAPS, PHOTOS, DIAGRAMS, SITE PLANS, OR OTHER VISUAL TOOLS THAT HELP SHOW YOUR "PROJECT CONTEXT" AND SITUATE THE PROJECT.

SUBMISSION OVERVIEW

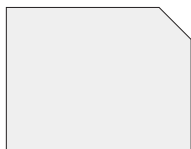
Submit the following components before the final deadline 5pm PDT on September 30, 2026.

AIASEATTLE.SUBMITTABLE.COM/SUBMIT

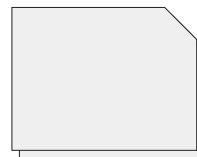
A

GALLERY IMAGES

*Anonymous
Requirements on pg. 11



Gallery Image
1 primary image to represent
your project



Additional Images
2 additional images that may be included
in a catalog, in the event of an award

B

SUBMISSION PACKAGE

*Anonymous for jury review



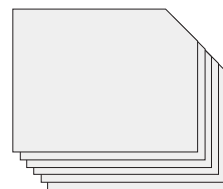
Project Summary
1 page



Project Story
1 page



Project Context
1 page



Graphic Representation
12 pages max

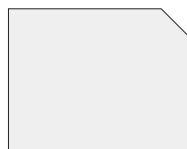
C

PUBLICITY PACKAGE

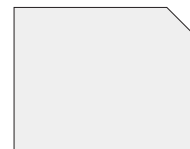
*For public presentation
Requirements on pg. 12



Project Image
1 page



Design Team
1 page

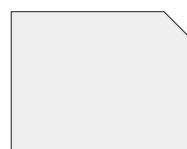


Collaborators
1 page

D

COMMON APP FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE

*Built submissions only,
anonymous for jury review
Requirements on pg. 13



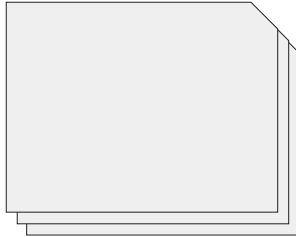
Excel File

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

FORMAT ANONYMOUS* SUBMISSION FILES JPG 2MB max • PDF 20MB max • 8.5 x 11" • LANDSCAPE

A GALLERY ANONYMOUS*

A



A

GALLERY IMAGES

- 3 total / Single image only, no text

File Name: ProjectNameGallery_Image#.jpg
(ex. "TheHouseGallery_01.jpg")

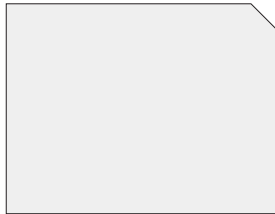
*ANONYMOUS

No mention or view of submitting firm, team or collaborators in any text or project images.

(ex. "TheHouse.pdf")

B SUBMISSION PACKAGE ANONYMOUS FOR JURY REVIEW*

B

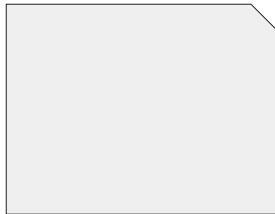


B.1

PROJECT SUMMARY

- PROJECT NAME
- LOT SIZE (if applicable)
- PROJECT SIZE (if applicable)
- LOCATION (city + state only)
- PRIMARY PROJECT TYPE

File Name: ProjectName_File#.jpg (ex. "TheHouse_01.jpg")

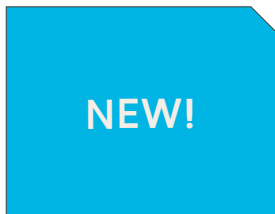


B.2

PROJECT STORY

- In 500 words or less, start a dialogue with the jury (see pg. 8)

File Name: ProjectName_File#.jpg (ex. "TheHouse_02.jpg")

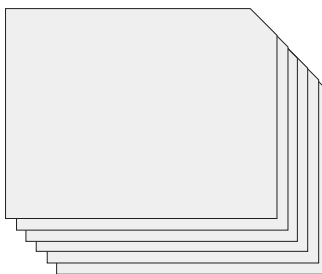


B.3

PROJECT CONTEXT

- On one page, share with the jury how your work responds to its context (see pg. 9)

File Name: ProjectName_File#.jpg (ex. "TheHouse_03.jpg")



B.4

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

- 12 pages max
- Keep captions to a minimum
- You can include DIAGRAMS, PROCESS WORK, PHOTOGRAPHS, SITE PLANS, DETAILS, SECTIONS, SKETCHES, etc.

