



## Annual Economic Development Awards

# Call for Entries

*Mid-America Competitiveness Conference*

*Hyatt Regency Columbus*

*December 4-6, 2024*



Get ready for this year's Mid-America Competitiveness Conference with an entry for Mid-America EDC's Annual Economic Development Awards. Get recognized for your efforts - enter today!



The Mid-America EDC invites you to participate in the Mid-America EDC Economic Development Awards program. These awards recognize outstanding endeavors in development of marketing materials, marketing events and economic development efforts in our thirteen Mid-America region states. Winners will be announced at the Mid-America Competitiveness Conference, December 4-6, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. Award recipients will be recognized on the Mid-America EDC website and through our social media outlets! Don't miss this opportunity to highlight your organization's achievements!

Again this year: We will again have three community population divisions to select from, in an effort to ensure the inclusion of our rural community successes! AND, we have added an individual-recognition Economic Development Impact Award!

We are also again providing an additional submission option for your narrative portion. If you would like, you may submit via video for online entries. This should not be a polished video, but is just you telling your story to a camera instead of providing the written narrative. You may still provide additional background materials with your video narrative. And, you may still submit via written narrative, if that is your preference! Just one additional format for submissions.

Please note: The winner for each category will be notified in early October. Winners will be asked to provide electronic photos, graphics, and/or video clips related to their award to be used for program and marketing purposes. Winners, particularly those in the Project of the Year category, may be contacted to participate in a future webinar to overview their winning entry.

#### Eligibility:

The competition is open to all economic development organizations. Projects or organizations nominated must be located or serve a state in the Mid-America EDC region. **Entries must have been executed between January 2023 and July 2024.** Each entry may only be submitted in one category; however, there is no limit to the number of entries in multiple categories an organization may submit. Each entry must include the size of your city or region.

#### Entry Guidelines:

Entries must be received no later than August 23, 2024 with non-member entry fees payable to Mid-America EDC. Entries become the property of Mid-America EDC and cannot be returned. Mid-America EDC assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged materials. Please note that entries that provide supplemental materials (in addition to the narrative) tend to score higher in judging.

- **To submit your entry by mail**, first reproduce **two copies**, complete and staple Entry Form B to each entry; then complete Entry Form A, attach the entry fees and mail **2 copies** of the entire packet (both forms A and B and your submission items).\*
- **To submit your entry electronically** (via check or credit card payment), [https://aom.formstack.com/forms/2024\\_awards\\_call\\_for\\_entries](https://aom.formstack.com/forms/2024_awards_call_for_entries). Please note that you have the option to submit a link to a video narrative this year, rather than a written narrative. One entry per form via our online system, please. Please note that this is the only option for submissions via credit card.\*

# Judging/Awards

Award winners are selected at the discretion of the judges, who reserve the right to reassign entries and to award fewer awards per category based on submissions. Entries will be evaluated by a judging committee according to the following criteria:

- Effectiveness in reaching stated goals
- Quality of content
- Visual Impact
- Design
- Uniqueness, innovation & originality
- Economic impact

## Categories

**All entries must include a brief narrative detailing your entry, including quantifiable results and/or success stories, and economic benefits to your community or organization related to the entry.**

- **Project of the Year:** This award recognizes a collaborative project having significant and measurable impact on a City, County and Region. The project must have already broken ground and be in the initial phase of implementation between January 2023 and July 2024. The measurable impact can include capital investment, jobs, supplier network, economic impact or new partnership initiatives that positively improved the community.
- **Marketing Program:** May include: An overall comprehensive marketing program to market a community, county, state, or region to a prospect; an Annual Report or Newsletter; Online Programs, and/or a Specific Program or Event. The expected outcome of the submission should be to inform, promote successes or to elicit a response for more information, and/or generate leads. Overall objective and outcomes should be included in the narrative.
- **Overcoming Adversity:** Project or best practice that your community, region, or state utilized during a situation of overcoming a challenge – anything from a factory shut-down, to a COVID-19 response plan, or natural disaster. Entries will be judged based on the creativity and impact the project/best practice had on overcoming adversity.
- **Workforce & Talent:** Activity and/or innovative program that attracts new talent to your area, strengthens the skills of your existing workforce and/or encourages retention of young/new talent in your area.
- **Entrepreneurial Award:** A program that offers a unique approach to enhancing the Entrepreneurial culture in your city or region and/or a unique approach for assisting young companies through the start-up/early stage of a business life cycle. This award can be a new or relatively new effort in your community.
- **Placemaking:** Projects or programs to make your community a better place to live, work, and play by transforming underutilized public spaces into vibrant community places. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspirations and potential that contribute to people's health, happiness, safety and well-being. As a place becomes more desirable and welcoming, people will want to spend more time in them.
- **Economic Development Impact Award:** Recognizes an individual who has been an economic development professional in the Mid-America region for at least the past year. *This will be one individual-based award, not based on community size.* This award recognizes someone who has been impactful through their efforts as an economic developer. The Economic Development Impact award celebrates an individual who has met the challenges of providing economic development and who demonstrates the ability and commitment to positively impact their community's/organization's/region's economic growth.

# Mid-America EDC 2024 Annual Economic Development Awards Submission Form

Please use this form for mailed entries only – online entries (preferred) may be submitted via check or credit card payment at [https://aom.formstack.com/forms/2024\\_awards\\_call\\_for\\_entries](https://aom.formstack.com/forms/2024_awards_call_for_entries).

## Part A: Contact information (Please complete one copy and send with your entire package of entry items.)

- **Entry deadline: August 23, 2024**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

### Fees:

Early entry - Total # of entries \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 (member) or \$100 (Nonmember) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment:

\_\_\_ Check (made payable to Mid-America EDC) – mailed copies only. Please utilize our online form to submit entries with credit card OR check payment.

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## Part B: Entry information (Please submit two copies of each submission item – please reproduce this form as needed, complete and attach to each submission item.)

*Please include a brief narrative detailing your entry, including quantifiable results and/or success stories and economic benefits to your community or organization related to the entry.*

**Division**, based on community population (Please choose one. No selection required for Economic Dev. Impact):

\_\_\_ Small (Less than 10,000)      \_\_\_ Medium (10,000-25,000)      \_\_\_ Large (25,001+)

### Category:

\_\_\_ Project of the Year      \_\_\_ Workforce & Talent      \_\_\_ Placemaking

\_\_\_ Marketing Program      \_\_\_ Entrepreneurial Award

\_\_\_ Overcoming Adversity      \_\_\_ Economic Development Impact

Fill in the following information as you would like it shown in promotions/ads, materials, etc.

Title of Award Submission/Entry \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entries and payment to:

Mid-America EDC  
Attn: Awards  
400 W. Wilson Bridge Rd., Suite 120, Worthington, OH 43085  
[www.midamericaedc.org](http://www.midamericaedc.org)