

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS



AIA Los Angeles

2026

DESIGN AWARDS

DESIGN AWARDS 2026

DESIGN & NEXT LA CATEGORIES

SUBMISSION OVERVIEW

1. After registration, you will receive an Additional Form from Submittable, for each submission.
2. This Form will collect additional information about the project along with your proof of 2030 Signatory, Project Presentation, Additional Images and, if required, proof of DDX Registration. Please see below for further clarification.
3. Design Awards Entries (only) will need to provide energy metrics to be eligible for an Honor award.

Each completed submission package must follow these guidelines, via Submittable.

Your entry will be disqualified if it does not contain the required elements:

- **PDF Presentation** (Do **Not** Reveal Firm Name or Architect within the PDF Presentation)
- **Proof of 2030 Signatory**
- **Sustainability Dashboard** (Design Awards only, excluding Installation and Cityscape typologies)
- Additional high-res Images

Additional Information:

- In the event that the jury selects your project, it will be credited based on the information you provide in the Additional Form
- The submission **MUST** be approved by the Designer-In-Charge or by a Principal with the firm in order to qualify.

Please note that if you are entering multiple projects, each project must be submitted individually. More detailed information regarding the Design and NEXT LA submission requirements is provided in the subsequent pages of this document.

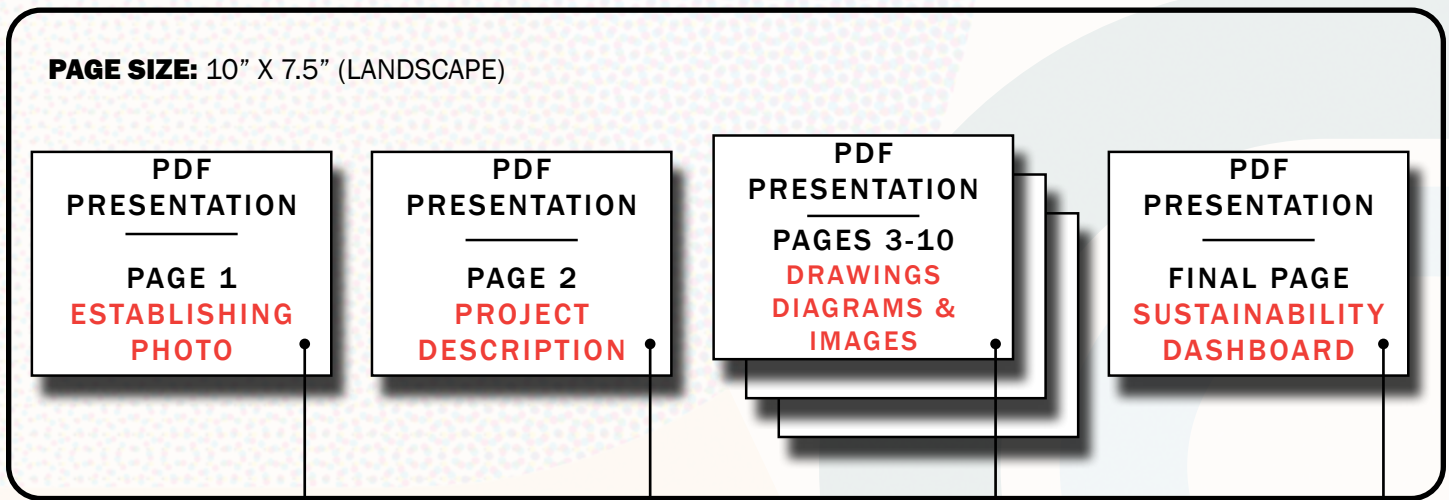


DETAILED SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. PDF Presentation

- Please provide a single PDF file (maximum 12 pages) containing your project's presentation. Presentations are viewed by the jury as a means to see and understand your project. You may use any program to layout your presentation, but follow the AIALA 2026 PowerPoint template available on the [Design Awards home page](#) for format and content.

11 PAGE (max.) PDF PRESENTATION +1 OPTIONAL PAGE FOR RESILIENCY AWARD ELIGIBILITY



PAGE SIZE: 10" X 7.5" (LANDSCAPE)

PDF
PRESENTATION

PAGE 1
ESTABLISHING
PHOTO

Best overall photo, most representative of project
-IMPORTANT -
For Design Award, Photography must meet "Final Photography" standards.
NO Renderings OR AI imagery
See page 4.

