

2021 LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS VICTORIAN /TASMANIAN AWARDS

Invitation to Enter and Submission Information

The Victorian Chapter of Learning Environments invites you to register and enter submissions for the 2021 Learning Environments Victorian / Tasmanian Chapter Awards.

These Awards are open to registered LEA members whose projects demonstrate excellence in the planning and design of educational facilities in Victoria and Tasmania.

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

Awards will be presented on Thursday 21 October at a ceremony at Craft & Co, 390 Smith Street Collingwood (6.00 – 8.00pm).

The event will be run in accordance with the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer to ensure the continued and effective management of the spread of COVID-19, with alternative arrangements to be made if restrictions prohibit a public gathering taking place.

2021 AWARDS TIMELINE

Registration – 5 weeks (nominate and pay for entry)

OPENS:	Thursday 1 July, 2021
CLOSES:	Friday 6 August, 2021, 5.00PM (AEST)

Online Entry Submission – 5 weeks (via Awardforce)

OPENS:	Monday 12 July 2021, 8.00AM (AEST)
SUBMISSIONS PORTAL CLOSES:	Friday 13 August 2021, 11.59PM (AEST)

AWARD CATEGORIES

There are 8 Categories for the Awards: It will be at the juries' discretion whether to present an Award and/or Commendations for each category.

All entries must have been occupied from the start of Term 1, 2021 and construction completed within the last 3 years to qualify for entry.

If you are unsure which category your project 'best fits', please contact the awards coordinator and confirm BEFORE submission.

Category 1: New Construction / New Educational Facility. This category applies to construction of a new school or educational institution on a new site/campus. These buildings may be the first stage of the new facility.

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

Category 4: Renovation / Modernisation Over AU\$5 million. This category applies to renovated and modernised facilities – entrants need to demonstrate the changes that have occurred from old to new by photos and/or plans.

Category 5: Renovation / Modernisation Under AU\$5 million. This category applies to renovated and modernised facilities – entrants need to demonstrate the changes that have occurred from old to new.

Category 6: Buildings or Renovation / Modernisation under AU\$2 million. This category applies to new building or renovation that has been achieved in a modest budget, 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 from the start of Term 1, 2021.

Project Types can include:

- Early Years • Primary • Secondary
- Specialist • Tertiary • TAFE

AWARD ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

An Award for each Category will be presented to the entrant whose educational facility project best meets the assessment criteria. Judging of these award entries is by experienced industry practitioners. The jury reserves the right to award, make commendations or not to make an award or commendations in any category.

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

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]

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

STEP 1: NOMINATE AND PAY

Register your intent to enter the Awards at:

<https://learningenvironments.wildapricot.org/event-4389553> from **Thursday 1 July to Friday 6 August, 2021.**

You will be emailed an invoice after registration.

A registration 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 registration and submission closing will receive a 50% refund only. Withdrawal requests must be made by 5.00pm (AEST), 13 August 2021. No refund will be available after the submission closing date on 13 August, 2021.

STEP 2: SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT(S)

Submit your project(s) via the link below from **Monday 12 July, 2021.**

Entries close on **Friday 13 August, 2021.**

Go to: <https://learningenvironments.awardsplatform.com/>

Choose either **Register**, for new users, OR **Log in**, for existing users. 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.

Questions regarding payment? Contact admin@a4le.org.au

Questions regarding submissions? Contact the Vic Chapter Awards Coordinator Soraya Ramsey via award@a4le.org.au or 0409 276 794.

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

SUMMARY OF THE ONLINE ENTRY PROCESS

Entry into the awards is an entirely online process. Note that any LEA Regional 2021 award entry will be able to be copied easily to the Victorian / Tasmanian Chapter Awards in 2021. The awards coordinator will be available to assist with the process.

Once the online submission has been made, the process of entering the awards is completed. The jury panel will review the online submission and if they decide to visit the entry, the award coordinator will contact the entrant to arrange a visit.

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

The screenshot shows the 'My entries' section of the online submission portal. At the top, it says 'My entries → Start entry'. Below this is a note: 'All questions must be answered, unless marked optional.' A progress bar consists of 12 tabs: 'Part 1: Project Summary' (active), '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: 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 are three dropdown menus: 'Chapter' (empty), 'Category' (empty), and 'Project name' (empty). At the bottom, there is a section for 'Project thumbnail image' with a 'Select file' button.

You will be able to populate responses to the awards criteria and upload plans and images within the awards platform. It will be possible to save your submission and return to it anytime during the submission period.

Entrants should allow plenty of time to prepare their entries, don't forget to allow for any questions for the coordinator, obtaining the written statement from the school (Educational Facility Narrative) etc.

Note that all state chapter award entries for 2021 will be able to be copied easily to next year's Regional Awards round in 2022. The Awards Coordinator will be available to assist with the process.

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

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 – some items are 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 – this requires the Educational Facility to provide a detailed statement about the facility or program, on letterhead (PDF).
PART 8	A multipage A4 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. Images in this PDF should be used to demonstrate the assessment criteria to judges.
PART 9	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 10	Photos and/or videos are uploaded here for publication and marketing purposes. A one-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	Not required for VIC/TAS

Entry into the awards is an entirely online 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.

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

This Awards entry process is constantly reviewed and streamlined. 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

For any questions regarding the awards, please contact:

Soraya Ramsey | LEA Awards Coordinator | awards@a4le.org.au, or 0409 279 794.