



2026 PLACEMAKING AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Call For Submissions

By definition, Placemaking embraces the creation of spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being through planning, design and management. Please reference the information below to submit your nomination online at [Nevada.uli.org](https://nevada.uli.org). Submissions are required by **5:00 PM on August 21, 2026** for juried review. Award winners will be announced at the 6th Annual Placemaking Awards for Excellence event on **November 10, 2026**.

2026 Categories & Key Principles

CATALYTIC PLACE: This award will recognize the place that best generates improvement and progress to the economic development and/or standard of living in a surrounding community.

Key Principles:

- Project must be complete and operational.
- Successful development having a positive impact on the surrounding area, resulting in further development/improvements near or around the project.
- Completed commercial development that has resulted in the success or growth of other commercial businesses or generating economic benefit for the surrounding area. Improvements to the community that financially impact the neighborhood in a positive way.
- Completed residential development improving the way of life for its tenants/residents or those surrounding residential areas, or a completed retail/office development that improves the local community and results in bringing jobs/employment to the area.

COMMUNITY PLACE: This award will recognize the place that best engages and strengthens the community/neighborhood through opportunities to assemble, unite or celebrate.

Key Principles:

- "Place" can be permanent or a temporary event
- Inclusivity/open to all
- Indoors or outdoors
- Helps to change perceptions of a place
- Should explain, particularly for an event or temporary place, how it begins to build a narrative around something more transformational/perception-changing and begin to move a place(neighborhood/city) forward.

TRANSFORMATIVE PLACE: This award will recognize the place that has been transformed through exemplary design to one of iconic beauty.

Key Principles:

- Renovation, redevelopment or adaptive reuse that restores or enhances the beauty of an existing structure.
- Completed and operational

VISIONARY PLACE: This award recognizes the vision for a place currently under development promising significant impact on lifestyle and the region.

Key Principles:

- Project is currently under development.
- Project will positively impact lifestyle and/or improve viability of local businesses.
- Local stakeholders were engaged to determine the best placemaking approach to the project.
- Outcomes will address stakeholder's needs.



2026 AWARD CATEGORIES & KEY PRINCIPLES

HEALTHY PLACE: This award will recognize the place that promotes activity and social interaction through health-giving and accessible design to improve overall quality of life.

Key Principles:

- May feature spaces that are located indoors, outdoors or a combination of both.
- Applicants should demonstrate as part of the submission materials, the nominated places' ability to:
 1. Activate social interaction among their visitors, users, and the general public, while striving to improve their health and wellness as a primary purpose for existence.
 2. Integrate a strong ecological consideration in the design—either meeting an ecological challenge, protecting an important ecological place, or by effectively demonstrating how humans can utilize natural resources efficiently and responsibly.
 3. Augment the physical well-being of people—through creative programming, encouraging physical activity and/or using innovative health-focused technologies to foster health and wellness.
 4. Describe the 'heart or soul of the place' as perceived by the nominated place's users and what qualities make the place special and/or extraordinary.
- Additional considerations:
 1. The award nominee must have achieved a significant construction or implementation milestone in last 12-18 months (e.g. major renovations, a grand opening, impactful programming).
 2. Applicants should highlight whether the nominated place has achieved certifications relevant to health and wellness (e.g. LEED, Sustainable Sites, Living Building, Well Building, etc...).

SUSTAINABLE PLACE: This award recognizes a place that is exemplary in its embrace of sustainable design, construction, and/or sustainable operations.

Key Principles:

- Project incorporates one or more elements of Sustainable Design or Sustainable Existing Building Operations that include above-code minimum building performance in energy & water conservation; reduction in carbon emissions and/or embodied carbon, and improved indoor environmental quality.
- The project has achieved third-party green building or relevant health and wellness certification (e.g. LEED, National Green Building Standard, Green Globes, Sustainable Sites, Living Building, Well Building, etc.). Note: third-party green building certification is encouraged however it is not mandatory for this award category.
- Resilient Design: The project incorporates multiple aspects of sustainable development and resiliency in site design & placemaking with a focus on minimizing urban heat island effect and mitigating the effects of extreme heat. Strategies include minimizing surface parking, incorporating shaded parking, extensive use of tree islands, cool roofs, light colored site concrete and shaded pedestrian areas and courtyards.
- Additional Considerations:
- Nominee must have achieved a significant construction or implementation milestone in last 12-18 months (e.g. major renovations, energy retrofit, LEED or other green building certification as new construction or as an existing building).
- Must provide details and project scorecards if the project has achieved third-party green building or relevant health and wellness certification (e.g. LEED, National Green Building Standard, Green Globes, Sustainable Sites, etc...).