

2013 Statewide Accessibility Awards Program

Submission Guidelines



Presented by the APA – Accessibility Professionals Association in partnership with the Texas Governor's Committee on People With Disabilities (GCPD).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE – Due by Friday – 27 September 2013

The Fourth Annual Accessibility Awards Program recognizes outstanding commercial design and construction projects that are subject to the application of the Texas Accessibility Standards (T.A.S.), as monitored by a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) who is a member in good standing of the Accessibility Professionals Association. The Awards Program recognizes businesses, property owners, and / or organizations and members of the construction industry that go **above and beyond** the minimum legal accessibility requirements and which have considered service accessibility (e.g. – menus in Braille at a restaurant; wheelchair friendly seating at venues; staff trained in disability etiquette and **People First** language, etc.) as well as the State required physical accessibility.

★ **The Statewide awards ceremony is currently scheduled on Thursday the 30th of January 2014, during the APA Annual Convention in Austin, Texas.**

AWARD CATEGORIES MAY INCLUDE:

- A Public Accommodation - A new or renovated building or facility used by the public that uses funds from the state or a county, municipality or, other political subdivision of the state;
- A Public Accommodation - A new or renovated lease space within a building or facility that is leased, in whole or in part, by the state under a lease or rental agreement;
- A Private building or facility constructed, renovated or modified that is subject to the TAS as follows:
 - An inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging;
 - A restaurant, bar, or other establishment serving food or drinks;
 - A motion picture house, theater, concert hall, stadium or other place of exhibition or entertainment;
 - An auditorium, convention center, lecture hall, or other place of public gathering;
 - A bakery, grocery store, clothing store, hardware store, shopping center, or other sales or rental establishment;
 - A laundromat, dry-cleaner, bank, barber shop, beauty shop, travel service, shoe repair service, funeral parlor, gas station, office of an accountant or lawyer, pharmacy, insurance office, professional office of a healthcare provider, hospital, or other service establishment;
 - A terminal, depot, or other station used for specified public transportation;
 - A park, zoo, amusement park, or other place of recreation;
 - A museum, library, gallery, or other place of public display or collection;
 - A nursery, elementary, secondary, undergraduate, or postgraduate private school, or other place of education;

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- A day-care center, senior citizen center, homeless shelter, food bank, adoption agency, or other social service center establishment;
- and, A gymnasium, health spa, bowling alley, golf course, or other place of exercise or recreation.
- A new building, or a “first-time” interior finishout of a Commercial / intended for non-residential use and operations project that affects commerce;
- New or renovated buildings or facilities of a religious organization that are subject to the Act (except “specific areas of religious ritual” that are exempt – if the church body goes on record requesting such an exemption).

APPLICABLE PROJECTS:

Accessibility Awards will be considered **for projects completed and inspected by the nomination date deadline of 27 September 2013, and located within the State of Texas.** A project can be either self-nominated by the property owner, by an APA Member RAS, or by any another individual or group - such as an organization, a tenant, a building contractor, or a design professional (architect, interior designer, professional engineer and / or a landscape architect) - that has used an APA member for the State of Texas required accessibility Plan Review and Inspection services.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES:

Nominations must be submitted using the APA Nomination Form (see following pages). The Forms should include a **project summary and electronic photographs**. If nominating more than one project, please submit each entry separately.

Please ensure that the following information is included in your “electronic” submission:

- All materials must be clearly identified with the name/address of the nominated project.
- Appropriate credit must be given to project participants.
- Photographs: Submit ten, but no more than twenty photos of the project. Electronic digital photos (.jpeg) will be accepted. Please include both exterior and interior photos (if applicable), focusing on the outstanding accessibility elements and services that make the property “user-friendly”. Please also include a photo credit line for publication (if applicable). “Before” and “after” photos of renovated project are strongly encouraged. All images should be in focus with proper exposure.
- All “electronic” photographic materials must be submitted by delivery of CD or “flash-drive” because of the need to have good quality photos – worthy of a PowerPoint Presentation during the APA Annual Meeting.

SUBMISSION:

Please submit your nomination to Fred Cawyer at 3819 Towne Crossing Blvd., Suite 111 / Mesquite, TX 75150 or via e-mail at fredcawyer@aol.com, OR physically mail the required information on a CD or “flash-drive” to APA - Attention: Shirley Knox, 3355 Bee Cave Road, Suite 301B / Austin, TX 78746. **Submissions must be received or postmarked by Friday – 27 September 2013.**

The \$50 Entry Fee per submittal must be paid by check / money order made out to APA – Accessibility Professionals Association and mailed / hand-delivered to APA Office in Austin, Texas. All submissions become the property of APA and will not be returned. The nominator grants permission for materials to be used by APA and the State Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities for presentation and publicity purposes.

★ ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED WILL BE CONSIDERED

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SELECTION PROCESS:

Entries will be judged by two (2) or more APA member RAS's, as well as other accessibility subject matter experts recommended by the GCPD. An actual site visit will be made to the shortlisted sites / buildings / facilities nominated by an "independent" APA member RAS and by at least one subject matter GCPD expert with a disability, each of whom will have specific knowledge of the project, to ensure both physical and program / service accessibility.

Nominations will be evaluated based on the application of the applicable Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) at the time the project was "permitted (i.e. – the 1994 TAS prior to 03.15.2011, or the 2012 TAS after 03.15.2012). Please visit www.license.state.tx.us for additional State of Texas TDLR-AB Division accessibility compliance details. Award nominees and winners will be notified prior to the public announcement of the awards.

GOAL – “To honor projects that implement universal design principles and program / service accessibility, and that go beyond the minimum definition of accessibility.”

PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION FORMS (and electronic CD or “flash-drive documentation) POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED BY THE 09.27.2013 DEADLINE TO EITHER:

**Ms. Shirley Knox – Executive Director
APA – Accessibility Professionals Association (*Formerly TRASA*)
3355 Bee Cave Road, Suite 301B
Austin, TX 78746
www.AccessibilityProfessionals.org**

Or, to:

**Fred D. Cawyer RAS – Chairman APA/GCPD Awards Program
3819 Towne Crossing Blvd., Suite 111
Mesquite, TX 75150**

**Office – 972.285.2445
Fax – 972.285.8714
fredcawyer@aol.com**