



A NEW DAY.

City of Jacksonville, Florida

Donna Deegan, Mayor

Neighborhoods Department
Ed Ball Building
214 N. Hogan Street, 7th Floor
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
(904) 255-7200
www.coj.net

March 15, 2024

Dear Neighbor,

On behalf of the Neighborhoods Department, I am pleased to announce the City of Jacksonville is accepting applications for the 2024 Neighborhood Awards competition. The award program is designed to recognize the efforts of organized and registered neighborhood groups, businesses, or corporations that have excelled in community-based activities that have worked together to improve social or physical conditions in Jacksonville. We welcome all applications that include community-based projects that focus on physical revitalization/beautification or, social revitalization and/or neighborliness. The 2024 Neighborhood Awards will be given to organizations for outstanding projects and/or programs that were developed and completed January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. The details and criteria for each award are outlined in the application.

All entries must be submitted by groups that are registered in the Neighborhood Organizations/Cleanup Directory in the City of Jacksonville's Neighborhood Services Office. Please use this link to register your organization: <https://jaxnhorg.coj.net/#/login>

The City of Jacksonville would like to recognize those neighborhoods and organizations that have created an exemplary program or project that helps to make our community a better place for all. This year's winners will be announced at the award ceremony on Thursday, November 7th from 6 - 8 PM in the Jacksonville Public Library Main located at 303 N Laura St, Jacksonville, FL 32202. The Neighborhood Awards program will celebrate community accomplishments and highlight the unique ways that Jacksonville communities help, guide and support each other.

Please complete the attached application and email to NeighborhoodServices@coj.net Attention: Neighborhood Awards/Lisa Ransom. All nominations must be postmarked/date stamped, hand-delivered or emailed no later than Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 6 PM. If delivering in person, please come to our offices located at 214 N. Hogan Street, Neighborhood Services Office, 5th Floor, Jacksonville, FL 32202 by 6 PM. If you have any questions, please call the Neighborhood Services Office at (904) 255-8250.

Thank you for all that you do for the City of Jacksonville. I am looking forward to seeing you on November 7th!

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Waters
Director

Encl.



2024 Jacksonville Neighborhood Awards Competition Application

The City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department is pleased to announce the opening of its 2024 Neighborhood Awards competition. Jacksonville's outstanding neighborhoods will be awarded and recognized in a ceremony on **Thursday, November 7, 2024**, for organized community activities and projects completed in the 2023 calendar year.

Neighborhood Award – General Description

PURPOSE

The 2024 Neighborhood Award Program is designed to recognize the efforts of neighborhood and civic groups in Duval County. On November 7th, neighborhood groups will be awarded for activities that emphasize volunteer activities, leadership and collaborations that help their community with programs, events, artwork, or that physically and/or socially improve or beautify all of Jacksonville's neighborhoods.

If your organization began and completed a neighborhood project or activity between January and December 2023, you are invited to enter the 2024 Neighborhood Award competition provided the minimum application standards are met. These awards will highlight the tremendous efforts of Jacksonville community leaders that help to make the city a safe and clean place to live, work, play, shop, and visit.

Since all of Jacksonville's neighborhoods are spread out and have many different qualities, the judging criteria outlined on page 2 should be used to help you complete a successful application. There are countless ideas that are eligible for an award including programs for seniors or the children in your subdivision or apartment complex. Examples of project applications may include murals, park restorations, food pantries, community gardens and holiday festivals.

Please describe your project and/or activity using the criteria listed below (1-9). All applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of judges. Your description will aid in the assessment of your submission.

Neighborhood Program Award Description - Categories and Judging Criteria

1. Self Help/Financial Capability (0-20 pts) - The extent of self-help is clear with minimal reliance on outside funding sources; the budget was well documented and realistic.
2. Grassroots Involvement (0-20 pts) – The project/activity included significant neighborhood and/or business involvement and cooperation; diversity of participants.
3. Innovativeness (0-10 pts) - The project/activity was a creative and unique way to address the neighborhood(s) issue.
4. Community Benefit (0-10 pts) - The project/activity helped the neighborhood as a whole and addressed a need; it improved the health, safety and/or appearance of the neighborhood.
5. Volunteerism (0-10 pts) - The extent of volunteer contributions to the project.
6. Leadership Development (0-10 pts) - The project/activity supplied opportunities for volunteers to take on leadership roles and develop new skills.
7. Partnership Building (0-10 pts) - The project/activity created partnerships with public and/or private entities; and/or with other neighborhoods and community-based groups.
8. Sustainability (0-5 pts) - The project/activity illustrated opportunities for self-sufficiency; project/activity included a minimal maintenance design and an ongoing maintenance plan.
9. Replicable (0-5 pts) - The potential for the project/activity to be replicated in other neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Award – Eligibility

An organization must have a completed registration in the Neighborhood Organizations Directory prior to submitting an application for the Neighborhood Award Program using the following link: <https://jaxnhorg.coj.net/#/login>. If you need help to register your organization, please call the Neighborhood Services Office at 255-8250.

Once registration is completed, your application is eligible to apply for the 2024 Neighborhood Award Program. As stated previously, each Neighborhood Award application must represent a community group of neighbors or a civic group that has completed a project or activity that helped their neighborhood during the 2023 calendar year beginning on January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Neighborhood Awards are intended to acknowledge group work/activity amongst organized volunteer work. The intent is to celebrate community groups and neighborhood organizations that have not been compensated monetarily for the work, or most of the effort to complete the project or program shown in each application. For example, corporate or business companies that charge a fee for services or that are retail establishments, caretakers, paid companions, groundskeepers, interns, paid staff members or similar are not eligible for this award.

