

2021 LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS NSW+ACT CHAPTER AWARDS

Invitation to Enter and Submission Information

As a leader in the field of educational facilities, Learning Environments NSW+ACT Chapters (LE NSW+ACT) invites you to make submissions for the 2021 Learning Environments Chapter Awards this year combined between NSW and ACT.

These Awards are open to registered LE NSW+ACT members whose educational facilities' projects demonstrate excellence in the planning and design of educational facilities across New South Wales and the ACT.

The core mission of the awards is to celebrate excellent learning spaces where innovative architectural ideas support the education philosophy.

Awards will be presented at a ceremony: TBC, currently proposed for late November

AWARD TIMELINE

Nomination of Project

OPENS: Thursday 26th August 2021
REGISTRATION CLOSSES: Thursday 16th September 2021

Entry Submission (via Awardforce)

OPENS: Monday 20th September 2021
SUBMISSIONS PORTAL CLOSSES: Sunday 15th October 2021

Presentation Ceremony: TBC (Event may be face or face or virtual)

AWARD CATEGORIES

There are 8 Categories for the LE NSW+ACT Awards: An Award and/or Commendations will be presented for each category.

All entries must have been occupied for at least 6 months (that is: before 1st February 2021) and construction completed within the last 3 years to qualify for entry.

Given the current issues relating to COVID-19 lockdowns etc, if this requirement is an issue, please contact Rachael (lea.nsw.awards@gmail.com, 0422 493 088) and this may be able to be modified depending on the situation.

Category 1: New Construction / Entire New Educational Facility. This category applies to construction of a new school or educational institution on a new campus.

Category 2: New Construction / New Individual Facility(ies) Over \$8 Million (AU). This category applies to a new building or new buildings in an existing school or campus.

Category 3: New Construction / New Individual Facility(ies) Under \$8 Million (AU). This category applies to a new building or new buildings in an existing school or campus.

Category 4: Renovation / Modernisation Over \$5 Million (AU).

Category 5: Renovation / Modernisation Under \$5 Million (AU).

Category 6: Small Project Under \$2 Million (AU). A new building or renovation, must be a learning environment.

Category 7: Landscaping/Outdoor Learning Area. Designed to showcase outdoor learning environments targeted to improving educational outcomes.

Category 8: An Innovative Education Initiative. Designed to showcase significant contributions to learning environments by schools, educators, students, designers, community organisations etc. Education Initiative must have been delivered to students for at least 6 months, since before 1st February 2021 (see note above).

The project(s) recognised will best demonstrate the comprehensive effectiveness of planning and design as outlined in the award assessment criteria.

AWARD ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

An Award or Commendation for each Category may be presented to the entrant whose educational facility project best meets the assessment criteria as described below

Judging of these award entries is by at least three experienced industry practitioners appointed by LE NSW+ACT via an Expression of Interest process. The jury reserves the right to award, make commendations or not to make an award or commendations in any of the categories.

All criteria are equally weighted. Succinct answers to the criteria, including bullet points, are encouraged.

All Categories:

Criteria A: Planning Process:

- a) Provide evidence of a comprehensive planning process including project-specific research; consulting with clients, users, stakeholders and information gathering.
- b) Provide evidence that a comprehensive educational specification/brief and program of requirements has been developed as part of the planning process.

[400 words max for both responses in total]

Categories 1 to 7:

Criteria B: Design Outcome: Provide evidence that the architectural design meets the requirements of the educational brief with a special emphasis on the educational value of the space.

[250 words max]

Criteria C: Flexibility: Provide evidence of the unique functionality of the design as well as its responsiveness to changes in the educational program.

[250 words max]

Criteria D: Innovation: Your description could include evidence of innovative design solutions; value for money; design elements and sustainability.

[250 words max]

Category 8:

The **Innovative Education Initiative** category award will be presented to the entrant whose project best meets the following criteria. [All criteria equally weighted]

Criteria E: Innovative Program: Evidence that the education initiative challenges and transforms the role that educational facilities play in the learning process.

[250 words max]

Criteria F: Innovative Approach: Evidence that the education initiative introduces innovative ideas or approaches to current practices in the development of educational facilities and aims to inform the field of educational facility planning.

[250 words max]

Criteria G: Innovative Use: Evidence that the education initiative demonstrates innovative use of an educational facility by educators and students and/or members of the community. Include any evidence of improved educational experiences for students.

[250 words max]

Please note that previous juries have commented that too often entrants are not addressing the criteria, which is hampering their success. We advise that you tailor responses to directly address the questions set out.

NOMINATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

Step 1: Nominate your project online at:

<https://learningenvironments.wildapricot.org/event-4464646>

from to **26th August to 16th September 2021**. You will be emailed an invoice.

A nomination fee of AU\$270 +GST per entry submission, will be charged.

Note: One educational facility may be entered in multiple categories. However, one AU\$270 +GST fee for each entry/category the educational facility is entered is payable. Submissions for one educational facility in multiple categories should be tailored to suit each category [i.e: the text and photographs].

Entries for which no fee has been received will not be able to progress to Judging.

Projects withdrawn between nomination and submission closing will receive a 50% refund only. No refund will be available after the submission closing date on 15th October 2021.

Payment/withdrawal must be received by COB Sunday 16th September 2021.

Step 2: Submit your project(s) : <https://learningenvironments.awardsplatform.com/>

from **Monday 20th September**. Entries close on **Sunday 15th October 2021, 11pm (AEST)**.

Choose either **Register**, for new users, OR **Log in**, for existing users and follow the instructions. The login is specific to the email address used.

Once you have logged in (and confirmed your email address) you can start your entry immediately.

Important: The submission is an online process. You will be able to populate responses to the awards criteria and upload plans and images within the awards platform. You will be able to save your submission and return to it anytime during the submission period.

Entrants should allow plenty of time to prepare their entries: there are external documents required, including a written statement from the school (Educational Facility Narrative) and photographer permission; etc.

Thank you for entering the awards and good luck with your submission.

For any questions regarding entry submissions please contact:

Rachael Drayton
NSW Awards Coordinator
lea.nsw.awards@gmail.com
0422 493 088

SUMMARY OF THE ONLINE ENTRY PROCESS

Entry into the awards is an entirely online process. The following is a summary of this process. There are no interviews, site visits or presentations required. Once the online submission has been made, the process of entering the awards is completed. The jury panel will review the online submission to decide the award winners and/or commendations.

When logged into the online submission portal, an entry looks like this:

The screenshot shows a web interface for an online submission portal. At the top, it says "My entries → Start entry". Below this is a progress bar with 12 parts: Part 1: Project Summary (highlighted in dark blue), Part 2: Applicant and Project Team Details, Part 3: Project Data, Part 4: Project Timeline, Part 5: Project Planning Process, Part 6: Project Narrative, Part 7: Educational Facility Narrative, Part 8: Photographer Release Form, Part 9: Multi-page PDF, Part 10: Photos and Videos, Part 11: Webpage Information, and Part 12: Submission Poster. Below the progress bar is a small green icon and the text "Chapter" followed by a dropdown menu. Below that is "Category" followed by a dropdown menu showing a dash. Below that is "Project name" followed by a text input field. At the bottom is "Project thumbnail image ©" followed by a "Select file" button.

There are 12 “Parts” to be completed. These are summarised in the below table:

PARTS 1 to 3	Details of the chosen category, project details & data, entrant/applicant details, project cost and size. Note: project cost is the "Final Contract Sum" and project size is the “Gross Floor Area (GFA)”.
PART 4	Project timeline: from brief through to post occupancy – optional to complete, but may be relevant/important for some projects/programs. PDF is optional.
PARTS 5 and 6	Responses to the specific award assessment/judging criteria are given here. Images may be uploaded.
PART 7	Educational Facility Narrative <i>or</i> Summary of Design Process – this requires the Educational Facility <i>or</i> lead consultant to provide a detailed statement about the facility, program or process, on letterhead (PDF).
PART 8	Permission for LEA to use photos and images from the entrant and/or from professional photographers. A PDF statement from photographer is required and must be provided in the format stated.
PART 9	A multipage A3 PDF with plans, sections elevations and photos for the project. Renovation/modernisation projects should include before and after photos and/or plans to demonstrate extent of work completed.
PART 10	Photos and/or videos are uploaded here for publication and marketing purposes. One A3 page PDF with plan or diagram of project is to be uploaded. Please ensure files are labelled as described.
PART 11	Information required for the webpage/gallery/publication – photos and text required.
PART 12	Exhibition Poster PDF: A2 landscape format . Poster is to primarily include information about the Educational Facility, some information may be included about the Architect/Designer.
Video	1 minute video - slides with voice-over, footage or talking to the camera. This will be used as part of the Awards Presentation and not assessed as part of the submission. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of planning process - Evidence of unique functionality and innovation of design, as response to educational brief

Entrants will be able to save their submission and return to it anytime during the submission period.

This Awards process has been reviewed and streamlined recently. Learning Environments Australasia welcomes feedback regarding your experience with entering the awards at any time. Please email Soraya Ramsey (Awards' Coordinator) with your feedback at awards@a4le.org.au .