

NEIGHBORHOODS, USA

2018 Awards Competition



NUSA Award Categories

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is pleased to announce the opening of its annual 2018 awards competition. NUSA presents awards in the following categories:

- Neighborhood of the Year
- Best Neighborhood Program
- Neighborhood Newsletters
- Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods

Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Award

2018 marks the 34th year that NUSA will recognize the outstanding work of neighborhood organizations across the United States for their work towards improving the quality of life in their communities. Did your organization complete a neighborhood improvement project or activity in 2017? If so, you are invited to enter the 2018 Neighborhood of the Year Award competition to bring national attention to the project that made your neighborhood a better place.



Previous national finalist projects include picnics, ice cream socials, and porch parties to bring neighbors together; neighborhood watch programs; neighborhood park revitalization; home improvements; neighborhood plan development; and a senior health fair. For other examples visit <http://www.nusa.org/nusa-awards/neighborhood-of-the-year>.

Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) awards are given in 3 categories:

1 Physical Revitalization/ Beautification – Single Neighborhood

Projects that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces, business district enhancements.

2 Social Revitalization/ Neighborliness – Single Neighborhood

Projects focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together like an ice cream social, holiday celebration or festival.

3 Multi Neighborhood Partnerships

Projects that are jointly produced by at least two neighborhoods or community organizations in a partnership effort, addressing either physical or social concerns.

A first, second and third place designation will be awarded in each of the NOTY categories. The three entries receiving first place designation in their respective categories, will then be evaluated together to determine the 2018 Neighborhood of the Year Grand Prize winner.



NUSA Awards

Judging for the NOTY Award

Each Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) application received will be evaluated by a panel of national neighborhood leaders on 9 criteria:

- **Self Help/Financial Capability (0-20 points)**

The extent of self-help is evident with minimal reliance on outside funding sources; the budget was well documented and realistic.

- **Grassroots Involvement (0-20 points)**

The project/activity included significant neighborhood and/or business involvement and cooperation; diversity of participants.

- **Innovativeness (0-10 points)**

The project/activity was a creative and unique way to address the neighborhood(s) issue.

- **Community Benefit (0-10 points)**

The project/activity benefited the neighborhood as a whole and addressed a need; it improved the health, safety and/or appearance of the neighborhood.

- **Sustainability (0-10 points)**

The project/activity illustrated opportunities for self-sufficiency; project/activity included a low maintenance design and an ongoing maintenance plan.

- **Leadership Development (0-10 points)**

The project/activity provided opportunities for volunteers to take on leadership roles and develop new skills.

- **Partnership Building (0-10 points)**

The project/activity created partnerships with public and/or private entities; and/or with other neighborhoods and community based groups.

- **Volunteerism (0-5 points)**

Extent of volunteer contributions to the project.

- **Replicable (0-5 points)**

The potential for the project/activity to be replicated in other neighborhoods.

All NOTY entries being designated as “Finalist” will be invited to make a presentation to a judging panel during the 2018 Neighborhoods, USA Conference being held in Birmingham, AL from May 23-26, 2018. Costs associated with attending the conference and making a presentation are the responsibility of each organization designated as a “Finalist”.

NUSA Awards

Submitting the NOTY Award Application

Any neighborhood association, homeowners association or business association is eligible to submit an application in the Neighborhood of the Year award category if said organization has developed and completed a project/ activity that has benefited their neighborhood in 2017. Entries that have been previously considered for this award are ineligible.

In order to help better understand your application, please answer the following questions using no more than five (5) double sided 8 ½” x 11” pages.

I. Tell Us About Your Neighborhood and Neighborhood Organization:

- Briefly describe your neighborhood.
- When was your neighborhood association formed? How many people live in your neighborhood? How many people, on a regular basis, are involved in neighborhood meetings?

II. Information about the Nominated Project/Activity:

- Describe your project/activity. Identify when it started, who initiated it and what you were trying to accomplish.
- What prompted your organization to develop this project/activity? Please describe circumstances and/or situations that made this a priority for your neighborhood residents.
- List the six (6) critical steps/tasks your group took to develop/implement this project/activity? Describe the role and level of involvement of neighborhood residents in each of the steps.
- Why do you think this project was successful? Describe why it was beneficial, how it changed the neighborhood, and any unexpected surprises resulting from the project/activity.
- If this project involved other partners, who were involved, what role did they play, and how critical were they to the success of the project/activity?
- If this project/activity was going to be replicated by other neighborhoods, what four pieces of advice and/or lessons would you give to them?

III. Please attach the following:

- A budget showing income and expenses related to the project/activity including, but not limited to: donations, grants, in-kind support, and volunteer hours committed.
- Up to six (6) additional items that you feel will help the judges have a better understanding of your project/activity.

IV. Applications MUST be submitted using the following guidelines:

- Submissions must be on 8 ½” x 11” white paper.
- Please DO NOT staple your application together. Binder clips are acceptable.

V. Application Submission:

Mail your original application plus two (2) copies and a file copy on disk, postmarked **no later than February 16, 2018**, to Neighborhoods, USA/ 2018 NUSA Awards/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743

Each application must include, as a cover sheet, pages 8 and 9 of this awards information packet.

