

2026

Preservation Awards

Announcing the 2026 Preservation Awards

The City Planning Department is pleased to announce the return of the City of San Diego's Preservation Awards!

The Historical Resources Board and City of San Diego wishes to recognize preservation projects, activities, and people with an outstanding commitment to historic preservation. The winners will be announced in May to commemorate National Historic Preservation Month and will be celebrated at the May Historical Resources Board meeting.

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 [this 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