Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) is pleased to announce the opening of its 2020 Awards Competition.
NUSA proudly presents awards in the following categories:

- Neighborhood of the Year
- Best Neighborhood Program
- Neighborhood Newsletters
- Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods

**NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR (NOTY) AWARD**

2020 celebrates the 45th year that NUSA will recognize the outstanding work of neighborhood organizations across the United States for their work toward improving the quality of life in their communities. If your organization completed a neighborhood improvement project or activity in 2019, you are invited to enter the 2020 Neighborhood of the Year Award competition.

Last year’s finalist included a neighborhood mural, park restoration & habitat improvement project, community food pantry, neighborhood walk series, community fun run, neighborhood revitalization task force and a park enhancement project. For additional examples, please visit: nusa.org/nusa-awards/neighborhood-of-the-year.

Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) awards are given in three (3) categories:

1. **Physical Revitalization/Beautification (Single Neighborhood)** - Projects that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces and business district enhancements.

2. **Social Revitalization/Neighborliness (Single Neighborhood)** - Projects focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, and activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together like an ice cream social, holiday celebration or festival.

3. **Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships** - Projects that are jointly produced by at least two neighborhoods or community organizations in a partnership effort, addressing either physical or social concerns.
NOTY - Judging Criteria

Each award application will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the following criteria:

- **Self Help/Financial Capability (0-20 pts)** - The extent of self-help is evident with minimal reliance on outside funding sources; the budget was well documented and realistic.

- **Grassroots Involvement (0-20 pts)** - The project/activity included significant neighborhood and/or business involvement and cooperation; diversity of participants.

- **Innovativeness (0-10 pts)** - The project/activity was a creative and unique way to address the neighborhood(s) issue.

- **Community Benefit (0-10 pts)** - The project/activity benefited the neighborhood as a whole and addressed a need; it improved the health, safety and/or appearance of the neighborhood.

- **Sustainability (0-10 pts)** - The project/activity illustrated opportunities for self-sufficiency; project/activity included a low maintenance design and an ongoing maintenance plan.

- **Leadership Development (0-10 pts)** - The project/activity provided opportunities for volunteers to take on leadership roles and develop new skills.

- **Partnership Building (0-10 pts)** - The project/activity created partnerships with public and/or private entities; and/or with other neighborhoods and community-based groups.

- **Volunteerism (0-5 pts)** - The extent of volunteer contributions to the project.

- **Replicable (0-5 pts)** - The potential for the project/activity to be replicated in other neighborhoods.

All Neighborhood of the Year award finalists will be notified on or before March 1, 2020 and invited to make a presentation to a judging panel during the 2020 Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 20-23, 2020. **Costs associated with attending the conference and making a presentation is the sole responsibility of each finalist organization.**
NOTY – Application Submission

Any neighborhood, homeowners or business association is eligible to submit an application in the Neighborhood of the Year award category if the organization has developed and completed a project or activity that benefited their neighborhood in 2019. Entries previously considered for this award are ineligible. In order to help better understand your application, please answer the following questions using no more than five (5) double-sided 8 ½” x 11” white pages.

1. Tell us about your neighborhood and neighborhood organization.
   - Briefly describe your neighborhood.
   - When was your neighborhood association formed? How many people live in your neighborhood? How many people are involved in neighborhood meetings on a regular basis?

2. Inform us about the nominated project or activity.
   - Describe your project/activity. Identify when it started, who initiated it and what you were trying to accomplish.
   - What prompted your organization to develop this project/activity? Please describe circumstances and/or situations that made this a priority for your neighborhood residents.
   - List the six (6) critical steps/tasks your group took to develop/implement this project/activity? Describe the role and level of involvement of neighborhood residents in each of the steps.
   - Why do you think this project was successful? Describe why it was beneficial, how it changed the neighborhood, and any unexpected surprises resulting from the project/activity.
   - If this project involved other partners, who were involved, what role did they play, and how critical were they to the success of the project/activity?
   - If this project/activity was going to be replicated by other neighborhoods, what four pieces of advice and/or lessons would you give to them?

3. Please attach the following items:
   - A copy of the Required Cover Sheet and Application (see pages 9 and 10 of this packet).
   - A budget showing income and expenses related to the project/activity including, but not limited to: donations, grants, in-kind support and volunteer hours committed.
   - Up to six (6) additional items you feel will help the judges have a better understanding of your project/activity.

4. Applications MUST be mailed using the following guidelines:
   - Submissions must be on 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
   - DO NOT staple your application together. Binder clips are acceptable.
   - Include the award entry fee of $65. Entry fees may also be paid electronically via PayPal at: nusa.org/nusa-awards/award-application.
BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM (BNP) AWARD

The Best Neighborhood Program (BNP) award recognizes the outstanding work of governmental entities, businesses or corporations in the United States who work to improve the quality of life in their communities and neighborhoods.

If your organization completed a neighborhood improvement project or activity in 2019, you are invited to enter the Best Neighborhood Program Award competition and bring national attention to the program that made your community a better place to live.

