



INDEPENDENCE
★ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ★

THE PRESERVE INDEPENDENCE AWARDS

The Independence Heritage Commission is a nine-member body appointed by the Independence City Council to oversee the preservation, protection, and enhancement of our city's historic resources. Guided by this mandate, the Commission continually strives to foster and encourage the restoration, rehabilitation, and re-use of buildings within traditional neighborhoods and commercial districts throughout Independence.

In 2001, the Heritage Commission developed an annual awards program to recognize the challenges and successes of preserving the built environment that reflect Independence's rich heritage. These awards are intended to recognize the efforts of individuals, organizations, and projects that display an exemplary commitment to historic preservation in Independence.

Awards are presented in May at a regular City Council meeting as part of Independence's annual celebration of Historic Preservation Month. Preservation Month is a national celebration, co-sponsored with the city of Independence, by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

***2026 PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE
NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026***

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INDEPENDENCE HERITAGE COMMISSION

PRESERVATION AWARD CATEGORIES

Projects, individuals, or organizations may be nominated for an award in one of the following categories:

❖ **Building(s) Restoration or Rehabilitation**

Recognizes exemplary efforts by an individual property owner or organization in retention of the form, integrity, and materials of a historic property; restoration of a historic building to an earlier or original appearance; or rehabilitation of a historic building for reuse that preserves the building's historical, cultural, or architectural significance.

❖ **Distinguished Service**

Recognizes an individual or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to historic preservation efforts in Independence through advocacy, education and outreach, and philanthropy.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS & CHECKLIST

To be considered complete, a nomination must include the following:

Building(s) Restoration or Rehabilitation

- Completed nomination form
- Letter of authorization from the property owner, if not the person submitting the nomination
- A one-page statement that describes the significance of the project being nominated; the history of the building; and the names of individuals, architects/contractors, consultants, and/or other professionals having a significant role in completion of the project
- Four or more digital photographs illustrating the project before (if possible) and after completion

Distinguished Service-Individual or Organization

- Completed nomination form
- A one-to-two-page statement describing the nominee's achievements and/or ongoing commitment to historic preservation efforts in Independence.
- Four or more digital photographs illustrating the nominee's accomplishments and including (when applicable) at least one image of the individual being nominated.

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JUDGING AND AWARDS

Nominations will be reviewed and voted on by the Independence Heritage Commission.

The Commission reserves the right to disqualify any nomination that is incomplete or does not meet the nomination requirements.

The Commission's decisions are final and will be based on the following criterion:

- ◆ For building restoration/rehabilitation projects, adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Restoration or Rehabilitation.
- ◆ Significance/uniqueness of the project or achievement.
- ◆ Impact of the project or achievement on the community.
- ◆ Degree to which the nominee's project or achievement serves as an example to positively influence other historic preservation activity and/or policy in the community.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- ◆ Nominations for the Preserve Independence Awards will be accepted from the general public.
- ◆ A project or property may be nominated by its owner or another individual or group. If the nomination is made by someone other than the owner, the owner's written consent must be obtained.
- ◆ Nominations for Distinguished Service Awards may be made without the knowledge of the nominee(s).
- ◆ All submittals must include the nomination form along with required attachments, as described herein.
- ◆ All materials submitted must be clearly identified with the name of the nominee. Digital photographs should be identified with the nominee's name and a description, as well as applicable photo/copyright credits.
- ◆ All materials submitted become the property of the Independence Heritage Commission and will not be returned.
- ◆ Nominator grants permission for materials to be used for presentation and publicity purposes. *Appropriate credit will be given.*

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APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Type (check one) _____ Project _____ Organization _____ Individual

Award Category

Select one category from the list of the Preserve Independence Award Categories

Nominee

Project Name, Organization's Name, or Individual's Name

Submitted By

Title (if applicable)

Organization (if applicable)

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

E-mail

Owner Consent (Building Projects only):

As owner of the above nominated property, I have reviewed the nomination application and do hereby consent to its submission as written. I am aware that any photographic images submitted with the nomination will become the property of the Independence Heritage Commission, and that the Commission will use these photos to publicly recognize the project if an award is made.

Signature of Property Owner(s)

Date

Email completed form and attachments to:

**City of Independence, Historic Preservation Division
Wendy Shay, Preservation Manager
wshay@indepmo.org**