

2024 Call for Entries for the IES Illumination Awards

This document lays out the submissions process and should answer most questions you may have about the awards. We look forward to your submissions and wish you all the best of luck!

About the IES Illumination Awards (IA)

The IES Illumination Awards (IA) program recognizes individuals for professionalism, ingenuity and originality in lighting design based on the individual merit of each entry. Judges are selected from a broad professional spectrum representing knowledge of lighting and design excellence. The judging system is entirely based on how well the lighting design meets the program criteria. The Illumination Awards program is not a competition. 2024 Marks the Illumination Awards 51st year. **We strongly recommend that applicants read through the [eligibility/entry rules](#) and [FAQs](#) before submitting to the program.**

Submissions will be open January 4th, 2024.

How to submit:

Entrants should visit <https://iesilluminationawards.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home> and if you do not have a login already, please create one. There you will find the entry rules and submission FAQs. **Please note: when submitting, you will be prompted to choose a section. This should be the section where the lead designer is from, not the project. If you are from outside of North America, please choose "International."**

Deadlines and Pricing:

Early Bird Deadline and Pricing:

January 4-31, \$250

Regular Submission and Pricing:

February 1-23, \$300

Eligibility and Entry Rules

Projects previously submitted to the IES Illumination Awards are not eligible.

1. Anyone (except manufacturers); IES members or nonmembers (with the exclusion of IES staff and IES Board of Directors), may enter a project for an Illumination Award. Agents may also submit.
2. Registration fees are non-refundable.
 - Early Submission: January 4 -31 11:59PM EST (Fee: \$250)
 - Regular Submission: February 1 -23 11:59PM EST (Fee: \$300)
3. The installation must have been completed during the 24 months preceding the January program date listed.
4. Projects may be entered only once using the IA portal. If there is no active IES section in your area, your project will still be accepted and entered for judging. All judging is conducted 'blind' or anonymously; judges do not know any project details at any stage of judging. The nominator must check with all parties to eliminate duplicate entries. All entries previously judged will be rejected.
5. Different areas of the same project may be submitted as separate lighting or controls project entries. Each of these entries must have its own distinguishable title and additional entry fee. Each of these entries will be judged separately.

6. Lead Lighting Designer must inform the owner and all others involved or associated in the project design, of participation in the program and that the entry may be published in *LD+A*. The owner's name and location may be withheld for privacy reasons.

Prepare your submittal(s). Each project entry must include:

- **Project Summary**

Up to a three hundred (300) word maximum narrative is allowed to present a project. **PLEASE NOTE:** The names of the designers, the name of the design firm, equipment manufacturers or specific brands is not allowed anywhere in the narrative. Any reference or endorsement of a commercial product is not allowed. Submittals with this information will be dismissed. However, proper names of places (i.e., Waldorf Astoria, Verizon, Target) in each photograph narrative is admissible.

TIP—it's beneficial to address criteria from the specified category award score sheet. For example, address Energy and Budget if this was a significant challenge or accomplishment. Commenting on these and other factors can help you present a compelling project

- **Images**

Up to 10 high-resolution images (photos, sketches or renderings) per entry will be accepted. Multiple images per slide are allowed, but each image will count towards the maximum allotment of 10. Digital renderings that are identified as such are acceptable—if they are accompanied by a photograph of the actual installation, to demonstrate the actual design and installed results. Each rendering and accompanying photographs will be counted individually. Images must be in JPEG format and at least 1024px wide and 768px high.

PLEASE NOTE: Fill light is prohibited. Images modified or digitally enhanced are prohibited.

TIP—Don't include 10 images if they don't help tell a compelling project story; sometimes less is more.

TIP—Photos taken during daylight hours may not adequately present the lighting design.

- **Image Narratives**

Each image can be described in a 25-word narrative that explains that particular image. This narrative is in addition to the introductory summary for each project.

TIP—Use this to tell the judges what they are seeing. An image without a narrative is difficult to judge.

- **OPTIONAL: Video Submission**

Video submission must NOT contain any narrative (written, spoken or music). Total video length allowed is a maximum of one (1) minute. Video must be a mov, m4v or mp4 format. Still images as a slide show are not accepted as a video and will be disqualified. You may describe the video in up to 25 words in the video narrative.

TIP—Watch for flicker in your video, which could jeopardize your chance of receiving an award. A video of simple color-changing lighting can appear pretty amateur if it appears more like 'chase' lights.

***Please note: If you log back in and are having trouble seeing your application(s) -Go to the right side of the page and choose "change applicant section", choose your section, and all the info should pop up.**

All entry materials, including photos and narratives, can be used without restriction by LD+A, the magazine of the IES. LD+A will have reproduction privileges of photographs and scripts without charge to the Society. IES may use the projects submitted to promote the Society's programs and services.

Types of Awards and Score Sheet Examples

Illumination Award for Control Innovation, sponsored by the Lighting Controls Association, a Council within NEMA

Advanced lighting control solutions can provide significant energy savings, flexibility and other benefits in buildings. This prestigious award recognizes good lighting projects that exemplify the effective use of lighting controls in nonresidential applications.

