



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Submission Guidelines & Frequently Asked Questions

The following Guidelines are intended to give nominees a better understanding of the submission process as a whole, as well as to provide insight into the kinds of achievements that are important in this award.

One of the challenges in selecting this award is the difficulty of comparing accomplishments in the various categories of design, practice, education, journalism, public service, and other aspects of our diverse profession. However, this is also a great strength and increases the prestige of the award, in that individual achievement must rise above the usual definitions of a “successful career path” and demonstrate broad, transformative influence, outreach, and leadership. The categories under which nominations are evaluated are as follow:

CATEGORY 1 - DISTINGUISHED ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

- Exemplary achievement in design, evidenced by peer recognition in the form of national or regional awards, publications and other honors over a period of time
- Exemplary achievement in architectural practice management or technical expertise, with evidence of broad influence and sharing of knowledge
- Exemplary achievement and leadership in the AIA or related professional associations
- Unique, recognized and sustained achievement in other professional areas such as building codes, disaster recovery, sustainability, or historic preservation

CATEGORY 2 - COMMUNITY OR PUBLIC SERVICE

- Recognized public service in government, community development or elected office
- Distinguished military service, acts of exceptional heroism or philanthropy

CATEGORY 3 - DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION OR PROFESSIONALLY RELATED FIELDS

- Distinguished achievement and leadership in architectural education, publication or research
- Distinguished achievement and leadership in a professionally related field, such as architectural illustration, photography or journalism

CATEGORY 4 - DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SPIRIT

- Exemplary and outstanding service to and support of the Huckabee College of Architecture and/or Texas Tech University

Therefore, in assembling a nomination submittal, here are some guidelines:

1. Nominees should take the time to thoughtfully present their achievements in the specific category in which they are nominated.
2. Submissions should go beyond the elements of a standard professional resume or academic CV and avoid the inclusion of marketing boilerplate. In particular:
 - a. Show how you made a difference beyond the success of your firm, buildings, or projects.
 - b. Show how you shared your expertise not just with clients, but to the benefit of the profession at large, or how you advanced architecture’s body of knowledge.
 - c. Show how you and/or your firm, apart from being successful, redefined a typology, developed a new technology, established new paradigms, or mentored emerging firms or individuals.
 - d. Show how independent entities have recognized your achievements with awards in the specific category of your nomination. (For example, in the design category, design awards would be most important; in the education category, teaching awards would be most important; etc.)
3. Simply put, the submission requirements are intended to be more rigorous than standard architectural marketing or resume materials. This is in keeping with the singular prestige of the award itself.

There is no automatic carry-over of submissions from year- to-year. For an unsuccessful nominee to be reconsidered in following years, they must resubmit all of their nomination materials, even if those materials are unchanged from the previous year.

These Guidelines are presented in hopes that they will help all nominees and nominators better understand the factors involved in the solicitation, evaluation, and selection of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions for further guidance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF AN ALUMNUS(A) OF THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE?

An alumnus(a) of the Texas Tech Huckabee College of Architecture is defined as one who holds any of the accredited bachelor or graduate degrees offered by the Huckabee College of Architecture.

IS THERE A MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD?

No, but it can be assumed that qualified nominees would have been active in their field long enough to accumulate the credentials necessary to establish themselves as leaders in their chosen professional path.

MUST THE NOMINEE BE A LICENSED ARCHITECT?

No. It is not required that the Nominee be licensed to practice architecture – only that they hold an accredited architecture degree as noted in question number 1 above.

WHO CAN MAKE NOMINATIONS?

Anyone can submit a nomination by filling out the Nomination Form and including the required information. Nominators should have extensive knowledge of the person or organization they are nominating.

ARE UNSUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS CARRIED OVER FROM YEAR-TO-YEAR?

No. For an unsuccessful nominee to be reconsidered in following years, they must resubmit all nomination materials, even if those materials are unchanged from the previous year.

WHY ARE THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS SO SPECIFIC AND EXTENSIVE? WHY CAN'T THE NOMINEE SUBMIT THEIR NORMAL RESUME?

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is one of the highest honors the Huckabee College of Architecture can bestow. The submission requirements are intended to be more focused and rigorous than standard resume or marketing materials. This is in keeping with the singular prestige of the award itself.

MAY A PERSON NOMINATE THEMSELVES FOR THIS AWARD?

Self-nominations are not prohibited, as long as all submission requirements are met.

HOW ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD SELECTED?

The selection of the honoree is made by a Jury appointed by the Design Leadership Alliance. The Jury is comprised of 3 to 5 individuals, at least one of whom must be a former recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus or Kleinschmidt Awards. Each year, the Jury is charged with reviewing submissions as received and, if merited, selecting honorees for the Distinguished Alumnus and Kleinschmidt Awards. The Jury's selections are forwarded to the DLA Dean's Circle for final acceptance.

WHAT IS THE SUBMISSION TIMELINE?

Calls for Nominations are typically distributed in May, with a submission deadline in August. See the individual Call for Nominations for exact dates in any given year.

WHEN IS THE SELECTION MADE AND THE AWARD PRESENTED?

The jury typically makes its selection in August or September. The honoree is notified as soon as possible thereafter. The Award is presented at the Texas Tech Huckabee College of Architecture Alumni Gathering in conjunction with the Texas Society of Architects Annual Conference in the fall.

MY QUESTION IS NOT LISTED HERE. HOW CAN I RECEIVE AN ANSWER?

Additional questions may be submitted by sending an email to David Messersmith at messer@uta.edu.