

CALL FOR
ENTRIES

2021
ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS




ACEC
Washington

Engineering Excellence Awards 2021

ACEC Washington

Engineering Excellence is an annual design competition that recognizes engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. For more than thirty years, ACEC Washington member firms have competed in the state competition and the finalists have gone on to compete against the finest examples of engineering excellence in the world.

Engineering Excellence 2021 offers all competition entrants an opportunity to be recognized regardless of the size of the firm or the size of the project. ACEC Washington's highly successful "Best in State" local-only competition track will once again parallel the traditional ACEC Engineering Excellence Program, or National Track. The Local Track competition is less costly and less time consuming to enter, with the panel and submission requirements reduced. A description of the submittal requirements for both programs is contained in this booklet.

NATIONAL AND BEST IN STATE COMPETITIONS

The two competition tracks will be judged separately, by different criteria. However, the same panel of judges will review submittals for each competition. The judging will take place virtually from December 9-16, 2020. Award winners will be announced in early 2021. National track finalists from ACEC Washington will move on to the national competition, which is judged in Washington, D.C. Each year, one project receives the "Grand Conceptor" Award. A potential 35 other projects receive either Grand Awards or Honor Awards. All finalists will receive national recognition at the Washington, D.C. gala event on April 27, 2021.

Entries in both tracks and ACEC finalists are rated on the basis of uniqueness and innovative applications, future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public, social, economic, and sustainable development considerations, complexity, and successful fulfillment of client/owner's needs, including schedule and budget. National Track designs are entered into one of 12 project categories: studies, research, and consulting; building/ technology systems; structural systems; surveying and mapping technology; environmental; water and storm water; water resources; transportation; special projects; small projects; energy; and industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities.

Both member and non-member engineering firm entries must be submitted to the ACEC Washington Engineering Excellence Awards Competition in order to be submitted to the ACEC national competition.

Each entry should be submitted to the ACEC Washington Member Organization in accordance with ACEC Washington's entry rules for judging in its own competition. See *ACEC Washington submission requirements on last page*.

ACEC Washington may submit ten entries from its own membership, plus one member entry for every five above ten entered on the state level. In addition, a Member Organization may submit any non-member entries judged to be legitimate candidates for entry in the national competition. Such non-member submittals will not be counted against the member submittal limitations outlined here.

Engineering or surveying projects that have won awards in state or national organizations' programs are encouraged to be entered.

GENERAL CRITERIA – NATIONAL TRACK

Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world. Research and Studies (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2020. Construction of projects (Categories B through L - with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2020.

Entries in the national competition may be placed in any one of the 12 categories. The entering firm must select the one category that is most appropriate. A project may be entered only once in any category. However, after a project entered in Category A has been constructed, it may be entered in a different category - B through L - in the year when eligible.

Entries will be uploaded to an online submission portal and must include the following: must consist of three components: Official electronic entry form; supplemental submission materials; photographic display panel (see "Preparing a National Entry", page 5). Non-compliance with the rules may disqualify an entry. Please read the requirements thoroughly.

The ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Committee reserves the right to determine the eligibility and category classification of all entries.

ELIGIBILITY

Any firm engaged in the private practice of consulting engineering or surveying is eligible to enter the awards program whether or not the firm is an ACEC or ACEC Washington member.

ACEC NATIONAL AWARDS

All submissions are considered National Recognition Award Winners. The panel of judges will select 36 awards at their discretion – 16 Grand and 20 Honor Awards. A Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the 16 Grand Award winners. The Grand Conceptor will be announced at the Gala as the top national winner selected by the judges, whose decisions on all awards are final. Awards will be presented to the clients/ owners and entering firms submitting the winning entries.

PUBLICITY

The public relations and marketing value of participation in the national EEA program is substantial. All national winners will be highlighted in ACEC's public relations program, which benefits all U.S. engineering firms. Working with participating firms and MOs, ACEC staff will contact local media to announce winners and their award. Through national and MO efforts, display panels can be exhibited in city administrative buildings, universities, shopping centers, and office buildings. These activities enhance direct business development benefits for both local and national award winners. Further benefits are gained through feature stories presented in firm brochures, newsletters, and other publications.