Neighborhood Award – Submission Steps

1. Please complete the Required Application Cover Sheet

Required Application Cover Sheet

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Name of Project/Activity: _____

Name of Association: _____

Application Contact Person (for additional information/questions): _____

Contact Person's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person's E-mail: _____

Organization Project Email: _____

All photos used to apply for this award are subject to use for marketing purposes for the 2024 Neighborhood Award Program, future awards program applications, marketing materials or other related noncommercial uses. Please note that under Florida's very broad public records law, all information contained in this form is subject to public disclosure.

Please check the award category below that best describes your project.

NEIGHBORHOOD AWARD (Please check one category):

There are two categories for the Neighborhood Award:

1. Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Programs that focus on physical aspects of improving your neighborhood such as parks, lighting, litter control, traffic management, housing improvements, green spaces, artwork and business district enhancements. **All improvements in this category must be visible at street level.**
2. Social Revitalization/Neighborliness - Programs focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together on programs like an ice cream social, holiday celebration or festival.

Project/Activity Category (check one):

_____ Physical Revitalization/Beautification-Single Neighborhood

_____ Social Revitalization/Neighborliness-Single Neighborhood

Neighborhood Award – Submission Steps continued.

The following information is required to better understand and score your project/program application. Please answer the following questions using no more than five (5) double-sided 8 ½ x 11 white pages:

1. Attach a group photo of the program/project and its participants. (High resolution JPEG or PNG 300 dpi or higher only). (Award finalists will be required to submit an electronic photo)
2. Describe your neighborhood and neighborhood organization and include the following information:
 - a. Briefly describe your neighborhood boundaries.
 - b. When was your neighborhood association formed? How many people live in your neighborhood? How many people participated in neighborhood meetings on a regular basis?
3. Provide details (a-c) about the nominated project or activity.
 - a. Describe your project/activity. Identify when it started, who initiated it and what you were trying to carry out.
 - b. What prompted your organization to develop this project/activity? Please describe circumstances and/or situations that made this a priority for your neighborhood residents.
 - c. List the six (6) critical steps/tasks your group took to develop/implement this project/activity?
4. Describe the role and level of involvement of neighborhood residents in each of the steps.
 - a. Why do you think this project was successful? Describe why it was beneficial, how it changed the neighborhood, and any unexpected benefits resulting from the project/activity.
 - b. If this project involved other partners, who was involved, what role did they play, and how critical were they to the success of the project/activity?
 - c. If this project/activity was going to be replicated by other neighborhoods, what four pieces of advice and/or lessons would you give to them?
5. Attach the following items:
 - a. A copy of the Required Cover Sheet and Application (page 3).
 - b. A budget showing income and expenses related to the project/activity including, but not limited to donations, grants, in-kind support and volunteer hours committed.
 - c. Up to six (6) additional items (photos, testimonials, etc.) you feel will help the judges have a better understanding of your project/activity.
6. Applications must be submitted using the following guidelines:
 - Hard copy submissions must be 12 point, on 8 ½ x 11 whitepaper, using Arial 12 font.
 - Electronic documents must be submitted in Word, or other word processing software.
 - Do not submit videos, DVDs, thumb drives or flash drives as part of your application.
 - Photos are encouraged (high resolution photos 300 DPI or greater)
 - **DO NOT** staple/bind or send bound applications of any kind. Binder clips are acceptable.

Failure to submit a complete application (Numbers 1-6) will limit the judge's ability to apply all criteria for award consideration.

NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR (NOTY) AWARD

This year, the City of Jacksonville celebrates community leadership, innovation and initiative and will recognize the outstanding work of one neighborhood organization for their work toward improving the quality of life in their community. This recognition also includes efforts to support neighbors individually or as a group and in work that improves equity and access to resources throughout their neighborhood and city.

The panel of judges will decide the winner of the Neighborhood of the Year award from the finalists of all completed submission packets.

The Neighborhood Services Office is looking forward to seeing everyone on November 7th to celebrate and support all the award nominees. More information about the event will be available in the upcoming weeks. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

The [Community Excellence Award](#) program recognizes the outstanding work of governmental entities, businesses, or corporations in Duval County who work to improve the quality of life in their communities and neighborhoods. If your organization completed a neighborhood improvement project or an engagement activity in 2023, please apply to enter the Community Excellence Award competition.

There are two categories for the Community Excellence Award:

1. Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Programs that focus on physical aspects of improving the city by upgrading decorative aspects of the community, litter control projects, in a neighborhood or business district, or by creating a new green space, or similar projects are eligible. All projects in this category must be visible at the street level.
2. Social Revitalization/Neighborliness - Programs focusing on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood like safety, youth and/or senior programs, activities that make neighbors feel connected and foster neighbors working together on programs like an ice cream social, holiday celebration or festival.

Neighborhood Award – Deadline and Delivery Instructions

All applications **MUST be received by Thursday, May 23rd** by 6:00 P.M.

Submit to: City of Jacksonville/Neighborhoods Services Office

214 N. Hogan Street, 5th Floor

Jacksonville, FL 32202

ATTN: Neighborhood Services Office/Lisa Ransom or Jennifer Fiske

You may also deliver in person, mail by USPS (postmarked by May 23rd is acceptable) or email your application to: NeighborhoodServices@coj.net by 6 PM on May 23rd;



All applicants must be registered in the Neighborhood Organizations/Cleanup Directory.
Please register at <https://jaxnhorg.coj.net/#/login>

Awards finalists will be notified on or before Monday, October 7, 2024.

If you have any questions about the application process, registration in the database, or if you need help about any of the above, please contact the Neighborhood Services Office at: (904) 255-8250 or email NeighborhoodServices@coj.net

*Thank
You*