

LRPA CITATIONS AND AWARDS PACKET
(Updated 07.29.26)

DATE: July 29, 2029

FROM: Awards and Citations Committee

SUBJECT: 2026 LRPA State Citations and Awards Nominations

The LRPA Board of Directors is inviting all departments to participate in this year's LRPA State Citations and Awards process. Please distribute this information packet to your staff and encourage them to submit entries.

The packet includes all up-to-date pertinent information for nomination submittal. Please remember no information submitted to the committee can be returned.

Finally, whenever possible, please provide digital photos of your projects, nominees, and programs as we continue to enhance the quality of our Annual Awards Program.

Entries must be received by the Citations and Awards Committee before noon on Friday, October 9, 2026, to meet the deadline. We appreciate your continued involvement in this program, and we look forward to learning about the great things happening in our profession.

LRPA Citations and Awards Chair
P. O. Box 4327 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 344-5001
lrpa@lma.org



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(Updated 07.29.26)**

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AWARDS CODE

The LRPA Board of Directors recognizes the desirability of honoring members, citizens, and organizations in the state that have rendered outstanding service to the recreation, park and conservation movement.

Nominating an individual or an organization affords AN OPPORTUNITY:

- *To show PRIDE in your city or department.
- *To involve GREATER CITIZEN PARTICIPATION in bringing about targeted community enhancements.
- *To REDUCE SPENDING at the local level.
- *To bring people together, UNIFY the community.
- *To EARN DESERVED RECOGNITION and REWARD for outstanding local action and achievement.
- *To RECOGNIZE your peers.

A SPECIAL INVITATION:

The Awards and Citations Committee invites every LRPA member or member agency to show pride in personnel, programs, and communities by submitting your nominations NOW!!! DO NOT LET A PERSON, PROGRAM OR PROJECT GO UNRECOGNIZED THIS YEAR. Send your nominations postmarked by October 9, 2026.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

The LRPA Board of Directors has approved the following guidelines for submitting entries in the various state awards categories.

1. Agency and parks and recreation department directors will be emailed complete awards packets. If directors do not have email access, then a disk with the complete awards packet will be mailed to your department upon request.
DIRECTORS: PLEASE DUPLICATE THE PACKET AND FORWARD TO THE APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL IN YOUR DEPARTMENT/AGENCY.
2. **An original and 1 electronic copy on disk or CD of each submission** should be mailed to the Committee Chair. Supplemental information will NOT be considered.
3. If qualified, entries which do not receive recognition **will be carried over for consideration next year.** New entries will be required after 2 years.
4. Complete biographical, or specific descriptive information, which relates to the nominee's qualifications for the award being sought should be submitted. Nominations for Fellow and Outstanding Young Professional Awards should be supported by no fewer than three and no more than five letters of endorsement. (Please refer to the nomination form for specific backup information.)
5. All submissions must have a completed and signed nomination form included with the back up information. The nomination form is found at the back of this packet.
6. **All entries become property of the LRPA Awards and Citations Committee and cannot be returned.** Presentation of awards will take place at the 2026 Annual LRPA State Conference.
7. A 10-line (12 pt. Font) nomination summary should be included in each submission describing the program, person, or project you are nominating.
8. All nominations are required to include a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 digital pictures that best represent your program, person, or project. (JPEG or TIFF format only) (See nomination description for specific photo criteria)

Nomination summary and pictures may be used for the awards program and will be invaluable should your entry win.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES AWARD

The outstanding individual program in each of four population classes will be presented with a plaque at the annual LRPA State Conference. All programs that meet the criteria will be recognized and their programs acknowledged by the membership at the LRPA State Conference.

1. **PURPOSE:** To select and recognize the most innovative and effective individual program in the Arts and Humanities, (defined as a project or program that promotes cultural art for example: theatre, culinary, reading painting, sculpting, drawing, quilting, etc.) of a leisure service agency in the state of Louisiana. Through this award, recognition may be given to the many programs in the Arts and Humanities offered to the public by various types of leisure service agencies and the staff providing these programs.
2. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Arts and Humanities Award is open to any leisure service agency in the state of Louisiana. Each agency and/or director of that agency must be a member of LRPA.
3. **JUDGING:** Each entrant will be judged according to population serviced. One winner will be named in each of four classes.