PDF
PRESENTATION

PAGE 2
PROJECT
DESCRIPTION

Should include: project date, project size, site conditions, program, and design intent.
250 words or less in Arial 12pt. font.

PDF
PRESENTATION

PAGES 3-10
DRAWINGS
DIAGRAMS &
IMAGES

You must provide a site plan & sustainability diagrams are strongly encouraged. Interior & exterior photos, floor plans, sections, elevations, etc. are also encouraged to give the full sense of project. These slides may contain up to two (2) images each

PDF
PRESENTATION

FINAL PAGE
SUSTAINABILITY
DASHBOARD

See page 5.

- Required one(1) Slide **Sustainability Dashboard**.
- Optional one(1) Slide if entering for **Resiliency Award**. See page 5. **(NEW in 2025)**
- There should be **no text or image(s) identifying designer/firm** included in the PDF presentation.
- **ALL JUDGING IS ANONYMOUS.**
- Place project **Location** and **Typology** on each page, as noted on template.
- At a minimum the PDF presentation should include three (3) photos of the project and one (1) text page.
- Re-use/renovation/restoration entries are encouraged to show images of previous conditions for reference.
- Captions are optional.

Please see page 8 for the Project Typology information.

Please see page 9 for some Tips & Tricks for putting together a compelling presentation

DETAILED SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

FINAL PHOTOGRAPHY STANDARDS

For projects submitted in any Built Category, all photography must accurately represent the completed project as constructed and occupied. Images should provide jurors with an authentic depiction of the project's design, materials, spatial qualities, and relationship to its site.

AIA|LA recognizes that professional architectural photography often includes post-processing and retouching. Such edits are acceptable when they enhance image quality without altering the fundamental characteristics of the built work.

Acceptable Adjustments

- Standard photographic post-processing and retouching
- Color correction, exposure adjustment, white balance correction, and contrast enhancement
- Removal of temporary distractions, photographic artifacts, or minor imperfections
- Lighting adjustments that do not alter architectural design or spatial experience
- Limited enhancement of landscaping, vegetation, skies, or occupancy elements, provided the project is not materially changed

Prohibited Alterations

- Any alteration that misrepresents the completed project
- AI-generated changes that add, remove, replace, or substantially alter architectural elements
- Changes to massing, scale, form, orientation, structure, materials, fenestration, or other permanent features
- Addition of design or site elements that do not exist in the completed project
- Removal of permanent architectural or contextual elements in a misleading way
- Composite, rendered, or AI-generated imagery presented as final photography

Disclosure Requirements

Any renderings, conceptual imagery, AI-generated content, or significantly altered visuals must be clearly labeled as such.

AIA|LA reserves the right to request original photography or supporting documentation. Submissions found to materially misrepresent the completed project may be disqualified at the sole discretion of AIA|LA.

This policy ensures jurors evaluate projects based on the actual built condition while allowing standard professional photographic editing practices.

DESIGN • NEXT LA

DETAILED SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. PDF Presentation cont.

- Please include provided sustainability dashboard within your pdf presentation.

PDF PRESENTATION
FINAL PAGE
SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD

Complete necessary information .
DESIGN AWARD - Full completion
NEXT LA - as much information that is relevant and measurable.

STEP 1

AIA 2030 COMMITMENT IS YOUR FIRM AN AIA2030 COMMITMENT SIGNATORY?
YES NO
APPLIES TO: BUILT & NEXT LA SUBMISSIONS

DDx HAS THE PROJECT BEEN REPORTED TO THE AIA DESIGN DATA EXCHANGE (DDX)?
YES NO
APPLIES TO: BUILT SUBMISSIONS

STEP 2

ENERGY SAVINGS (EUI)
BASELINE EUI:
PREDICTED EUI:
NET EUI:
BUILDING TYPE:
SAVINGS (%): AFFORDABLE

TO CALCULATE PROJECT ENERGY SAVINGS USE THE ZERO TOOL: <https://www.zerotool.org/zerotool/>

EMBODED CARBON
HAS A LIFECYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA) BEEN PERFORMED FOR THE PROJECT?
YES NO
REDUCTION % (FROM BASELINE):

OR

WATER SAVINGS
IS THE LANDSCAPE NATIVE AND DROUGHT TOLERANT OR HAS A WATER-REUSE SYSTEM BEEN INCLUDED?
YES NO
SAVINGS (%):

STEP 3

LIGHTING POWER DENSITY DOES THE PROJECT REDUCE LIGHTING POWER DENSITY BY A LEAST 25% BELOW CODE REQUIREMENT?
YES NO
SAVINGS (%):

STEP 4

FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE DOES THE PROJECT INCORPORATE ONE OR MORE OF THE AIA FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE?
YES NO
FRAMEWORK: Energy

SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD 2025

DETAILED SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. PDF Presentation cont.



