

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
2024 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Governor's Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually under the sponsorship of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), to individuals, organizations, agencies, projects, and programs 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 by nominating preservation endeavors 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 (completed between January 1, 2020, and January 31, 2024).

- 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, including but not limited to:
 - 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 and broaden the diversity of listings within the National Register.
 - Projects that demonstrate new or novel approaches to the protection of historic and/or prehistoric archaeological sites, including projects that address climate change resiliency.
 - Exemplary historical research projects, including oral histories.

2. Programs

Programs (preservation education, public outreach, interpretation) must have been in operation at least two years prior to the current award year and demonstrate innovative efforts and successful engagement with and/or participation by the public.

3. 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;
- Demonstrate and promote climate change resiliency; or
- Broaden the ethnic and cultural diversity of historic preservation activities.

For Programs

Nominations for ongoing programs must clearly demonstrate active engagement with and/or participation by the public. The program should be preservation focused and align with goals outlined in the [Statewide Historic Preservation Plan](#)

Program awards are given in recognition of the program and not to any one entity involved with the program.

Special consideration is given to programs that:

- Broaden awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the value and work of historic preservation, generally, and the project focus specifically.

- Demonstrate innovation in historic preservation education, public outreach, or interpretation.
- Address the protection, preservation, and interpretation of historic and prehistoric resources, including issues such as sustainability and climate change.
- Benefit the community, and address community-centered interests and needs.
- Demonstrate active participation or engagement/accessibility by the public, including populations historically underrepresented in the historic preservation sphere.

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 organizations, agencies, companies, and/or individuals responsible.