



*Call for
Entries*

2020 PROGRAM GUIDELINES



The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) invites you to participate in its 53rd annual Engineering Excellence Awards competition. The annual EEA program celebrates, with pride and elegance, the most outstanding project achievements of the engineering profession.

THE PROGRAM

The goal of the program is to convey to the engineering and construction industry, government officials and the general public the contributions that consulting engineering firms make to society and to their local communities through exceptional design. In addition, member firms have an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of enlightened clients and to recognize individuals who have provided the innovative thinking and leadership that make a project successful. An ancillary but important benefit to the award winners is the considerable publicity they garner within the engineering community and the general media.

ELIGIBILITY

Any private sector engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the awards program, whether or not the firm is a member of ACEC New York.

TWO-STEP ENTRY PROCESS

1: PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

Projects entered into 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, 2017 and October 31, 2019. Construction of projects (Categories B-L, with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2017 and October 31, 2019. Firms may submit up to two (2) projects per category. The preliminary entry form and entry fee of \$375 (\$1,250 for non-members) per project is due by July 26, 2019. An additional \$100 fee will be assessed for entries submitted after July 26; no entries will be accepted after August 2. Upon review by ACEC New York staff, firms with projects being advanced to the finals will be emailed a final entry form and submission instructions. If you would like other firms to be recognized on your award as part of the project team, please indicate this on your form.

ACEC New York



2: FINAL SUBMISSION*

Electronic File Submissions; please label all files accordingly. The final submission is due September 20, 2019. Information will be sent on August 19, 2019. Firms will be required to electronically submit the following:

- A. Final Entry Form/checklist
- B. Client Endorsement/Release Letter
- C. Project Description, 1500 words
- D. Executive Summary, 500 words
- E. Entry panel and 5 other project images (Image 1, Caption, Image 2, Caption, etc.) in standard PowerPoint
- F. Final entry fee of \$400 (\$600 for non-members)
- G. (Category A projects only): an electronic copy of the study must accompany Entries
- H. Panel Requirements for Electronic File: Each project requires a file in a separate folder or on a separate CD Rom/flash drive for a 30x30 Panel illustrating the project.

*Reminder: we will require firms to submit final entry materials electronically. Please make sure to label the material clearly. **Detailed instructions will be issued to the firms with the final entry form.**

***Final Entries may be submitted after September 20 and through September 27, but are subject to a \$100 late processing fee.**

CATEGORIES OF ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE*

Category A: *Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services*

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

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

Category F: *Waste and Storm Water*

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- Mine tailings
- Storm water management
- CSO's
- Agricultural
- Erosion control

Category G: *Water Resources*

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

Category H: *Transportation*

- Highways
- Airports
- Public transit
- Rail
- Marine/ports
- 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 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
- Manufacturing
- Industrial waste
- Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy
- Biotech
- Heavy industry
- Materials handling

*Categories cannot be changed without notifying ACEC New York prior to the Final submission.



JUDGING PROCESS

A distinguished panel of judges – including military and/or government officials, presidents of related organizations, members of the engineering press and educators – is selected from the professional engineering community and construction industry. These judges will assess each project based on the criteria specified in the application. The judges' names are kept confidential until after the judging.

Licensed design professional experienced in the particular area of engineering (excluding entrants), act as moderators and present the projects to the Judges. In advance of the judging, the Moderator receives copies of the entrant's written and visual materials. Entrants are advised that the strongest entries are the ones in which the text and the panel work together to describe and illustrate the project. The Moderators use the description, panel and photographs during their presentation, and can answer questions posed by the judges solely based on the material submitted.

In this competition, each project is judged against itself and not against all entries within a given category. After the entry has been presented, each judge is asked to vote on a scale of 1-10 using the criteria listed below:



RATING GUIDELINES DEFINITIONS

All items are weighted equally.

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 Design 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 goal?

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 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?





AWARD NOTIFICATION and NATIONAL COMPETITION

After the judging, ACEC New York will issue formal award letters to each entrant. ACEC New York has four levels of awards and they are in descending order: ❶ Diamond ❷ Platinum ❸ Gold and ❹ Silver.

Top-rated projects in each category will be advanced to the national competition. If you are a national finalist, it will be noted in your ACEC New York award notification letter and you will have the opportunity to submit your project to ACEC. **Note: the submission and entry fee for ACEC National's EEA is the sole responsibility of the Member Firm. If you do not win a Diamond Award, you are NOT eligible for the National competition.** The ACEC National Awards Gala will be held on April 28, 2020 in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the ACEC Spring Conference. If you decide not to enter the national competition, please inform the ACEC New York office.

EMPIRE AWARD

Announced at the gala event, the Empire Award is presented to the highest-rated project in New York State based on contributions to the economic health of an area, sustainability innovation and creativity. All eligible firms should be prepared to accept this award.



AWARDS AND PLAQUES

As part of the entry fee, ACEC New York will provide one (1) firm* and one (1) client award/plaque for each project. If member firms are interested in purchasing additional firm and/or client awards, this can be arranged through ACEC New York. An order form will be sent to each firm in November. *Note: for J/V/collaborative projects – only one firm plaque is included per entry.*

AWARDS GALA

Awards will be presented at a black-tie awards gala at the Midtown Hilton in NYC on **April 4, 2020**. Diamond awards will be presented live on stage to the winner and the client. Platinum, Gold and Silver winners will be recognized in a video presentation. All EEA 2020 entry panels will be on display during the cocktail reception.

PUBLICITY

The public relations and marketing value is considerable for both the local and national award winners. ACEC New York will issue a press release after the gala event. Member firms are asked to take advantage of the recognition by issuing their own press releases and related marketing materials in advance of the gala event. We also recommend providing a marketing contact to facilitate communication on public relations with our office. **Please note: in your PR outreach, this program should be referred to as the ACEC New York Engineering Excellence, not to be confused with the ACEC Engineering Excellence, which is a separate program and event.**



DATES TO REMEMBER

Preliminary Application Forms due

- July 26, 2019 (late deadline August 2)

Final Application Form and Instructions issued to Members

- August 19, 2019

Final Entries and Panel File due

- September 20, 2019 (late deadline Sept. 27)

Engineering Excellence Judging

- October 30, 2019

ACEC New York Awards Gala, NYC

- April 4, 2020

ACEC Awards Gala, Washington, D.C.

- April 28, 2020

PRINTED PANELS

Panels will be printed by ACEC New York for the gala. Firms who wish to keep their panels must take them from the Awards Gala; otherwise, they will be discarded.