To be considered for the **NEW 2026 RESILIENCY AWARD** please provide this additional slide with the following information:

A short narrative (max 200 words) demonstrating how the project focuses on:

- Minimize damage from disasters such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and extreme weather.
- Recover quickly through adaptive and sustainable design practices.

Graphically highlighting key features such as (but not limited to):

- Foundation design
- Enclosure and material systems
- Massing and orientation
- Passive systems and emergency adaptability

We can't wait to see the creativity, innovation, and bold ideas your firm will bring to this year's awards. Let's showcase the very best of Los Angeles architecture together and celebrate the power of design to shape a more resilient, beautiful future.

DETAILED SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

B. Digital Images

For use by AIA Los Angeles on our website, Pinterest gallery, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook, and as printed and digital display at the 2026 AIALA Design Awards - please provide the following:



FORMAT: .jpg or .png
SIZE: 36"X24" (horizontal orientation preferred)
RESOLUTION: 150 dpi minimum, 300 dpi preferred
NAME: Project Name_Firm_Photographer



FORMAT: .jpg or .png
SIZE: Please provide one image in the following two sizes:

- **SIZE 1:** 1200 pixels wide (horizontal orientation preferred)
- **SIZE 2:** 1850 pixels wide (horizontal orientation preferred)

RESOLUTION: 72 dpi
NAME: Project Name_Firm_Photographer_1200
Project Name_Firm_Photographer_1850

- Images may not be composites or collages - must be a single, representative image of the submitted project.
- All images should be clear of identifying text or marks.
- All photographer credits for images must be indicated in the project form.
- Additional images will be requested at a later date from entrants receiving awards.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: *JULY 23, 2026* (11:00pm PST)

PROJECT TYPOLOGIES

Each project must be entered into a specific Project Typology. Typologies are intended for ease of jury coordination only; awards are not bestowed per typology. The Project Typologies are defined as follows:

Adaptive Re-Use/Renovation/Historic Preservation (ARHP): projects of all types that are designed in consideration of existing built conditions.

Affordable Housing (AH): projects defined as affordable housing by the US federal government.

Cityscapes (CS): projects that engage a broad range of circumstances, including (but not limited to) urban design, master planning, outdoor public spaces, and/or campus planning.

Commercial/Mixed-Use (CMU): projects intended for commercial or mixed commercial and residential uses, including (but not limited to) office, retail, hospitality, industrial, and/or transit-oriented developments.

Competitions (COM): NEXT LA AWARD PROJECTS ONLY: Projects entered for any type of design competition that has been sponsored by an acknowledged civic or professional organization for the purpose of selecting a project for construction; both winning and non-winning competition entries are acceptable.

Educational (EDU): projects intended for all levels of education, including (but not limited to) pre-school, K-12, college and university, and/or adult education.

Healthcare/Institutional/Civic (HIC): projects intended for public or governmental uses, including (but not limited to) government buildings, libraries, healthcare, museums, and/or performing arts centers.

Interior Architecture (IA): projects that involve the interior architecture of a space only, in a project type including (but not limited to) office, retail, hospitality, entertainment, museum, educational, and/or residential.

Installations (INST): projects intended for temporary status, including (but not limited to) museum and gallery exhibitions, trade show exhibits, and/or follies.

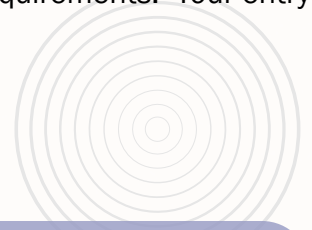
Multi-Unit Residential (MUR): projects intended for habitation by multiple tenants, including (but not limited to) condos, apartment buildings, co-ops, affordable housing, public housing, townhouses, duplexes, and/or small-lot projects.

Single-Family Residential (SFR): projects intended for single-family habitation.

Temporary Shelter (TS): temporary housing or portable housing or modular housing to transition people from streets to housing, or serve during environmental disasters.

T I P S & T R I C K S

The following are suggested tips for creating strong award entries. These are NOT requirements. Your entry will not be judged differently for lack of any of the below information.