Class Information Population

CLASS I More than 200,001

CLASS II 75,001 to 200,000

CLASS III 25,001 to 75,000

CLASS IV Up to 25,000

To complete the nomination, include the following information with your packet and completed nomination form. Please limit the nomination to no more than three (3) pages, excluding the nomination form. Please include at least one but no more than three digital pictures.

Title of Program

Department/Organization

Address Phone

City State_Zip

Person in charge of program to be judged

Population_Class

Is the Department/Agency Director a member of LRPA? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the Department/Agency Director a member of NRPA (Not Required for State Level Award)?
☐ Yes ☐ No

ARTS AND HUMANITIES AWARD – Con't

- A. Give a brief description of the overall Arts and Humanities program and relationship to the specific program to be judged. Include the variety of activities offered, cross section of population served, length/duration of the program. **(10%)**
- B. Describe the innovative nature of the individual program to be judged. Include the reason why the program was established, interagency cooperation, if any; is it original in your opinion; what community needs does it fulfill. **(60%)**
- C. What has this specific program done to expand the interest in Arts and Humanities? **(20%)**

The following criteria are weighted at a combined (10%).

- D. Operating budget for overall programs and individual programs nominated.
- E. Number of spectators in the program.
- F. Number of staff used.
- G. Describe major approved innovative programs for the next budget year.

Please return the Arts and Humanities nomination with one digital copy and up to 3 digital pictures to:

LRPA Citations and Awards Chair
P. O. Box 4327 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 344-5001
lrpa@lma.org

DEADLINE: October 9, 2026 - ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY October 5, 2026

OUTSTANDING PARK/FACILITY DESIGN

The purpose of this award is as follows:

1. To recognize each year one park/facility development project which displays a high degree of professional design quality and recreation/park usage: and
2. To encourage and expand the cooperation between design professionals and parks and recreation professionals.

Entries will be accepted for any park/facility design within the state of Louisiana. To be eligible, at least the initial representative stage of the project must be completed.

Two awards will be presented in each category for the winning park or facility project. One to the designer and one to the jurisdiction that manages the park or facility.

Class I Projects completed with one-million-dollar budget and below.

Class II Projects completed with over one-million-dollar budget.

Specific format for candidacy in the Outstanding Park/Facility Design Award category includes:

1. Completed nomination information for each project.
2. Ten digital photos on disc or CD in JPEG or TIFF format.
3. A project narrative of 300-1000 words.
4. Additional supportive material related to the project.

All materials should be submitted on disc or CD.

Rolled drawings **will not** be accepted.

Please return the nomination with one digital copy to:

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INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION CITATION

This award may be presented annually to any number of deserving individual laypersons or to organizations or groups qualifying.

1. Individuals: Any person who made an outstanding contribution to the recreation and parks movement in the form of preparing and/or sponsoring legislation; supporting and promoting the movement; serving as a Board or Commission member; serving on a citizen committee to raise funds, secure approval of a bond issue, etc; or other service which in the opinion of the Awards and Citations Committee entitles the individual to consideration.

2. Organizations: Any organization or group which has made an outstanding contribution to the recreation and parks movement by preparing and/or sponsoring legislation beneficial to the movement or by supporting and promoting the movement at all levels.

In reviewing the above criteria, the committee shall consider the philanthropic capability of the nominee (i.e., a small group's accomplishment may not be as significant as that of a large organization but might be greater in proportion to their resources). Also, a history of community service over several years might be more important than one major accomplishment.

The awards listed above require the completion of a nomination form and back up information. Please include at least one but no more than three digital photos with your nomination.

