AWARD CATEGORIES:

CURRENT TOPIC – Each year, this award recognizes excellence in planning for a particular topic of interest to planners and the planning profession. This year’s topic is: BEST VIRTUAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

BEST VIRTUAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: This award will be given to any municipality, group, or individual, whether related to a specific project or ongoing efforts, that has demonstrated innovative approaches to public and community engagement utilizing virtual tools and processes to engage the public and improve the planning process. As the COVID 19 Pandemic has forced planners to move mostly to virtual platforms to allow for public participation, innovative approaches have been used for ongoing projects. This is your chance to highlight how you have used these new platforms to best address community engagement.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – This award is given for a plan that advances the science and art of planning and does not apply only to municipal Comprehensive Community Plans! Other eligible plans include: Housing Plans, Parks and Recreation Plans, Transportation Plans, Redevelopment Plans, Economic Development Plans, and Strategic Plans.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION – This award is given to a municipality or organization that has implemented a plan, strategy, or initiative which has resulted in an innovative multi-modal transportation project. Examples of such a project could include the following: new or safer pedestrian crossings or corridors; road diet projects; complete streets projects; bike projects; bus shelters; or multi-use paths.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION – This award recognizes an effort that demonstrates significant achievement in accomplishing positive changes as a result of planning. This effort should be complete (or largely completed) by the time of the nomination.

DAVIDOFF AWARD FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION IN PLANNING - This award celebrates a plan, policy, project, program, tool, or initiative that demonstrates innovative methods for more inclusive planning, accelerates social and economic equity, expands civic representation, breaks down barriers to diversity, and disrupts institutional biases. This award honors planner Paul Davidoff (1930-1984) whose concept of “advocacy planning” shaped and inspired planners to use their public roles to address disparities and effect positive change.

HIGH SCHOOL, UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS – This award is granted to an individual student or team of students for academic or applied research, studio projects, community service or other works related to community development or planning in Rhode Island. Student work from any high school, college or university is eligible for the Student Project Award, including submissions from out of state institutions.

DAN VARIN MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD – This award is given to a professional planner, elected official, citizen planner, or organization for sustained contributions to the
profession through distinguished practice, teaching or writing, or whose efforts have contributed to elevating planning principles, creating greater awareness of the value of planning, and improving quality of life in one or more communities.

**PRESIDENT’S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** – This award is given to an APA member who has made a substantial contribution to the development and objectives of the APA RI. (This selection is made by the APA RI Chapter President).

Nominations are evaluated for the award category in which they are submitted. However, the Awards Committee may (upon majority vote), move a nomination to a different category where appropriate. One or more awards categories may have no recipient in any given year if no nominations are received or if the Awards Committee finds that none of the nominations in a particular category meet the desirable standards.