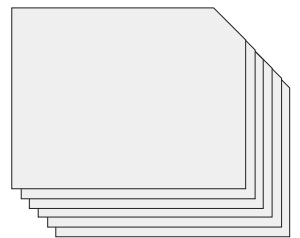
File Name: ProjectName_File#.jpg
(ex. "TheHouse_03.jpg", "TheHouse_05.jpg", etc.)

B.5

+ PDF VERSION

Convert all Submission Package JPGs (B.1-4) into a single PDF
(15 pg max, 20MB max)

File Name: ProjectName.pdf

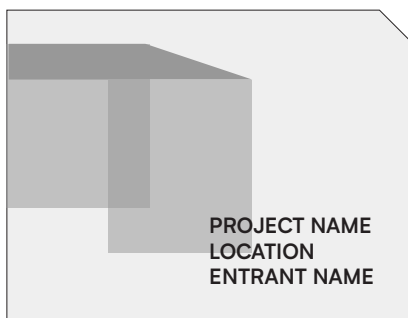


PUBLICITY PACKAGE

FORMAT PUBLICITY FILES: **JPG** 2MB max • **8.5X11"** • **LANDSCAPE**

PUBLICITY PACKAGE
FOR PUBLIC PRESENTATION

C

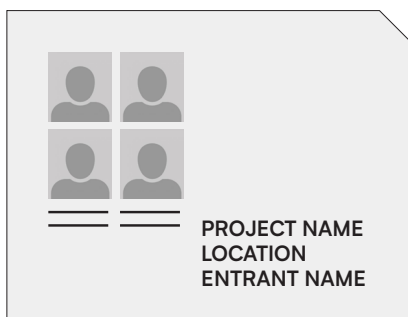


C.1

PROJECT IMAGE

- Include Project Name, Location, Entrant Name
- Image

File Name: ProjectNamePublicity_File#.jpg
(ex. "TheHousePublicity_01.jpg")



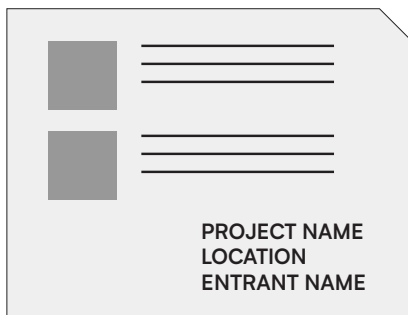
C.2

DESIGN TEAM

- Include Project Name, Location, Entrant Name
- + Design Team credits*

File Name: ProjectNamePublicity_File#.jpg
(ex. "TheHousePublicity_02.jpg")

*Please list project information and credits exactly as they should appear in all publicity and (in the event of an award) on the recognition materials. Accuracy is the sole responsibility of the submitter.



C.3

COLLABORATORS

- Include Project Name, Location, Entrant Name
- + Collaborator credits*

File Name: ProjectNamePublicity_File#.jpg
(ex. "TheHousePublicity_03.jpg")

THE COMMON APP

BUILT SUBMISSIONS ONLY

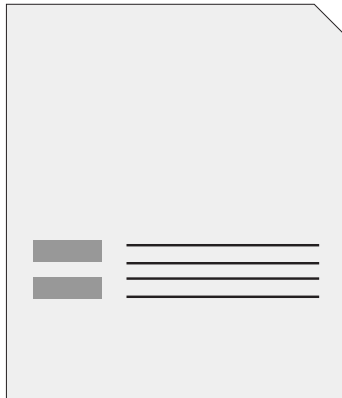
in consideration for the Energy in Design Award

Download the updated **2026 Common App for Design Excellence** (format for file .xls)

[DOWNLOAD THE
2026 COMMON APP](#)

THE COMMON APP FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE
ANONYMOUS FOR JURY REVIEW*

D



D.1

EXCEL FILE

File Name: ProjectName_CommonApp.xls
(ex. "TheHouse_CommonApp.xls")

*ANONYMOUS

No mention of submitting firm,
team or collaborators in any text.

