

Design Award

The Design Award recognizes excellence in city building through architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and public art.

Discussion

The Design Award aligns with Surrey's goals of setting high standards for architectural design, open spaces, public realm and urban design. The award showcases nine categories of positive, best-practice examples of the built environment and urban design. An independent jury of distinguished city-building professionals will select the building and landscape awards recipients. Evaluation for the public art award will be carried out by the Surrey Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC).

Purpose

The purpose of the Design Award is to recognize and promote excellence in the built environment and to raise public and development industry awareness regarding the City's high standards for urban design. Surrey's high standards are demonstrated by its urban design guidelines and design review procedure. The Award will also promote excellence in architectural design on a project-by-project basis, a goal of Surrey's development approval process. The Design Awards will also help meet other objectives set out in City policy:

- In general, the Design Award is intended to educate the public and the development industry about Surrey's urban design and public art policies and the City's record of achievement to date, as well as providing a forum for recognizing industry leaders who will act as role models. It will inspire higher architectural standards and suggest how all scales of Surrey's built environment might be improved.
- OCP and NCP urban design guidelines - The Design Award will reinforce the design guidelines in the OCP and in local area plans by identifying examples of design excellence for each development type, by promoting high quality design among the members of the development industry, by raising awareness of design standards in the community, and by helping to develop a unique character in the City Centre and town centres.
- Sustainability Charter – the Sustainability Charter is the overarching policy document for the City and includes social, environmental and economic objectives. Urban design is related to all three of these categories, e.g., social - education, community engagement, environmental - promoting sustainable development, economic – promoting high quality urban design.
- Private Development Public Art Program – The Design Award supports the vision of Surrey's Public Art Master Plan in creating a lively, beautiful, inclusive, sustainable and complete community by integrating public artworks into the public realm.

Some examples of planning policy that the Award will help promote include:

- Development that reflects the unique character of the City Centre and Town Centres
- Compact development forms
- Pedestrian and transit-oriented development
- Job-housing balance through employment creation
- Environmentally sensitive area protection and tree retention
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Universal access and active design
- Creating and linking green networks
- Sustainable development, e.g., reduced site disturbance, alternative transportation, energy efficiency, water conservation, storm water management, local and recycled materials, etc.
- Creating a variety of housing types
- Innovative combinations of uses
- Excellence and innovation in architecture
- Placemaking through creative landscape, public realm design and public art

Award Categories:

1. **Residential (Small Scale):** Innovative small scale, ground-oriented multi-plex developments, including single family with coach houses, duplexes, townhouses, live/work townhouses, stacked townhouses (up to 3 storeys), and other compact forms of housing.
2. **Residential (Medium Scale):** Apartment building and stacked townhouse complexes with predominantly residential use of up to six storeys and medium scale mixed-use projects containing more than 50% residential uses.
3. **Residential (Large Scale):** Apartment buildings of seven storeys and higher with predominantly residential use, and large mixed-use projects containing more than 50% residential uses.
4. **Commercial and Industrial:** Industrial, office, warehouse, retail and related uses of any size or height, as well as mixed use projects containing predominantly non-residential uses.
5. **Institutional:** Projects for any level of government, public agency, educational or health authority, religious institution or Crown Corporation. For example, recreation or community centres, schools, health care, government agencies, religious, non-profit, etc.
6. **Landscape, Public Space and Infrastructure:** Public or publicly accessible open space, stand-alone or as part of a larger development. May be privately or publicly funded, including both natural (soft) and constructed (hard) elements. For example, park, plaza, amenity area, courtyard.
7. **Renovation and Adaptive Re-Use:** The interior or exterior renovation of a structure at least 25 years old.
8. **Interiors:** Non-residential interior spaces for any size or type of building, provided there is at least occasional public access.
9. **Public Art:** Original site-specific artwork commissioned and installed in a highly visible location as part of a private development and designed to positively contribute to place-making and the City's character.

Eligibility

For all categories the project must be located in Surrey and completed after October 1, 2020 and must match the description for the respective category of development type.

Nomination/Submission Criteria

Anyone on the development team may submit a nomination application for an award (e.g., the owner, developer, contractor, architect or landscape architect).

The submission requirements and process will be described on the Civic Distinction Awards web page, and nominations will be received until the advertised closing date. The nominator will make a submission by completing the online submission form through the City of Surrey's website, or by hard copy delivered to City Hall. It is suggested that the project architect or landscape architect prepare the submission (e.g., project description, drawings and photographs).

Applicants will be required to submit the following information to be considered for the awards:

1. Submission Form: Including basic project information and contact information for the members of the development team.
2. Written Brief: Summary describing the project and explaining how the project addresses the evaluation criteria set out for the award (500 word maximum).
3. Project Photographs: A digital slide presentation of a maximum of 12 photographs to illustrate how the project meets the evaluation criteria, to be submitted as a PDF document.
4. Drawings: Drawing as required to explain the project, submitted on 11"x17" sheets, for example: context plan, site plan, landscape site plan, typical floor plans, sections, elevations (maximum of 12 sheets). Note: For Public art applications, drawings will not be required.