VI. Award Entry Fee:

There is an award entry fee of \$65 for the Neighborhood of the Year Award. Payments can be mailed or paid electronically. For electronic payments via PayPal visit <http://www.nusa.org/nusa-awards/award-application>. Payments can be mailed, payable to Neighborhoods, USA/ 2018 NUSA Awards/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743.

NUSA Awards

Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) Award

The Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) award recognizes the outstanding work of governmental entities, businesses or corporations in the United States that work to improve the quality of life in their communities and neighborhoods.

Did your organization complete a neighborhood improvement program or activity in 2017? If so, you are invited to enter the BNP Award competition to bring national attention to the program that made your community a better place to live.

Previous national finalist programs include neighborhood reinvestment projects, street tree subsidy programs, community university, crime watch programs, early childhood education programs, graffiti abatement programs, neighborhood beautification/art programs, and community engagement programs. Past BNP recipients can be viewed at: <http://www.nusa.org/nusa-awards/best-neighborhood-program>.

BNP awards are given in two categories:

1 Physical Revitalization/Beautification

Programs that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces, and business district enhancements.

2 Social Revitalization/Neighborliness

Programs focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together on programs like an ice cream social, holiday celebration or festival.

Judging for the BNP Award

All Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) applications will be reviewed by a panel of national neighborhood leaders, who will select finalists in each award category. All BNP entries being designated as "Finalist" will be invited to make a presentation to a judging panel during the 2018 Neighborhoods, USA Conference being held in Birmingham, AL from May 23-26, 2018. Costs associated with attending the conference and making a presentation are the responsibility of each organization designated as a "Finalist."

Submitting the BNP Award Application

Any governmental entity, business or corporation that has developed and completed a program in 2016 is eligible to submit an application. Entries that have been previously considered for this award are ineligible.

- I. **Information about the Nominated Program/Activity (information must not be more than five (5) double sided 8½" x 11" pages):**
 - Describe your program/activity. Identify when it started, who initiated it and what you were trying to accomplish.
 - What prompted your organization to develop this program/activity? Please describe circumstances and/or situations that made this a priority for your neighborhood residents.
 - Why do you think this program was successful? Describe why it was beneficial, how it changed the neighborhood, and any unexpected surprises resulting from the program/activity.

NUSA Awards

Submitting the BNP Award Application - continued

- I.
 - How has your program made a difference in the community? What benchmarks were used to measure success?
 - If this program/activity was going to be replicated by others, is there documentation that another group could obtain to design a similar type program?
- II. **Please attach the following:**
 - A budget showing income and expenses related to the program/activity including, but not limited to: donations, grants, in-kind support, and volunteer hours committed.
 - Up to six (6) additional items that you feel will help the judges have a better understanding of your program/activity.
- III. **Applications MUST be submitted using the following guidelines:**
 - Submissions must be on 8 ½" x 11" white paper.
 - Please DO NOT staple your application together. Binder clips are acceptable.

IV. **Application Submission:**

Mail your original application plus two (2) copies and a file copy on disk, postmarked no later than February 16, 2018, to Neighborhoods, USA/ 2018 NUSA Awards/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743.

Each application must include, as a cover sheet, pages 8 and 9 of this awards information packet.

V. **Award Entry Fee:**

There is an award entry fee of \$100 for the Best Neighborhood Program Award. Payments can be mailed or paid electronically. For electronic payments via PayPal visit <http://www.nusa.org/nusa-awards/award-application>. Payments can be mailed, payable to Neighborhoods, USA/ 2018 NUSA Awards/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743.

Neighborhood Newsletter Competition (NNC)

Community newsletters are an effective communication tool to share news about your city, community and neighborhood. A well designed newsletter can spark an interest in neighborhood involvement, increase neighborhood association membership and spur volunteerism. The Neighborhood Newsletter Competition rewards excellence in community newsletters and is given in two categories/subcategories:

1 Print Format Newsletters

2 Electronic Format Newsletters

Past Neighborhood Newsletter Competition award recipients can be viewed at: <http://www.nusa.org/nusa-awards/neighborhood-newsletter-competition>. A first, second, and third place award will be given in each category/subcategory.

NUSA Awards

Judging for the NNC

Each Neighborhood Newsletter Competition (NNC) application received will be evaluated by a panel of national neighborhood leaders on five (5) criteria: Branding (0-10 points), Aesthetics & Design (0-20 points), Technical Layout (0-20 points), Content-Informational (0-25 points), and Content-Outreach & Involvement (0-25 points). It is encouraged, but not required, for entrants in the Neighborhood Newsletter Competition to be in attendance at the annual conference to receive their award if chosen.

Submitting the NNC Application

Only electronic and print newsletters published during 2017 are eligible for submission.

- I. **In order to help better understand your application, please answer the following questions using no more than five (5) doublesided 8 ½” x 11” pages.**
 - How many issues of your newsletter were published in 2017?
 - How many households does your newsletter get delivered to?
 - How is your newsletter distributed to these households?
 - How are the expenses for your newsletter covered?
- II. **Applications MUST be submitted using the following guidelines:**

Print Category Entry:

Mail three (3) publications of two (2) issues of the 2017 newsletters to be judged to: Neighborhoods, USA/ 2018 NUSA Awards/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743.