Submit professional photographs of your entry, if possible. Starting and ending with good Photography, while an investment, is key to the best presentation of built work.

Reach out to your engineering partners early for the requested energy metrics if you are submitting for a Design Award, and want to be eligible for an Honor Award.

Provide a diagram(s) that explains the main idea or parti of your entry. Consider providing a name for your project that describes its main idea. Strong conceptual clarity is important. How did the architect take various programmatic concerns and look beyond straightforward solutions to create exceptional, innovative design responses?

If context is important to the project, consider including a site plan, site elevations/sections, diagrams or any additional documentation to explain relationships.

For renovations, restorations, additions, consider representing existing conditions as 'before' with new work as 'after.' Existing conditions should appear as subordinate images to the featured new de-

Include details: interiors, details, secondary and tertiary views or sides to provide a clear understanding of the extent and quality of the finished project.

Consider organizing images into a narrative sequence to describe the intended experience of the project. For example: from curb to entry or from public to private space.

Include images/documentation that foregrounds the unique or innovative aspects of your design/solution.

The AIA strives for inclusivity and diversity among members and through the work produced by its members. With this goal in mind, demonstrate how your entry addresses community to include the interests of diverse populations or neighborhoods.

STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY

This submission must be approved by the Designer-In-Charge or by a Principal with the firm, in order to qualify for the awards competition.

The following is important information regarding your submission. Failure to comply with the guidelines may result in disqualification of the submission. Please read the following information carefully. If you have any questions regarding this program, please email:

Marc Romeo (marc@aialosangeles.org) or Erika Pendergraff (erika@aialosangeles.org)

- The submitting entrant hereby certifies that permission has been obtained from all necessary parties, including the owner and photographer, to exhibit and publish photographs and information regarding this project.
- The submitting entrant hereby releases to and authorizes the AIALA Chapter to publish the entry or any part thereof in any medium, including all social media and the World Wide Web. AIALA will not assume responsibility for any copyright or photographic fees.
- The submitting entrant has reviewed the information shown above for completeness and accuracy for use in publicity releases for newspapers and magazines.
- The submitting entrant verifies that the entry is entirely the work of those listed on the project submission form.
- The submitting entrant understands that if this project is selected for an award, he/she will provide additional quality images upon request in a timely manner for printed and digital promotion. If the undersigned entrant does not supply these images when requested, he/she forgoes the opportunities for promotion.
- The submitting entrant declares that he/she does not employ unpaid intern architects and neither does any practice of which he/she is an owner or manager.
- The submitting entrant into the AIALA's DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA programs hereby accepts and acknowledges that the awards are retrospective in nature and based on a subjective evaluation of the judges, and that an entrant has no right, contractual or otherwise, to be recognized as an AIALA DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA winner.
- AIALA's DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA winners are determined and prizes are awarded in the sole and absolute discretion of the Jury.
- The submitting entrant into the AIALA's DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA programs hereby accepts and acknowledges that AIALA is under no obligation to grant awards to any entrant.
- The submitting entrant hereby accepts and acknowledges that the Jury's decisions in selecting the AIALA DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA winners are final and non-appealable.
- The submitting entrant into the AIALA's DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA programs hereby accepts and acknowledges that the AIALA DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA Jury is under no obligation to grant awards in each typology submitted.
- The submitting entrant will indemnify AIALA and will hold AIALA harmless from, against and in respect of any and all liabilities, damages, losses, deficiencies, costs, judgments, amounts paid in settlement, interest, penalties, assessments and out-of-pocket expenses (including attorneys' fees and the costs of AIALA staff) incurred in connection with or arising out of the defense of or any proceeding with respect to any claims, whether accrued, contingent or otherwise incurred in connection with or arising out of the entrant's entry into the AIALA DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA programs.
- In the event the submitting entrant attempts to bring any sort of legal claim or proceeding against the AIALA, its board members, any member of the AIALA DESIGN AWARDS | NEXT LA Jury, or any member of the AIALA Design Awards Committee, and in the event that the entrant does not prevail in any way with the claim, the entrant must reimburse the individuals involved in the legal claim or proceeding at their customary, professional hourly rate.
- The submitting entrant confirms that this entry meets the eligibility requirements as stated above.

SUBMISSIONS

DUE

Thursday
July 23, 2026

CLICK HERE
FOR
MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.aialosangeles.org/home/awards/design-awards/>