

2027



Convention Center Carpark
DESMAN and Kennedy & Violich Architecture, Ltd.
2026 Apex Award, Architectural Design

IPMI Awards of Excellence Submission Guide





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About the IPMI Awards of Excellence

Interested in submitting your program or project for recognition as the pinnacle of parking and mobility excellence? Would you like to shine a spotlight on your organization's or your client's projects and programs?

Here's your chance! IPMI's annual Awards of Excellence recognize industry excellence in programs, planning, design, construction, operations, marketing, and more.

Award Portal Opens:

September 15, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Award Portal Closes:

October 29, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.



Eligibility

The Awards of Excellence program is open to both members and non-members. Members in good standing receive significant discounts on entry fees.

Organizations may re-submit previous entries if the submission meets the eligibility time frame below.

An entry must contain all required information to be considered complete and eligible for evaluation.

For the 2027 Awards of Excellence, projects and programs implemented and/or completed between September 15, 2024 and September 15, 2026, are eligible. This year's categories include:

- Architectural Design
- Facility Design: Mixed-Use
- Facility Design: Stand-Alone
- Facility Design: Surface Parking
- Restoration: Structured Parking
- Restoration: Surface Parking
- Sustainable Design
- Marketing and Communications
- Innovation: Technology
- Innovation: Social Impact

UC Davis Health Parking Structure 7

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

2026 Apex Award, Sustainable Design



Evaluation and Judging

Submissions are evaluated and ranked by the IPMI Awards of Excellence judges. These volunteers are professionals from every sector of the parking, transportation, and mobility industry, bringing a wealth of experience and diverse perspectives to the evaluation process.

Recognition

Based on the criteria and judges' evaluations, award submissions may earn an Apex Award or an Honorable Mention. Winners of either award will receive recognition and visibility across IPMI communication platforms and at the annual IPMI Conference & Expo.

Apex Award Recognition and Benefits

- Invitation to accept your award on stage during the Awards & Recognition General Session at the annual IPMI Conference & Expo
- One Apex Award trophy to display your achievement (additional trophies are available for purchase)
- A dedicated Apex Award feature in *Parking & Mobility* magazine
- Highest visibility in IPMI's press release, including a featured post on our website
- Promotion on social media
- Official press release template to share the news with your media list
- Custom-dated Apex Award logo and graphics for websites, emails, social media, and more



**University of California San Diego Theatre District
Living and Learning Neighborhood Parking Garage**

Walter P Moore

2026 Apex Award, Facility Design: Mixed Use

Honorable Mention Recognition and Benefits

- Slide sharing your project photographs and details during the Awards & Recognition General Session at the annual IPMI Conference & Expo
- *Parking & Mobility* feature highlighting all Honorable Mention recipients
- Listing in IPMI's press release announcing Honorable Mention selections, including a featured post on our website
- Promotion on social media
- Official press release template to share the news with your media list

Entry Fees

Member: \$425 per entry per category

Non-Member: \$625 per entry per category

Full payment for the entry or entries is required for the submission to be accepted.

Awards of Excellence Categories

Architectural Design

Design, architecture, façade treatment, and aesthetic elements of a newly constructed mixed-use or stand-alone structured parking facility.

Facility Design: Mixed-Use

Parking facilities with mixed-use components, including but not limited to office, retail, residential, etc.

Facility Design: Stand-Alone

Structured parking facilities that do not include a mixed- or multi-use component.

Facility Design: Surface Parking

Surface parking lot design.

Restoration: Structured Parking

Renovation and restoration projects for structured parking.

Restoration: Surface Parking

Renovation and restoration of existing surface parking.

Sustainable Design

Newly constructed parking garages (stand-alone or mixed-use) that incorporate sustainability features in planning, design, engineering, construction, and operations.

Marketing and Communications

Marketing, public relations and communications programs, and campaigns submitted by public and private sectors. Categories include:

- Parking marketing programs
- Mobility marketing programs
- Social media programs
- Rebranding campaigns
- Website or mobile app launch or redesign
- Other: A new category that aligns with your submission.



