



2025

PLACE LEADERS AWARDS GUIDE



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL



Place Leaders
Asia Pacific

2025 PLACE LEADERS ASIA PACIFIC AWARDS
TERMS AND CONDITIONS



Place Leaders Asia Pacific acknowledges the generous support of Port Macquarie Hastings Council as 2025 Awards Partner.

PLACE LEADERS AWARDS 2025

Celebrating the Leaders, Visionaries and Innovators
Transforming our Public Spaces

The 2025 Place Leaders Awards recognise the groundbreaking work that is shaping the future of placemaking across the Asia-Pacific.

From visionary leadership to creative use of technology, to community-driven design, these Awards honour those who are creating lasting social, economic, and environmental impact in our shared spaces. Whether you've revitalised a neglected space, integrated sustainability into urban design, or leveraged technology for better placemaking, these awards are a chance to highlight your placemaking impact and contribute to the ongoing conversation on how we can build better places for people.

Entering the awards offers more than just recognition, it provides a platform to share your work with an Asia-Pacific audience and connect with other leaders in the field. By recognising these efforts, the Place Leaders Awards aim to inspire others to rethink how we create vibrant, inclusive, and resilient communities.

- **Recognition and Promotion:** Awardees receive significant recognition, including a trophy, certificate, and promotion through Place Leaders Asia Pacific's channels. The exposure and ability to leverage the Place Leaders brand adds tremendous value to both the project and the people and organisation behind it.
- **Holistic Judging Criteria:** The awards recognise a broad spectrum of placemaking achievements, focusing on vision, innovation, collaboration, and measurable impact. This holistic approach means that projects of various sizes and scope can shine based on their unique contributions to placemaking.
- **Places for People:** Whether your place is a public space or a private space for community use, these awards celebrate the power of your place to bring people together and inspire connection.
- **Prestige and Legacy:** Recognition places individuals, teams, or organisations in a prestigious group of placemaking leaders, celebrating their contributions to creating lasting, impactful spaces that inspire future projects.



AWARDS STRUCTURE

Place Leaders awards are based on a two-tier system.

Centrepiece - this award is allocated as a Jury's choice award and is given to the individual or organisation that has displayed overall excellence in placemaking from all categories in Australasia and the Asia Pacific in any given year. There is only one winner in any given year. An award may be given regardless of the number of eligible entries. If the jury so determines, no Centrepiece award will be given.

Category Award - this award is given to the individual, organisation, project or initiative that has made the most significant advancement in a particular award category in any given year. There is only one winner per category award in any given year. An award may be given regardless of the number of eligible entries. If there are no suitable nominees no Category Award will be given.

For the Category Awards, commendations may be made. More than one commendation may be given. Commendations may be given regardless of the number of eligible entries. Commendations will be given each year.

RECOGNITION

AWARD TYPE: OVERALL EXCELLENCE

Award Name: Centrepiece

Recognition:

Recognition as Centrepiece Award winner;

- Trophy & certificate;
- Promotion by Place Leaders in 2025 through a range of mediums;
- Ability to utilise the Place Leaders brand to promote the award-winning initiative or organisation throughout 2025

AWARD TYPE: CATEGORY AWARD

Award Name:

- Place Leadership Award
- Place Governance Award
- Place Engagement Award
- Indigenous Placemaking Award
- Design Excellence in Placemaking Award
- Placemaking for Prosperity Award
- Environmental Placemaking Award
- Digital Placemaking Award
- Pop-Up Placemaking Award

Recognition:

Recognition as Category Award winner

- Trophy & certificate;
- Promotion by Place Leaders in 2025 through a range of mediums;
- Ability to utilise the Place Leaders brand to promote the award-winning initiative or organisation throughout 2025.

AWARD TYPE: COMMENDATION

Recognition:

- Certificate;
- Promotion by Place Leaders in 2025 through a range of mediums;
- Ability to utilise the Place Leaders brand to promote the award-winning initiative or organisation throughout 2025.



PLACE LEADERS ASIA PACIFIC AWARDS TIME FRAME

DATE	DETAIL
29 September 2025	Award Nominations Open
17 February 2026	Award Nominations Close
26 February 2026	Jury Deliberations Close
31 March 2026	Awards Presentation and Dinner

Entries for all categories are made by completing an [online entry awards nomination form](#) or by emailing the submission form to awards@placeleaders.com by 8.00pm 17th February 2026 AEST.

