



Civic Design

This category will recognize a civic improvement project such as a park, a public space, civil engineering or environmental infrastructure, street furniture and lighting elements, etc., which have been implemented as the result of an urban design plan or initiative.

Eligibility

A construction project completed or installed after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Compatibility with relevant policies and plans
- Positive contribution to the public realm
- Design excellence
- Demonstration of the value of urban design by showing how the urban design plan or initiative directed and influenced the space or the objects

Only entries by teams led by a registered design professional (architect, engineer, planner or landscape architect) may be eligible to participate in the [National Urban Design Awards](#).



Climate Resilience

This category was introduced by the City of Edmonton in 2023 for plans, studies, buildings, public spaces and other urban interventions that exemplify both technical innovation and creative, thoughtful design to advance our climate goals while creating great places. Projects should demonstrate innovation in one of more of the following areas:

- Energy efficiency, renewable energy and reducing embodied energy (and carbon)
- Improving water efficiency
- Improving human health and wellness
- Exploring opportunities for biophilic design and traditional knowledge
- Increasing use of green infrastructure
- Reducing urban heat island effect
- Promoting alternative means of transportation
- Restoration or inclusion of natural systems or habitats

Eligibility

Plans and studies must have been completed/approved, and new or renovated buildings, public spaces and other urban design interventions must have been completed or installed after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton

Criteria

- Technical innovation in the design of buildings, landscapes and / or infrastructure
- Design excellence
- Positive contribution to the public and or natural realm
- Projects in this category do not have to be registered for, or certified by, a recognized green building standard or rating system

Please note this category is not recognized as part of the National Urban Design Awards so entrants at the national level may need to make a submission under another category.



Community Projects

This category is for any built project, however modest, initiated and implemented by a community-based organization that enhances the public realm. Streetscape, public art, special installations, environmental initiatives or a banner program are examples of projects in this category.

Eligibility

The projects must have been completed by a community-based organization after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Demonstration of how the community at large was involved and supported the project
- Positive contribution to the public realm
- Conceptual clarity and execution of the project
- Innovation and uniqueness of the built project

Entrants in the community projects category may be eligible to participate in the [National Urban Design Awards](#).



Heritage Projects

This category is for projects that demonstrate sensitivity and creativity in preserving the heritage value of a building or area. The project should contribute to the sense of place, revitalization or viability of the complex or district while demonstrating excellence in the conservation of heritage values.

Eligibility

The project must have been completed after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Heritage status and value to the community
- Quality and scope of the heritage rehabilitation
- Adaptive reuse of the original resource
- Architectural sensitivity and excellence
- Demonstration of the value of urban design by showing how the project contributes to, and integrates with, the public realm
- It is preferable, but not essential, that projects have heritage status, on the City's or Province's Inventory or Register, or part of a designated heritage district.

Entrants in the Heritage Design category may be eligible to participate in the [National Trust Awards](#), hosted by the National Trust for Canada.



Housing Innovation

This category was also introduced by the City in 2023 for a residential project of a high architectural standard, of any size and scale, that demonstrates innovation in housing design and promotes community health and wellbeing. The focus of this award is to highlight housing projects that exhibit creative and innovative solutions to address accessibility, affordability, sustainability, housing diversity and neighbourhood intensification.

Eligibility

A residential building or building complex that was constructed or approved after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Healthy, high-quality of life for occupants through creative, artistic and innovative design
- Positive contribution to the public realm
- Architectural and urban design excellence
- Awareness of and response to the surrounding site, geographic, social and/or urban context
- Support for positive social outcomes and community well-being
- Advances one or more of the following: accessibility, affordability, sustainability, housing diversity, and/or neighbourhood intensification

Please note this category is not recognized as part of the National Urban Design Awards so entrants at the national level may need to make a submission under another category.



Urban Architecture

This category is for an individual building or group of buildings, of a high architectural standard, which achieve urban design excellence through their unique relationship with their immediate surroundings because of their site, massing, and pedestrian amenities. Projects will also contribute to defining a special relationship with the neighbouring urban fabric.

Eligibility

A new building, a renovated building, or complex of buildings completed or installed after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Compatibility with the urban initiative
- Positive contribution to the public realm
- Architectural excellence

Only entries by teams led by a registered architect will be eligible for consideration at the [National Urban Design Awards](#).



Urban Design Plans

This category is for a plan or study of a significant area within Edmonton that provides a development or redevelopment strategy for urban transformation in the mid-term to long-term. Urban design studies, master plans, redevelopment strategies and community plans of high inspirational value with the potential for significant impact on the City's sustainability or development may be submitted.

Eligibility

The plan, project, or study must have been completed/approved after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Comprehensiveness - addressing a wide range of factors affecting development including energy efficiency and other environmental factors
- Innovative approach - proposals that highlight new ideas and/or approaches to interventions in the city
- Acceptance of the plan by the community - evidence that the community supports the plan and its implementation

Entrants in the urban design plans category may be eligible to participate in the [National Urban Design Awards](#).



Urban Fragments

Urban fragments are single, small-scale pieces of a building or landscape that contribute significantly to the quality of the public realm. This category includes small and modest elements such as street furniture, lighting elements, interpretation media, memorials, public art, facade improvement or other forms of intervention. These are projects that contribute to the beautification, sustainability, enjoyment, and/or appreciation of the urban environment. Projects can be temporary (but not ephemeral) or permanent.

Eligibility

The project must have been completed after **January 1, 2023**, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Positive contribution to the public realm
- Design excellence
- Innovation and uniqueness of the element

Entrants in the urban fragments category may be eligible to participate in the [National Urban Design Awards](#).



Student Projects

This category is open to students enrolled in a post-secondary planning or design program. Student projects must have an urban design focus and have been completed as part of a studio assignment, or as a result of a final project or an individual thesis.

Eligibility

The project must have been completed by a student enrolled in an architecture, landscape architecture, planning, industrial design or similar program, in the **past two years**. Student projects must be located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Edmonton.

Criteria

- Comprehensiveness - addressing a wide a range of considerations, including environmental and social equity, and providing solutions to the stated problem
- Conceptual clarity and urban design excellence - as demonstrated in the illustrations showing physical improvements
- Contextual response - Appropriateness of the design response to its physical, cultural, and social context
- Clarity of presentation - understandable, readable and well illustrated graphically

Only entries designed by students enrolled in an accredited program in architecture, landscape architecture and/or planning will be eligible for consideration in the [National Urban Design Awards](#).

Student Mentoring

This year, Media Art Design Edmonton (MADE) will be supporting students in crafting compelling, well-considered, and visually refined submissions. Please visit www.edmonton.ca/urbandesignawards for more information.