Meeting Riders Where They Are: Transforming Rider Engagement
Texas A & M University Transportation Services
2026 Apex Award, Marketing & Communications

Innovation: Technology

Parking, transportation, and mobility operations, programs, and pilots that showcase innovation in new software applications, upgrades, and enhancements; and electrification and alternative energy programs.

Innovation: Social Impact

Parking, transportation, and mobility operations, programs, and pilots that showcase innovation in:

- Accessible parking and transportation equity programs
- Amenities and services for patrons and stakeholders
- Outreach programs and partnerships: community, charitable, and quality of life programs
- Human resources: Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), environmental social governance (ESG), frontline, and training programs and initiatives
- Mobility programs and services: Mobility as a Service (MaaS), multi-modal, micro-mobility, and first- and last-mile initiatives
- Transportation Demand Management: Mass transit, and shuttle and sustainability initiatives

For complete descriptions, please review each category and criteria in detail on the following pages.

Architectural Design

Eligible entries recognize the architectural treatment and aesthetic elements of a new mixed-use parking and mobility facility or a stand-alone structured parking and mobility facility.

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program.

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

Design feature narrative

This section is worth 50% of your total score.

Describe aesthetic or architectural features of the project, including exterior appearance, façade, and special features.

Interior design, circulation, signage, and wayfinding

This section is worth 25% of your total score.

Describe the project's interior design elements and vehicular and pedestrian circulation, such as:

- Orientation and location of stair and elevator towers
- Vehicular and pedestrian signage and wayfinding
- Features to assist patrons within the facility and to their destination
- Basis for design intent, interior upgrades, and exterior aesthetic characteristics
- Pedestrian-friendly and safety features

Additional design elements: Art, landscaping, and lighting

This section is worth 25% of your total score.

Address design elements that contribute to the architecture of the building and neighborhood context, such as:

- Design intent and contribution to facility design and operation
- Special graphic or art-related elements
- Lighting design and features with architectural lighting
- Landscape design, layout, and material selection

Project cost

Detailed total project cost, including planning, design, and construction, that describes:

- Design cost per space
- Construction cost per space
- Additional cost information to showcase the project

Photography

Submit a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 10 digital images with:

- Resolution: Minimum 2400 px by 3000 px at 300 dpi (8" x 10" x 300dpi)
- File Size: 1 MB minimum, 5 MB maximum
- Captions: 25 words or less for each image
- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Facility Design: Mixed-Use

Eligible entries include single parking structures that are considered mixed-use, as opposed to stand-alone. Typically, mixed-uses include one or more of the following: office space, residential apartments or condos, and retail space or storefronts. Facilities may be at, below, or above grade, but the mixed-use component must constitute more than a parking management office.

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

Design feature narrative

This section is worth 40% of your total score.

Describe design features, including:

- Mixed-use components
- Functional design, such as pedestrian and vehicular flow
- Sustainable design elements
- Technology and revenue control systems
- Security and safety measures
- Modal conflict mitigation
- Support for alternative transportation
- Features that promote mobility
- ADA/accessibility enhancements

Aesthetic qualities narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Describe aesthetic or architectural features, such as:

- Façade and vertical circulation
- Art and architectural details
- Signage and wayfinding
- Lighting and landscaping

User amenities narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Describe amenities that enhance the user experience, including:

- Active transportation and micro-mobility elements
- Rideshare or TNC considerations
- Considerations for pedestrian and vehicular safety
- Amenities and customer services

Innovation and creativity narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Address additional project elements, such as innovation, technology, and/or other creative programming.

Project cost

Detailed total project cost, including planning, design, and construction, that describes:

- Design cost per space
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- Additional cost information to showcase the project

Photography

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Facility Design: Stand-Alone Parking

Eligible entries include structured parking and mobility facilities that do not include a mixed- or multi-use component. Facilities may include transportation facilities or amenities that combine a parking structure with multi-modal transportation options such as public transportation, bike- and ride-share, accommodations for TNCs, etc.

