



Evanston Preservation Commission Cultural Heritage Awards

NOMINATION FORM

The Evanston Preservation Commission is pleased to call for nominations for the 2026 Cultural Heritage Awards.

Evanston's heritage resources are vitally important, bind its residents to their physical environment, and define the City's unique character and identity. Past awards programs sponsored by the Preservation Commission focused exclusively on built heritage and physical project design, and did not adequately represent the breadth of historic preservation which – in addition to built heritage – includes living heritage, the arts, intangible cultural heritage, and less tangible stories and histories.

The purpose of the citywide Cultural Heritage Awards Program is to:

1. **Promote** best practices in historic preservation.
2. **Celebrate** those who embody, safeguard, or advance significant themes within the broader field of historic preservation and heritage conservation.
3. **Educate** and increase public awareness and appreciation for Evanston's cultural heritage.
4. **Encourage** future excellence through the power of example.

AWARD CATEGORIES: (check one)

- Cultural Ambassador:** The Cultural Ambassador Award is the highest form of recognition bestowed by the Commission. The award is presented to highly influential and inspiring individuals, groups, or organizations whose exemplary body of work demonstrates a superlative level of dedication and impact for the creation, interpretation, identification, protection, expansion, or enhancement of Evanston's cultural heritage.
- Outstanding Individual Achievement:** Awards in the field of outstanding individual achievement are presented to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment or significant contribution to the cultural heritage of the City by advancing one or more of the cultural heritage themes on the following page.
- Outstanding Group Achievement:** Awards in the field of outstanding group achievement are presented to a group, organization, or partnership that has demonstrated a commitment or significant contribution to the cultural heritage of the City by advancing one of the cultural heritage themes on the following page.

Additional honor awards will be considered for each award category across a variety of award themes.

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION BEING NOMINATED: (Please enter below)

PROJECT ADDRESS or ADDRESSES IF APPLICABLE (Please enter below)

(continue to the next page)

AWARD THEMES: (select up to two primary themes that apply to your nomination)

- Research:** Projects which identify, interpret, and help safeguard the City's diverse cultural heritage and/or improve access, enjoyment, or understanding of the City's broad heritage assets.
- Education and Advocacy:** Achievements or projects which foster the transfer of knowledge and traditions, build local awareness and capacity, or expand skills and crafts related to the enhancement and enjoyment of the City's diverse cultural heritage.
- Equity:** Achievements or projects which foster social connection, identify less tangible histories, strengthen multicultural dialogue and understanding, nurture sense of place, celebrate diversity and lesser acknowledged identities, and stimulate community conversation, storytelling, and sense of civic responsibility.
- Design:** Achievements or projects of any scale which offer sensitive, compatible, or innovative design approaches that preserve, enhance, and/or give new life and vibrancy to the City's built cultural heritage, including its cultural landscapes and natural environments.
- Climate Resilience and Stewardship:** Achievements or projects which demonstrably minimize material impact on the environment and prepare a site or structure to respond to or mitigate the impacts of climate change. Examples include adaptive use, salvaging and/or reuse of materials, diversion of construction debris, innovative technologies or construction techniques, energy and water efficiency above code, habitat friendly design, landscape stewardship, and use of native plant material to the benefit of species diversity.
- Art:** Achievements or projects which demonstrate a significant contribution to the practice, production, growth, support, or availability of the City's cultural heritage as embodied in a variety of artistic pursuits including but not limited to visual, performing, and literary arts.

DESCRIPTION: Briefly describe the project, program, or achievement. Attach additional information on separate sheets as necessary to fulfill the submission requirements on the following page.

(continue to the next page)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Nominators must complete this nomination form and submit by the identified deadline at the bottom of this page in order to be considered for an award. Self nomination is allowed – those nominating others must provide contact information for the nominee. In the instance of a posthumous nomination provide contact information for surviving family or other associates. All nominations will be submitted digitally. No paper submissions will be accepted. In addition to this form, nominations shall include:

A concise narrative, 1,500 words or less, that describes how an individual or group has significantly contributed to the cultural heritage of the City through one or more of the themes described on the previous page.

Attachments and supporting documentation as necessary including brochures, news clippings, drawings, written excerpts, letters of recommendation or support, photos, before and after images, and videos.

Keep in mind that in order to maintain objectivity, the jury is comprised of individuals outside of Evanston who may not have familiarity with an individual, group, partnership, activity or initiative. It is incumbent on the nominator to provide sufficient background, information, and supporting documentation to communicate why an individual or organization is deserving of an award and recognition.

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email _____

Mailing Address: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Relationship to individual or organization being nominated: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (printed): _____

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Please submit your completed nomination form and supplemental information in a compiled PDF format with additional videos or other supporting media **no later than Friday, August 28, 2026 by 5 pm to:**

Cade Sterling, Preservation Planner
Email: csterling@cityofevanston.org
Phone (847)448-8231

SELECTION AND CELEBRATION:

Nominations will be reviewed by an independent selection committee comprised of jurors from outside the community with varying professional backgrounds. Following review and selection, those nominated as well as those selected for awards will be notified of the jury's decision and invited to participate in a later awards ceremony. Multiple awards may be bestowed for each category as recommended by the selection committee.