JUDGING PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The Jury will consider each nomination against the criteria listed for the Award. It is essential that your nomination addresses the criteria for the award category you have selected.

ELIGIBLE ENTRANTS

All individuals and organisations interested and involved in placemaking are eligible to enter the Place leaders Asia Pacific Awards Program.

There is no restriction on the number of entries that can be submitted.

Separate nomination forms must be completed for each project or initiative, however entrants can choose to lodge each project or initiative in multiple categories on the one nomination form.

All nominees will be considered for the 2025 Asia Pacific Awards, subject to meeting the criteria. Members of Place Leaders Asia Pacific are able to register according to membership benefits, whilst non-members will pay an AUD \$675 (+gst) non-refundable registration fee per nomination. This nomination fee includes one complimentary awards evening dinner pass.

In some special circumstances the nomination fee may be waived, please contact Place Leaders for further information. Waiving of the nomination fee is at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer of Place Leaders.



ELIGIBLE INITIATIVES

Initiatives submitted should be at practical completion prior to entering. The initiative should provide a clear evidence basis of the success using qualitative and quantitative data. The entry should not have been submitted to the Place Leaders awards in a prior year. Place Leaders has the sole discretion to refuse an entry or remove it from consideration for an award if Place Leaders is of the opinion that the entry:

- Does not comply with these guidelines
- Is not consistent with the nature and spirit of the awards or is inappropriate, offensive, indecent or illegal
- Breaches or is likely to breach copyright

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

No confidential information should be submitted with your nomination as all information, except for contact information and referee information may be made available through the Place Leaders website within 48 hours of submitting your application.

EDITING YOUR NOMINATION

Once you have submitted your nomination you are no longer able to edit it so please check your documentation carefully prior to submission. In the event that a significant error has been made please contact the Chief Executive Officer of Place Leaders and they will use their discretion as to whether an edit can be made.

COPYRIGHT

By entering the awards, you agree that Place Leaders Asia Pacific will publish your nomination on the Place Leaders website.

You will also agree that Place Leaders Asia Pacific may reproduce, exhibit, publish, and/or communicate the material and information you give about your nomination and adapt or use your nomination and any portion of it, or give permission to others to do so, in different ways or contexts that Place Leaders sees fit for the purposes of the Awards for as long as required.

For this purpose, your nomination includes all words, images and other materials (including models, film and video) whether in digital, printed or 3D format, you submit online or give to Place Leaders in connection with your entry.

Place Leaders requires that either:

- You personally, or your organisation own(s) all copyright and you authorise the use them as needed for the Awards, by way of non-exclusive license - including for publicity; OR
- You promise that you personally have, or your organisation has, the authority of each and every owner of the copyright to authorise and you do authorise Place Leaders to use them as needed for the Awards, including for publicity.



JAN GEHL CENTREPIECE AWARD

The prestigious Place Leaders Asia Pacific Centrepiece Award is now named the Jan Gehl Centrepiece Award – with Jan Gehl’s enthusiastic support. This Award celebrates Jan’s transformative impact on placemaking and firmly establishes the Place Leaders Asia-Pacific Awards as one of the region’s premier accolades for excellence in creating vibrant, people-focused spaces. Jan is a global icon of people-centred

urban design and Jan delivered an exclusive ‘flaming inauguration speech’ (Jan’s words!) via video link for the Jan Gehl Centrepiece Award 2024 winner, bringing his inspiring vision directly to the Awards and Presentation Dinner at the Darwin Waterfront on 3 April 2025. As always, the Jan Gehl Centrepiece Award represents the pinnacle of excellence in placemaking, chosen by our esteemed 2025 Awards Jury.



2025 AWARDS JURY

Our 2025 Awards Jury brings together Place Leaders who embody the vision, resilience, and creativity that defines place leadership.



1. Henriette Vamberg

Partner & Managing Director (Europe, Gulf & Asia), Gehl People

Henriette is a global authority on people-centred urban design. A founding member of Gehl, she has led city-shaping projects from Sydney’s George Street to London’s Thrive Zones and New York’s City Strategy. Trained under Jan Gehl, her work has influenced urban transformations across Europe, the US, India, Australia and New Zealand. Henriette brings incredibly valuable expertise in embedding human-centred design into complex urban projects, ensuring that thriving, inclusive cities are built for people first.