AIA Seattle is committed to climate action as an imperative, and continues to utilize the Common App for Design Excellence as a vehicle for teams to demonstrate their project's contributions to addressing climate change.

All applicable BUILT submitters are required* to complete the Common App. To qualify for the Energy in Design Award, the submitted project must demonstrate exemplary performance in working towards the 2030 Challenge goals of zero emissions for all new buildings and major renovations by the year 2030. **Refer to the legend in the Common App for minimum required fields.*

Use the Performance Statement to further explain how the project's sustainable design strategies elevate design excellence and the impact of your project. Creative, clear, and compelling storytelling is encouraged!

NEED DIRECT SUPPORT WITH THE COMMON APP FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE?

The Integrated Design Lab is available to offer technical support for the Common App via email until September 28, 5pm PT. E-mail Teresa Moroseos (teresafm@uw.edu) with the subject line "AIA Seattle Common App." Visit aiaseattle.org/honorawards2026 for more info.

Special thanks to the UW Integrated Design Lab and sponsor BetterBricks for their partnership on the Energy in Design Award.



I'VE SUBMITTED. WHAT'S NEXT?

JUDGING & AWARDS

JURY PROCESS

CURIOUS ABOUT
THIS YEAR'S JURY?

STAY TUNED FOR THE
ANNOUNCEMENT IN
EARLY SEPTEMBER!

JURY CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to the jury's own criteria, the AIA Seattle community has identified four considerations for their review process:

INSPIRATION | How does the project manifest its stated intent—in form and function—revealing innovation in both thought and practice?

PROBLEM-SOLVING | How does the project creatively address challenges inherent in its site, budget, program, materials, collaboration, and context? What are the organizing principles informing design?

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY | How does the project exhibit serious intent to minimize negative environmental impact and enhance its relationship to the environment?

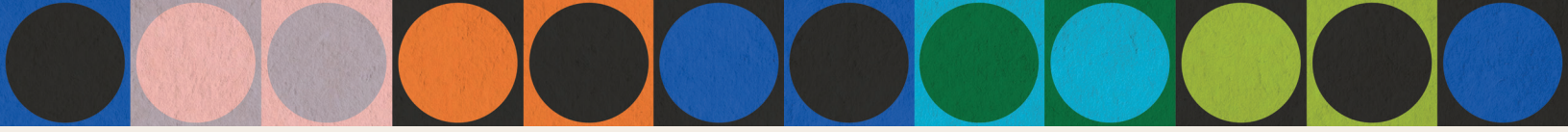
SOCIAL IMPACT | How does the project engage the community in which it is situated? How does it help promote a vibrant, equitable, and just community?

JURY DELIBERATIONS

Jury Deliberations will occur during Jury Weekend in Seattle, November 6–9, 2026:

- **Friday, October 30** | The jury completes their initial review of all submitted projects.
 - Honor Awards Committee will contact and coordinate visits with Site Visit Contacts (indicated by submitters). **Site Visit Contacts must be authorized to organize a hosted site visit on Sunday, November 8.**
 - **SITE VISITS ARE ANONYMOUS.** The project design team shall not be present nor notified. Reference the [Project Tour Guidelines](#) for a full process overview.
- **Friday, November 6** | The jury arrives in Seattle.
- **Saturday, November 7** | The jury deliberates and determines a shortlist of projects and prepares for project tours the next day.
- **Sunday, November 8** | Project tours occur, followed by the jury finalizing their selection of this year's award recipients for all award categories (see pg. 16).
- **Monday, November 9** | The jury will discuss and present their official award selections for the first time on-stage at the Live Event at Town Hall Seattle.

