



2016 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 multiple categories. A Grand Prize winner is then selected from the winner from each category. The 2016 award winners are:

Neighborhood of the Year Grand Prize Winner

Fletcher Place Neighborhood – Indianapolis

Project: Virginia Avenue Folk Fest

NUSA named the Fletcher Place Neighborhood Association of Indianapolis the 2016 Grand Prize winner of the NOTY Awards during its 41st annual conference. Finishing first in the Social Revitalization category, the inaugural Virginia Avenue Folk Fest featured 70 live acts on 9 stages and welcomed 10,000+ to the neighborhood. The festival introduced people to Americana, Bluegrass and Folk music, while also promoting local businesses and raising funds for Trusted Mentors, a non-profit.



Physical Revitalization / Beautification

1st Place

Historic Kenwood Neighborhood – St. Petersburg, Fla.

Project: Historic Kenwood Partnership Program

The historic Kenwood Partnership Program partnered neighborhood and local volunteers in this community with physically- and/or financially-challenged homeowners to make much-needed exterior home repairs and yard clean-ups.



2nd Place

Gifford Park Neighborhood – Omaha, Neb.

Project: Adventure Playground Tree House Project

The Adventure Playground Tree House Project involved building a large tree house around two large Catalpa trees as part of the neighborhood’s Adventure Playground program. With the help of adults, youth conceived, planned and built the tree houses.



3rd Place

Sylvan Old Auburn Road Neighborhood – Citrus Heights, Calif.

Project: From Labor to Legacy

The Sylvan Old Auburn Road neighborhood partnered with the local park district to involve the community and develop a new nature preserve park. SOAR sponsored with cash and volunteer hours, and the neighborhood received signage in the park in return



Finalist

Glenview-Edgewood Manor Area – Memphis, Tenn.

Project: Arboretum in Glenview Park

This project features the building and maintenance of the arboretum in Glenview Park. This ongoing project includes neighborhood leaders, park services, the state’s Urban Forestry and many volunteers.



Social Revitalization – Neighborliness



1st Place

Fletcher Place Neighborhood – Indianapolis

Project: Virginia Avenue Folk Fest

The Fletcher Place Neighborhood produced the inaugural Virginia Avenue Folk Fest featured 70 live acts on 9 stages and welcomed 10,000+ visitors. The festival introduced people to Americana, Bluegrass and Folk music, while also promoting local businesses and raising funds for Trusted Mentors, a non-profit.

2nd Place

Gibraltar Neighborhood – Council Bluffs, Iowa

Project: Neighborhood Identification, Pride & Engagement

The Gibraltar Neighborhood set out to improve neighborhood pride, awareness of boundaries and engagement, both with each other and community projects. The biggest part of this initiative was printing and installation of neighborhood identification banners.



3rd Place

Hilltop Business Association – Tacoma, Wash.

Project: Hilltop Street Fair

This street fair began two years as a celebration of diversity, energy and tenacity of the residents and businesses of the beleaguered Hilltop area of Tacoma. The community has overcome a long period of crime and is now on the upswing.

Finalist

Joslyn Castle Neighborhood – Omaha, Neb.

Project: Clarkson Park Pocket Stage Production

This program was implemented when the neighborhood built a pocket stage to host monthly events to draw more neighbors to the park, increase participation in the neighborhood and create a better sense of community and belonging.



Finalist

Near Eastside Neighborhood – Fort Worth, Texas

Project: Women's Outreach Initiative

The rape of a homeless woman inspired a building owner to organize a meeting of more than 40 groups to create a solution. Together, they created the Women's Outreach Initiative and over the past year have initiated several safety solutions.

Finalist

Oakhurst Neighborhood – Fort Worth, Texas

Project: Welcome Committee

The neighborhood association's welcome committee had done outstanding, innovative work in welcoming large numbers of new residents with visit and homemade treats, produced the Newcomers Dinner and put on "Popsicles in the Park" for children.