2. Sam Redston

President, Open House Melbourne

Sam is a cultural leader and creative producer with over 30 years shaping bold public projects. As former CEO of the Naomi Milgrom Foundation and Executive Director of MPavilion, he delivered internationally acclaimed commissions and the Living Cities Forum (Highly Commended -Design Excellence Award 2024). Now



President of Open House Melbourne, Sam continues to champion architecture and design as catalysts for inclusion, sustainability and city liveability. Sam’s bring expertise in connecting ambitious ideas with practical delivery, and influencing the role of culture in the urban fabric.

3. Emma Appleton

Director, Planning and Development, City of Whittlesea

Emma is a highly experienced urban strategist with international experience in regeneration, housing and city renewal. As Director of Planning and Development at the City of Whittlesea, and formerly Director of City Strategy at the City of Melbourne, Emma has delivered transformative programs that balance growth, design quality and community outcomes. Emma is known for her integrity and collaborative leadership and brings an established record of shaping complex urban projects into great places for people.

4. Erin Marchant

Place Manager, Ipswich City Council

Erin is a nationally recognised young leader in placemaking whose work



in Ipswich Central was awarded the inaugural Jan Gehl Centrepiece Award for Excellence in Placemaking in 2024. With experience across Australia and abroad, Erin’s expertise is in combining strong community engagement with evidence-based design. Erin’s leadership delivers places that respect heritage, support creativity and build community wellbeing, embodying the people-first ethos at the heart of placemaking.

5. Lucilla Marshall

Group Manager, Liveable Communities, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Lucilla is an award-winning placemaking leader with more than two decades of experience across councils and private practice. As Group Manager, Liveable Communities at Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Lucilla oversees placemaking, social planning, culture, and inclusion, with her leadership recognised through a Highly Commended in the 2024 Place Governance Award. A landscape architect by training, Lucilla is a powerful advocate for co-design and inclusive play, creating lasting places that support community life.

1. Place Leadership Award

Celebrating Leadership in Placemaking

This award recognises individuals, teams, or organisations that have demonstrated leadership in advancing placemaking. It honours those who have raised the profile of placemaking and inspired and mobilised communities through their innovative vision, dedication, and action. These leaders are role models, setting high standards and leaving a profound and lasting legacy in both their communities and the broader field of placemaking.

Entries should showcase

- **Advocacy and Leadership:** How the nominee championed placemaking, shifting perspectives on urban development.
- **Measurable Impact:** Tangible outcomes like improved community well-being, social cohesion, economic vitality, or environmental sustainability.
- **Profile Elevation:** How their leadership raised placemaking's profile, positively influencing policy, practice, or public perception.
- **Collaborative Approach:** How they united diverse stakeholders to create lasting partnerships.

Criteria

- **Vision:** Forward-thinking leadership in urban environments with ambitious placemaking goals that others can follow.
- **Innovation:** Implemented novel strategies, techniques, or frameworks that contributed significantly to the advancement of placemaking practices.
- **Inclusiveness:** Engaged a broad spectrum of stakeholders for inclusive and equitable placemaking.
- **Impact:** Clear, lasting community improvements with a positive impact.
- **Influence:** Leadership that advanced the discourse on placemaking.

- **Vision:** Demonstrated innovative, forward-thinking leadership in urban and community planning. Leaders should have set ambitious goals for placemaking

2024 Citations

Award - Leading Place Transformation Across Sydney's Iconic Precincts (Placemaking NSW)

Highly Commended - Logan City Centre Implementation Program (Logan City Council)

Highly Commended - Village Precinct Projects Program (Brisbane City Council)

The **Place Leadership** micro-credential offers the perfect complement for nominees of the **Place Leadership Award**, providing actionable strategies and skills to drive impactful placemaking projects. Learn how to elevate your leadership just like this award's honourees. www.placeleaders.com/courses

At our Place Leadership Community of Practice, place leaders from five countries came together to explore what great place leadership looks like - at every scale. Read the recap: [From Patios to Power Stations - How Ipswich and Sydney Are Showcasing Place Leadership](#).

We heard from [Erin Marchant](#), Place Manager and [Courtney Strow](#), Coordinator - Creative Industries at Ipswich City Council, and [Anita Mitchell](#), Chief Executive at Placemaking NSW, whose agency won the Place Leadership Award for 'Transforming Sydney's Iconic Precincts'. Their stories, from hyper-local cultural revival to whole-of-city stewardship, revealed that place leadership is about vision, trust, and a real connection to community. This recap is how they did it. Place Leaders Asia-Pacific members have access to the full recording.