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NATIONAL JUDGING CRITERIA

Each entry will be evaluated based on the following five criteria, which are key elements of the project description text required in the envelope and notebook parts of the entry:

- Uniqueness and/or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
- Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public
- Social, Economic, and Sustainable Development Considerations
- Complexity
- Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs

If there are not enough entries to judge in the following categories, entries will be judged at-large or categories will be combined.

National finalists are judged on the basis of overall engineering excellence in each criteria. The judges may make at least one award in each of the categories having six or more entries and may, upon their discretion, make an award in a category having less than six entries. The number of winners per category may be based on the number of entries. Entries are judged on the basis of the work performed by the entering firm only and according to the rating guidelines listed.

BEST IN STATE JUDGING CRITERIA

The ACEC Washington Best In State projects will be judged according to the same national guidelines, but the criteria will not be weighted. The National Track will use the weighted scoring system outlined in the rating guidelines.

RATING GUIDELINE DEFINITIONS

Uniqueness and/or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques

Does the entry demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?

Does the entry represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials, or equipment?

Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public:

Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?

Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?

Social, Economic, and Sustainable Development Considerations:

Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?

Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic, or sustainable development benefits?

Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?

Complexity:

Did the entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?

Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements or similar elements present?

Did the entry require the use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?

Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs:

Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/ owner in the overall project development process?

Was it an economical and cost-effective solution?

How did the final cost relate to the original budget estimate?

How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?

Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?

RATING GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

20%: Uniqueness and/or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques

20%: Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public

20%: Social, Economic, and Sustainable Development Considerations

20%: Complexity

20%: Exceeding Client/Owner Needs

DESCRIPTION OF ACEC NATIONAL CATEGORIES

Category A: Studies, Research and Consulting:

Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents consisting of, but not limited to, the following types of projects:

- New products, materials and technologies
- Expert testimony
- Basic research and studies
- Computer/software technology
- Technical papers
- Public outreach/involvement
- Water conservation

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- Security plans
- Project feasibility studies/economic/risk
- Value Engineering

Category B: Building/Technology Systems

- Mechanical/electrical/plumbing
- Computer/technology
- Communications
- Acoustics
- Software systems
- Sustainability or carbon neutrality
- Efficiency certification standards, e.g. LEED
- Energy efficiency – new and retrofit
- Secure facilities (military, research, correctional)

Category C: Structural Systems

- Foundations
- Tunnels
- Buildings
- Seismic design
- Towers
- Bridges
- Stadiums

Category D: Surveying and Mapping Technology

- Geometrics, ALTA, land title and rights surveys
- Control, GPS, monitoring or construction surveying
- Survey mapping, GIS/LIS, photogrammetry

Category E: Environmental

- Hazardous waste
- Solid waste
- Restoration/reclamation/remediation
- Air quality
- Noise
- Recycling
- Waste pond management
- Carbon sequestration and trading
- Mitigation

Category F: Waste and Storm Water

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal

- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSOs
- Mine tailings
- Agricultural
- Storm water management
- Erosion control

Category G: Water Resources

- Hydraulics, hydrology
- Surface and groundwater supply development
- Treatment
- Transmission, distribution and storage
- Watershed management
- Water use reduction
- Flood risk management
- Climate adaptation
- Coastal and ecosystem restoration
- Locks/dams/water control structures
- Irrigation

Category H: Transportation

- Highways
- Rail
- Airports
- Marine/ports
- Public transit
- Intermodal facilities

Category I: Special Projects

- Safety and security
- Corrosion protection/cathodic protection
- Program and construction management
- Land development
- Trenchless technologies/Directional boring
- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering

Category J: Small Projects

Total project construction budget does not exceed \$2.5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under \$2.5 million are not limited to this category.

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Category K: Energy

- Transmission and distribution
- Power generation
- Renewable energy
- Cogeneration
- Energy storage technologies
- Energy usage reduction programs
- Demand side management

Category L: Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities

- Petrochemical
- Biotech
- Manufacturing
- Heavy industry
- Industrial waste
- Materials handling
- Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy

PREPARING A NATIONAL ENTRY

This section describes all required submission materials for entering the 2021 ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards competition. All materials must be submitted exactly as designated below.

If the submission does not meet the requirements listed, it may be disqualified. If any part of an entry does not meet the requirements listed, that portion of the entry may not be presented for judging.

No references to other awards permitted in your submitted materials.

In any given year, an entry may be submitted through only one MO. If a project was entered in more than one MO competition, it is the responsibility of the affected MOs to decide which one will enter the project in the national competition.

