

2026 San Diego Preservation Award Nomination Packet

The Historical Resources Board and City of San Diego wishes to recognize preservation projects, activities, and people for an outstanding commitment to historic preservation. We invite you to submit an award nomination in the categories listed below using the form included.

Nominations must be received no later than February 27, 2026 for preservation activities completed between January 2020 to December 2025 and located within the city limits.

Nominations will be accepted under the following categories:

1. Preservation Projects
 - Rehabilitation or Restoration Projects;
 - Adaptive reuse of historic buildings, structures, sites or cultural landscapes;
 - Archaeology Projects.

Note that project should follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation
2. Preservation Activities
 - Activities related to the identification, protection, and interpretation of historic and prehistoric resources;
 - Innovative efforts in historic preservation education, public outreach, or interpretive programs;
 - 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;
 - Exemplary stewardship of historic places.
3. People in Preservation
 - Organizations or individuals who have shown exemplary leadership or dedication to preservation. Nominations of those individuals and groups working at a grassroots level are especially encouraged;
 - Eligible nominees will have made significant contributions over time to the advancement of historic preservation and/or the preservation of historical resources in San Diego;
 - Individuals may not self-nominate.

Special consideration will be given to preservation projects and activities that:

- Add additional housing units to an existing site through adaptive reuse, rehabilitation, or new construction on a historic site;
- Demonstrate and promote sustainability and/or climate change resiliency;
- Broaden the ethnic and cultural diversity of historic preservation activities.

2026 NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST

- Please fill out the following form and email as an attachment to historicplanning@sandiego.gov with the subject "2026 Preservation Award Nomination" no later than February 27, 2026.
- Projects must be located in San Diego city limits and have been substantially completed between January 2020 to December 2025.
- Indicate under which category you are submitting your nomination. The categories are described on the first page of the nomination packet.
- Sections I-III must be completed to be deemed a complete nomination and reviewed for consideration. Section IV- Supporting Documentation is mandatory for Preservation Projects. For other categories it is optional but highly recommended.
- Questions? Email historicplanning@sandiego.gov and cc arains@sandiego.gov

2026 San Diego Preservation Awards Nomination Form

The City of San Diego City Planning Department is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Preservation Awards. Nomination forms must be completed in their entirety. Additional pages and attachments may be provided. Photos are required for any architecture-based nomination.

Nominations must be received no later than February 27, 2026.

SECTION I: ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Project/Program Name: _____

Address: _____

Category (refer to first page of packet): _____

Project Completion Date (month, year): _____

Program Launch Date (month, year): _____

Individuals/Organizations Involved in the Project

For each participant entered here, include name, organization name (if applicable), and email address (attach additional pages as needed).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Nominator Information

Name: _____

Company or Title (optional): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If you are not associated with the project, do you wish to be notified if the project wins an award?
(Y/N)

If yes, please indicate your preferred email: _____

SECTION II: NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Narrative Description of Accomplishment and Reason for Nomination:

- For nominating projects, discuss the work performed, and provide details as to how specifically the project met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- For programs, discuss the overall structure of the program, how the community engages with and or participates in the program, and how the program aligns with historic preservation.
- For people, discuss the background, work, and leadership of the individual or organization. Please provide details about their contributions to the field of preservation.
- Does the project or program demonstrate an innovative approach to preservation, encourage sustainability/climate resiliency, or add housing units? If so, please provide a description of how.

Please provide narrative below. Insert more sheets as necessary.

SECTION III: MATERIALS RELEASE APPROVAL

I understand and agree that the City of San Diego, in the promotion of the awards program and historic preservation, may use all materials submitted for this nomination unless identified as restricted, and all official photographs and videos taken at the awards ceremony.

Signature of Applicant

SECTION IV: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Supporting Documentation: Supporting materials may be submitted to supplement but not substitute for the justification that is supposed to be provided in the Narrative portion of the nomination.

Types of materials that may be included:

- For building projects:
 - *Photos of the completed project (REQUIRED).*
 - Plans, drawings, PowerPoint, or other documentation sufficient to illustrate the property before and after the nominated activity and to address how the project met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
- For interpretive/educational/community projects or programs: Copies of related materials, such as a book, brochure, DVD/CD, website links, transcripts, or photographs of exhibits or activities.
- Copies of other materials, such as news clippings or other commendations that support the case for noteworthiness of the project, program, or person.