



THE
2026 FLORIDA
PRESERVATION AWARDS
NOMINATION GUIDE

Celebrate

Historic Preservation in Florida

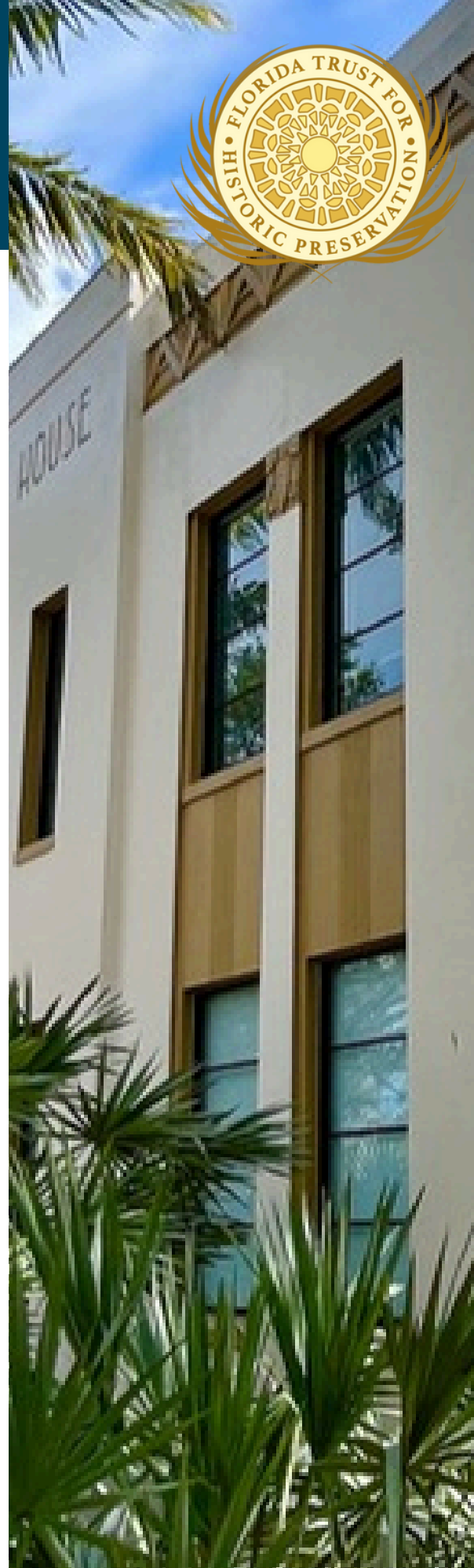


Nominate an outstanding historic preservationist, organization, community, program or preservation achievement that has made a significant impact in preserving Florida's history and heritage!

Awards will be presented during the **2026 Preserve Florida Conference in St. Petersburg, May 14-15, 2026.**

GUIDELINES

- **There is no fee.** The Florida Trust strives to reduce barriers in historic preservation. This year, nominations are completely free of charge.
- **Deadline:** Please submit all nominations and supporting material by **March 6, 2026.**
- The program is open to any individual, organization or business involved in historic preservation in Florida.
- Individuals may be nominated without their knowledge.
- Self-nominations will be accepted.
- If applicable, we will ask for approval from property owner.
- All projects, activities or individual service must have been completed between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025, in the state of Florida.
- Previous nominations that did not receive an award may be revised and resubmitted. Be sure to include all attachments with each application.
- There is no limit to the number of nominations submitted by an individual or organization.
- Each award-winning nomination will receive one award trophy with the project name. Additional trophies may be purchased for a fee.



Preservation Award Categories



Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation

Named in memory of Sallye Jude, a champion of historic preservation in Miami, Florida, this award recognizes the creative integration of resilient and sustainable design practices in preservation projects that respond to environmental threats.

