



Community Revitalization Awards

Program Overview

The Richardson City Council created the Community Revitalization Awards to recognize property owners who have made significant exterior improvements to their properties that have had a positive impact on the surrounding area.

Since the program began in 1994, over 300 properties have been recognized. Recipients are recognized by the City Council with a reception and award presentation ceremony held in February of each year.

The Community Revitalization Awards complement the City's efforts to support neighborhood vitality. This is not a grant or funding program; it recognizes individual efforts and seeks to encourage future individual reinvestment in our community.

The Program is promoted in City publications such as Richardson Today and by City Departments including Development Services, Community Services, and Building Inspection.

What is "Revitalization?"

Revitalization is the process of giving something new life or fresh vitality. When applied to the built environment of our community, revitalization may look like:

- The enhancement, upgrade, reconstruction, or replacement of exterior building and/or landscape elements;
- Dramatic improvements to existing properties or structures that halt or reverse decline;
- Ongoing maintenance and/or refurbishment of properties or structures that prevent deterioration before it begins;
- Total redevelopment of a property or structure—i.e. "tear-downs;" or
- Infill development—high quality new development on a vacant parcel in an older neighborhood or district.

Eligibility

All property types (residential and non-residential projects) are eligible for consideration. Projects have typically had substantial construction or completion within the program calendar year.

Nominations

- Nominations may be submitted by anyone, from property & business owners to neighbors.
- 2024 Nominations by the public are due by September 30, 2024, via an online nomination form at cor.net/cra

Selection Committee

Nominations are reviewed by a Selection Committee. The Committee consists of two City Council members, two City Plan Commissioners, and a representative of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce.

Criteria for Evaluation

Community Revitalization Award nominations are evaluated primarily by assessing their impact on the surrounding area, or on the City as a whole, if appropriate.

Projects receiving awards typically incorporate at least two of the following elements:

- building or façade improvements
- landscaping or lighting enhancements
- signage upgrades
- a consistently high level of general maintenance

The following categories and questions should be considered when evaluating potential Community Revitalization Award nominees:

Impact

- Have the new improvements significantly improved the appearance of the site?
- Have the improvements had a positive impact on the surrounding area?
- Have the improvements contributed to the stability or enhancement of the surrounding area?
- Do the improvements set a desirable precedent for surrounding property owners?

Building/Façade Improvements

- Do new materials enhance the structure's visual image?
- Are new materials blended well with the materials previously used?
- If the structure has historical significance, has the facade been renovated to retain its original appearance?
- Does the project employ new construction technology, building materials or concepts?

Landscaping

- Does the landscaping complement the building (i.e. massing, color, texture and balance)?
- Is the parking lot buffered from the public's view? (*does not apply to single-family residential properties)
- Is seasonal color or other accent material provided?
- Does the site have a harmonious mix of trees, shrubs and ground covers?

Additional Considerations for Non-Residential Properties:

Exterior Lighting

- Does the lighting enhance the character of the site (i.e. complement the building design)?
- Are the parking lot lights placed in landscaped islands?
- Has the glare on adjacent properties been kept to a minimum?
- Does the lighting provide a safe level of illumination for the parking lot and areas around the building?

Exterior Signage

- Is the signage an integral part of the building design and does it complement the building's architecture?
- Are the style, color and scale of the signage compatible with the site and building?
- Is the design of the signage consistent throughout the project?
- Is the signage legible?

Vehicular Circulation

- Does the internal traffic flow well?
- Is the parking easily accessible?
- Has the number of driveways been minimized?
- Have the turning radii been improved?

Maintenance

- Is plant material hardy?
- Are landscaped areas free from weeds and litter?
- Is turf mowed and manicured?
- Have painted surfaces been maintained?
- Have windows and other glass areas been maintained?
- Is the building clean in appearance and free from graffiti and other unnecessary markings?
- Are lights in working order?
- Are light standards and fixtures well maintained?
- Are sign surfaces well maintained?
- If sign is lighted, is lighting functional?
- Are driving surfaces well maintained?