Electronic Category Entry:

Entries in the electronic category must include either a URL (website address), and information on where the newsletters are located on the web page. Entries should also be submitted as separate Adobe PDF documents and mailed to: Neighborhoods, USA/ 2018 NUSA Awards/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743.

Entries in both the Print and Electronic category must be postmarked no later than February 16, 2018. Each entry must include, as a coversheet, the application information located on pages 8 and 9 of this awards information packet.

III. **Award Entry Fee:**

There is an award entry fee of \$50 for Electronic Format submissions and \$65 for Print Format submissions for the Neighborhood Newsletter Competition Award. Payments can be mailed or paid electronically. For electronic payments via PayPal visit <http://www.nusa.org/nusa-awards/award-application>. Payments can be mailed, payable to Neighborhoods, USA/ 2018 NUSA Awards/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743.

NUSA Awards

Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods (WWAN)

The Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award was created to recognize those individuals whose work mirrors the mission of Neighborhoods, USA: to build and strengthen neighborhoods associations; to encourage neighborhood involvement in the decision-making process in local governments; and to promote productive communications and collaborations between neighborhood associations, local governments and the public/private sector.

Past recipients of the Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods recognition can be viewed at <http://www.nusa.org/nusa-awards/whos-who-in-americas-neighborhoods>.

Judging for the WWAN Recognition

Each Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods (WWAN) nominee will be evaluated by the Neighborhoods, USA Board on three (3) criteria: the neighborhood involvement of nominee, information on how the nominee has proven to be a leader in the community, and reasons why the nominee deserves the WWAN recognition. It is encouraged, but not required, that nominees for the Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods be in attendance at the annual conference to receive their award if chosen.

Submitting the WWAN Application

Only current Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) members may nominate an individual for the Who's Who award and only one nomination per member, per year will be allowed. Current (seated) NUSA Board Members are ineligible for nomination. A current NUSA member is defined as having attended the 2017 NUSA Conference in Omaha, NE or being current in their annual membership dues.

- I. **In order to evaluate the Who's Who nominee's submission, please provide the following information using no more than two (2) double sided 8 ½" x 11" pages:**
 - Name and contact information for nominee.
 - Describe the neighborhood involvement of the nominee.
 - Explain how the nominee has proven to be a leader in the community.
 - Explain why you feel the nominee has earned this recognition.

- II. **Nomination Submission:**

Nominations for the Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods recognition should be mailed to: 2018 Neighborhood Award/ Attn: Lisa Middleton/ City of Palm Springs, CA/ 3200 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264/ PO BOX 2743, Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743, and postmarked no later than February 16, 2018. Each nomination must include the Award Category coversheet and Application information on pages 8 and 9 of this awards information packet.

- III. **Award Entry Fee:**

There is no entry fee to submit a nomination for the Who's Who in America's Neighborhood recognition.

NUSA Awards-Application

Applications MUST include pages 8 and 9 as a cover sheet

Submissions MUST be postmarked by February 16, 2018

- i. Please check the award category which best describes your project, and the category that best describes your organization. Be sure to review the project category descriptions listed in the information packet. NUSA reserves the right to place an application in the project category that it best fits.

AWARD CATEGORY

(Please select the award category/subcategory for which you are submitting an application)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood of the Year Award (check one box in each category): <u>Project/Activity Category:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Revitalization/Beautification-Single Neighborhood <input type="checkbox"/> Social Revitalization/Neighborliness-Single Neighborhood <input type="checkbox"/> Multi Neighborhood Partnerships <u>Organization Category:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Association <input type="checkbox"/> Homeowner Association <input type="checkbox"/> Business Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Best Neighborhood Program Award (check one box only): <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Revitalization/Beautification <input type="checkbox"/> Social Revitalization/Neighborliness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood Newsletter Competition (check one box in each category): <u>Newsletter Format Category:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Format <input type="checkbox"/> Print Format <u>Organization Category:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization or Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods

Questions? email AwardsProgram@nusa.org or call
Lisa Middleton (760-330-7023) or Hal Barnes at (954-828-5065).

NUSA Awards-Application

II. Application Information:

Name of Project/Activity/Individual: _____

Name of Association: _____

Contact Person (for additional information/questions): _____

Contact's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact's E-mail: _____

Contact's Phone: _____

Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) award recipients may be eligible for a cash award. In the case that your project/activity is a NOTY award recipient, and eligible for a cash award, please indicate to whom the check should be made payable to.

Check Payable To: _____

III. Maximum 50 word description of the program/project for nominations under Neighborhood of the Year or Best Neighborhood Program Awards:

IV. Local Newspaper/Media Information:

Neighborhoods, USA sends out press releases and social media posts about award recipients. In the case, that your project/activity/individual is an award recipient, please provide contact information to forward award information to.

Name of Newspaper/Other Media: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact's Email: _____

Contact's Phone: _____

Other (social media link, web site, etc.): _____



For additional information about Neighborhoods, USA - www.nusa.org