2nd Annual DIAMOND AWARDS
Presented by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual East Central Florida Diamond Awards. The Diamond Awards showcase the region’s best projects and conservation efforts that elevate, promote, or strengthen the quality of life and future of the region. The Diamond Awards celebrate innovative approaches to planning that inform decision-makers and other professionals about best practices from across the region.

The ECFRPC is a non-profit organization that has been serving the region for over 60 years. The ECFRPC’s mission is to create a healthy, sustainable, thriving, and resilient region. From cruise ships to rocket ships, villages and celebrations, over the past six decades, the ECFRPC has seen the region become one of the fastest-growing, home to the world’s most attended tourist attractions, and a leader in cutting-edge off-world technology. While the region faces many challenges, the ECF Diamond Awards help highlight the positive impacts planners and leaders are having on our rapidly evolving region.

The inaugural ECF Diamond Awards cohort celebrated noteworthy projects from across the region including a land bank in Osceola, a resiliency hub and community center in Cape Canaveral, an urban farm in downtown Orlando, a downtown redevelopment plan in one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation, and an industrial park plan aimed at bringing high-paying careers to an economically disadvantaged community.

This year’s award class will include the addition of a brand-new “Technology and Big Data” award and the revamped Honorable Mention, now known as the "Executive Award of Regional Significance." This award is hand-selected by the ECFRPC’s Executive Director from among all applicants to call out a specific project that highlights the community driven growth vision that guides all work at the ECFRPC.
Nearly 20,000 residents and local leaders weighed in on their priorities for the region as it faces the mid-twenty-first century. From this engagement, six guiding principles were developed. They continue to influence the work and goals of the ECFRPC. These ethos also are the foundation on which all projects submitted for the East Central Florida Diamond Awards are grounded.

- **Preserve** open space, recreational areas, farmland, water resources, and regionally significant natural areas.
- **Provide** a variety of transportation choices.
- **Encourage** a diverse, globally competitive economy.
- **Build** communities with access to health care, education, and cultural amenities.
- **Forge** distinct, attractive, and safe places to live.
- **Create** a range of obtainable housing opportunities and choices.
All noteworthy projects within the East Central Florida region may be nominated relative to the categories described below. Projects must have been completed within the past five years (FY Oct 2018–September 2023). The competition is open to individual, private, and public sector projects, plans, and programs.

Applicants have a representative attend the event on the morning of February 21, 2024, at the Lake Mary Events Center in Lake Mary, Florida. All award winners will be provided with two complimentary tickets. Applications must be submitted by the end of August 2023.
AWARD CATEGORIES

To be eligible, submissions must align with the criteria for the category in which it is submitted. Up to two categories may be selected per submission. Submissions are evaluated on how closely they align with goals for the categories submitted. Any project, program, or plan started, completed, or worked on between October 2018 and September 2023 is eligible.

THE BRILLIANCE AWARD OF REGIONAL INNOVATION

This award highlights regionally significant programs, persons, or organizations.

This highest honor award is presented to an individual, program, or organization that exemplifies the spirit of regional cooperation, dedication to their community, and notable achievement in realizing the six guiding principles.

This award is designed to highlight sustained, long-term, servant leadership with a focus on how the entity, program, or person has improved the region and our communities, as witnessed through both quantitative and qualitative findings.
CONSERVATION & COUNTRYSIDE

Conservation & Countryside highlights projects, programs, or plans that further environmental preservation, agriculture food systems, and ensure positive impacts on rural communities.

This award honors projects that work to;

- reduce vehicle miles traveled
- enhance or secure food systems
- help to ensure rural areas are preserved
- protect or restore critical habitats and ecologically sensitive lands
- provide new or novel ways of engaging with the region’s rural offerings
- have a meaningful impact on reducing the region’s GHG emissions
- improve water quality of natural water systems
- promote conservation of scarce water resources or contribute to a sustainable water supply for our region
- promote environmental stewardship, outdoor youth education, and community engagement in our region’s natural places

REGIONAL PROSPERITY

The Regional Prosperity Award focuses on economic development, cross-generational wealth building, and community reinvigoration.

This award honors work across the region that;

- Enhances the region’s job offerings
- Improves or introduces new career placement programs and offerings
- Engages with regional workforce data in innovative, precedent-setting ways
- Engages with economic data to harness new and beneficial insights for the community
This award recognizes noteworthy projects, programs, or plans that improve the region through placemaking, community planning, and improvements to the built environment.

This award honors work that;
- exemplifies unique placemaking projects or initiatives
- brings live-work-play balance options to the region
- brings together and creates new investments of a regional significance
- includes innovative infrastructure projects that deliver multiple public benefits
- demonstrate best industry practices, and promote compact development or redevelopment in existing urban areas
- reduces risks and vulnerabilities
- improves access to products and services throughout the region and connectivity between housing and employers
- promotes multi-modal transportation
- ensures streets are safe for people of all ages and abilities, balances the needs of different modes of transportation, and supports local land uses, economies, cultures, and natural environments

This award highlights novel uses of technology and data that provide actionable insights.