ACEC NATIONAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following three main components must be submitted with the national Engineering Excellence Awards competition entry:

- I. Official electronic entry
- II. Supplemental submission materials
- III. Photographic Display Panel

I. Official Electronic Entry

All project information shall be submitted electronically. Each document must be **uploaded separately through ACEC's Awards Submittal Portal**. The electronic entry must contain all of the following items:

A. Electronic Entry Form

Electronic Project Submission Form located on the ACEC website at URL (<https://www.eea.acec.org>). Once the entrant has completed the project submission form, the form can be printed out so it can be signed by all required parties. This form can then be uploaded as part of the electronic project submission.

NOTE: You must submit entry fee payment with the electronic Project Submission Form (\$1,200 for ACEC members; \$3,600 for non-ACEC members.) All payments must be made online. Refer to your MO for state competition fees.

Original completed entry form must be signed by the entrant and client/owner (senior executive/officials) stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2020.

The following project information must be uploaded individually and included with your Engineering Excellence Awards submittal.

B. Letter from Client/Owner (One Page Max)

Letter addressed to ACEC describing the relationship of the client/owner and the entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner needs. *Specifications:* PDF format.

C. Executive Summary (One Page Max)

Overview of the project. Describe the problem and solution; project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page. *Specifications:* 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; single spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font; PDF format.

D. Project Description (Six Pages Max)

Tell the story of the project. Address items 1-4 as listed below; project title, entry category, and page number must appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text, photos, graphs, or charts as needed. *Specifications:* 8.5" x 11"; 1" side margins; single-spaced text; 12 pt. minimum size font; PDF format.

Text must include the following:

- 1) **Role of entrant's firm** in the project.
- 2) **Role of other consultants** participating in the project.
- 3) **Entrants' contribution to the project:** A brief description of the entrant's contribution addressing each of the following Rating Guidelines (refer to "Rating Guideline Definitions" on page 3 for more information):
 - Uniqueness and/or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
 - Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public
 - Social, Economic, and Sustainable Development Considerations
 - Complexity
 - Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs

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Include total project budgeted cost, total project actual cost, entrant's portion of the budgeted cost, entrant's portion of the actual cost, scheduled and actual date of completion (as indicated on the Electronic Project Submission Form).

- 4) Summary - Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (word count between 100 - 500 words). Explain all factors that comprise the project's uniqueness and complexity such as innovative engineering, challenges faced, and overall social impact. **Note: This summary will provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project.**

E. Key Participants/Stakeholders

List the key participants on the project including the firm name, address, phone number, website, and email address of each participant. Include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects, and designers significantly involved in the project. *Specifications:* Excel file, 8.5" x 11" format.

F. Photographs/Graphics

Six different photos or graphics (one per page) with captions describing the subject matter (refer to the Photograph Guidelines box) Captions shall begin with: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. High resolution JPEG files; 300dpi.

G. Photographic Display Panel

Small-size copy of the photographic display panel. *Specifications:* JPEG; 300dpi.

H. Media List

Email addresses of local newspapers, TV, and radio stations and other outlets where your project can be highlighted. If the MO or the entrant intends to handle all local and national publicity for the project, include a statement to this effect. *Specifications:* Excel file; 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17".

I. Press Release (Two Pages Max)

Press release clearly and concisely describing the project and the entrant's participation, based on information presented in the project description. Also describe the value of the project to the community including information such as the number of people served, cost savings, etc. **Do not reference other awards the project has won.** *Specifications:* double-spaced; 8.5" x 11"; PDF format.

J. PowerPoint Presentation

PowerPoint file, containing 8 slides including a title slide with ACEC Logo, firm name, project name, project location: city and state, followed by 6 slides that include photos 1 through 6 (same photos from Item F), plus the last slide that contains the photographic display panel. The presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation. Do not include sound, transition effects, animation, preset timing, or slide show sequencing. A sample PowerPoint is downloadable from the ACEC website.

K. Supplemental Report (Category A Only)

Include a supplementary report containing the findings portrayed with text, graphs, or photos, as needed.

Note: This report is ONLY required for Category A submittals.

PHOTOGRAPH GUIDELINES

Because photographs will be projected on a large screen during the EEA Gala, it is very important to submit high-quality, high resolution images.

