



# 2026 AWARDS COMPETITION

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

For more than 25 years, the Design-Build Institute of America Mid-America Region (DBIA-MAR) has recognized excellence in design-build practices and informed the public of the breadth and value of design-build delivery. We are pleased to invite you to submit your design-build project(s) for the 2026 DBIA-MAR Awards Competition. Submissions due by 5 p.m. (CST) on August 21, 2026.

## CONTACT:

Sara Jacobson  
Executive Director  
DBIA Mid-America Region  
816.868.1686  
[sara.jacobson@dbiamar.org](mailto:sara.jacobson@dbiamar.org)

Mechelle Bliss  
Awards Committee Chair  
913.945.0616  
[mbliss@allsurfaces.com](mailto:mbliss@allsurfaces.com)

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



- Design-build projects that have been completed in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska
- Design-build projects that have been completed outside the four-state Mid-America Region (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) boundary are eligible if the team meets one of the following conditions:
  - Design-build team is headquartered in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri or Nebraska.
  - Lead architect is headquartered in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri or Nebraska.
  - General contractor is headquartered in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri or Nebraska.
  - Owner is headquartered in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri or Nebraska.
  - Lead engineering firm is headquartered in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri or Nebraska.
- Design-build projects completed within the past five years AND prior to November 1, 2026 are eligible.
- Projects must be performed under a single-source contract between the owner/user and the design-builder, such as:
  - Design-build firm with at least in-house general construction and A&E.
  - Design-build joint venture between at least the general contractor and the A&E.
  - An A&E firm that holds at least a direct sub-contract with the project's general contractor.
  - A general contractor who holds at least a direct sub-contract with the project's principal design professional.
- The design-build team must have been at-risk for both the project's cost and the project's schedule.
- Project submittals must demonstrate successful application of design-build principles and best practices; to include interdisciplinary collaboration in early stages of the project and acceptance of single-entity risk.
- Simply completing projects on-time and within budget (with no litigation) is not a winning criterion, it is a minimum standard for all projects submitted.
- Winning projects will be selected for advanced and innovative application of total integrated project delivery and showing unique solutions for project challenges.
- DBIA-MAR's Award winners should exemplify principles of interdisciplinary teamwork, innovation and problem solving that characterize successful design-build delivery.

## DEADLINES + SUBMISSION FEES

The submission fee is \$500 for DBIA Members and DBIA-MAR Annual Sponsors and \$600 for non-members. If submitting multiple entries, the fee per entry after the first submission at full price is \$250 per entry. **All submissions must be received before 5 p.m. (CST) on August 21, 2026.** The submission deadline will be strictly observed.

Entries become property of DBIA-MAR and will not be returned. All corresponding video, interviews and/or promotional materials developed for winning teams is the sole property of DBIA-MAR.

## JUDGING

### PRIMARY EVALUATION CRITERIA

- How the team successfully achieved owner/user project goals.
- How design-build "best practices" were integrated into the project. Please give specifics.
- Special emphasis will be placed on the design team's innovative use of new systems, methods and processes that benefit cost, efficiency/speed, safety, quality and use of technology. Give examples of how these helped meet the owner's project needs.
- Aesthetics, design quality, functionality and life-cycle are important factors.

## JURY

- Impartial experts, selected from DBIA-MAR membership, owners and industry peers will consider the submissions.
- At the jury's discretion, additional awards may be presented to submissions in each of the categories.
- The jury may choose not to name a winner for any specific category/award based on submissions.
- The jury will be looking for a project with an outstanding design emphasis and may recognize a special award in this area. Projects from across all categories submitted will be examined for such a distinction. The jury is not obligated to make this award.
- **The jury's decisions are final.**



## POSSIBLE AWARDS

Awards may be given in each category at the discretion of the judges at the following levels:

**Excellence Award** – highest scoring project(s) in category.

**Merit Award** – second highest scoring project(s) in category.

**Design Excellence Award** – Honor projects that achieve an owner's overall aesthetic and functional vision through outstanding design. More than one award **may** be given in this category.

**Design-Build Project of the Year** – Chosen from all categories, **one** project with outstanding scores and based on consensus of the jury **may** be awarded this top achievement.

**Schedule Award** – Honor projects that were completed with aggressive schedules to showcase speed-to-market.

**Innovation Award** – Honor projects that exemplify innovative techniques.

**Small Projects Award** – Honor vertical projects under \$10M and horizontal projects under \$30M.

## PUBLICATION

DBIA-MAR reserves the right to publish any and all entry materials submitted or any part thereof without compensation. This includes photographs and names of any and all entrants and projects submitted to the awards competition.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submittals should be provided exactly as outlined below in Submission Format. One (1) electronic version (PDF) of the entire submission submitted via OneDrive will be the only requirement in 2026. Upon payment of the entry fee, a link to the OneDrive site will be emailed to entrant to upload files. No hard copies or USB drives will be accepted. Entries should include design-build entity's name, address and contact information, as well as project name on the cover. Minimum requirements are clarified in Submission Format below, and are expressly required in the order requested. A signed and dated cover letter on the submitting firm's letterhead must accompany each entry to include the paragraph below.