Last year’s finalists included a neighborhood safety program, tactical urbanism project, neighborhood involvement and community engagement program, city-wide art project, city academy, affordable housing youth builders program, historical neighborhood tour and a neighborhood leadership academy. For additional examples, please visit: nusa.org/nusa-awards/best-neighborhood-program.

Best Neighborhood Program awards are given in two categories:

1. **Physical Revitalization/Beautification** - Programs that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces and business district enhancements.

2. **Social Revitalization/Neighborliness** - Programs focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together on programs like an ice cream social, holiday celebration or festival.

**BNP – Judging Criteria**

Best Neighborhood Program award applications will be evaluated by a panel of judges to determine finalists. All finalists will be notified on or before March 1, 2020 and invited to make a presentation to a judging panel during the 2020 Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 20-23, 2020. *Costs associated with attending the conference and making a presentation is the sole responsibility of each finalist organization.*
BNP – Application Submission

Any governmental entity, business or corporation that has developed and completed a program in 2019 is eligible to submit an application. Entries previously considered for this award are ineligible.

In order to help better understand your program, please answer the following questions, using no more than five (5) double-sided 8 ½” x 11” white pages.

1. Please inform us about the nominated project or activity.
   - Describe your program/activity. Identify when it started, who initiated it and what you were trying to accomplish.
   - What prompted your organization to develop this program/activity? Please describe circumstances and/or situations that made this a priority for your neighborhood residents.
   - Why do you think this program was successful? Describe why it was beneficial, how it changed the neighborhood, and any unexpected surprises resulting from the program/activity.
   - How has your program made a difference in the community? What benchmarks were used to measure success?
   - If this program/activity was going to be replicated by others, is there documentation that another group could obtain to design a similar type program?

2. Please attach the following:
   - A copy of the Required Cover Sheet and Application (see pages 9 and 10 of this packet).
   - A budget showing income and expenses related to the program/activity including, but not limited to: donations, grants, in-kind support, and volunteer hours committed.
   - Up to six (6) additional items that you feel will help the judges have a better understanding of your program/activity.

3. Applications MUST be mailed using the following guidelines:
   - Submissions must be on 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
   - DO NOT staple your application together. Binder clips are acceptable.
   - Include the award entry fee of $100. Entry fees may also be paid electronically via PayPal at: nusa.org/nusa-awards/award-application.
   - Mail your original application plus two (2) copies and a copy on a thumb drive to the address found on the Required Cover Sheet.
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER COMPETITION (NNC)

Community newsletters are an effective communication tool to share news about your city, community and neighborhood. A well-designed newsletter can spark an interest in neighborhood involvement, increase neighborhood association membership and spur volunteerism.

The Neighborhood Newsletter Competition rewards excellence in community newsletters and is given in two (2) categories/subcategories:

- Print Format Newsletters
- Electronic Format Newsletters

Past Neighborhood Newsletter Competition award recipients may be viewed at: nusa.org/nusa-awards/neighborhood-newsletter-competition. A first, second and third place award will be given in each category/subcategory.

NNC – Judging Criteria

Each Neighborhood Newsletter Competition application received will be evaluated by a panel of judges on the following five (5) criteria:

1. Branding (0-10 pts)
2. Aesthetics & Design (0-20 pts)
3. Technical Layout (0-20 pts)
4. Content-Informational (0-25 pts)
5. Content-Outreach & Involvement (0-25 points)

Neighborhood Newsletter award entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges and all finalists will be notified on or before March 1, 2020. It is encouraged, but not required, for entrants in the Neighborhood Newsletter Competition to be in attendance at the annual conference to receive any awards earned.

NNC – Application Submission

Only electronic and print newsletters published during 2019 are eligible for submission. In order to help better understand your application, please answer the following questions using no more than five (5) double-sided 8 ½” x 11” pages.

- How many issues of your newsletter were published in 2019?
- How many households does your newsletter get delivered to?
- How is your newsletter distributed to these households?
- How are the expenses for your newsletter covered?
1. Applications MUST be submitted using the following guidelines:
   - **Print Category Entry**
     - Mail three (3) publications of two (2) issues of the 2019 newsletters to be judged to the address on the required cover sheet. (*Please DO NOT include more than two (2) issues.*)
   - **Electronic Category Entry**
     - Entries in the electronic category must include either a URL (*website address*) or information on where the newsletters are located on the web page.
     - Entries should also be submitted as separate Adobe PDF documents and mailed to the address found on the *Required Cover Sheet*.

2. Applications MUST include:
   - A copy of the *Required Cover Sheet and Application* (*see pages 9 and 10 of this packet*).
   - An award entry fee of $50 for *Electronic Format* submissions or $65 for *Print Format* submissions for the Neighborhood Newsletter Competition Award. Entry fees may also be paid electronically via PayPal at: nusa.org/nusa-awards/award-application.