Please return the nomination with one digital copy to:

LRPA Citations and Awards Chair
P. O. Box 4327 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
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lrpa@lma.org

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OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD

This award may be given annually to the professional who best meets the following criteria:

1. Membership: Membership in LRPA and NRPA and any of its Branches and Affiliates.
2. Age and Experience: At least three (3) years as a leader, instructor, supervisor, administrator, consultant, or a combination of these services in the field of recreation and parks, and not having reached the age of thirty-five (35) years at the time of nomination.
3. Service: The nominee must meet at least one of the following qualifications:
 - (a) Must have been actively involved in LRPA and/or NRPA as evidenced by *service* in an elective or significant appointive capacity for LRPA and/or NRPA, one of its Branches or for an NRPA Region or Affiliate.
 - (b) Must have contributed to the recreation and parks movement through advocacy of its concept as evidenced by publication of articles or service as a speaker, moderator, or panelist before national, regional or state professional or lay groups.
 - (c) Must have demonstrated responsible performance in the delivery of service in support of the recreation and parks movement in a state or local arena of practice.

Please limit the nomination information to no more than three (3) pages, excluding the 3-5 endorsement letters and nomination form. Please include at least one but no more than three digital photos.

Please return the nomination with one digital copy to:

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FELLOW AWARD

This award may be given annually to the professional(s) who best meets the following criteria:

1. Membership: Membership in LRPA and NRPA and any of its Branches and Affiliates.
2. Experience: At least ten (10) years as a leader, instructor, supervisor, administrator, consultant or combination of these services in the field of recreation and parks.
3. Service: Contributions to the profession through LRPA, NRPA, Branches, Affiliates or the former professional organizations made through:
 - (a) Distinctive leadership in the promotion, and organization development of a pioneer—type activity in the field of recreation and parks.
 - (b) Outstanding service to the profession through the allied fields of arts, crafts, sports, physical fitness, health and safety education, design, park maintenance, horticulture, education, consultant services, etc.
4. Character: Of fine moral character.
5. Leadership: Candidates, as evidence of leadership, must meet at least one out of each of the following groups of qualifications listed below:
 - (a) Elected officer of LRPA and/or NRPA.
 - (b) Member of a LRPA's administrative board or community organization board.
 - (c) Member of any LRPA committee.
 - (d) Professional research, publication, speeches, service on panels, etc. such as major addresses to groups, and radio or television talks give in the interest of promoting recreation and parks; research which has helped advance the profession; original contribution which has affected the philosophy or practice of the profession; or service as a member of a national or regional panel relative to the recreation and parks movement.

Please include at least one but no more than three digital photos. Please limit the nomination information to no more than three (3) pages, excluding the 3-5 endorsement letters and completed nomination form.

Please return the nomination with one digital copy to:

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NOMINATION FORM

Nominee/Program Name Phone ()

Address Zip

Award Recommended:

☐ Fellow ☐ Outstanding Young Professional ☐ Citation – Individual

☐ Citation - Organization or Group ☐ Arts and Humanities ☐ Outstanding

Park/Facility Design ☐ I ☐

Is Nominee currently a member of LRPA? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is Nominee currently a member of NRPA? (Not Required for State Level Award) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Recommended Person to Present Award to the Recipient if Selected:

Present Position (or last position held if retired)

Attach: ☐ Single Page Citation of Nominee (Required of all nominations!)

Note: Single Page Citation is required of all applications! All categories of documentation may not apply to every award.

☐ Resume of Employment Experience

☐ Documentation of Service and

Noteworthy Contributions ☐ Personal

Qualifications and Education

☐ Evidence of Outstanding Leadership Qualities

☐ Other Appropriate Documentation Pertinent to Granting of Award

Submitted by: Name

LRPA Member Position

Phone:

Address

City/State/Zip

Date Submitted

FOR NRPA SUBMISSION ONLY

Endorsed by:

Signature of State Affiliate President

Signature of State Awards Committee Chair

SEND 1 ORIGINAL COPY TO & 1 DIGITAL COPY:

Postmarked by: OCT. 28, 2025

LRPA Citations and Awards Committee

P. O. Box 4327, Baton Rouge, LA 70821,

(225) 332-7632, lrpa@lma.org