This award celebrates projects, programs, or plans that;
- help inform and equip leaders with useful insights
- further community engagement and education
- provide beneficial data insights for the community
- use readily available or easily accessible technology to further enhance community empowerment, engagement, and resilience
This award showcases work in the realms of equity, demographics, health, and cross-generational lifestyle improvements.

Projects, programs, and plans within this category
- further improve equity within the region
- enhance health assets
- demonstrate novel ways of engaging with demographic data that assist local community leaders in better understanding their constituents

EXECUTIVE AWARD OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to the awards listed above, an additional award will be honored. This Executive Award of Regional Significance celebrates a submission of exceptional impact on the region as a whole. This award is hand-picked by the Executive Director based on the positive impact of the project or program. All submissions across all other categories are eligible and considered for the Executive Award.

The submission window for the 2024 Diamond Awards opens on June 1, 2023, and will close on August 31, 2023. Submissions require at least five high-quality photos and a brief summary of the goals achieved.

Applications and more information can be found at ECFRPC.org/Awards or via the QR code
Diamond Awards

Application Form

For questions please email Ken Storey at KStorey@ECFRPC.org or call 407-245-0300 ext. 300.

Project Information

Project Title (as it should appear on the award)

Applicant Name (as it should appear on the award)

Date of Completion or adoption (Month/Year)

Is the nomination a single or part of a larger multi-phase project? If multi-phase, what is the anticipated completion date of the overall project?

What are the project’s accomplishments/results to date?

Project cost and funding sources

How was the public and other agencies involved in the project?

Please select no more than two award categories for which the project will be considered

- Brilliance Award of Regional Innovation
- Conservation and Countryside
- Health and Equity
- Innovative Places
- Regional Prosperity
- Excellence in Big Data and Technology

Submission Date

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA
Regional Planning Council

Official Website: ECFRPC.org/Awards
Contact Us: 407-245-0300
Diamond Awards
Application Form
Please email this completed form along with the required attachments to Ken Storey KStorey@ECFRPC.org by 5 PM on August 31, 2023.

Contact Information

Name of Contact Person
Phone
Email
Mailing Address

Project or Organization’s LinkedIn
Project or Organization’s Instagram
Project or Organization’s Twitter
Project or Organization’s website

Please note, all award winners are required to have at least one representative needs to be in attendance at the awards ceremony and participate in a short panel discussion alongside other award winners. All award winners will be provided two tickets to the event.

Please attach a description of the project (between 500 – 800 words) in the description please include;
- What was your organization’s direct role?
- What are the project’s accomplishments to date?
- What are some best practices learned from this project?
- How does this project advance the ‘How Did We Grow?’ regional vision?

Please attach at least five images of the project (only include documents or images that you have the rights to share)

Please attach any additional supporting documents. Applicants are encouraged to submit supporting documents, but it’s not required.

Photos and supporting documents of selected projects may be published on the ECFRPC website and will be used during the awards celebration.
Sponsorships

Sponsors can celebrate and show their support of best practices across the region via three distinct sponsorship levels. At the awards ceremony, a small vendor showcase hall will be available for guests to enjoy. This networking opportunity is designed to encourage conversations spurred on by the winning projects and allow for actionable next steps to take place. Ruby level sponsors will have a full reserved table at the event.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please email Ken Storey at KStorey@ECFRP.org or visit the Diamond Awards website at ECFRPC.org/Awards

Amethyst ($500)
- Slide on intro slide deck
- Logo on printed materials
- Provide an item for the grab bag
- Two tickets

Sapphire ($1500)
- Amethyst level benefits (except for tickets)
- A table display in the vendor showcase hall
- Four tickets

Ruby ($2500)
- Sapphire level benefits (except for tickets)
- Exclusive reserved seating for eight at a table in prime location within the awards ceremony (includes eight tickets)
- Quarter page ad in event program
- Limit of only four sponsors at this level

Every diamond has the ability to shine when there is someone to recognize it

Wes Foster
Diamond Awards
Sponsorship Form

Please email this completed form to Ken Storey KStorey@ECFRPC.org by 5 PM on August 31, 2023.

Contact Information

To become a sponsor, please email Ken Storey KStorey@ECFRPC.org to confirm your sponsorship space is available. The space is held for one week or until a check for the sponsorship amount has been received by the ECFRPC, whichever comes first.

Company Name

Name of Contact Person

Phone

Email

Mailing Address

Sponsor’s LinkedIn

Sponsor’s Instagram

Sponsor’s Twitter

Sponsor’s website

Please select a sponsorship level

Amethyst ($500)

Sapphire ($1500)

Ruby ($2500)

Once your sponsorship is confirmed, please mail a check or money order to

ATTN – Ken Storey
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
455 N. Garland Ave., Orlando, FL 32801

Please let us know if you plan to attend the awards ceremony. All sponsorship levels include a select number of tickets. For Sapphire and Ruby level sponsors, an 8ft. rectangular table in the sponsor showcase pavilion will be provided. Please indicate if you plan to use this table. Setup for tables begins at 8:00 AM with the showcase open before and after the awards ceremony.