

COOPER HEWITT

NATIONAL
DESIGN
AWARDS

2023 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your nomination for the 2023 National Design Awards!

Review this document for the **2023 Instructions for Submission** and the **2023 Terms of Agreement**.

Visit cooperhewitt.org/nda2023 to submit your materials. We look forward to your submission!

Questions? Contact the National Design Awards office at designawards@si.edu or visit cooperhewitt.org/nda/submissiontips for tips, sample materials, and frequently asked questions. Phone calls can be scheduled over email or leave a message at 212.849.8337.



Smithsonian Design Museum

ABOUT THE NATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS

Now in its 24th year, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum's National Design Awards program honors innovation and impact and recognizes the power of design to change the world.

CRITERIA

The defining criteria for the National Design Awards are **innovation** and **impact**.

AWARD CATEGORIES

- **Design Visionary:** Given in recognition of an individual, corporation, or organization who has made a profound contribution to advancing the field.
- **Climate Action:** Given in recognition of a design project for its significant contributions to addressing the urgency of the global climate crisis.
- **Emerging Designer:** Given in recognition of a designer or firm who has demonstrated profound talent in the early stages of their career.
- **Architecture:** Given to an individual or firm for their contributions to the built environment that advance the understanding of our spatial experiences.
- **Communication Design:** Given to an individual or firm for the impactful use of design in the services of information sharing, messaging, and overall communication.
- **Digital Design:** Given to an individual or firm for the innovative design of digital products, environments, systems, experiences, and services.
- **Fashion Design:** Given to an individual or firm for the forward-thinking design of apparel, accessory, jewelry, footwear, and textiles.
- **Interior Design:** Given to an individual or firm for their contributions to interior environments that advance the understanding of our spatial experiences.
- **Landscape Architecture:** Given to an individual or firm for their contributions to the integration between the built, urban, and natural environments and for advancing the understanding of our spatial experiences.
- **Product Design:** Given to an individual or firm for the design of goods, furniture, lighting, and materials.

SELECTION PROCESS

Nominations are solicited from designers, educators, journalists, cultural figures, corporate leaders, and design enthusiasts from across the country. Once nominations close, the museum contacts nominees with instructions for the registration and submission process. The jury, consisting of prominent design leaders, reviews all completed submissions and selects the award honorees. Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum and Smithsonian Institution Trustees and staff do not serve on the jury. The awards will be conferred at a special event in 2023.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is restricted to citizens or current long-term residents of the United States over 18 years of age and firms, corporations, or organizations with corporate headquarters in the United States. Except as otherwise set forth below, nominees for all award categories must have been practicing professionally or established, as applicable, for a minimum of 10 years.

Design Visionary nominees must have been practicing professionally for a minimum of 25 years if an individual or established for a minimum of 10 years if a firm, corporation, or organization. Previous winners of a National Design Award in any category are ineligible to win in the Design Visionary category until 10 years after receiving their first National Design Award.

Emerging Designer nominees must be in the early stages of their career with up to 7 years of professional experience if an individual or established for a maximum of 7 years if a firm, corporation, or organization. Founders/leadership of the firm, corporation, or organization must also be in the early stages of their career with up to 7 years of professional experience in the work of the firm, corporation, or organization. Winners of the Emerging Designer Award are ineligible to win in any other award category until 10 years after receiving the Emerging Designer Award.

Climate Action Award nominees do not require a minimum number of years of professional experience, however, the project must be in progress or realized. All previous National Design Award winners are eligible for the Climate Action Award.

A National Design Award nominee may be considered for multiple award categories but may only win in one award category per year. A previous winner of a National Design Award is ineligible to win a National Design Award in the same award category. Cooper Hewitt employees and trustees and their companies, organizations, families, and household members are not eligible. Awards are given for a body of realized work, not for any specific project (except for the project-based Climate Action Award), that represents the core criteria of the National Design Awards: innovation and impact.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Nomination Deadline:** Monday, January 9, 2023
- **Registration Deadline:** Friday, February 10, 2023
- **Submission Deadline:** Friday, March 17, 2023
- **Announcement of Winners:** Summer 2023
- **National Design Awards Event:** October 5, 2023
- **National Design Week:** October 2–8, 2023



2023 INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023, 11:59 P.M. EASTERN TIME

All materials must be submitted at: cooperhewitt.org/nda2023. The submission process is entirely digital.

REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS

- ❑ **BIO/HISTORY:** A **current and concise biography of up to 150 words**. Firms, corporations, and organizations should provide a statement of history. Note any major clients and projects. Emerging Designer nominees should also note any substantial and recent editorial coverage or awards. (text)
- ❑ **STATEMENT:** A **statement of up to 150 words** should provide the jury with a brief introduction to your work. Suggested topics include the distinctive qualities of your work, its impact on the field and on the local, national, or global level, efforts around addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities, your approach or process, and your mission and primary interests. (text)
- ❑ **PORTFOLIO:** A **digital portfolio containing 10 projects (5–10 for Emerging Designer nominees), not to exceed 5 pages per project**, with images and a brief description that clearly reflects on the awards criteria for each project: **innovation and impact**. Describe how the project addresses contemporary challenges and opportunities. **Fashion Design** nominees may submit a compilation of ten collections/seasons (look books or collection books) along with a description for each collection. **Digital Design** and **Communication Design** nominees may also include links to videos or websites showing the digital aspects of projects. Suggested page size is 8.5" x 14". (PDF)
- ❑ **IMAGES:** **10 digital images (5–10 for Emerging Designer nominees)** selected from your portfolio, one image per project. Images **must** be submitted in TIF or JPG format with a minimum resolution of 6" x 9", 300 dpi. Please label image filenames with the nominee, image number (01–10), and project title (ex. Nominee_Image_01_projecttitle.tif). (TIF or JPG)
- ❑ **CAPTIONS:** **Image captions** that correspond with all images noted above. Captions should include image filename, project title, brief description, location, year or season completed, project partners (as applicable), and photo credit. If possible, please also include a thumbnail of the image with the corresponding captions. (PDF)
- ❑ **VIDEO:** A dynamic **video** that introduces yourself and your work, not to exceed 2 minutes. Videos need not be professionally produced but should convey the strength of the nominee to the jury. Standard HD (1920x1080) is preferable. (MOV, AVI, MP4)