2. Place Governance Award

Celebrating Excellence in Place Stewardship and Governance

This award honours governance or policy models that demonstrate leadership in the sustainable management of places. It recognises initiatives that establish transparent decision-making, accountability, and strong collaboration among stakeholders. These leaders not only sustain places for the long-term benefit of all users but have also ensured that these spaces remain resilient and adaptable to future challenges.

Entries should showcase

- **Collaborative Frameworks:** Successful collaboration between stakeholders and communities to achieve governance goals.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Governance or policy that ensures places remain vibrant and accessible over time.
- **Innovative Models:** Governance or policy strategies improving place management, funding, or maintenance.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Clear, transparent mechanisms fostering trust among stakeholders and the community.
- **Adaptability and Resilience:** Systems that remain functional despite changing conditions.

Criteria

- **Integrated Decision Making:** Inclusive collaboration and co-ordination that balances stakeholder needs.
- **Resilience:** Strategies that ensure long-term adaptability of places.
- **Accountability:** Transparent governance holding stakeholders accountable for place outcomes.
- **Inclusiveness:** Engagement of diverse stakeholders, ensuring governance reflects all user needs, particularly underrepresented or marginalised groups.

2024 Citations

Award - Parramatta Square Place Measurement and Operations (City of Parramatta Council in Collaboration with Place Score and Place Intelligence)

Highly Commended - Tacking Point Lighthouse (Port Macquarie Hastings Council)

For those aiming to elevate their place governance practices to award-winning levels, the **Policy and Place** micro-credential offers practical insights into crafting policies that support sustainable, equitable governance.

www.placeleaders.com/courses



3. Place Engagement Award

Empowering People through Participation

This award celebrates initiatives that empower local communities to shape their places through participatory design and community-led planning. These leaders prioritise community voices, fostering ownership and agency while creating inclusive, vibrant, and resilient spaces that reflect local identity. By centering the community in placemaking, these initiatives strengthen social bonds, build capacity, and ensure long-term sustainability.

Entries should showcase

- **Community-Centered Process:** Meaningful involvement from planning to execution, through workshops, surveys, and collaborative decision-making, formal and informal.
- **Targeted Solutions:** Engagement-driven, context-specific solutions reflecting the unique characteristics of the place and the community.
- **Strengthened Bonds:** Evidence of increased social cohesion, trust, and shared ownership of places.
- **Capacity Building:** How the initiative empowered the community for future placemaking activities.
- **Long-Term Impact:** Lasting positive effects, such as continued place management and improved social cohesion.



Criteria

- **Inclusiveness:** Involvement of diverse community voices, particularly marginalised groups.
- **Innovation:** Creative, locally-driven solutions that meet the community's specific needs.
- **Value:** Strengthened community ties and enhanced capacity for future engagement.
- **Sustainability:** Long-term active community involvement and commitment to the space.

2024 Citations

Award - Thomas Jack Park (Fourfold Studio)

Highly Commended - PowerUp Festival (Placemaking NSW)

Highly Commended - Strengthening Ipswich's Cultural Heart through Creative Engagement (Ipswich City Council)

Highly Commended - Whitlam Gardens (ACT City Renewal Authority)

The **Engagement and Place** micro-credential equips participants with the skills to design community-centered processes that lead to vibrant, resilient spaces - just like those recognised by the **Place Engagement Award**. A course for place leaders to deepen their understanding of how to meaningfully involve diverse communities, ensuring inclusivity and long-term success.

www.placeleaders.com/courses



4. Indigenous Placemaking Award

Honouring Indigenous Culture and Knowledge in Placemaking

This award celebrates projects that embed Indigenous knowledge, values, and cultural practices into placemaking. These projects respect Indigenous heritage, foster connections to the land, and ensure Indigenous leadership shapes the future of public spaces. By integrating Indigenous wisdom, these leaders create inclusive, sustainable places that reflect the cultural richness and unique relationship Indigenous communities have with place.

Entries should showcase

- **Indigenous Leadership:** Active involvement of Indigenous communities throughout the project's planning and implementation.
- **Integration of Heritage and Values:** Thoughtful incorporation of Indigenous traditions, languages, art, and stewardship practices.
- **Cultural and Environmental Impact:** Long-term contributions to cultural identity and environmental sustainability.
- **Community Empowerment:** Empowerment of Indigenous communities, fostering leadership and ownership of the space.