Awards are the final determination of the jury.



AWARD CATEGORIES

AIA SEATTLE'S HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM
RECOGNIZES FOUR LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT:

HONOR AWARD

Represents the highest level of achievement

MERIT AWARD

Represents exceptional achievement

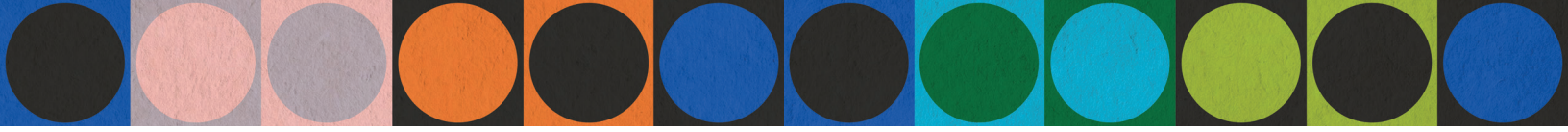
HONORABLE MENTION

Represents distinguished achievement

ENERGY IN DESIGN AWARD

Represents a balance of design achievement
and exemplary energy performance

AIA Seattle dictates no minimum or maximum number of awards given, except for the Energy in Design Award, where only one qualifying BUILT project may be awarded. Awards are the final determination of the jury.



YOUNG VOICES SELECTION

THE YOUNG VOICES SELECTION (YVS) PROGRAM

The YVS program, started in 2018, aims to elevate and engage the voices of young designers through direct participation and representation in AIA Seattle's Honor Awards for Washington Architecture.

Three young designers, endorsed by firm/industry leaders and selected by the Honor Awards Committee, will be given the opportunity to review, deliberate, and then select **ONE Built** project submission recognized as the "Young Voices Selection" at the Live Event.

The Young Voices use the same Jury Considerations as the Jury and add their own criteria and perspective during the review and award selection process. (see pg. 15).

**COMPLETE THE
YVS NOMINATION
FORM TO
NOMINATE A
'YOUNG VOICE'
BY 5PM PDT ON
SEPT. 16, 2026.**

NOMINATE A YOUNG VOICE!

WHO IS A 'YOUNG' VOICE?

The YVS program aims to reinforce the value of young perspectives considering both career experience and generational/lived experience. After leaving the creative hub and intellectual rigor of university, young people often find themselves without clear and direct avenues to participate in serious design discourse, though they are appreciated for their technical expertise. The Young Voices Selection program elevates young designers for their unique perspectives, and the YVS program establishes a sanctioned platform for these perspectives to be widely shared.

ELIGIBILITY + NOMINATION

Nominees for the Young Voices Selection must be **30 years of age or younger OR have less than 5 years experience in the profession** and may not currently be enrolled in any undergraduate or graduate education programs.



QUESTIONS?

Refer to the [2026 Honor Awards FAQs](#) page. Still have questions? Reach out:

NEED TECHNICAL SUPPORT? Submittable, support@submittable.com

ABOUT SUBMITTING? Zoë Guckenheimer, zoeg@aiaseattle.org 206-957-1912

ABOUT THE LIVE EVENT? Pamela Tagata, pamelat@aiaseattle.org 206-957-1922

ABOUT SPONSORSHIP? Melissa K Neher, melissan@aiaseattle.org 206-957-1910

AIA Seattle support is available Tuesday–Thursday 10:00am–5:00pm PT.

Questions may not be directed to or answered by the jurors.

PHOTO RELEASE

By participating, all entrants grant AIA Seattle a non-exclusive license to post the entries in an online gallery so that the public and press may view all competing entries. In addition, each winner grants to AIA Seattle a license for use of all entries in connection with AIA Seattle Honor Awards, in any media or AIA Seattle sponsored exhibitions of the work, now or hereafter known. AIA Seattle will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such use. Submission to this program implies permission from the project owner, and releases AIA Seattle from any responsibility of seeking permissions from owners, photographers, or any project-related stakeholders. Inclusion of photos implies permission from the photographer. Correct attribution is the sole responsibility of the submitter.