Projects in this category may include:

- Restoration, rehabilitation, preservation or adaptive use projects
- Resilient design solutions that respond to threats from climate change and environmental hazards, such as increased risks of flooding or sea level rise
- Use of extensive green practices or materials
- Eco-friendly practices for community planning, such as amending preservation regulations or design guidelines to include resilient and sustainable design measures or creating smart growth programs
- Creative applications of recognized green building certifications (LEED, Green Globes, Living Building Challenge, etc.) applied to historic buildings
- Education and outreach programs that promote historic preservation to protect natural resources

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Materials and construction techniques must comply with:

- Green building standards to a level of achieving certification (even if certification was not sought) and/or achieve a level of green certification (LEED, Green Globes, etc.)
- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include A, pages 14-15.



Preservation Award Categories



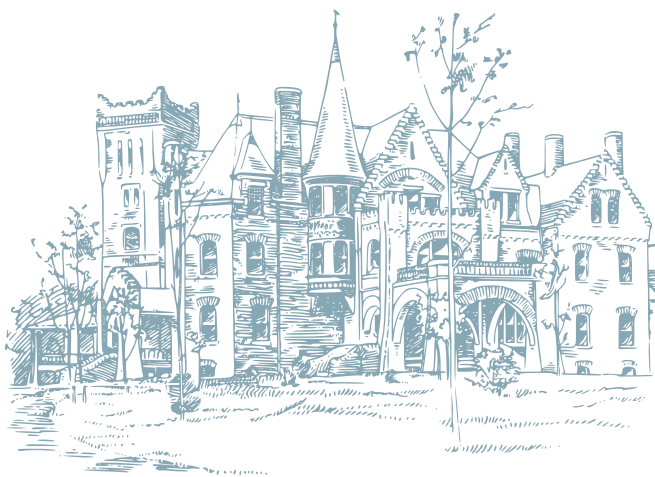
Restoration, Rehabilitation or Adaptive Use

This award recognizes best practices for the restoration, rehabilitation or adaptive use of a building, complex of buildings or a district. This category may include residential, commercial, governmental, educational and institutional projects, both for individual buildings or historic districts.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Projects must relate to a building or district that is registered as historic at the local, state or national level.
- Work must have been completed within the last three years.
- Projects must fully demonstrate adherence to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Adaptive use projects in particular must fully adhere to Standard #1: "A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment."
- The level of creativity of the adaptive use will also be considered.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include A, pages 14-15.



Preservation Award Categories



Conservation, Preservation, Maintenance & Repair

This award recognizes best practices for the preservation of a building or complex of buildings. This category may include residential, commercial, governmental, educational and institutional projects.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Projects of limited scope that meet the definition of Preservation and the Standards described within the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, including measures to protect and stabilize the property, and address the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features.
- Examples of projects in this category may include:
 - Window restoration work
 - Historic roofing repairs
 - Exterior woodwork repairs
 - Structural stabilization
 - Conservation of facade materials: wood, masonry, concrete, metals
 - Cyclical maintenance plan
- Work must have been completed within the last three years.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include A, pages 14-15.



Preservation Award Categories



Archaeology

This award recognizes a significant archaeological project, such as a physical site investigation, excavation and resulting report, the interpretation of a site or the creation of educational opportunities and access to the archaeological site.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Projects should be completed in accordance with professional and archaeological ethics as recognized by the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Archaeological Institute of America.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include A, pages 14-15.



Historic Landscape

This award recognizes the restoration, preservation and interpretation of a site or the creation of educational opportunities and access to the historic landscape.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Projects must comply with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, A, pages 14-15.



Preservation Award Categories



Preserving Place

This award recognizes individuals, organizations or projects in Florida that have excelled in placemaking* and placekeeping**, contributing to the enhancement and revitalization of communities while respecting their unique cultural heritage. Examples include:

- **Adaptive reuse projects:** Repurposing historic buildings or structures for new uses, such as converting old warehouses into mixed-use developments with retail spaces, offices and residential units.
- **Heritage trails and interpretive signage:** Creating heritage trails or walking tours that highlight significant historic sites, landmarks and other cultural heritage resources within a community.
- **Main Street programs:** Establishing preservation-based retail districts or Main Street programs that promote local businesses and entrepreneurship while preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of commercial buildings.
- **Historic preservation districts:** establishing and maintaining designated historic preservation districts with regulations and guidelines to protect and preserve the architectural character and cultural significance of the area.
- **Oral history projects:** Conducting oral history projects to record and preserve the personal stories, memories and experiences of longtime residents or community elders.
- **Cultural heritage festivals:** organizing and hosting annual festivals or events that celebrate the cultural heritage, traditions and history of a community.