Criteria

- **Sense of Place:** Reflecting Indigenous history, values, and practices in the place.
- **Inclusiveness:** Engaging Indigenous communities at every stage of the project.
- **Vision:** Promoting Indigenous leadership and shaping the project's goals and outcomes.
- **Impact:** Highlighting long-term cultural and place-based benefits rooted in Indigenous traditions.
- **Legacy:** Ensuring ongoing Indigenous leadership and cultural practices in the management of the space.

2024 Citations

Award - Northshore Brisbane (Economic Development Queensland and Queensland Government)

Highly Commended - Where the sky meets the earth and sea (Cultural Capital)

For leaders looking to achieve the level of long-term cultural impact showcased in the **Indigenous Placemaking Award**, the **Indigenous Placemaking** micro-credential offers practical guidance on promoting Indigenous leadership, creating inclusive spaces, and ensuring that Indigenous heritage continues to thrive in urban development projects. www.placeleaders.com/courses

At our Indigenous Placemaking Community of Practice, we loved how these three Award-winning projects - and the incredible women behind them - revealed and respected Country. Read the recap: [Celebrating Country: What We Learned at the Indigenous Placemaking Community of Practice](#).

We heard from [Vanessa Altun](#), Development Manager (Precincts) at Economic Development Queensland, whose team won the Indigenous Placemaking Award for Northshore Brisbane, [Hannah Molyneux](#), Project Lead at Cultural Capital, and [Lucilla Marshall](#), Group Manager Liveable Communities, and [Vivien Mitchell](#), Senior Cultural Officer at Port Macquarie Hastings Council. Their stories showed us how Indigenous placemaking is built on relationships, reciprocity, and responsibility, and what NAIDOC Week's call to honour "*the next generation: strength, vision, and legacy*" can look like. Place Leaders Asia-Pacific members have access to the full recording.



5. Design Excellence in Placemaking Award

Innovative Design for Functional and Beautiful Places

This award celebrates projects that excel in innovative design, transforming places into environments that are both functional and aesthetically inspiring. It recognises leaders who enhance user experience and community interaction, while establishing a strong sense of place. It honours work that integrates design excellence with practicality, creating inclusive, vibrant, and enduring places.

Entries should showcase

- **Innovative Design Principles:** Use of design to improve both functionality and aesthetics.
- **Contribution to Sense of Place:** Design that reflects local culture, history, or the environment, strengthening users' connection to the space.
- **Community Interaction:** Evidence of how design fosters inclusivity, social interaction, and community participation.
- **Long-Term Impact:** Design ensuring long-term functionality, adaptability, and relevance over time.



Criteria

- **Innovation:** Novel functionality and aesthetics, combined with ambitious placemaking goals.
- **Sense of Place:** Enhancing the identity and character of the area through place-based design.
- **User Experience:** Design that increases social interaction, inclusivity, and user experience.
- **Sustainability:** Commitment to environmentally responsible, resilient design outcomes that ensure longevity.

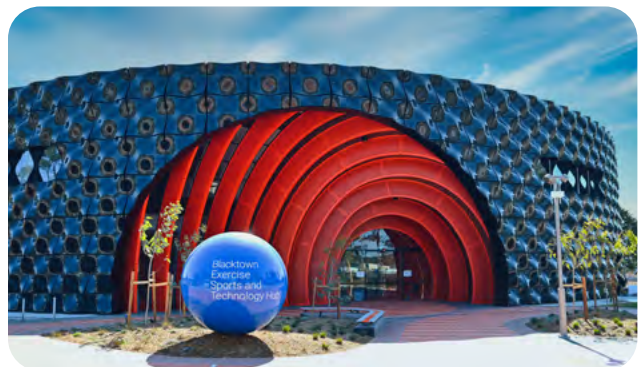
2024 Citations

Award - Blacktown Exercise Sports and Technology (BEST) Hub (Blacktown City Council)

Highly Commended - mPavillion10 (Naomi Milgrom Foundation)

Projects honoured by the **Design Excellence in Placemaking Award** demonstrate cutting-edge design solutions. The **Design-Led Place Approaches** micro-credential provides the foundation to explore those innovative strategies further, ensuring that participants can create spaces that not only function beautifully but also foster a lasting sense of place and community engagement.

www.placeleaders.com/courses



6. Placemaking for Prosperity Award

Leveraging Placemaking for Economic Prosperity

This award recognises initiatives that have significantly contributed to local economic outcomes through placemaking. It highlights leaders who have attracted investment, supported local businesses, and turned underutilised areas into vibrant economic hubs through placemaking. The award recognises leaders who have demonstrated that placemaking can be a powerful tool for long-term economic resilience and prosperity.