**WHO’S WHO IN AMERICA’S NEIGHBORHOODS AWARDS**

The Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award was created to recognize those individuals whose work mirrors the mission of Neighborhoods, USA: to build and strengthen neighborhoods associations; to encourage neighborhood involvement in the decision-making process in local governments; and to promote productive communications and collaborations between neighborhood associations, local governments and the public/private sector.


**WHO’S WHO – Judging Criteria**

Each Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods (WWAN) nominee will be evaluated by the Neighborhoods, USA Board of Directors using the following criteria: the neighborhood involvement of nominee, information on how the nominee has proven to be a leader in the community and specific reasons why the nominee has earned the Who’s Who in America’s Neighborhoods recognition.
There are two (2) categories for this award:

- **Governmental nominee** - Includes elected officials, local or state government staff and paid neighborhood advocates and/or community leaders.
- **Grassroots/Neighbor nominee** - Includes non-paid neighborhood advocates and/or community leaders.

It is encouraged, but not required, that nominees for this award attend the 2020 Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 20-23, 2020 to receive their award, if chosen. **Costs associated with attending the conference is the sole responsibility of each award recipient.**

### WHO’S WHO – Application Submission

Please note the following eligibility requirements:

- Only current Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) members may nominate an individual for the Who’s Who award and only one nomination per member, per year will be allowed.
- A current NUSA member is defined as having attended the 2019 NUSA Conference in Palm Springs, CA and/or being current in their annual membership dues.
- Current (seated) NUSA Board Members are ineligible for nomination.
- Previous NUSA Board Members may be nominated for advocacy and demonstrated leadership within their local community.

In order to evaluate the Who's Who nominee's submission, please provide the following information using no more than two (2) double sided 8 ½” x 11” pages:

- The name and contact information of your nominee. If the nominee is unaware that they have been nominated for this award, please share your name and contact information.
- Describe the neighborhood involvement of your nominee.
- Explain how the nominee has proven to be a leader in your community.
- Explain why you feel the nominee has earned this recognition.

Nominations for the Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods recognition should include a copy of the **Required Cover Sheet and Application** and be mailed to the address shown on the **Required Cover Sheet** *(see pages 9 and 10 of this packet).*

There is **no entry fee** to submit a nomination for the Who's Who in America's Neighborhood recognition.
2020 AWARDS COMPETITION
Required Cover Sheet

Please check the award category which best describes your project and the category that best describes your organization. Before you make your selections, be sure to review the project category descriptions listed in the information packet. *NUSA reserves the right to place an application in the project category that it best fits.*

☐ NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARD (mark one for each category):

A. Project/Activity Category:
- Physical Revitalization/Beautification-Single Neighborhood
- Social Revitalization/Neighborliness-Single Neighborhood
- Multi Neighborhood Partnerships

B. Organization Category:
- Neighborhood Association
- Homeowner Association
- Business Association
- Other (Please specify): ____________________________

☐ BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AWARD (choose one):

- Physical Revitalization/Beautification
- Social Revitalization/Neighborliness

☐ NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER COMPETITION (mark one for each category):

A. Newsletter Format Category:
- Electronic Format
- Print Format

B. Organization Category:
- Neighborhood Organization
- Government Entity
- Non-Profit Organization or Agency

☐ WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS (choose one):

- Governmental nominee
- Grassroots/Neighbor nominee

*All applications MUST be mailed and postmarked by February 1, 2020 to:*

2020 NUSA Awards
ATTN: Anne-Marie Taylor
5940 University Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Applications cannot be processed without receipt of the correct entry fee:
- $65 - Neighborhood of the Year
- $100 - Best Program of the Year
- $50 - Electronic Newsletter
- $65 - Printed Newsletter

There is not an entry fee for the Who’s Who in America award.
2020 AWARDS COMPETITION
Required Application

Application Information:

Name of Project/Activity/Individual: ________________________________________________
Name of Association: ________________________________________________________________
Contact Person (for additional information/questions): _________________________________
Contact's Address: _________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________ State: ____________ Zip: ________________
Contact's E-mail: _____________________________________________________________
Contact's Phone: ________________________________

Local Newspaper/Media Information:
Neighborhoods, USA sends out press releases and social media posts about award recipients. Should your project/activity/individual be named as an award recipient, please provide us with the following contact information:

Name of Newspaper/Other Media: ____________________________________________________
Contact Person: __________________________ Contact's Phone: __________________________
Contact's Email: _________________________________________________________________
Other (social media link, web site, etc.): _____________________________________________

Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) award recipients may be eligible for a cash award. Should your project/activity be named as a NOTY award recipient and eligible for a cash award, please indicate to whom the check should be made payable to: ____________________________________________

Neighborhood of the Year or Best Neighborhood Program Awards Award applicants:
Please share a (maximum 50 word) description about the program or project being nominated. NOTE: This information will be shared with the judges and used to describe your program/project during the awards ceremony, should an award be earned. ________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Should you have any questions about the application process, please contact Anne-Marie Taylor at: 317-847-4991 or email the Awards Program committee at: AwardsProgram@nusa.org