

Vernacular Architecture Forum Award for Advocacy

The VAF offers an Award for Advocacy to encourage citizen-based advocacy and to recognize exemplary efforts and achievements on behalf of our vernacular built heritage.

Criteria

The award honors individuals, organizations, or institutions for outstanding initiative, commitment, leadership, and action that foster the appreciation and protection of vernacular buildings and landscapes. The award may be made in recognition of a specific recent advocacy effort or on the basis of the nominee's long-term record of advocacy. The award may recognize a wide range of activities, including:

- Protection of vernacular heritage through historic districts, easement programs, or similar preservation initiatives.
- Advancement of preservation and awareness of vernacular buildings and landscapes through education, publications, media, technology, and/or public outreach.
- Lobbying for public policies supporting the preservation of vernacular buildings and landscapes at the local, regional, state/provincial, or national level.

The following are examples of attributes or accomplishments that should be highlighted:

- Tenacious advocacy and willingness to challenge authorities and decisions that may negatively impact vernacular heritage.
- Ability to organize individuals and groups to further specific goals.
- Hands-on protection and/or preservation of vernacular resources.
- Assumption of responsibility for any/all tasks.
- Advocacy on behalf of previously underrepresented communities or resource types.
- Cooperation with and outreach to other individuals, groups and the media.
- Creation of/participation in grass-roots groups, task forces and non-governmental organizations (NGO's).
- Planning and implementation of protection and/or preservation efforts.
- Foresight of threats and opportunities for protection.
- Thorough preparation prior to action with attention to detail.
- Number of years involved in advocacy efforts, demonstrating a solid commitment.

How to Submit a Nomination

Individuals, organizations, or institutions may be nominated by peers, colleagues, friends, or members of the public. Please consider the award criteria and determine whether the person or group you wish to nominate would be an appropriate recipient of the Award for Advocacy.

To nominate an individual, organization, or institution for the Award for Advocacy, please submit all information as follows:

- Full name and contact information of award candidate, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.
- Identify the advocacy accomplishments for which the candidate is nominated. Include specific details on how the award nominee displays commitment to the appreciation and protection of vernacular buildings and landscapes through advocacy, community leadership and/or direct action. Identify how the activities have advanced the preservation of vernacular buildings and landscapes as well as the impact the award candidate has had

- on the public appreciation for vernacular resources. Describe activities and/or programs including key dates and contacts/references with which the nominee is/was involved.
- Names, titles and contact information for two persons who can speak to the candidate's advocacy accomplishments.
- Attach at least two and up to ten digital photos of nominee(s) illustrating the individual or group nominated and representative project(s) and activities. Digital photos should be jpg files with dimensions no smaller than 640 x 480 pixels or larger than 1600 x 1200 pixels.
- For nominations of individuals, include professional and volunteer position(s) currently and/or formerly held by the award candidate that are relevant to the nomination.
- You may attach PDFs or links to news clips and other background materials pertaining to the award candidate. If only hard copy supporting materials are available, we will gladly receive such materials by mail, but we regret that we will be unable to return them.

The Vernacular Architecture Forum Award for Advocacy will be presented at the annual VAF conference.

Award nominations are accepted on a continuing basis throughout the year, but must be received by March 1 to be considered for announcement at the Spring conference. Nominations received after that date will not be considered for the same award year; they will instead be rolled over for consideration the following year.

When submitting your nomination, please include your name, address and e-mail address. Applications should be submitted via email to anthony_veerkamp@nthp.org with the subject line: VAF Advocacy Award nomination for (nominee's name).

For nomination questions, please contact VAF Preservation Officer Anthony Veerkamp at 415-947-0692, x 38228 or anthony_veerkamp@nthp.org.