# 2016 Neighborhood of the Year Award Recipients

Each year since 1984, the Board of Directors of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) recognizes the commitment and work of neighborhoods in awarding the “Neighborhood of the Year” in multiple categories. A Grand Prize winner is then selected from the winner from each category. The 2016 award winners are:

## Neighborhood of the Year Grand Prize Winner

**Fletcher Place Neighborhood – Indianapolis**  
*Project: Virginia Avenue Folk Fest*

NUSA named the Fletcher Place Neighborhood Association of Indianapolis the 2016 Grand Prize winner of the NOTY Awards during its 41st annual conference. Finishing first in the Social Revitalization category, the inaugural Virginia Avenue Folk Fest featured 70 live acts on 9 stages and welcomed 10,000+ to the neighborhood. The festival introduced people to Americana, Bluegrass and Folk music, while also promoting local businesses and raising funds for Trusted Mentors, a non-profit.

## Physical Revitalization / Beautification

### 1st Place

**Historic Kenwood Neighborhood – St. Petersburg, Fla.**  
*Project: Historic Kenwood Partnership Program*

The historic Kenwood Partnership Program partnered neighborhood and local volunteers in this community with physically- and/or financially-challenged homeowners to make much-needed exterior home repairs and yard clean-ups.

### 2nd Place

**Gifford Park Neighborhood – Omaha, Neb.**  
*Project: Adventure Playground Tree House Project*

The Adventure Playground Tree House Project involved building a large tree house around two large Catalpa trees as part of the neighborhood’s Adventure Playground program. With the help of adults, youth conceived, planned and built the tree houses.

### 3rd Place

**Sylvan Old Auburn Road Neighborhood – Citrus Heights, Calif.**  
*Project: From Labor to Legacy*

The Sylvan Old Auburn Road neighborhood partnered with the local park district to involve the community and develop a new nature preserve park. SOAR sponsored with cash and volunteer hours, and the neighborhood received signage in the park in return.

### Finalist

**Glenview-Edgewood Manor Area – Memphis, Tenn.**  
*Project: Arboretum in Glenview Park*

This project features the building and maintenance of the arboretum in Glenview Park. This ongoing project includes neighborhood leaders, park services, the state’s Urban Forestry and many volunteers.
**Social Revitalization – Neighborliness**

**1st Place**

**Fletcher Place Neighborhood – Indianapolis**

*Project: Virginia Avenue Folk Fest*

The Fletcher Place Neighborhood produced the inaugural Virginia Avenue Folk Fest featuring 70 live acts on 9 stages and welcomed 10,000+ visitors. The festival introduced people to Americana, Bluegrass and Folk music, while also promoting local businesses and raising funds for Trusted Mentors, a non-profit.

**2nd Place**

**Gibraltar Neighborhood – Council Bluffs, Iowa**

*Project: Neighborhood Identification, Pride & Engagement*

The Gibraltar Neighborhood set out to improve neighborhood pride, awareness of boundaries and engagement, both with each other and community projects. The biggest part of this initiative was printing and installation of neighborhood identification banners.

**3rd Place**

**Hilltop Business Association – Tacoma, Wash.**

*Project: Hilltop Street Fair*

This street fair began two years as a celebration of diversity, energy and tenacity of the residents and businesses of the beleaguered Hilltop area of Tacoma. The community has overcome a long period of crime and is now on the upswing.

**Finalist**

**Joslyn Castle Neighborhood – Omaha, Neb.**

*Project: Clarkson Park Pocket Stage Production*

This program was implemented when the neighborhood built a pocket stage to host monthly events to draw more neighbors to the park, increase participation in the neighborhood and create a better sense of community and belonging.

**Finalist**

**Near Eastside Neighborhood – Fort Worth, Texas**

*Project: Women’s Outreach Initiative*

The rape of a homeless woman inspired a building owner to organize a meeting of more than 40 groups to create a solution. Together, they created the Women’s Outreach Initiative and over the past year have initiated several safety solutions.

**Finalist**

**Oakhurst Neighborhood – Fort Worth, Texas**

*Project: Welcome Committee*

The neighborhood association’s welcome committee had done outstanding, innovative work in welcoming large numbers of new residents with visit and homemade treats, produced the Newcomers Dinner and put on “Popsicles in the Park” for children.