

2023 Big Apple Brownfield Awards Nomination Application Guidelines

1. Community Advocacy, Outreach, and Engagement (formerly Supportive/Affordable Housing and Community Outreach) Award

This award will be given to the brownfield project that demonstrates the most innovative approach to advocacy and engagement of the community during a brownfield project. This will be achieved through extensive community outreach and involvement in the design of the project, including citizen participation, Community Board involvement, community education, implementation of community job training programs, entrepreneurship, or other programs of value to the community. The narrative should describe collaboration with land use support staff, elected officials, and community members. The narrative should describe the efforts taken and quantify wherever possible the benefits rendered as a result of these efforts.

2. Community Space and Support Services

This award will be given to the brownfield project that demonstrates the highest benefit to a community with support services during a brownfield project. This will be achieved through a combination of creating/preserving affordable housing units, supportive services offered to the community, implementation of community job training programs, or other services of value to the community. The narrative should describe the efforts taken and quantify wherever possible the benefits rendered as a result of these efforts. For affordable housing projects, the targeted Area Median Income (AMI) of buyers should be stated as well as if the project provided for the creation of housing that resulted in long-term affordability and/or supportive services to the current residents of the community where their homes are located.

3. Environmentally Responsible Building Award (Formerly Climate Resiliency/Green Building/Sustainable Remediation Award)

This award will be given to the brownfield project with a pioneering design that incorporates the rising awareness to address the vulnerability of communities, structures and infrastructure with regards to the environmental consequences of climate change. Up for consideration are structures or places that include innovative design elements, which function to protect the integrity of the building in the event of climate change. Design examples that take into account climate resiliency may also include brownfield projects that can be utilized as emergency response centers and/or housing for displaced populations. Other sustainable principles applied to site selection, such as discussions of green building design elements, principles of smart growth, accessibility to mass transit and/or bike paths, open-space design and the incorporation of sustainable practices during the remediation should be included. If green building design components were implemented the narrative should refer to one of the following for a comprehensive list of sustainability criteria widely accepted in land use planning and building design: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Multi-Family Building Performance Program or EnergyStar Labeled Homes Program; or Enterprise's Green Communities Criteria. If sustainable remediation practices were implemented the narrative should note how remedial methods went beyond current industry norms to reduce the material, energy, or water used during the remediation, noting where such reductions led to remedial cost reductions without compromising the integrity of the remediation. Also to be considered for this award are engineering controls that require electrical power for which renewable energy sources have been substituted for conventional on-the-grid electricity. The narrative should describe the functionality of the project in regards to both climate change and specific disaster relief uses.

4. Economic Development Award (Includes former Brownfield Opportunity Area Award)

This award will be given to the project that demonstrates the greatest benefit to local economic development, as measured by job creation, tax revenue generation, or other forms of economic benefit. The narrative should describe and quantify the value and benefits imparted by the project, including direct and indirect benefits. If the project contributed to substantial job creation, quantify and concisely state the number and primary job classifications created during the project and/or upon completion of the brownfield redevelopment. If the project generates revenue, discuss methodology used to establish this or calculate. Discuss present and future growth potential engendered by the project in the surrounding community. Nominations for projects in Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) should explain the manner in which the BOA community plan was incorporated into the redevelopment, the process of engagement between the developer and the BOA grantee, and the projects' subsequent benefit to the community. Projects including a BOA community plan in the narrative should have a signed letter from the BOA grantee in support of the nomination noting how the project comports with the BOA community plan.

5. Innovative Remediation Award (formerly Innovation and Environmental Protection Awards)

This award will be given to a brownfield project that has had the most significant improvement in public health and environmental protection and used or developed innovative means in conducting a brownfield remediation by utilizing creative remedial technology, project financing and/or project marketing techniques. One or more categories may be described, with weight given to multiple approaches to innovation. The narrative should quantify the environmental or public health benefits of the remedial work from the perspective of contaminant removal, treatment, and sequestration. Examples of topics that may be considered include total and relative contaminant mass reduction at the site, risk reduction at the site due to either the removal of exposure pathways or reduction in site contamination toxicity, and challenges overcome in implementing the remediation. The narrative should also describe in detail the methods that were applied and explain why and how they were unique, innovative and differ from the current standard forms of remediation used throughout the brownfields industry.

6. Open Space Award

This award will be given to a brownfield project with a design that provides the most remarkable and valuable features for community benefit in the form of parks, recreation, and other open space. The narrative should explain the goals of open space design and provide pertinent details, such as usage, total area, shape, grade, landscape design, plantings, construction materials, and connectivity with other open space.