Entries should showcase

- **Tangible Economic Outcomes:** Measurable benefits like increased foot traffic, fewer vacancies, and new business openings.
- **Support for Local Business:** How the project nurtured local businesses and entrepreneurship.
- **Investment Attraction:** Evidence of attracting investments or commercial activity.
- **Resilience Strategies:** Long-term plans for ensuring sustained economic vitality.
- **Community and Business Engagement:** How businesses and communities were engaged and worked together, fostering collaboration that built ownership and shared prosperity.

Criteria

- **Economic Impact:** Demonstrated contributions to local economic vitality.
- **Innovation:** Creative approaches to revitalise underutilised areas and attract new businesses.
- **Resilience:** Strategies ensuring long-term adaptability and economic sustainability.
- **Local Development:** How the project revitalised a place while maintaining cultural and social connections.

2024 Citations

Award - Auckland Waterfront (TCL)

Highly Commended - The Rocks Revitalisation Strategy (Placemaking NSW)

Highly Commended - Back to Guildford (Cumberland City Council)

The **Place Economics** micro-credential offers the knowledge and tools to leverage placemaking as a driver of economic growth, just like the projects celebrated by the **Placemaking for Prosperity Award**. Through this course, leaders will learn how placemaking is used to attract investment, stimulate local business, and create long-term economic resilience in underutilised areas.

www.placeleaders.com/courses



7. Environmental Placemaking Award

Enhancing Sustainability in Places

This award recognises leaders whose initiatives prioritised sustainability and environmental resilience in places, urban or open. It celebrates projects that integrate green infrastructure - such as parks, green roofs, and urban gardens - to promote biodiversity, reduce carbon footprints, and create healthier environments. These initiatives demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability for a greener future.

Entries should showcase

- **Green Infrastructure:** Incorporation of elements like parks, green roofs, and sustainable water systems into places.
- **Environmental Impact:** Measurable improvements in biodiversity, air and water quality, or reduced carbon emissions.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Use of eco-friendly materials and practices ensuring long-term sustainability.
- **Climate Resilience:** Adaptability to environmental changes like flooding and heatwaves.
- **Community Engagement:** Involvement of local communities in promoting sustainability.

Criteria

- **Environmental Impact:** Clear contributions to sustainability and biodiversity.
- **Innovation:** Creative integration of green infrastructure and sustainable design.
- **Resilience:** Ensuring adaptability to future environmental challenges.



- **Community Engagement:** Active participation of communities in maintaining green spaces.

2024 Citations

Award - Strathnairn (Riverview Projects)

Highly Commended - Kedron Brook Riverine Recovery (Fourfold Studio)

The **Place Resilience** micro-credential offers the practical tools needed to incorporate green infrastructure and sustainable practices into placemaking - key elements celebrated in the **Environmental Placemaking Award**. Leaders will discover how to develop projects that reduce carbon footprints and support biodiversity, while ensuring the place remains adaptable to changing environmental conditions. www.placeleaders.com/courses

At our Environmental Placemaking Community of Practice, participants enjoyed a fun and practical conversation about what it takes to build resilience into place. Award-winning projects showed what happens when environmental values aren't 'tacked on'. One is a 18,000-dwelling suburb. One is a post-disaster waterway. One is a handful of garden beds in a suburban laneway. What ties these projects together is that they're environmental placemaking - not just environmental planning - and that distinction matters. Read the recap: [From Creeks to Communities - What Placemakers Learned When They Started with the Land](#). We heard from [Matt Frawley](#), Urban Design and Landscape Manager - [Ginninderry](#) for Strathnairn (ACT), winner of the 'Environmental Placemaking' award, [Brooke Williams](#) - [Fourfold Studio](#) for Kedron Brook Riverine Recovery (QLD) - highly commended for the 'Environmental Placemaking' award, and [Sophie Peer](#) and [Tulitha \(Tully\) King](#) at the [ACT Suburban Land Agency](#) for Whitlam Gardens (a collaboration between the Place Delivery and Thriving Communities Groups), highly commended for the 'Place Engagement' award.

