

Tips for Signatures of Loudoun Design Excellence Award Nominations

1. **Don't give up!** If your nomination didn't win this year, resubmit it again in the future. Many winners are chosen from nominations that have been resubmitted or carried over from a prior year.
2. **Nominations should always focus around a permanent structure or feature.** While special events held at a location are part of what makes a place special, the nomination should first focus on the place itself, rather than the events held there.
3. **Choose your award category carefully,** and tailor your nomination to the description of the category. A few tips:
 - a. **Legends:** be sure to address the age of the project or building and its history; explaining how it has become legendary in the community.
 - b. **Makeovers:** demonstrate or explain the adaptive reuse if that is a feature of the project. Include "before" and final "after" photographs to demonstrate historic renovation and/or adaptive reuse.
 - c. **Mixing Places:** use photographs to demonstrate how the location or building has become a favorite place for people to gather.
 - d. **Familiar:** describe how the structure or feature blends well with the community.
4. **More isn't necessarily better:** please stick to the word limit.
5. **Three to five photographs is usually enough,** unless there is a specific reason more are needed to understand the nomination.
6. **Please complete the application fully,** including contact information for everyone to be notified in the event the nomination is selected.

Look for the call for nominations in January 2010!