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

Design feature narrative

This section is worth 40% of your total score.
Describe the project's design features. Examples include:

- Mixed-use components
- Functional design
- Pedestrian and vehicular flow
- Sustainable design elements
- Technology and revenue control systems
- Security and safety measures
- Modal conflict mitigation
- Support for alternative transportation
- Features that promote mobility
- ADA/accessibility enhancements

Aesthetic qualities narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.
Describe the project's aesthetic or architectural features, such as:

- Façade and vertical circulation
- Art and architectural details
- Signage and wayfinding
- Lighting and landscaping

User amenities narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Describe amenities that enhance the user experience, such as:

- Active transportation and micro-mobility elements
- Rideshare or TNC considerations
- Considerations for pedestrian and vehicular safety
- Amenities and customer services

Innovation and creativity narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Address additional project elements such as innovation, technology, and/or other creative programming.

Project cost

Detailed total project cost, including planning, design, and construction, that describes:

- Design cost per space
- Construction cost per space
- Additional cost information to showcase the project

Photography

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- Captions: 25 words or less for each image
- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Facility Design: Surface Parking

This category is applicable to surface parking facilities only. These facilities may or may not include amenities that include multi-modal transportation options such as public transportation, bike-share, ride-share, accommodations for ride-hail companies or TNCs, etc.

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program.

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

Design feature narrative

This section is worth 40% of your total score.

Describe the project's design features, such as:

- Functional design
- Pedestrian and vehicular flow
- Sustainable design elements
- Technology and revenue control systems
- Security and safety measures
- Modal conflict mitigation
- Support for alternative transportation
- Features that promote mobility
- ADA/accessibility enhancements

Aesthetic qualities narrative

This section is worth 10% of your total score.

Describe aesthetic or architectural features, including:

- Art and architectural details
- Signage and wayfinding
- Lighting and landscaping

User amenities narrative

This section is worth 25% of your total score.

Describe amenities that enhance the user experience, including:

- Bicycle, scooter, and micro-mobility, rideshare, or TNC considerations
- Considerations for safety, both for vehicles and drivers, passengers and pedestrians
- Motorist assistance amenities
- Customer services such as dry-cleaning, package pickup, pop-up retail, etc.

Innovation and creativity narrative

This section is worth 25% of your total score.

Address additional project elements, such as innovation, technology, and/or other creative programming.

Project cost

Detailed total project cost, including planning, design, and construction, that describes:

- Design cost per space
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Photography

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- File Size: 1 MB minimum, 5 MB maximum
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- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Restoration: Structured Parking

Eligible entries include renovation and restoration projects for structured stand-alone or mixed-use parking and mobility facilities

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program.

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

Operational, design, and architectural improvements

This section is worth 40% of your total score.

Describe improvements that resulted from the restoration and how the facility and its users will benefit, such as:

- Unique design enhancements or upgrades
- Improved traffic and/or pedestrian flow
- Changes in the number of parking spaces
- Lighting, durability, or safety improvements
- Architectural upgrades
- Technology upgrades
- ADA compliance

Project management and administration

This section is worth 25% of your total score.

Describe the project management approach, such as:

- The process for completing the project on schedule
- Effective communication within the team and to end-users
- Safety, noise, and environmental controls
- Quality control procedures

Project complexity and challenges

This section is worth 25% of your total score.

Describe challenges, and approaches for addressing, including:

- Construction phasing while maintaining an operable and safe parking facility
- Effects on parking revenues during construction
- Solutions to address complicated repairs

Innovation and creativity narrative

This section is worth 10% of your total score.

Address additional project elements, such as.

- Unique approaches to typical repairs
- Expediting repairs to minimize downtime
- Cost-effective construction technique

Project cost

Detailed total project cost, including planning, design, and construction that describes:

- Design cost per space
- Construction cost per space
- Additional cost information to showcase the project

Photography

Submit a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 10 digital images with:

- Resolution: Minimum 2400 px by 3000 px at 300 dpi (8" x 10" x 300dpi)
- File Size: 1 MB minimum, 5 MB maximum
- Captions: 25 words or less for each image
- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Restoration: Surface Parking

This category is applicable to renovation and restoration projects for existing surface parking and mobility facilities.

