



2024 AIA Rochester's Medal of Distinction – Call for Entries

Sponsored by: AIA Rochester

AIA Rochester is pleased to solicit nominations for its annual Medal of Distinction. This award is the highest honor that AIA Rochester can confer on one of its members. AIA Rochester recognizes that both the profession and the Chapter were built and continue to prosper only because of the unselfish efforts of architects who have contributed their time and talent so that we all might benefit. Each year, the AIA Rochester Chapter may select an individual to be so honored, but an honoree each year is not required.

Established in 2003, this award was put in place to honor architects who have had substantial influence in shaping and advancing architecture in the greater Rochester, New York area. The Medal of Distinction is meant to celebrate a lifetime of achievement in architecture including service to the profession, the chapter, and the community. Nominees shall be evaluated based on the level of impact that they have imparted on the architectural community through the facets of contribution to the profession, commitment to the chapter, and advocacy within the community.

Eligibility

All registered architects, who are current members of the AIA Rochester Chapter, are eligible to be selected for this honor. The recipient must have, at some point in their career, been involved in the active practice of the profession of architecture through private, public or educational means. Members and Emeritus Members of the Chapter are eligible to submit for this award.

To be considered, the individual must have made substantial contributions to the Chapter, profession, or community over a continuous ten-year period at a minimum. The service shall have been given freely and be considered “above and beyond” that which is normally expected of a professional. The ultimate goal of this service shall have been for the betterment of the community or profession as a whole.

Submission and Consideration

Applications must be received by no later than the date indicated on the nomination form. This is intended to give the Jury adequate time to fully research and consider all nominees. Annually, individuals will be considered after the Chapter receives a written submission from any Member-in-good standing of the AIA Rochester Chapter. Individuals may self-nominate. In addition, the current Chapter President and Board of Directors may also present individuals for the Jury's consideration and the Jury may consider any other eligible individual deemed worthy of the award. Nominees can be considered for up to three years after the nomination is first received. If not awarded, they may resubmit after a two-year waiting period.

Jury

The Chapter shall select a five-member Jury which shall meet to consider candidates for this award. The Jury shall be comprised of the following:

- Current Chapter President
- One Past Chapter President
- One Current Chapter Member
- One Current Chapter Associate Member
- Current Executive Director of the Chapter

The jury shall meet as required to consider all candidates beginning a minimum of forty-five (45) calendar days before the scheduled presentation of the award. In the interest of continuity, the Jury Chair should attempt to retain one member from the previous year's jury. The Jury may select one individual by a clear majority of the entire Jury. The Jury Chairperson will be selected by the President from among the appointed members of the Jury. At the completion of the Jury's deliberations, the Jury Chairperson will report the results to the Chapter President and the Executive Director, who will in turn present to the Board of Directors for their action. The Board of Directors must ratify the selection of the Jury.

Notification of Award

The honoree will be notified by the AIA Rochester Chapter President and invited to attend the AIA Rochester Chapter Annual Meeting as our guest, where they will be publicly recognized and receive their award.

Publication

The award recipient and their nominator, after notification, will be asked to assemble a document presenting the achievements of the recipient. The format will be at the discretion of the recipient and should be available for use at the AIA Rochester Chapter Annual Meeting.

The name of the recipient will be published in the AIA Rochester Chapter Newsletter and in any other publication deemed to be appropriate. A press release will be sent to the Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester Business Journal, AIA New York State and AIA National. This shall occur in advance of the presentation to act as notification to the membership and as an invitation to attend the presentation.

Award

As a symbol of this recognition by the AIA Rochester Chapter, the recipient will receive a specially designed medal and a certificate, signed by the Chapter President and Executive Director, to commemorate this award.

Past Recipients

- 2003 Myron E. Starks, AIA
- 2004 John A. Fayko, AIA
- 2005 Bob Macon, AIA
- 2006 Michael Doran, AIA

2007 Stuart B. Chait Sr., AIA
2008 No Honoree
2009 Ann Chaintreuil, FAIA
2010 Frank Grosso, AIA
2011 G. William LaDue, AIA
2012 Richard M. Pospula, AIA
2013 James B. Durfee, AIA
2014 Roger Brown, AIA
2015 Jules Chiavaroli, AIA
2016 Thomas Zimmerman, FAIA
2017 Robert Healy, AIA
2018 Joseph Istvan, AIA
2019 Jennifer Takatch, AIA
2020 Peter Wehner, AIA
2021 Bud Knapp, AIA
2022 David Beinetti, AIA
2023 Rick Hauser, AIA

Questions may be directed to AIA Rochester Executive Director Michelle Murnane, AIA at mmurnane@aiaroc.org.