Three of the photographs must show the completed project and provide the highest level of visual impact for publicity. Three of the photographs must display the planning, startup, and/or construction phases of the project.

One enlarged, unmounted glossy photograph will be requested from each of the 24 national winners at a later time for ACEC's Engineering Excellence Awards display wall in Washington D.C. The photograph will be selected from those submitted with the entry.

III. Photographic Display Panel

Panel text and photos should demonstrate the challenges, solutions, innovation and unique aspects of key project elements. The panel should be prepared with high-quality photos and graphics with minimal text.

Photographic panel requirements:

- Panel Size:** 30" x 30" square, with a matte finish, laminated front and back as follows:
 - 1) Front lamination is 5 mil
 - 2) Back lamination is 5 mil
 - 3) Panel stock thickness before lamination: no more than 5-6 mil.
 - 4) Total panel (with lamination) thickness: 15-16 mil. **Note: Framed or mounted panels will NOT be accepted. Do NOT mount panel on foam-core board or any other solid surface**
- Velcro Attachments:** Four, 9-inch long strips of Velcro (the hook side only) must be placed vertically on the back of this panel only, near each corner of the panel.
- Photos/Graphics:** Maximum of 6 photos and/or graphics shall be used on the panel. Each image shall be a minimum of 7" x 5" or 35 square inches in area. A background photo is not considered a photograph.
- Text/Fonts:** Panel text may not exceed 250 words total, not including captions. Font sizes: 32 pt. minimum font for text or descriptions; 28 pt. minimum font for captions and graphics.
- Required Elements:** The front on the panel shall also include the ACEC and EEA logos (download from ACEC site), title and location of the project or study, client/owner's name and location, and entering firm's name and location (minimum 32 pt. font size).

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- F. **Corner Space:** Leave a 2” x 2” space in the upper right-hand corner of the panel that is free of text or images. Do not leave the “blank” space as a white square; the background scheme should continue, but will be partially covered by the review committee’s coding label.
- G. **Back of Panel Label:** Add a label to the back of the panel with the name of the entrant’s firm, the firm address, the project name, and the entry category.

SHIPPING GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL SUBMISSIONS

Photographic display panels must be rolled and shipped in mailing tubes. All materials, including the electronic submission must be received by **January 8, 2021**.

Ship photographic display panel to:

American Council of Engineering Companies
Attn: Daisy Nappier
1015 15th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005-1605

PREPARING A BEST IN STATE ENTRY

General Criteria – Best in State

An initial entry form must be completed and received in the ACEC Washington office by November 6, 2020. The final confirmation entry form, submission to the online portal, and a \$375 entry fee for members (\$1550 for non-members) must be received in the ACEC Washington office by December 4, 2020.

Entries in the local track competition must declare so on the initial entry form, but do not select a category.

Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world. Entries must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2020.

Submit all entry materials to the online submission portal (<https://eea.acec.org/washington>)

Please send payment to the following address:

ACEC Washington
1621 114th Ave. SE, Suite 115
Bellevue, WA 98004

Best in State Judging

Entries in the ACEC Washington Best In State competition will be judged and awards will be given for engineering excellence in each of the following criteria:

- Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
- Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public
- Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations
- Complexity
- Exceeding Client/Owner Needs

ACEC WASHINGTON SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following material describes the online submission and panel requirements for the ACEC Washington Best In State competition. Refer to the document and photograph guidelines on page 6 for submitted materials.

I. Official Electronic Entry

- ACEC Washington Best In State Competition Entry form signed by the engineer and the client/owner.
- An executive summary, not to exceed one page. (PDF format)
- A project description, not to exceed six pages, following the details as outlined in section D of the national submission requirements. .
- Up to six images** with captions describing the subject matter. High resolution JPEG files; 300dpi.

II. Panel Requirements

At this time, local entries will not be required to submit a physical panel. Instead, please submit a virtual version using the online submission portal. Winning firms may be asked to later submit a 20” x 20” unframed, mounted on foam core, corex or equivalent. The panel should contain the Name of the project, name of the firm and the name of the client/owner. As few as one image, photographic or otherwise.

III. Optional Elements

One-page letter from the owner describing the relationship with the entrant in the development of the project and in meeting/exceeding the client’s needs.



QUESTIONS?

For any questions concerning submission, please contact Claire Inslee, ACEC Washington.

E: cinslee@acec-wa.org
P: 425-453-6655