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program.

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

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- Unique design enhancements or upgrades
- Improved traffic and/or pedestrian flow
- Changes in the number of parking spaces
- Lighting, durability, or safety improvements
- Architectural upgrades
- Technology upgrades
- ADA compliance

Project management and administration

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Describe the project management approach, including:

- The process for completing the project on schedule
- Effective communication within the team and to end-users
- Safety, noise, and environmental controls
- Quality control procedures

Project complexity and challenges

This section is worth 25% of your total score.

Describe approaches for addressing project challenges, such as:

- Construction phasing while maintaining an operable and safe parking facility
- Effects on revenue during construction
- Solutions to implement complicated repairs

Innovation and creativity narrative

This section is worth 15% of your total score.

Address additional project elements, such as.

- Unique approaches to addressing typical repairs
- Expediting repairs to minimize downtime
- Cost-effective construction technique

Project cost

Detailed total project cost, including planning, design, and construction that describes:

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- File Size: 1 MB minimum, 5 MB maximum
- Captions: 25 words or less for each image
- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Sustainable Design

Eligible entries include newly constructed stand-alone or mixed-use parking garages that incorporate significant and measurable sustainability features in the planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual re-use/disposal of the parking facility.

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program.

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

Design feature narrative

This section is worth 40% of your total score.

Describe sustainable design features incorporated into the planning and design of the building and site. These may include:

- Energy, water, air quality, waste, and any element that decreases the building's negative impact to the environment
- Limiting energy and water usage
- Decreasing the frequency of single-occupant vehicles
- Stormwater management
- Positive benefits such as solar power generation, non-potable water reuse, and similar features
- Parksmart or LEED Certification

Sustainable construction methods and materials narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Describe sustainable construction methods associated with:

- Materials selection and local sourcing
- Limiting waste and waste diversion through recycling
- Limiting use of natural resources
- Reduction of construction vehicle trips

Sustainable operational features narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Describe the project's sustainable operation and maintenance features. Include proposed return on investment of selected features, if available (i.e., mechanical and lighting systems).

Innovation and creativity narrative

This section is worth 20% of your total score.

Address additional project elements, such as:

- Innovative and creative approaches taken to reduce carbon footprint
- Strategies used to reduce emissions and properly handle waste
- Ways in which the project encourages the use of low-emission vehicles, electric vehicles, and fleets
- Transportation Demand Management (TMD) programming to reduce single-occupant vehicle trips

Project cost

Detailed total project cost, including planning, design, and construction, that describes:

- Design cost per space
- Construction cost per space
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Photography

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- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Marketing and Communications

Eligible entries include marketing, public relations and communications projects, programs and campaigns within the parking and mobility sector initiated, funded, and directed by both public and private sector parking and mobility organizations. Entries may be grouped by public and private sector at the discretion of the judges. Eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Parking marketing programs
- Mobility marketing programs
- Social media programs
- Rebranding campaigns
- Website or mobile app launch or redesign
- Or provide a category that more closely aligns with your submission!

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

Provide a high-level description of the project or program

Project team and completion date documentation

Submitters are required to complete a project team form and provide proof of project or program completion. A download link for the form and additional details regarding proof of completion are contained in this category's submission form.

Operational, program, and service improvements narrative

This section is worth 40% of your total score.

Describe operational, programmatic, and service improvement results and how users benefit from the program.

Benefits narrative

This section is worth 15% of your total score.

Describe measurable successes as well as methods used to determine success, such as efficiency, safety, savings of time or money, improved customer satisfaction, etc. Quantitative outcome-based information is preferred.

Project management and complexity narrative

This section is worth 15% of your total score.

Describe the program and project management approach, including challenges that were overcome, unique approaches used to achieve success, and program implementation challenges and strategies.