**Placemaking:* The collaborative process of transforming public spaces into vibrant, inclusive and functional places that reflect the unique identity and character of a community.

***Placekeeping:* the active and intentional efforts to safeguard and maintain the cultural, historical, and social identity of a place.



Preservation Award Categories

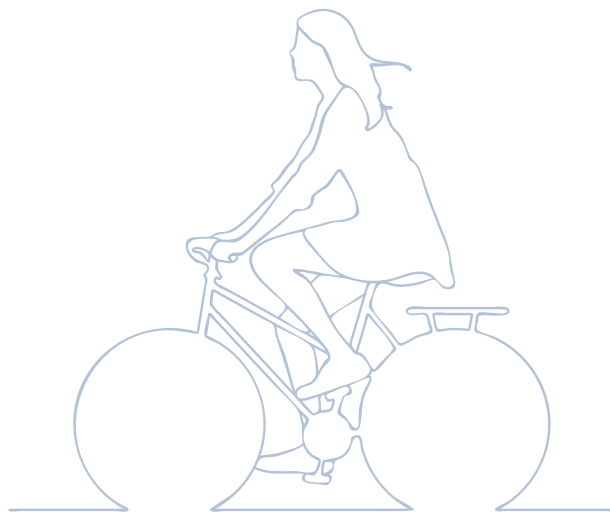


Preserving Place

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Innovative approaches to placemaking or placekeeping that celebrate the unique identity and character of a place.
- Tangible positive impact on the community, including economic, social and cultural benefits.
- Preservation of historic fabric, structures or cultural traditions while revitalizing or enhancing the place.
- Consideration of sustainable practices and principles in placemaking efforts, promoting environmental stewardship and resilience.
- Efforts to ensure that placemaking initiatives are inclusive and accessible to all members of the community, fostering social cohesion and equity.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, A, pages 14-15.



Preservation Award Categories



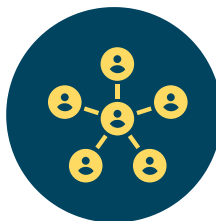
Preservation Communications/Media

This award recognizes outstanding communications for heritage education programs, including books, brochures, curricula, DVDs, websites, interactive media and other publications that deal with historic preservation, archaeology or local history.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- The program or media subject focuses on historic places, individuals, significant events and trends or significant aspects of historic preservation.
- Uses creative and innovative approaches to communicating the story.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, B, pages 16.



Organizational Excellence

This award acknowledges excellence in historic preservation by a group, corporation, neighborhood or other organization, such as:

- Successful fundraising for preservation initiatives or projects.
- Creating activities that promote historic preservation.
- Creating and implementing new preservation legislation/policies.
- Increasing the community's awareness of preservation through redevelopment, publications, events or literature.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Submissions should define the scope of the project and the organization's long-term role in its implementation and success.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, C, page 17.



Preservation Award Categories



Master Artisan

This award recognizes individuals in Florida who use traditional techniques or methods to achieve authenticity in the restoration of historical resources. Previous award winners have included artisans with a significant body of work in their specializations, such as intricate woodworking, wrought iron work, historic pointing of mortar for brickwork or hand-carving of architectural elements.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- The artisan's expertise should be considered artistic and rare in today's general construction practices and vital to best practices in historic preservation.
- Please include some of the historic properties that the artisan has worked on in your submission.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, D, page 18.



Individual Distinguished Service

This award honors a career dedicated to preserving Florida's history and heritage and is intended for individuals who have clearly made an impact in their community through their efforts as a preservation activist, advocate or leader.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- The individuals will be recognized for their work in historic preservation over a period of time, or by their community as a leader on a significant project that furthers the understanding of and appreciation for historic preservation.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, D, page 18.



