

EXCELLENCE IN MASONRY AWARDS



OREGON ENTRY GUIDE



NORTHWEST
MASONRY
INSTITUTE

OVERVIEW

The Excellence in Masonry Design Awards celebrate the best masonry designs available in the Northwest. Masonry materials include: Brick, CMU, Stone, Tile, Marble, and Terrazzo. These projects represent the best standards in masonry design, innovation, structural performance, and overall masonry integration.

CONTENTS

SAVE THE DATE OVERVIEW _____ 3

JURY CRITERIA INFO _____ 4

CATEGORIES ELIGIBILITY _____ 4-5

SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES _____ 5-7

CONTACT INFO _____ 7



SAVE THE DATE INFO



PROJECT REGISTRATION

DEADLINE → November 20, 2026

PROJECT INFO SUBMISSION

DEADLINE → JANUARY 8, 2027

JUDGING → JANUARY 20, 2027

AWARDS BANQUET → March 2027

📍 Portland, OR



JURY CRITERIA

The Excellence in Masonry Awards Program intends to acknowledge quality and outstanding masonry design. The Northwest Masonry Institute wishes to recognize excellence in the design of its projects.

Each entry will be judged for the success with which the project has met its individual requirements. Entries will be evaluated individually, not in competition with each other. The Jury uses the anonymous written and visual material submitted for their analysis. It is imperative that this information describe the project as clearly and accurately as possible.

Jury considerations include masonry design quality, environmental harmony, sustainability, aesthetic delight, creativity, craftsmanship, and innovation. In addition, attention will be paid to the following:

- Buildings must use masonry as the primary exterior material, and the architect must show that masonry was important in the solution of the design problem.
- Projects will be judged based on the appropriate and innovative use of unit masonry construction as well as excellence in design. Unit masonry includes brick, block, stone, and glass block masonry construction laid traditionally, bedded in mortar by masons.
- Overall integration of the project at the urban scale, and how the project relates to the community and its users.
- How the project's design and functionality serve the client, as facilitated by its attention to detail.
- Life cycle cost and maintainability.
- Each juror evaluates the entries on their own merit.
- Additional criteria may be established by the jury at the time of their review.

CATEGORIES

Submissions should clearly demonstrate process and accomplishment through a combination of text, diagrams, drawings, photographs and other graphic materials and address the issues outlined in the Jury Criteria, and fall within the following categories:

- **Government/Public:** All federal, state, county, and local government agencies.
- **Commercial/Retail:** All retail uses except those relating to agriculture. Office: All personal, business, professional office, and medical-related uses (not hospitals).
- **Institutional:** Includes projects serving an institutional purpose, such as Religious (i.e. churches, cemeteries), Civic (i.e. hospitals, non-profit, museums, other civic uses), and Industrial (i.e. manufacturing, construction, transportation, utilities, warehouses, mineral extraction).
- **Educational:** Includes: K-12: All elementary schools, junior highs, and high schools; Higher/Continuing Education: Community colleges, universities, vocational, and trade buildings.
- **Restoration:** Restoration of old buildings or the adaptation of old buildings to new uses, while preserving their original character.
- **Residential:** Single-family detached housing units, townhouses, and condominiums units; Multi-family: Multi-family units, including duplexes and apartments. Tile: Technical and artistic achievement in the design and installation of tile.
- **Unique Use:** All masonry that has unique characteristics in design and/or construction, including, but not limited to: replacements, monuments, sculptures, and signage.

Note: Mixed-use entries (i.e. commercial/residential projects) should be classified according to their largest/primary function.

ELIGIBILITY

The projects must be located in Oregon and must have been completed since January 1, 2021. Projects that have been entered in other programs are eligible for submission. Past award recipients in this program may not be resubmitted in future years. All other entries may be resubmitted if building completion was not prior to prescribed date of January 1, 2021. All entries should be submitted in the manner that was specified; **intent to enter deadline is November 20, 2026, and completed submissions must be received by January 8, 2027.**

To qualify for entry, buildings must use masonry as the primary exterior material and the architect must show masonry was important in the solution of the design problem. Projects will be judged on the basis of the appropriate and innovative use of unit masonry construction as well as excellence in design. Unit masonry includes brick, block, stone, and glass block masonry construction laid in the traditional manner bedded in mortar by masons.

SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

Submittals in all categories shall include the following three components:

- For administrative purposes only: an ONLINE FORM
- For jury evaluation only: JURY PDF (anonymous)
- For printing purposes in promotions/publications: One (3) PUBLICITY IMAGE

1. **ONLINE FORM** - The online form requires the following information be submitted:

ENTRANT INFORMATION

Contact Information: This is the person we will contact if there are questions or problems with your submittal - Name, Email, Phone, Firm, Postal Address

Project name: Use one consistent project name throughout your submittal and on all filenames. This is the name that will be formally referenced in all publicity.

Category: Government/Public, Commercial, Institutional, Industrial, Educational, Restoration, Residential, Tile, Unique Use.

Project Address: Street address, City, State and Zip Code

Unique Project Code: Emailed to Contact listed above after the Intent to Enter is received and registration payment is made. For example: A549

Credits: These credits will be used on the award certificates and other publicity

- Design Team: Please list the names of any members of the core design team.
- Mason /Tile/ PCC Contractor
- General Contractor.
- Primary Masonry Product Manufacturer
- Owner/Client: Leave blank if anonymity preferred

Project Information: Date of construction completion.

SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

2. **PUBLICITY IMAGES (3):** To be submitted as part of the full online entry submittal. This image should showcase each project provided to the Northwest Masonry Institute for publicity purposes. This image must not include any text.

REQUIREMENTS: Print Quality Image 300 DPI Image, approx. 2400x4000 pixels, JPG/PNG/TIFF format File Naming Format P-ProjectCode-ProjectName-PhotographerName.jpg (or .png/.tif)

PHOTO RELEASE: By participating, all entrants grant the Northwest Masonry Institute a non-exclusive license to post the entries online for the public to view. In addition, each winner grants to Northwest Masonry Institute a license for use of the winning entry in connection with Excellence in Masonry Awards, in any media now or hereafter known, including but not limited to: publication in newspapers and magazines, and sponsored exhibitions of the work. Submission to this program implies permission from the project owner and releases the MIW from any responsibility of seeking permissions from owners, photographers, or any project-related stakeholders. Photo inclusion implies permission from its photographer for use by the Northwest Masonry Institute for promotional purposes.

3. **JURY PRESENTATION PDF:** Jurors will review the JURY PDF on laptops and projection screens—horizontal formats work best for these devices. Submitted materials must conform to the following requirements to be juried. Anonymity is a must. Firm names are not to be visible in this file:

REQUIREMENTS:

PDF File: up to 20 pages and up to 8MB maximum file size—all materials contained in this file must be anonymous.

File Naming Format: J-ProjectCode-ProjectName.pdf

Page Format: 8 1/2"x11" landscape, 1" margins minimum on all sides.
Black text on white background, 11 pt minimum font, no graphics or imagery.

CONTENT:

Page One: Project description and introduction (same as online form):

- Project name
- Project Location: Municipality, State (i.e. Spokane, WA – omit street address & zip code)
- Project Area
- Client

Page Two: Project narrative

No more than 500 words: Summarize the project, its physical context, the ideas behind it, the challenges it presented and how they were investigated and resolved. Place emphasis on the masonry elements of design achievement defined in the Judging Criteria. Avoid elaboration of features already made clear by photographs and drawings. Include information about project intentions, including program requirements, cost data, and the distinguishing aspects of their resolution. For preservation/restoration projects provide the jury with sufficient information to differentiate between the original architects' work and the newly altered, preserved, or restored work. **DO NOT** identify the architect, designer, or firm in any way.

SUBMITTAL GUIDELINES

Pages Three through Twenty: Project-related diagrams, graphics, and imagery:

- No formatting requirements
- Pages may include, but are not limited to: diagrams, photographs, site plans, floor plans, sections, elevations, or other illustrative drawings
- These pages are meant to represent the project graphically. Please limit labels or annotations to approximately 30 words per page
- Indicate the project's physical context or site character through graphics and/or imagery
- Conceptual, sustainable, technical, or programmatic diagrams are encouraged
- Renovations and additions should clearly delineate the scope of work and consider including graphics and/or images that distinguish between the initial circumstances and the final product.

QUESTIONS?

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