Innovation and creativity narrative

This section is worth 30% of your total score.

Address additional project elements, such as innovative and creative aspects.

Project cost

Detailed project cost information, including:

- Marketing and promotional costs
- Anticipated annualized cost
- Additional cost information to showcase the project

Photography

Submit a minimum of 5 to a maximum of 10 digital images with:

- Resolution: Minimum 2400 px by 3000 px at 300 dpi (8" x 10" x 300dpi)
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- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Innovation: Technology

Eligible entries include parking, transportation, and mobility operations, programs, and pilots that showcase innovation in new software applications, upgrades, and enhancements; and electrification and alternative energy programs. Entries in this category may demonstrate economic results, sustainability, and benefits to the agency or others, and new developments that may be of advantage or value to others in the industry and beyond.

This award does not recognize brick and mortar facilities or commercial products and services. Please review other categories for more appropriate opportunities in which to submit such entries.

NOTE: Required Elements and Suggested Details (250-word limit per section)

Project overview

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- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Innovation: Social Impact

Eligible entries include parking, transportation, and mobility operations, programs, and pilots that showcase innovation and provide benefits across a variety of public and social applications, including:

- Accessible parking and transportation equity programs
- Amenities and services for patrons and stakeholders
- Outreach programs and partnerships: Community, charitable, and quality-of-life programs
- Human resources: Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), environmental social governance (ESG), frontline workforce, and training programs and initiatives
- Mobility programs and services: MaaS, multi-modal, micro-mobility, and first- and last-mile initiatives
- Transportation Demand Management: Mass transit, and shuttle and sustainability initiatives

This award does not recognize brick and mortar facilities or commercial products and services. Please review other categories for more appropriate opportunities in which to submit such entries.

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- Credit: Name of photographer, even if you took the photo yourself

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between an Apex Award and Honorable Mention?

An Apex Award celebrates submissions that have significant industry impact and set an exemplary standard for their creativity, effectiveness, and achievement. An Honorable Mention recognizes entries that have significant local and regional impact and merit recognition but have not been selected to receive an Apex Award.

If my entry is the only one in a category, will I automatically win by default?

No. However, if your entry reaches the established award threshold after judging, then yes! With this threshold in place, IPMI ensures that high-caliber entries will be recognized.

Can I resubmit a previous entry?

Yes. If the project wasn't chosen for an Award of Excellence, you may update the entry and resubmit if it still meets eligibility requirements.

Can I submit two projects in the same category?

We suggest entering projects in different categories. If entered in the same one, these projects compete against each other. You may be able to submit one in a similar category. Review the full category descriptions to determine eligibility.

Could there be more than one project or program awarded in each category?

If multiple entries achieve the highest threshold, multiple projects and programs may be recognized.

How long is the narrative for each project?

The total narrative is approximately 1,500 words, with specific word counts for each section as defined in the criteria.

What do the 'Judging Criteria and Requirements' percentages mean?

Each category is ranked from 1-10 and will be weighted by the listed percentage. For example, if a criterion is listed at 40%, and it is evaluated as 8 out of 10 points, it will be weighted as 32 points on the hundred-point scale. The awards software performs the calculations to ensure an equitable judging process.

No percentage is listed next to the 'Project Cost' section. How is this factored into my submission?

Entries may be grouped by project cost, depending on the submissions received, to ensure equitable comparisons across different budget levels. Other than for this grouping purpose, project cost is not considered when evaluating submissions.

Is any team member permitted to submit a project?

Yes, but you must receive permission from the project owner prior to submitting. Joint submissions between two or more team members are welcome, and we encourage all applicants to involve the entire team as they develop their submissions.

The project I want to enter was a team effort. Do I need to name all team members in my entry?

The team members required to be listed will depend on the category, and it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the project's key team members receive proper credit for their services. An Excel template has been provided for this purpose. Submissions that do not include substantially complete teaming information will be considered incomplete and will not be evaluated.



**walter
p moore**

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