



Excellence in Universal Design
and Accessibility

2015 Nomination Package

Presented by the City of Winnipeg's Access Advisory Committee



Overview

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, sensory, and intuitive wayfinding access.

The Access Awards celebrate our successes and work in promoting universal design principles and accessibility issues with the stakeholders of built spaces in Winnipeg, over the past twenty one years through the Access Advisory Committee.

The 2015 Access Awards will be announced and presented at a celebratory event, which will include a retrospective of all past recipients over the last 12 years.

This gala evening will be held the first week of October, where we will announce the winner of the City's Award of Excellence in Design and all the 2015 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.

Last year, our premiere event was sold out!





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. Award winning project(s) will:

- Exceed Manitoba Building Code standards for accessibility
- Place people at the heart of the design process
- Acknowledge diversity, differences
- Foster Inclusivity and accessibility for all and will be designed to accommodate changing needs
- Provide an enjoyable experience
- Undertake appropriate consultation
- Integrate accessibility and Universal Design features gracefully and seamlessly within the overall project design
- Improve the quality of people's lives in Winnipeg

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, 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. Specific features in the sensory category might include safe and intuitive wayfinding, audible and visual alarms, lighting and glare control, creative use of contrast, colour, acoustics and textures to add clarity and interest for people with sensory impairments.

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



Award Categories

(continued)

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.

Community Recognition Award

This award may be presented, at the discretion of the awards jury, to an individual, group, or organization in recognition of a community member's or organization's grass-roots efforts to include accessible design within a built space.

Jury Awards

2015 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.

2015 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.



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

- Must submit digital images 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

- Nominee finalists 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 by the awards jury 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 City of Winnipeg and AAC websites.
- 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