Note: All submission material shall be provided in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format, as separate files, unless otherwise indicated. All material submitted for consideration will be retained by the City of Surrey, will not be returned to the submitters, and may be displayed on the City of Surrey website, published in the general or specialist media, or displayed at events related to the Civic Distinction Awards program.

Selection/Evaluation Process & Criteria

1. Evaluators
 - a. Evaluation for the building and landscape awards categories 1 through 8 will be carried out by a jury comprised of three urban design professionals including the following with experience, qualifications and recognition for urban design achievements:
 - A prominent design professional with extensive experience on larger scale and award-winning projects (i.e. architect, landscape architect, planner, urbanist etc.)
 - A local architect with extensive experience on award-winning projects
 - A local urban design professional (i.e. architect, landscape architect, planner, urbanist etc.)At least one member should be a member of the Surrey Advisory Design Panel to support understanding of the local context.

b. Evaluation for the public art award will be carried out by The Surrey Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC).

2. Staff Liaison and Support

a. The jury will be supported by designated staff from the Planning & Development Department throughout the awards process to provide background information and clarification regarding the process. Staff will not express an opinion or vote during the evaluation process. It is recommended that a qualified consultant be available to welcome the jury and to provide opening and closing remarks for the jury session. The City Architect will be available to provide direction on process throughout and to direct the Design Award Coordinator. An Administrative Assistant from Legislative Services will be present to record the final statements from the jury members for each of the Design Award categories (last 2 hours of evaluation at second jury session).

b. The Surrey Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) will be supported by Cultural Services staff to recommend award recipients for Council consideration.

3. Evaluation Criteria

a. Building and landscape submissions will be reviewed, and consideration will be made to the:

- Appropriateness of the response to context, understood as their built, natural, social and cultural environments
- Response to functional requirements of the users and the public
- Quality of the form and character including siting, massing, articulation, fenestration, and exterior finish materials
- Design originality, innovative use of materials and textures, visual elegance and beauty
- Response to City public objectives and policies.

Planning objectives may include any or all the following, where applicable, to the category of development type:

- Enhances unique character and place-making in the City Centre and town centres
- Compact development forms
- Pedestrian and transit-oriented development
- Job-housing balance through employment creation
- Environmentally sensitive area protection and tree retention
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Universal access - extent of the integration of accessibility for all
- Variety of housing types
- Creating and linking green networks
- Sustainable development – e.g., habitat protection and/or restoration, tree retention, reduced site disturbance, alternative transportation, storm water management, energy efficiency, water conservation, use of local and recycled materials, indoor air quality, innovation, etc.

b. Public art submissions will be reviewed, and consideration will be made to the:

- Appropriateness of the response to context, understood as their built, natural, social and cultural environments
- Quality of the final artwork
- Creativity and originality of design concept
- Innovative use of materials and textures
- Impact to the community
- Response to City public objectives and policies.

The evaluation criteria are provided as a guide only and will be interpreted as the jury sees appropriate. The decisions of the jury will be final and binding.

4. Evaluation Process:

a. Jury evaluation for the building and landscape awards categories 1 through 8:

- Nomination submissions will be forwarded digitally to the jury by the Design Award Coordinator throughout the nominations period. The jury will review the nominations packages and then deliberations will be conducted over two days in the week following the nominations closing date.
- First jury session: In a closed meeting, the jury will review all submissions, confirm their category placement and short list the top projects in each category. The jury will indicate all projects proposed for an Award.
- Second jury session: The jury will reconvene to select the finalists in each category and identify projects deserving of an Award of Excellence or an Award of Merit. The jury will provide a brief statement describing the rationale for their selection of each award recipient.
- If time and circumstances allow, site visits may be arranged for short-listed projects.
- The jury may elect to award more than one award, or no award at all in a category if, in their opinion, submissions do not meet evaluation criteria.

b. Surrey Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) evaluation for public art:

- Nomination submissions will be forwarded digitally to the ACAC evaluators throughout the nominations period. The jury will review the nominations packages and then deliberations will be conducted following the nominations closing date.
- In a closed meeting, ACAC will review all submissions to recommend award recipients for Council consideration.
- The jury may elect to award more than one award, or no award at all in a category if, in their opinion, submissions do not meet evaluation criteria.

5. Council Briefing:

Council will be advised at a Closed Council session with a Report to Council on the proposed award recipients.

Recognition

Award recipients will be recognized via the Civic Distinction Awards program and presented with an award. Recipients will be recognized by the City through print and online media acknowledgements.

The City reserves the right to award one or more Design Award in each category, or none, within the award cycle.