8. Digital Placemaking Award

Integrating Technology for Better Places

This award celebrates leaders who have successfully integrated digital technologies to transform places into more engaging, accessible, and functional environments. It recognises the use of tools like mobile apps, augmented reality (AR), and IoT to enhance user experience, foster community interaction, and improve place management. These initiatives showcase how technology and innovation creates adaptable, inclusive, and dynamic places.

Entries should showcase

- **Digital Tools and Solutions:** How mobile apps, AR/VR, IoT, or data analytics improved functionality and engagement.
- **Increased Engagement:** Examples of how digital technologies improved community participation and accessibility.
- **User Experience Impact:** Evidence of improved user satisfaction, accessibility, or visitor numbers through digital interventions.
- **Smart Place Management:** Use of digital tools for efficient place management and long-term adaptability.
- **Blending Physical and Digital:** How digital elements were integrated into the environment without overshadowing place features.

Criteria:

- **Innovation:** Creative use of digital tools to transform places.
- **Impact:** Measurable improvements in visitor engagement and accessibility.
- **Integration:** Seamless embedding of digital technology within the physical space.

2024 Citations

Winner - Digital Placemaking (Placemaking NSW)

Highly Commended - Benchmark NSW (Transport for NSW)



9. Pop-Up Placemaking Award

Short-Term Interventions for Longer-Term Impact

This award celebrates leaders using temporary installations, pop-ups, or events to transform places. These initiatives demonstrate how short-term placemaking can activate spaces, engage communities, and test ideas for more permanent solutions. Temporary activations foster long-term community connections, social engagement, and sustainable urban development.

Entries should showcase

- **Temporary Interventions:** How pop-ups and short-term installations revitalised neglected spaces through markets, art, or public amenities.
- **Lasting Community Impact:** Evidence of positive, lasting effects like stronger social bonds or economic benefits.
- **Testing Longer-Term Strategies:** How temporary projects served as pilots for future longer-term or permanent placemaking.
- **Creativity and Flexibility:** Adaptable design solutions that responded to space and community needs.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Join efforts between businesses, creatives, communities and stakeholders that create vibrant pop-up placemaking.



Criteria

- **Innovation:** Creative, unique short-term placemaking solutions that reenergised spaces.
- **Community Engagement:** Active involvement of local communities in design and participation.
- **Sustainability & Long-Term Vision:** How temporary initiatives informed long-term strategies.
- **Social & Economic Impact:** Tangible benefits like increased foot traffic or community ownership.
- **Adaptability:** Flexible and creative problem-solving in urban environments.

2024 Citations

Award - Kwun Tong Free Space (Urban Renewal Authority, Hong Kong)

Highly Commended - Wentworth Point Pop-Up Town Square (Billbergia)





CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN PLACEMAKING - 2025 PLACE LEADERS ASIA PACIFIC AWARDS

The 2025 Place Leaders Asia Pacific Awards shine a spotlight on the most innovative, impactful, and inspiring placemaking projects across the region. This is your opportunity to be recognised on the premier stage for placemaking excellence, with winners celebrated among peers, industry leaders, and global thought-leaders. [Explore the inspiring stories of our 2024 winners](#) for a glimpse of the creativity and commitment that will be honoured once again in 2025.

Every nomination is considered not only within its category but also for the **Jan Gehl Centrepiece Award for Excellence in Placemaking** – the headline award established in 2024 with Jan Gehl's support. The Centrepiece Award honours projects that put people first, regardless of scale or budget, setting a new benchmark for excellence across the Asia Pacific.

Being part of the Awards offers more than recognition: it connects your work to an international network, raises your project's profile, and showcases the leadership, vision, and collaboration behind successful place-based outcomes.

Our expanded 2025 Awards Jury gives more weight and credibility to every Award, shortlisting, and commendation, and reflects what placemakers told us they value: a balance of international expertise

on big, complex projects and local leaders who know how to deliver impact on the ground with limited budgets. Your projects will be assessed against world-class practice while recognising the challenges and achievements unique to your context - reflecting the real diversity of placemaking in practice.

The Place Leaders Asia Pacific Awards are about celebrating the best in placemaking, inspiring the next wave of place leaders, sharing lessons, and telling stories of resilience, creativity, and people-first design that can influence communities across the region.