*"I understand that the contents of this entry and associated material developed for winning teams become the property of DBIA-MAR and will not be returned. I further understand that DBIA-MAR shall have the right to make all text and photographs available for publication without compensation, real or implied, and without claim by contestants against the judging committee, DBIA-MAR, its staff or individual DBIA members."*

## TYPE OF PROJECTS TO BE SUBMITTED:

**COMMERCIAL** – Airports, Hotel/Hospitality, Leisure/Theatre, Museum, Multi-Family, Office, Retail, Sports Facility, Warehouse/Distribution, Other

**EDUCATIONAL** – Libraries, Public and Private Schools, Universities, Colleges, Other

**HEALTHCARE** – Hospitals, Medical Clinics, Doctors Office Buildings, Other

**INSTITUTIONAL** – Correctional, Police and Fire Stations, Church/Worship Facilities, Municipal/Public Building, Other

**INDUSTRIAL PROCESS FACILITY** – Heavy Manufacturing, Light Manufacturing, Petro/Chemical/Process, Power, Water/Wastewater, Other

**CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE** – Bridge, Collection/Conveyance, Environmental, Flood Control, Highway, Marine/Harbor, Rail, Streets, Telecommunications, Transit, Tunnel, Utility, Other



## SUBMISSION FORMAT

Submissions must be provided in the following format:

- One (1) PDF format submission document titled with the project name uploaded via OneDrive.
- The PDF document must be complete and be organized with sections as directed in the following instructions.
- Provide page numbers in the lower right footer.
- Minimum 10 point font.
- In addition to incorporating photographs into the Appendix of the response, please provide separate, high resolution .jpeg photograph files. Maximum of 10 images.

## COVER

Project name, award category, construction completion date and project address.  
Name, address, email and phone number of key contact person(s) of submitting firm(s).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (15 PTS)

Part I – Provide an Executive Summary highlighting key aspects and distinctive elements of the project. Please include the who, what, when, why, where and how, in summary format without exceeding two pages to be used during awards ceremony.

Part II – Provide the following information exactly as you would like it on an award, should your project submittal receive one:

Project Title:  
Project City and State:  
Design-Builder:\*  
Designer:\*  
Owner:\*

\*Area for Design-Builder, Designer and Owner is limited to three lines total. Extra lines will be subject to additional fees.

## SECTION ONE

### DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT APPLICATION

Please fill out the form below and include it under Section One of Submission Format.

Please use a separate form for each project.



Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Design-Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Design-Builder: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Notable Trade Partners (MANDATORY)

Please provide details for at least three notable trade partners who participated in this project, so they can be recognized in the program and at the Awards Celebration on November 20, 2026. Notable trade partners may include Specialty Contractors, Engineer(s), Mechanical, Electrical, Fire Protection, Earth Work, Geotechnical or other trades involved in the design-build team.

##### *Trade Partner #1*

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

##### *Trade Partner #2*

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

##### *Trade Partner #3*

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following led the design-build team (assumed project risk)?

Design-Build Firm

Builder

Developer

A/E

Joint Venture

Other (Please Specify)



**Name of Client/Owner:**

Address of Client/Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

**Category of Client/Owner:**

- Private Corporation
- Non-Profit Corporation
- State, Municipal or Local Agency
- Developer
- Federal Agency
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Project (Choose One)**

**Commercial**

- Airports
- Hotel/Hospitality
- Leisure/Theatre
- Museum
- Multi-Family
- Office
- Retail
- Sports Facility
- Warehouse/Distribution
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational**

- Library
- Public and Private Schools
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Universities
- Colleges

**Healthcare**

- Hospitals
- Doctors Office Buildings
- Medical Clinics
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Institutional**

- Correctional Facility
- Church/Worship Facilities
- Municipal/Public Building
- Police and Fire Stations
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Industrial Process Facility**

- Heavy Manufacturing
- Light Manufacturing
- Petro/Chemical/Process
- Power
- Water/Wastewater
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Civil Infrastructure**

- Bridge
- Streets
- Utility
- Flood Control
- Collection/Conveyance
- Environmental
- Rail
- Highway
- Marine/Harbor
- Tunnel
- Telecommunications
- Transit
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_



Project Size: (Area, Volume, Length as Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Project Cost: (Rounded to the Nearest U.S. Dollar) \_\_\_\_\_

Schedule: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Performance/Success Measures**

Did the project finish at or below budget?  Yes  No

Did the project finish ahead of schedule?  Yes  No

**Identify design-build delivery variation used on this project:**

- Direct Design-Build (design-builder engaged for design and construction from inception of the project)
- Design Criteria Design-Build (design-builder responds to performance requirements and criteria for design issued by the owner)
- Preliminary Design Design-Build (the RFP contains preliminary or conceptual design information)
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of procurement/selection process used:**

