



Excellence in Universal Design
and Accessibility

2014
Nomination
Package



Overview

Presented and administered by the City of Winnipeg's Access Advisory Committee, the Access Awards raise awareness regarding the importance of accessibility and universal design in the City of Winnipeg. Universal design makes life more equitable, safe, comfortable and affordable for everyone, including people with disabilities. These annual awards honour projects that incorporate physical access, communication access and/or way-finding.

Building upon our successes and work in promoting universal design principles and accessibility issues with the stakeholders of built spaces in Winnipeg, and in celebration of the Access Advisory Committee's 20th year, the Access Awards have undergone a complete make over.

Formerly known as the City Accessibility Awards, the 2014 Access Awards now have a different category structure and will be announced and presented at a celebratory event, which will include a retrospective of all past recipients over the last eleven years.

This new gala evening will be held Wednesday, September 10th, 2014, where we will announce the winner of the City's Award of Excellence in Design and all the 2014 nominees and the category winners in an Academy Awards-style programme.

This event is an excellent opportunity to network with other architects, designers, project owners, students and other professionals in the field. The organizing committee has selected the theme "Celebrating our successes and the increased use of universal design over the years", which will be highlighted through a comedic retrospective showing how we have changed our "Best Practices" over the years.





Eligible Project

Projects may include features of private homes, architectural designs, interior designs, landscapes, urban designs or any other built environment.

- May be designated private or public
- May be commercial, residential, recreational or institutional
- May be newly constructed or renovated, but the project must be completed
- Must be located in Winnipeg within defined city limits
- Must be a built environment

Overall Criteria

Nominations will be juried by a sub-committee of the Access Advisory Committee, who will determine the award winning project(s) based on:

- Exceeding Manitoba Building Code standards for accessibility
- Integrating accessibility and Universal Design features gracefully and seamlessly within the overall project design
- Achieving an inclusive experience for users
- Improving the quality of people's lives in Winnipeg
- Providing an appropriate and aesthetic experience



Award Categories

Accessibility Award for Physical Access in

- a) New Construction
- b) Renovation*

Physical access awards will be given to constructed projects that demonstrate excellence in addressing the needs of people with a broad range of mobility and physical impairments, paying attention to a variety of details including: parking, approach & exterior entrance, reception area, way-finding & signage, washrooms, ramps, elevator/lift and egress.

Accessibility Award for Sensory Access in

- a) New Construction
- b) Renovation*

Sensory access awards will be given to constructed projects that demonstrate excellence in serving the needs of people with sensory impairments, integrating different types of accommodations such as technological devices, independent movement through property and way-finding (signage and intuitive movement).

Accessibility Award for a Small Project

This award recognizes humble but excellent work, with the added criteria of extremely limited budgets and/or modest scope.

2014 Leadership Award for the Advancement of Accessible Environmental Design

For individuals or organizations that have shown leadership and have advanced the art of accessible environmental design.

2014 Award of Excellence in Accessible Environmental Design

For the best in show; reserved for the project that demonstrates excellence across the spectrum of accessible design considerations.

* New construction is differentiated from renovations because there are often significant challenges meeting current standards with renovations, particularly in heritage structures.



How to nominate a project

- Anyone can nominate a project
- Only one project is allowed per nomination form
- No limit to the number of nominations submitted

Nominee Submission

- Must submit completed nomination form
(Nomination forms can be downloaded at: www.aacwinnipeg.mb.ca)

By mail or in person to:

Access Advisory Committee
Council Building, Lower Level, 510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1B9

Electronically to: csobkowicz@winnipeg.ca

- May submit an 8" x 10" photograph of the nominated property and other supporting documents such as drawings, perspectives, digital images or files
- Must consent to a site visit and use of photographs for media and/or public relations

Selection Process

- Nominees will be contacted to confirm their participation in the competition
(Winners will not be notified in advance)
- Selection committee will review all submissions
- Site visits will be conducted for those short-listed
- Properties will be judged as built

Recognition

- Awards recipients will be announced at the annual celebratory event, hosted by the City of Winnipeg Access Advisory Committee.
- Awards are presented to the property nominated and the designer. Recipients will also be recognized on the AAC web site.
- A press release, with photographs of the recipients, will be distributed to local media and appropriate professional organizations and stakeholder groups.



Principles of Universal Design

1. **Equitable Use** - The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
2. **Flexibility in Use** - The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. **Simple and Intuitive Use** - The design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
4. **Perceptible Information** - The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
5. **Tolerance for Error** - The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort** - The design can be used efficiently and comfortably with a minimum of fatigue.
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use** - Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulation and use, regardless of user's body position, size, posture or mobility.

Source: NC State University, The Center for Universal Design