Place Leaders Asia Pacific Member Benefits

Both Corporate and Individual Place Leaders Asia Pacific membership include complementary 'all inclusive' tickets to the Place Leaders Urban Leaders' Summit (including the 2024 Awards Presentation and Dinner) and complementary \$675 Place Leaders Asia Pacific Awards Submissions. Corporate membership also includes additional tickets to attend the 2024 Awards Presentation and Dinner. Explore our membership options here: www.placeleaders.com/membership



2025 Awards Partner



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

2025 PLACE LEADERS AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Awards Nomination Closing Date, **8.00pm 17th February 2026 AEST.**

CONTACT DETAILS

TitleSurname..... Given Name.....

Organisation/ Business/ Company

Work PhoneMobile

Email.....

PROJECT DETAILS

Name of the project, initiative or Individual nominated:

.....

Location of the project or initiative. If no location exists, please include web links:

.....

.....

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Please add at least one category below

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place Leadership Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Placemaking Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Placemaking Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place Governance Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Design Excellence in Placemaking Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Placemaking Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place Engagement Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Placemaking for Prosperity Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Pop-Up Placemaking Award |

1. In 100 words or less, please provide a brief summary of the nomination:

2. In 500 words or less, please describe why the project or initiative was undertaken and what was the driving force behind its conception? Was it internally funded, commissioned, self-initiated or influenced by community? Wherever possible, please provide data to support.

3. In 500 words or less, please provide a more detailed description of the nomination.

4. In 500 words or less, please describe how the project or initiative was delivered and what were the key elements to its success. In the case of the individual or group, what were the leadership qualities that led to broader outcomes? Please consider the criteria of each of your nominated categories in response.

5. In 500 words or less, please provide details of who was involved in the project or initiative and how stakeholders, partnerships or the community informed the project or initiative. In the case of the individual or group nominated, what connections did they have to industry, community, academia or the public?

6. In 500 words or less, please describe how effective the project or initiative was or in the case of individual or group nominated, what impact has the leadership activities led to? Wherever possible, please refer to qualitative and quantitative sources of measuring value and consider the criteria of each of your nominated categories.

For Example: What kind of response has it received from community or stakeholders? Has the project or initiative had time to assess its adaptability to challenge or change? What social, environmental, or economic benefits did the project or initiative deliver?

7. Please provide up to two references that the Jury may contact to provide third party support for your request:

REFEREE 1	REFEREE 2
Name	Name
Organisation	Organisation
Professional Title	Professional Title
Email	Email
Contact Number	Contact Number

8. At a minimum, please attach 5 digital photographs at high resolution relevant to the nomination. Please email completed nomination form, photographs and any additional documents to support your nomination to awards@placeleaders.com with the subject line '2025 Place Leaders Awards Nomination'.



2025 AWARDS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Place Leaders Asia Pacific is proud to welcome Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) as our 2025 Awards Partner.

A long-standing member of Place Leaders Asia Pacific, PMHC has consistently contributed to the Asia Pacific's placemaking journey by sharing their placemaking learnings, trialling new placemaking approaches, and demonstrating place leadership across large and small projects. By supporting the 2025 Awards, PMHC is investing in the recognition and success of placemakers across the Asia Pacific and Place Leaders Asia Pacific comment Council for its commitment to celebrating 'place'.

What makes PMHC stand out is their community-first approach built on the principles of co-design, authentic cultural expression, and inclusion, and they show how a local government authority can 'embed' placemaking into its governance, planning, and daily operations. PMHC is also a leader in

demonstrating real value for their community by measuring their successes across improved perceptions of safety, and increases in local participation and visitor experience.

Just some examples: PMHC's **Graffiti Management Mural Program** transformed five vandalism hot spots into celebrated works of public art, engaging seven artists and showcasing culture, Country, and local biodiversity while improving safety and deterring crime. At the **Tacking Point Lighthouse**, PMHC balanced heritage preservation with improved public access. Their **village and main street revitalisations** at Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie demonstrate how thoughtful planning and design can strengthen local identity, grow visitation, and support a resilient local economy.

We thank Port Macquarie Hastings Council for their place leadership and partnership, and for showing how place-led outcomes can create stronger, more connected communities.



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL



Place Leaders Asia Pacific acknowledges the generous support of Port Macquarie Hastings Council as 2025 Awards Partner.



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