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **Your submission must note the innovation and impact of each project**, as well as how the project addresses contemporary challenges and opportunities.
- **Your submission should best represent the body of work** that you or your firm, corporation, or institution have developed throughout your career, in relation to the category in which you are submitting. If you are submitting to multiple design categories, a customized separate submission is required for each category. The jury will consider design category nominees in the Design Visionary category as well, if eligible; you do not need to submit separately for this. The jury may move your submission to a different category, if appropriate.
- Jurors are charged with considering the innovation and impact of each nominees' work, while also considering the following questions:
 - To what extent have communities, on a local, national, or global level, benefited from the explorations and achievements of the nominee?
 - To what extent has the nominee exhibited professional responsibility toward securing a brighter future for all?
 - Has the nominee demonstrated excellence in their process and body of work?
 - Has the nominee broadened the conventions of their discipline?
 - Has the nominee expressed extraordinary originality, authenticity, and imagination in their work with identifying and solving problems—both formally and practically?
 - Have levels of skill, craftsmanship, and insight remained consistently high throughout the nominee's career to date?
 - If chosen as a winner, what message would this convey to the public and future nominees about the National Design Awards? About the museum's role as a platform for design?
- **Do not send physical materials**, including, but not limited to, original artwork, product samples, letters of support, and books.
- Materials will be viewed on various personal computers or devices as well as on a large 84" monitor.
- You will receive an automated confirmation email from noreply@secure-platform.com once you submit your materials. Please check your spam.
- Visit cooperhewitt.org/nda/submissiontips for sample portfolios, sample videos, and suggestions from previous jurors.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the National Design Awards office at designawards@si.edu or visit cooperhewitt.org/nda/submissiontips. Phone calls can be scheduled over email or leave a message at 212.849.8337.





2023 NATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS TERMS OF AGREEMENT

By registering and submitting materials for the 2023 National Design Awards, I agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions:

I hereby agree that if I am selected as an honoree of the 2023 National Design Awards:

- At no charge to the Smithsonian Institution (the “Smithsonian”), I shall fully participate as an honoree in the 2023 National Design Awards events and related programs during National Design Week, to be held in person in New York City on October 2–8, 2023, and throughout the year, virtually and/or in New York City or in locations around the country.
- Upon request, I will provide the Smithsonian with additional images or materials for use at the 2023 National Design Awards related programs and events and any accompanying public materials or exhibitions.
- The Smithsonian and those authorized by the Smithsonian have my irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive permission to use and modify the materials I may voluntarily submit to the Smithsonian in connection with the 2023 National Design Awards during the submission process and later (the “Materials”), in whole or in part, in any manner or media (whether now known or later developed) for purposes of the 2023 National Design Awards, promotion of the National Design Awards to the public, and for all standard museum, educational, scholarly, research, or archival uses.
- The Smithsonian also has my perpetual and irrevocable permission to use without charge my name, likeness, and image in connection with the 2023 National Design Awards, promotion of the National Design Awards, and for all standard museum, educational, scholarly, research, or archival uses.
- The Smithsonian may retain my Materials as part of the digital archives of the Cooper Hewitt National Design Awards.

Regardless of whether I am selected as an honoree, I agree to the following terms and conditions:

Representation and Warranty: I represent and warrant that I own all rights to the Materials I submit or that I have obtained all permissions necessary from the respective owners to give the Smithsonian the rights described above. Upon request, I promptly shall provide documentation of such permissions to the Smithsonian; failure to promptly provide such documentation may result in my disqualification.

Confidentiality: Information about my nomination, my submission of the Materials, and any information the Smithsonian discloses to me about the 2023 National Design Awards nominations, registrations, nominee submissions, judging, and related processes, is proprietary to the Smithsonian. I shall not disclose such information to any third party without prior written permission from the Smithsonian.

Publicity Release: The Smithsonian and those authorized by the Smithsonian may film or otherwise record me, my participation, performance, statements, and any of my Materials that appear at the 2023 National Design Awards related programs and events. The Smithsonian may use such film or recording in any manner or medium (whether now known or later developed) without charge to me. I disclaim any interest or rights I may have in connection with my appearance, participation, or statements at the 2023 National Design Awards related programs and events, as filmed or recorded or edited by the Smithsonian or those authorized by the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian is under no obligation to film or record me or my Materials or to use such film or record if made.

Liability Release: I release the Smithsonian from responsibility for any costs, damage, or injuries of whatever kind that I may incur or cause in connection with my submission to and/or participation in the National Design Awards, including related programs and events.

Indemnity: I indemnify and hold harmless the Smithsonian and its regents, trustees, officers, employees, agents, and 2023 National Design Awards jury from and against all claims, demands, suits, judgments, and expenses, including reasonable out-of-pocket attorneys’ fees, arising out of my failure to comply with this agreement or breach of the representation and warranty.

Miscellaneous: The Smithsonian and the 2023 National Design Awards jury have no obligation to select me or my submission as an honoree. The Smithsonian has no obligation to use my Materials, name, likeness, image, or participation in any manner. The Smithsonian may cancel or make adjustments to the 2023 National Design Awards at its discretion. The Smithsonian’s decisions are final and binding.

I have read and agreed to the foregoing terms and conditions.