

2024 LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS NSW & ACT CHAPTER AWARDS

Essential Entry Information

Learning Environments Australasia invites you to enter the 2024 Learning Environments NSW and ACT Chapter Awards.

The core mission of the awards is to celebrate excellence in the design of learning spaces. LEA members whose projects demonstrate excellence in the planning and design of educational facilities are invited to enter.

CHAPTER AWARDS TIMELINE

Registration & Entry Submission Opens: Monday, 15th July 2024.

Registration and Payment Due: Friday, 26 August 2024, COB.

Entry Submission Due: Friday, 6 September 2024 11pm (local time).

Awards Presentation Ceremony: Date and time to be confirmed.

ENTRY PROCESS

STEP 1: REGISTER AND PAY

Register your project/s via the [LE NSW/ACT Chapter Awards Website](#).

One educational facility/project may be entered in multiple categories. However, one fee of AUD \$270 +GST for each entry/category the educational facility/project is entered into is payable. Submissions for one educational facility/project in multiple categories should be tailored to suit each category.

Entrants must be an LEA member with current membership paid for the 2024/2025 period.

Payment Or Withdrawal:

- Payment or withdrawal must be received before close of business Friday, Friday, 26 August 2024 for a full refund.
- Entries which have not paid the registration fee by Friday, 26 August 2024, will not progress to judging.
- Projects withdrawn between registration due date (26/8/24) and submission closing date (6/9/24) will receive a 50% refund only.
- No refund will be available after the submission closing date on 6 September 2024.

STEP 2: SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT(S):

Enter your project/s via <https://learningenvironments.awardsplatform.com/>

Entrants can submit their project/s from Friday, 26 August 2024, until entry submission closes on 11pm, Friday, 6 September 2024.

Note: this entry submission portal is a ***different website*** to the [Learning Environments Australasia](#) website (for membership, registration and payment). Entrants who have not used the “Awardsplatform” website previously will need to create/register a new profile/login. If you have entered other awards, such as the Institute of Architects Awards, you may already have a profile/account.

AWARD CATEGORIES

There are 8 Categories for the LE Chapter Awards.

If you have any questions regarding the category selection, please contact the Award Coordinator before the submission closing date.

Category 1: An Innovative Education Initiative.

Designed to showcase significant contributions to learning environments by schools, educators, students, designers, community organisations etc. Education Initiatives must have been delivered to students for at least 6 months – that is since 17 August 2022.

Category 2: New Campus with Educational Facilities.

This category applies to construction of a new school or educational facilities on a new campus. Only a single educational facility on one campus can be entered into this category. If you have more than one facility, you will need to choose which facility you wish to enter or enter two separate entries. Entries that feature more than one facility or campus will not qualify for entry.

Category 3: New Building/s or Facilities - Large

This category applies to a new building or new buildings in an existing school or campus, value over AUD \$10 million. *(please see below.)

Category 4: New Building/s or Facilities - Small

This category applies to a new building or new buildings in an existing school or campus value less than AUD \$10 million. *(please see note below.)

Category 5: Modernisation - Large

Renovation/modernisation projects valued over AUD \$5 Million. Projects need to demonstrate extent of work completed. *(please see below.)

Category 6: Modernisation- Small

Renovation/modernisation projects valued less than AUD \$5 Million. Projects need to demonstrate extent of work completed. *(please see below.)

Category 7: Small Project Under AUD \$2 Million

A new building or a renovation, must be a learning environment.

Category 8: Landscaping/Outdoor Learning Area.

Designed to showcase outdoor learning environments or landscapes targeted at improving educational outcomes.

OTHER IMPORTANT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

* Projects that feature new buildings and renovations must be separated and entered into the relevant category for "new building" **OR** "renovation/modernisation". Judges will be asked to disregard renovations in the "new buildings" category and new buildings in the "renovations" category.

Only one educational facility can be entered into each entry. Any entry featuring more than one facility will be disqualified.

All projects must have been occupied for at least 6 months before the entry submission date closing (that is: before 6 March 2024) and construction completed within the past 3 years (since 2021) to qualify for entry.

Value of the project is the "Final Contract Sum" excluding GST.

AWARD ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

An Award or Commendation for each category may be presented to the entrant whose educational facility project best meets the assessment criteria as described below.

Judging of these award entries is by at least three experienced industry practitioners appointed by LE Australasia. The jury reserves the right to award, make commendations or not to make an award or commendations in any of the categories.

All criteria are equally weighted. Succinct answers to the criteria, including bullet points, are encouraged.

All Categories:

Criteria A: Planning Process: (10 points)

a) Provide evidence of a comprehensive planning process including project-specific research; consulting with clients, users, stakeholders and information gathering.

b) Provide evidence that a comprehensive educational specification/brief and program of requirements has been developed as part of the planning process.

[400 words max for both responses in total]

All Categories, excepting the “Innovation” category:

Criteria B: Design Outcome: (10 points) Provide evidence that the architectural design meets the requirements of the educational brief with a special emphasis on the educational value of the space.

[250 words max]

Criteria C: Flexibility: (10 points) Provide evidence of the unique functionality of the design as well as its responsiveness to changes in the educational program.

