

DATE: April 11, 2006

STAFF: Greg Byrne

**WORK SESSION ITEM
FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Urban Design Awards

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

Does Council have any questions, comments or concerns regarding these awards?

BACKGROUND

The City of Fort Collins wishes to promote public and private awareness of the importance of urban design, and its role in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in our community by an awards program. We hope to promote and recognize individual practitioners, owners, organizations, public agencies, firms and projects contributing to the quality of life in Fort Collins. The awards would be given annually; seven award categories have been identified. A City staff team would be responsible for nominating projects; judging would be by a committee of experts and City staff; and, the final decision would be by the Mayor and City Manager. The first annual awards program would be this Spring/Summer for 2006.

ATTACHMENTS

Urban Design Awards Proposal



Annual Urban Design Awards – Proposal (Rev. 3/24/06)

Mission

The City of Fort Collins wishes to promote public and private awareness of the importance of urban design, and its role in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in our community. We hope to promote and recognize individual practitioners, owners, organizations, public agencies, firms and projects contributing to the quality of life in Fort Collins.

Proposed Name for the Award

- Bill Neal Award For Urban Design Excellence

Award Selection Criteria

Urban Design is about the design of buildings, places, and spaces making up our city, and how people are using them. It ranges from a city, a subarea of the city, a street, a public space, building, or to even a single outdoor space. Urban design is concerned not just with appearances and built form but with the environmental, economic, social and cultural consequences of design. It draws together many different sectors and professions, and includes both the processes and outcomes of decisions. Urban design is not simply concerned with new development but also with the maintenance and enhancement of existing development.

In an effort to showcase and celebrate excellence in urban design, seven award categories have been identified, as follows:

1. **Urban Design Plan.** This category is for a plan or a study that provides a development or redevelopment strategy in the mid-term to long term. Urban design studies, subarea plans, urban design charrettes, master plans, development plans, and a community plan of high inspirational value with the potential for significant impact on the city's urban design may be considered for award.
2. **Architecture.** This category is for any built building or group of buildings that contribute to and support quality urban design. It will be an individual building or group of buildings of high architectural standard, which achieves design excellence through its unique relationship with its immediate surroundings because of its site, massing, architecture, and pedestrian amenities.

3. **Urban Fragments.** This will involve a single, small-scale piece of a building or landscape that contributes significantly to the quality of the public realm. This category includes street furniture, lighting elements, interpretation media, memorials, public art, or other forms that contribute to the beautification, enjoyment, and/or appreciation of the urban environment.
4. **Civic Improvement Projects.** This category is for any built project initiated and implemented by a community-based organization that enhances the public realm. Streetscape, public art, parks, a public space, civil engineering infrastructure, banners, and signage are examples.
5. **Student Project.** This category is for any urban design project designed by a student from a local school or university. Faculty will be asked to nominate a student's work to the nominating committee.
6. **Green Design.** This category is for any built project that protects and enhances the natural environment. The selected projects will address significant environmental challenges with designs that integrate architecture, technology, sustainability, and natural systems.
7. **Hall of Fame.** This award honors a person for his/her continuing and significant contribution to enhancing the urban design of the community.

This is not a competition between projects, but rather an honoring of any project excelling in **one or more** categories. Therefore, for certain years, some categories might have no winners and in other years have several.

How to Get Nominated & Nomination Criteria*

A committee of City staff (Clark Mapes, Sherry Wamhoff, Pete Wray, Becca Henry, Karen McWilliams, Brian Woodruff, and Anne Aspen) will nominate a list of projects that are:

- within city limits
- completed during the award year (based on Certificate of Occupancy)
- not previously nominated for an Urban Design Award
- best illustrates the qualities of one or more of the award categories
- available for site inspection, if requested by the Jury

*Hall of Fame award is exempt from these criteria.

Final Judging

A jury will recommend to the Mayor and City Manager the award recipients. The Mayor and City Manager will make the final award decision. The Jury will consist of Joe Frank, Cameron Gloss, one member each from the LPC, P&Z and NRB, a CSU Professor (urban design), and a local design Consultant. This will be done via voting ballot at a maximum three-hour meeting.

Award Ceremony

A special, attractive location will be utilized as a place for the ceremony for instance, a room at the Lincoln Center or Marriott, Armstrong Hotel, Rio Grande etc or a nice outdoor setting,

	Location	Award	Food/Drink (assume 50 attendees)	Total Cost (excluding staff time)
The Bill Neal Award	Lincoln Center, Marriott, Armstrong, High School Park, etc.	Glass engraved \$25 ea	Catered \$8 - 12 person with punch	\$750 - \$1000

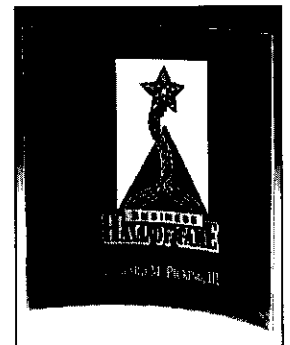
for instance High School Park or the Lincoln Center. The space would need capability of displaying winning projects. The event would be catered with hors d'oeuvres and punch. Winning projects are called to stage, presented with the award and each given a brief description, possibly with slideshow. The award itself could be upgraded to a beveled glass award with engraving for \$25 each.

Other Possible Costs

Photographer, Cable 14 taping, and nametags.

Publicity

To make the most of these awards, a full media package and website will be created and distributed. The media will be alerted both before and after the event. After the ceremony, displays of winning projects can be viewed at libraries, CSU, City Hall, Lincoln Center, CityNews and City website.



Submission Application

Each nomination must include an accompanying project summary sheet, supporting text, images (prefer digital format), and a nomination form in sufficient detail which allows the Jury to full appreciate the detail of the project and its content. The project summary must include:

- the project name;
- a brief outline of the scope of the work, concept or strategy;
- the significance of the project;
- roles of those involved;
- important special factors which may make this project unique or unusual;
- unusual or interesting facts appropriate for publicity purposes; and
- project budget.