*The LCA will have permission to publish the award recipient and any other entrants on its website as educational content, including photography, giving all appropriate credits, including the IES Illumination Awards Program and the manufacturer(s).

[Click here for score sheet](#)

Illumination Award for Interior Lighting Design, sponsored by Edwin F. Guth

In 1902 Edwin F. Guth founded the St. Louis Brass Company and later renamed it the Edwin F. Guth Company. Mr. Guth's profound creativity, entrepreneurialism and focus to improve interior lighting are partially represented through 147 patents awarded to him prior to his passing in 1962. This award recognizes exceptional interior lighting projects that balance the functional illumination of space with the artistic application of light to enhance the occupant's experience.

[Click here for score sheet](#)

Illumination Award for Outdoor Lighting Design

The Illumination Award for Outdoor Lighting Design recognizes excellence in lighting design and application in all aspects of exterior lighting. The program celebrates achievements in aesthetics, applied technical acumen, creative solutions to demanding site conditions and advancements to the industry in outdoor lighting applications. The goal of the program is to further the understanding, knowledge and function of outdoor lighting as a critical aspect of the built environment.

[Click here for score sheet](#)

The Energy and Environmental Design Award

The Energy and Environmental Design Award recognizes quality lighting installations in commercial and industrial buildings that incorporate advanced energy-saving strategies and environmentally responsible solutions into the overall design.

[Click here for score sheet](#)

Award Levels

[Click here](#)

FAQs

1. Who can submit to the Illumination Awards?

Anyone (except manufacturers); IES members or nonmembers (with the exclusion of IES staff and IES Board of Directors), may enter a project for an Illumination Award. Agents may also submit.

2. What types of projects can be submitted to the Illumination Awards?

Any permanent lighting installation can be submitted to the Illumination Awards. The installation must have been completed during the 24 months preceding the January program date listed.

3. What are the fees to submit?

Fees are \$250 for Early Bird (Jan. 4th - 31st.) and \$300 for Regular Submissions (Feb. 1st - 23rd.)

Submission fees are non-refundable.

4. Which IES Section should I submit my project to?

Submitters should submit their project to the Section of the lead designer. If there is no active Section, the project should be submitted to the Section closest to the location of the lead designer.

5. Will my project be judged if my local Section is not listed on the submission portal?

If there is no active IES Section in your area your project will still be accepted and entered for judging.

6. Are submitters allowed to revisit a previous submission?

Once the submission has been finalized and payment is made, submitters will no longer have access to their submission. Submitters should save their submission as a file document to access for future reference. Submitters can save their submission by clicking on "in-progress" or "in cart" in their Dashboard. There will

be an option to save the submission as a pdf document. This can only be done before submitting the payment for the submission.

7. Can submitters edit their project once it has been submitted?

The editing phase has been eliminated from the submission process. Once a project has been processed, modifications can no longer be made.

8. Is there a way to begin a second and third submission before finishing the first?

During checkout, submitters will be prompted to complete the submission or start a new one. Different areas of the same project may be submitted as separate project entries (i.e., outdoor lighting, interior lighting, lighting controls, environmental & energy). Each of these entries must have their own distinguishable title and additional entry fee. Each of these entries will be judged separately. The Illumination Awards Section Chair will check with all parties to eliminate duplicate entries entered to the same category. Projects may not be reentered from a previous year, but a different area of the project may be entered as long as it was completed during the 24 months preceding the January program date listed. All entries previously judged will be rejected.

9. Can the Interior Lighting Design Award include residential projects?

Interior design is for any interior project — commercial or residential — anything that is inside.

10. How will my project be judged?

All judging is conducted 'blind' or anonymously using the program score sheets. Judges do not know any project details at any stage of judging.

11. Why did my project not receive an Illumination Award?

Although IES cannot provide details about why you did not receive an award, please refer to the [submission tutorial](#) and [score sheets](#). Try to talk to your local IA Chair about how you can improve your submission.

12. What is the process for international award recipients attending the Illumination Awards Gala?

IES will provide the conference registration and award recipient letter to assist with visa arrangements. Unfortunately, this is the only form of assistance the IES will provide. IES is not responsible for completing any forms issued through the U.S. Department of State or Customs.

13. What forms of consent are required to submit to the Illumination Awards?

IES may use the projects submitted to promote the Society's programs and services. All entry materials including photos and narratives, can be used without restriction by LD+A, the magazine of the IES. The LD+A magazine will have reproduction privileges of photographs and scripts without charge to the Society. IES must inform the owner and all others involved or associated in the project design of participation in the Illumination Awards program and that **the** submission may be published in the LD+A magazine. The owner's name and location may be withheld for privacy reasons.

14. Can award recipients order duplicate award certificates?

Anyone may purchase a duplicate certificate. You may send your request to Michael Austerlitz at mausterlitz@ies.org

15. Is a designer allowed to name the client in their summary and image descriptions? Also, does the designer need to refrain from using the city or state where the project is located?

City/State, and the owner's name is allowed. You may wish to be careful if the owner is a designer or design firm that people may confuse as listing the design team.

For example, "This new restaurant, Burger Shack, located in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania wanted to evoke a feeling of XYZ...." would be acceptable.