[250 words max]

Criteria D: Innovation: (10 points) Your description could include evidence of innovative design solutions; value for money; design elements and sustainability.

[250 words max]

An Innovative Education Initiative (category 1) only:

The **Innovative Education Initiative** category award will be presented to the entrant whose project best meets the following criteria. [All criteria equally weighted]

Criteria E: Innovative Program: (10 points) Evidence that the education initiative challenges and transforms the role that educational facilities play in the learning process.

[250 words max]

Criteria F: Innovative Approach: (10 points) Evidence that the education initiative introduces innovative ideas or approaches to current practices in the development of educational facilities and aims to inform the field of educational facility planning.

[250 words max]

Criteria G: Innovative Use: (10 points) Evidence that the education initiative demonstrates innovative use of an educational facility by educators and students and/or members of the community. Include any evidence of improved educational experiences for students.

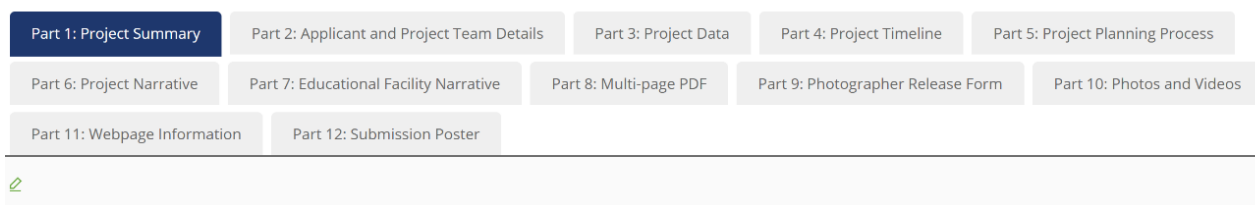
[250 words max]

SUMMARY OF THE ONLINE ENTRY PROCESS

When logged into the online submission portal, an entry looks like this:

My entries → Start entry

All questions must be answered, unless marked optional.



There are 12 “Parts” to be completed. These are summarised in the below table:

PARTS 1 to 3	Details of the chosen category, project details & data, entrant/applicant details, project cost and size. Note: project cost is the "Final Contract Sum" (ex GST) and project size is the "Gross Floor Area (GFA)".
PART 4	Project timeline: from brief through to post occupancy – some items are optional to complete, but may be relevant/important for some projects/programs. POE is optional.
PARTS 5 and 6	Part 5: Assessment Criteria A Part 6: Assessment Criteria B-D or E-G (depending on category). Responses to the specific award assessment criteria are given here. Images/sketches which support the assessment criteria may be uploaded.
PART 7	Educational Facility Narrative – this requires the Educational Facility to provide specific responses about the facility or program. This may be by audio interview, video interview or written statement. A list of possible questions for the Educational Facility to answer is provided. This document is key in assisting the judges to review the assessment criteria from the perspective of the educational facility.
PART 8	A multipage A4 PDF with plans, sections elevations and photos for the project. Renovation/modernisation projects should include before and after photos and/or plans to demonstrate extent of work completed. Images and diagrams in this PDF should assist in demonstrating the assessment criteria to judges.
PART 9	Permission for LEA to use photos and images from the entrant and/or from professional photographers. A PDF statement from photographer is required and must be provided in the format stated.
PART 10	Photos and/or videos are uploaded here for publication and marketing purposes. A one page PDF of a diagrammatic plan of the project is to be uploaded. Please ensure files are labelled as described – please keep file labelling as short as possible.
PART 11	Information required for the webpage/gallery/publication – photos and text required. Please provide any public acknowledgement of the project team/s involved here.
PART 12	Exhibition Poster PDF: NSW/ACT entries must provide an A3 landscape poster which includes: information about the project with details of the architects/designers/educators involved, including contact information if you wish. Photographer/s name/s should be credited if relevant. The file submitted is required to be: A2 300dpi min resolution PDF, in landscape orientation. Minimum 8MB Maximum 20MB. Please include bleed. Please include the following information in the lower left corner of the poster, in the order stated, left to right: 1. Category Number: Category Name - eg Category: Outdoor Learning Area 2. Project Title - eg ABC University Wetlands EXAMPLE OF TEXT LOWER LEFT CORNER OF POSTER: Category 8: Outdoor Learning Area - ABC University Wetlands

Entry into the awards is an entirely online process. You can download a PDF entry form from the Awardsplatform website once you have started your entry by completing the entry name, category selection and contact details and saving.

You may like to watch the [2024 Awards Entry Information Webinar](#) and [view the slides](#) for some helpful suggestions on entering the awards.

There are no interviews, site visits or presentations required. Once the online submission has been made, the process of entering the awards is complete.

The jury panels will review the online submission to decide the award winners and/or commendations.

Entrants will be able to save their submission and return to it anytime during the submission period.

This Awards entry process is constantly reviewed and streamlined. Learning Environments Australasia welcomes feedback regarding your experience with entering the awards at any time. Please email Soraya with your feedback at awards@learningenvironments.org.au .

Thank you for entering the awards and good luck with your submission.

For any questions regarding entry submissions please contact:

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