Preservation Award Categories



Roy E. Graham Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation Education

Named in memory of Roy Eugene Graham, FAIA, historic preservation architect, educator, Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Professor and Director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning, this award recognizes professional educators who have made a long-term contribution to the field of historic preservation education, ensuring future generations will continue to preserve Florida's extraordinary history and heritage.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- All educational levels welcome; the award is not limited to institutional academic settings.
- Recipient must have demonstrated leadership in developing curricula and teaching historic preservation principles within a formal program.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, D. page 18.



Preservation Award Categories



Historic Preservation Scholar Award

This award recognizes college students in Florida who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and achievement in the field of historic preservation.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- The nominated student must be pursuing or must have completed undergraduate or graduate education in the last three years (2023–2025)
- Students must be nominated by an academic supervisor, professor, internship supervisor or educational supervisor.
- Evidence of outstanding academic performance and commitment to the study of historic preservation through coursework, research or related academic activities.
- Significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the field of historic preservation through original research, thesis projects or scholarly publications.
- Active involvement and engagement with the wider historic preservation community, including participation in preservation–related conferences, workshops or professional organizations.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, D, page 18.



Preservation Award Categories



Volunteer of the Year Award

This award recognizes an individual volunteer who has made significant contributions to the preservation and promotion of Florida's cultural heritage. Volunteer contributions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hands-on preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of historic resources
- Historic preservation education; raising public awareness
- Historic preservation research, such as property surveys, archival research, oral history interviews, cemetery documentation and more.
- Historic preservation advocacy such as community outreach, advocacy campaigns, public policy research and analysis and more.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Nominated individuals must have served in a volunteer role that supported historic preservation efforts within the last three years (2022-2024).
- Dedication to historic preservation; going above and beyond regular volunteer duties to support preservation initiatives
- Time and resource commitment
- Impact of volunteer activities on historic preservation, local heritage and community

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: Refer to What to Include, D, page 18.



How to submit a nomination

STEP 01 Gather Information

Review selection criteria on the Preservation Awards Nomination Guide and compile relevant information, documents and photos.



STEP 02 Submit your Nomination Online

Fill in the online nomination form at floridatrust.org/2026-awards. If needed, you can apply for a scholarship to cover the administrative fee.



STEP 03 Upload Documents

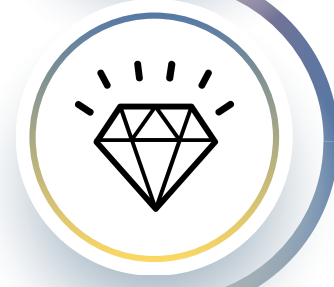
Once your application is submitted, you will receive a link, where you can upload documents to support your nomination.



STEP 04 Success!

After you upload the supporting documentation, you have successfully completed the nomination process!

We will contact you if we have questions. Award winners will be notified prior to the Awards Ceremony on July 17.



Thank you for helping us recognize excellence in preservation.



What to Include: Supporting Materials for Nominations



Place-based nominations

- Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation
- Restoration/Rehabilitation/Adaptive Use
- Archaeology
- Historic Landscape
- Preserving Place

1. **Value Statement** – A written statement (maximum of two pages) describing why you believe the project deserves an award. Please describe the motivation for the project and any obstacles, challenges or community involvement that contributed to the project’s success.
2. **Scope of work** – Upload a description of the scope of work.
3. **Historic Documentation** – Let us know the historic status of the project. Provide supporting materials that reflect the property or district is recognized as a historical resource, such as a Florida Site File form, National Register/National Historic Landmark listing, or local landmark/historic district designation from a municipal/county government.
4. **Owner notification** – If the award includes a building not owned by the nominator, please include a copy of the notification sent to the owner, letter or email.
5. **Project Budget** – Please specify whether public or private financing was utilized and provide a list with the major components of the project budget.
6. **Drawings and Maps** – Architectural drawings, including site plans and location maps are helpful to convey the scope of work and success of the project outcomes.