- Sole Source
- Best Value (technical and price with discussions)
- Meets Criteria/Low Price
- Fixed Budget/Best Design
- Qualifications-based Selection
- Best Value (technical and price without discussions)
- Low Bid
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of design-build contract commercial terms:**

- Cost Plus Fee
- Lump Sum
- Guaranteed Maximum Price
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**What were the evaluation criteria for selection? (Choose all that apply)**

- Technical Solution
- Image/Character of Design
- Past Performance
- Quality of Materials and Systems
- Completion Schedule
- Energy Conservation
- Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Environmental Sustainability
- Operations & Maintenance Costs
- Financial Capacity
- Management Plan
- Construction Cost
- Fee

## PROJECT TEAM (20 PTS)

Describe the design-build entity, the contractual relationships and how risks and rewards were allocated within the group for integrated project delivery and interdisciplinary collaboration to the benefit of the project. Include an organization chart. Complete Design-Build Project Application, providing:



1. Submitting entity
2. Contractual design-build contract holder
3. General contractor, architect(s), engineer(s), sub-consultant(s) and subcontractor(s)
4. Owner/developer
5. Additional significant team members

## CONTRACTING APPROACH (20 PTS)

Provide the following, at minimum, when describing the contracting approach between the design-builder and owner:

1. How you achieved single-point contractual responsibility.
2. How you achieved project collaboration and innovation.
3. How was equitable risk allocation obtained to the benefit of the project?
4. Provide an example of teaming agreement that was used on this project.
5. Lessons Learned

## SECTION TWO

### SAFETY (5 PTS)

Describe your approach to promote a safe environment during both design development and construction — give specific examples of how this approach worked on this project. Provide record of the safety performance for the project including total hours worked on the project, incident rate and any lost time accidents (LTA). Unique safety measures should be described for the judge's review and point award in this category. Boilerplate safety plans are not acceptable and points deducted.

### QUALITY (30 PTS)

1. Provide a detailed description of the project, contracted scope and goals. Include brief architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing discussion. For industrial, process or technically complex facilities, include a brief description of significant project requirements.
2. Describe project innovation as detailed in the judging section.
3. Describe quality assurance process. Identify specific instances where the design-build process encouraged cost control and quality assurance.
4. Describe aesthetic aspects and how they were successfully achieved. Where did these meet Owner needs/ requirements or surpass them.
5. Describe overall complexity and how significant challenges were overcome.
6. Include how the design-build process contributed to successful project delivery.
7. Describe how sustainability concepts were incorporated.
8. Include any other unique qualities related to excellence in design aspects of project.

## SECTION THREE

### SCHEDULE (25 PTS)

1. State contracted and actual contract completion dates. If there were changes, explain why.
2. Describe how the design-build team saved time – should include any innovations, unique processes, etc. that helped achieve time savings.

## SECTION FOUR

### COST PERFORMANCE (25 PTS)

1. State original and final contract value. If there were changes, explain why.
2. Describe how the design-build team saved money that contributed to enhanced project value to the owner's benefit. Describe what innovations, if any, were implemented, including the use of new systems, methods and processes.
3. Describe how was team collaboration a part of cost savings.

## SECTION FIVE

### OWNER LETTER (5 PTS)

Include a letter from the project owner referencing their experience with the project team, benefits of utilizing design-build approach, their overall selection process and specific results of the project.

## APPENDIX

### VISUAL AIDS + PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHY (15 PTS)

Provide visual aids, such as designs, working drawings, etc., with the stipulation for building projects that there be at least one interior and one exterior photo. Photos should be at least 300 dpi. Maximum of 10 images.

Please clearly identify one photo (landscape orientation) to be used on a plaque should your submittal be identified as a winner this year. Photos and graphics that help illustrate key points of the submittal should be included (i.e.; before and after photos, aerials, etc.).

Please provide photos as high resolution .jpegs rather than embedding images into the PDF or Word document. Please also provide a high resolution .jpeg or .eps file of the submitting firm's logo. In addition to highlighting the technical achievements and aesthetic concerns of the project, submitters are encouraged to provide photos that also capture the impact of the project on the surrounding community. When possible, please include photos that show the end-user/client using the facility.

## NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

DBIA-MAR Design-Build Award winners and finalists will be notified in late-September 2026. Notification of actual awards will be announced at DBIA-MAR's Awards Celebration scheduled at 11 a.m. on November 20, 2026 at The Gallery Event Space in the Power and Light District in Kansas City, MO. If you are selected please be prepared to present at the MAR Regional Conference on April 2027 at The View at Briarcliff in the Marriott Courtyard in Kansas City, MO.

## PURCHASE ADDITIONAL AWARDS

To ensure all members of the design-build team receive awards, additional plaques and trophies may be purchased with orders placed no later than September 25, 2026. Each winning submission will receive one (1) award free of charge, the cost to order additional awards is yet to be determined.

## ENTRY FEES

**Check** made payable to DBIA-MAR or credit card verification must accompany each entry.

First Entry: Members \$500                      Non-Members \$600

Second Entry and Beyond: \$250 each

Pay online via credit card (will include additional processing fees) at <https://>

