

Guidelines and Rules, 2026 NODA

(Neighborhoods of Distinction Awards)

CATEGORY GUIDELINES

Beautification (Examples: landscaping, design, cleanliness, art, streetscape, lighting)

The 2026 NODA Beautification Awards will honor nominations that show the most meaningful visual improvements within their Neighborhood.

In addition to visual impact, the selection committee (i.e. the ONE-PS board) may consider factors such as sustainability, low maintenance costs, added shade, positive spillover effects in neighboring areas, widespread public acceptance, creative fundraising approaches, and especially how easily the project could be replicated in other Neighborhoods. “Beautification” does not require a group activity, per se; an individual or even a business could be nominated.

Engagement (Examples: events, communications, collaborations with other Neighborhoods, community-building efforts)

The 2026 NODA Engagement Awards will honor nominations for activities that demonstrate significant improvements in neighborhood cohesion. Such activities may include events, collaborations with other Neighborhoods and communications.

In addition to “Engagement” specifically, the selection committee may consider factors such as recurrence (i.e. annual, quarterly or monthly), the scope and funding of events, and the results of collaborations), and especially how easily the project could be replicated in other Neighborhoods. “Engagement” does not require a group activity, per se.

Impact / Charity (Examples: volunteerism, charitable initiatives, outreach programs, fundraising for a nonprofit, creative fundraising, creating a foundation)

The 2026 NODA Impact / Charity Awards will honor nominations for activities that demonstrate a significant (impactful) influence on neighborhood improvements through charitable giving, or other means of giving to others including volunteering, raising funds for a specific objective or a worthy nonprofit.

In addition to “Impact / Charity” specifically, the selection committee may consider factors such as recurrence (i.e. regularity of an initiative such as annual, quarterly or monthly), the scope and funding of events, and the scope of impact whether for the Neighborhood itself or perhaps the constituents of a worthy nonprofit or group or initiative outside of the Neighborhood, and especially how easily the project could be

replicated in other Neighborhoods. “Impact / Charity” does not require a group activity, per se.

Safety (Examples: traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety, lighting, wayfinding projects, crime prevention)

The 2026 NODA Safety Awards will honor nominations for activities that demonstrate neighborhood improvements in any of a variety of areas including safety at home, safety when walking or playing within the Neighborhood, safety at public locations such as parks, and safety when driving or bicycling.

In addition to “Safety” specifically, the selection committee may consider factors such as safety from excessive sunshine (i.e. shade), or from second-party smoke or other pollutants. The committee should consider how easily the project could be replicated in other Neighborhoods. “Impact / Charity” does not require a group activity, per se.

ELIGIBILITY

NOMINATIONS. Only NOrg (Neighborhood Organization) representatives (board member, official Membership Meeting representative or official alternate representative) may make a nomination.

1. Nominations are due no later than the date of the Membership Meeting prior to the published awards ceremony date. In 2026 this is Tuesday, November 10.
2. Nominations may be submitted, using the 2026 Nominations Form, at any time prior to November 10.
3. Nominations may be submitted to any member of the ONE-PS board by email or text, by USB drive, or by hard copy.

TIMELINES: nominated events / projects / achievements / accomplishments are permitted for the current year or for prior years (“historic”).

AWARDS. There will be two awards for each of the four categories, i.e. eight total awards.

1. Each category will have one DISTINCTION (first place) award and one HONOR (second place).
2. ALL awards will be presented to the Neighborhood as represented on its nomination form. The Neighborhood’s name will be prominently displayed on each trophy and certificate.
3. The names of the Neighborhood’s residents (or businesses) who were primarily responsible for the awarded achievement (as explained in the nomination form), will be engraved on each trophy and certificate, as it was in 2025.
4. Each DISTINCTION award will have ONE trophy, and a separate certificate for each of the persons named as per the prior paragraph. Winners of each HONOR award will receive certificates.
5. A Neighborhood may be nominated for multiple achievements, but can only win a single award in any given year.

6. Neighborhood projects can be significant undertakings lasting multiple years. Therefore, a Neighborhood is eligible to win an award for different initiatives within a multi-year project, provided that nominations concerning the multi-year project are not made in consecutive years. For example: a Neighborhood creates or helps to create a dog park within its boundaries. In 2026 Neighborhood surveys and fundraising events are held. In 2027 the dog park is designed, reviewed by the City and vetted at town halls. In 2028 the dog park is built. The dog park project would be eligible for an award in 2026 and 2028, but not 2027.
7. An award won last year does not prevent a Neighborhood from winning an award this year.
8. ALL categories allow for a **group, committee, NOrg, Board of Directors, an individual or a business to be nominated**, provided that the requirements in NOMINATIONS are met.

JUDGING PROCESS

1. The ONE-PS board members will determine the award winners by a vote of the board members at a special meeting that has a quorum.
 - a. This special meeting will be managed by the ONE-PS board chair with assistance from other board members as needed.
2. As nominations are received they will be distributed to board members by the ONE-PS NODA Advisory Committee chair. The chair will maintain and distribute a log of submissions.
3. The NODA Advisory Committee chair will also assign nominations to board members, as the nominations are received.
4. Board members will reach out to the primary contact(s) of their assigned nomination(s), to engage them in the process and learn the background and details of their nomination(s).
 - a. Each board member will advocate for their assigned nomination(s) at the special meeting referenced above.
5. In the event that nominations in one category are very low, while nominations in another category are high, the board may, at its discretion, determine if a nomination in the “high” category might also qualify for the “low” category, and thereby offer the NOrg nominator the option of changing categories.