What to Include: Supporting Materials



Place-based nominations

- Sallye Jude Award for Resilient Preservation
- Restoration/Rehabilitation/Adaptive Use
- Conservation, Preservation, Maintenance & Repair
- Archaeology
- Historic Landscape
- Preserving Place

7. **Photos** – Upload a maximum of 20 photos that clearly depict the scope of work, illustrating the historic features, before and after conditions of the project. Before and after photos should be of the same view, if possible. Include general as well as detailed views. Photos must be 300 dpi or higher and in .jpg or .png form.

8. **Photo Reference Sheet** – A reference sheet describing each photo and providing relevant details. Let us know which photo you would like to serve as the primary photo for the project (to be displayed on the press release and in other marketing materials).

9. **Summary statement** – Brief descriptive statement (maximum 150 words) that will be used in press releases and the awards ceremony.



What to Include: Supporting Materials



Preservation Communications/Media

1. **Value Statement** – A written statement (maximum of two pages) describing why you believe the project deserves an award. Please describe the motivation for the project and any obstacles, challenges or necessary community involvement that contributed to the project’s success.
2. **Scope of work** – Upload a description of the scope of work.
3. **Copies of the publication** – Please provide digital copies of all media/communications projects. If publication is in printed format, such as a book, please provide digital and at least five physical copies of the materials.
4. **Project Budget** – Please specify whether public or private financing was utilized and provide a list with the major components of the project budget.
5. **Photos/Video** – For all projects, especially those involving site signage or other large-scale media, please provide up to 10 photos of the installations or the products. If project is a video, please provide links to the video file. Photos must be 300 dpi or higher and in .jpg or .png form.
6. **Summary statement** – Brief descriptive statement (maximum 150 words) that will be used in press releases and the awards ceremony.



What to Include: Supporting Materials



Organizational Excellence

1. **Description of organization and their work** – A written statement (maximum of two pages) describing why you believe the organization deserves a preservation award. Please describe the work of the organization and highlight their projects and body of work.
2. **Photos** – Please include up to 10 photos of the organization’s work and any special projects to be considered as part of the nomination review. Photos must be 300 dpi or higher and in .jpg or .png form.
3. **Photo Reference Sheet** – A reference sheet describing each photo and providing relevant details. Let us know which photo you would like to serve as the primary photo for the project (to be displayed on the press release and in other marketing materials).
4. **Summary statement** – Brief descriptive statement (maximum 150 words) that will be used in press releases and the awards ceremony.



What to Include: Supporting Materials



Individual Awards

- Master Artisan
- Individual Distinguished Service
- Roy E. Graham Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation
- Historic Preservation Scholar
- Volunteer of the Year

1. **Description of candidate and their work** – A written statement (maximum of two pages) describing why you believe the person deserves a preservation award. Please describe their qualifications and their body of work.
2. **Resume** – Upload a copy of their resume and a head shot.
3. **Photos** – Please include up to 10 photos of the nominee and examples of their work or special projects. Photos must be 300 dpi or higher and in .jpg or .png form.
4. **Photo Reference Sheet** – A reference sheet describing each photo and providing relevant details. Let us know which photo you would like to serve as the primary photo for the project (to be displayed on the press release and in other marketing materials).
5. **Letters of Support** – This is very important! A maximum of five letters of support from the community may be shared in support of the nomination. Historic Preservation Scholar nominees must provide at least two letters of support from their academic supervisors.
6. **Summary statement** – Brief descriptive statement (maximum 150 words) that will be used in press releases and the awards ceremony.



Submitting a Nomination

Supporting Materials

- Submit your nomination at: floridatrust.org/2026-awards
- All materials are due by **March 6, 2026**.
- By submitting a nomination, you authorize the Florida Trust to use submitted materials for marketing purposes.
- If you need assistance at any time during the nomination process, please don't hesitate to contact the Florida Trust at information@floridatrust.org or call (850) 224-8128.

