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.

We invite you to participate in celebrating the preservation of California’s heritage by nominating individuals, organizations, firms, or agencies you believe are deserving of the Governor’s Historic Preservation Award.

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.

Eligibility Categories and Criteria

1. Projects
   Projects shall have been completed within the last four years and not later than January 31st of the current award year (i.e., completed between January 1, 2016 and January 31, 2020).
   
   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.

2. 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.
General Eligibility Information

For Projects
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 the Treatment of Historic Properties, or other standards for archaeology, interpretation, oral history, and other types of projects or activities.

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, local or statewide, are presented to the elected official who carried the legislation, along with those responsible for researching and drafting it.

- Special consideration is 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.

For Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies
Nominations of public agencies shall clearly demonstrate how the reason(s) for nomination rise above and beyond those projects or activities that would normally fall within the agency’s mandate to execute.

Nominations of firms or companies shall clearly demonstrate involvement in historic preservation beyond the scope of any contractual obligations.

For All Nominations
Nominee or nominated projects must not be involved in any preservation-related violations, lawsuits, or complaints. Compliance checking will be conducted to ensure all awards are appropriate.

Note: The Office of Historic Preservation, in consultation with the awards jury panel, reserves the right to present each award to any or all of the organizations, agencies, companies, and/or individuals responsible.