



2014 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year since 1984, the Board of Directors of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) recognizes the commitment and work of neighborhoods in awarding the “Neighborhood of the Year” in three categories. A Grand Prize winner is then selected from the winner from each category. The 2014 award winners are:

Neighborhood of the Year Grand Prize Winner

Hawthorne Center – Indianapolis, Indiana Project: Near West Collaborative Clean-Up

Indianapolis’ Near West Collaborative is the community-organizing arm of four neighborhoods. One of their largest objectives was a clean-up that hosted 400 volunteers and 200 residents. Their effort, which is a part of the Great Indy Clean-Up, provided four neighborhoods in and around the Hawthorne Center the opportunity to clean up 15 tons of trash, paint fire hydrants and plant 50 trees.



Physical Revitalization – Single Neighborhood

1st Place

South Shore Neighborhood – Chicago, Illinois Project: We Mean Green Neighborhood Peace Garden

A positive loitering campaign initiated by residents of Chicago’s South Shore neighborhood is bringing peace and civility to a blighted intersection through a very positive outdoor activity. The We Mean Green Neighborhood Peace Garden and The Hospitality Garden are creating a peaceful, artful incentive to revitalizing a once-vibrant street.



2nd Place

New Tacoma Neighborhood Council – Tacoma, Washington Project: North Gateway Tacoma Theatre District

The Theater District is a dynamic mixed-use urban neighborhood in Tacoma, Washington. Committed neighbors have transformed a neglected major intersection into a community-based interactive outdoor art space and urban green gathering place.



3rd Place

South Hemphill Heights – Fort Worth, Texas Project: Lowden Tunnel Mural

South Hemphill Heights initiated the Lowden Tunnel Mural project in April 2013. The primary purpose of the project was to combat graffiti; create a safe pedestrian / bike trail extension through the Lowden Street Tunnel; as well as improve the appearance of the neighborhood. The project also helped foster neighborliness by working together.



Social Revitalization and Multi-Neighborhood Partnership Winners on Next Page

Social Revitalization - Single Neighborhood

1st Place

Milpas Community Association – Santa Barbara, California

Project: The Taste of Milpas

The Milpas Community Association produced the first-ever Taste of Milpas in 2013 as a way to introduce people to their wonderful restaurants, bring people to their community and raise funds for the group's annual Holiday Parade, while also supporting local area non-profit organizations that work with youth.



2nd Place

Parkwood Neighborhood – Shoreline, Washington

Project: Creating a Neighborhood Association Dream Team

In less than one year, Parkwood launched a successful neighborhood association representing 3000 residents from diverse backgrounds, and formed a leadership "Dream Team." The team shares its experiences so others in the community can learn from their successes and challenges.

3rd Place

Windom Community Council – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Project: Tots Rock

Tots Rock is a dance party for children, ages 6 months to 9 years of age. Hosted by the Windom Community Council and Minneapolis' Parks and Recreation Board, the event builds a sense of community for families in the neighborhood with young children while introducing residents to local resources and businesses.



Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships

1st Place

Hawthorne Center – Indianapolis, Indiana

Project: Near West Collaborative Clean-Up

Indianapolis' Near West Collaborative is the community-organizing arm of four neighborhoods. One of their largest objectives was a clean-up that hosted 400 volunteers and 200 residents. Their effort, which is a part of the Great Indy Clean-Up, provided four neighborhoods in and around the Hawthorne Center the opportunity to clean up 15 tons of trash, paint fire hydrants and plant 50 trees.



2nd Place

Fairmount Neighborhood – Fort Worth, Texas

Project: Fairmount Fosters Successful Schools

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association got more involved with neighborhood schools in 2013. Projects with the schools included landscaping a 100-year old elementary school, raising funds, contributing to newly-formed PTSA, luncheons for teachers, volunteering to help students read and mentoring students.



3rd Place

Rose Park Neighborhood – Long Beach, California

Project: Re-Envisioning East 7th Street

Working to improve the East 7th Street corridor, city officials need an identity they could embrace. Four neighborhoods and stakeholders reached out to design experts and create a 1.6-mile gallery of possible improvements.

