



Washington Economic Development Association Economic Development Awards Program

Celebrating Outstanding Achievements in Economic Development

2023 CATEGORIES

1. Economic Development Project of the Year – Business Retention and/or Expansion
2. Economic Development Project of the Year – Business Recruitment
3. Economic Development Advocate of the Year
4. Emerging Professional Award
5. Innovation in Economic Development Award
6. Economic Development Award for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
7. Economic Development Award for Economic Response & Recovery

DESCRIPTION & SELECTION CRITERIA

Economic Development Project of the Year

(1) Business Retention/Expansion and (2) Business Recruitment

These awards will celebrate the successful creation or completion of a creative, economically significant, and/or model project in a community or region. Two awards will be given.

1. The first must be a project clearly demonstrating Business Retention and/or Expansion.
2. The second must recognize the successful Recruitment of a company to your community.

The project could be one that has created or retained jobs, was particularly difficult to achieve, was extraordinarily competitive, had multiple partners, contributed to community well-being, etc.

These awards may be given for multiple reasons. Projects that exhibit strong job creation/retention; extraordinary efforts; utilization of community assets; creativity or sustainability will be strong contenders for these awards. The creation of an innovative partnership or program resulting in business retention, expansion or recruitment may win this award. Factors that may influence the selection include the extent of the economic impact this project has on the community, the development of partnerships, innovation, originality, whether the project or program can be duplicated as a “best practice” and whether the project or program appears to be cost-effective.

One award will be given to a project that results in the successful retention or expansion of a company that existed in the community prior to January 1, 2023. The second award will honor a successful recruitment project. The committee will select the projects that exemplify the best in economic development.

Economic Development Advocate of the Year

This award recognizes a person outside the field of economic development who made a significant and/or innovative contribution to an economic development project or program during the past year. The award can be given for one extraordinary effort or for sustained efforts for and on behalf of our state’s business community. *A person working directly for an economic development agency or ADO is ineligible to receive this award.*

This award recognizes that economic development professionals must rely on a whole host of others in order to be successful. These are sometimes the “silent heroes” of economic development who have contributed significantly to advancement of the economic development profession or were involved in a significant project in a creative way. WEDA wants to recognize and encourage these partnerships. This may be an elected official, or an agency that has exhibited outstanding support to the field of economic development; it may be someone who has the ability to mobilize resources to enable significant business projects to develop, has provided significant support to an economic development professional or agency, or has shown the ability to capitalize on opportunities. Factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to the ability to develop policies or initiatives that have changed his/her community; the ability to advocate for Washington businesses; and/or the ability to “think outside the box” to support region-wide or state-wide initiatives.

Emerging Professional Award

This award recognizes an individual who is new to the Economic Development Profession or someone who has made a significant change in his/her role. The individual will exhibit the qualities that best exemplify the professional attributes needed to be successful in the field of economic development.

The Emerging Professional Award will be given to a person who has made a significant contribution to his/her community, is a promising future leader in the industry, or who has become an integral member of his or her community, creating significant support for economic development.

Innovation in Economic Development Award

This award recognizes that not all economic development projects are alike. In fact, there are frequently projects that happen or programs that are developed that do not include the “deal” that we, as economic developers typically consider as a success. WEDA will recognize innovative programs, projects and partnerships that are pioneering, groundbreaking, and/or novel.

WEDA recognizes that communities and individuals are doing state-of-the-art work to further the field of economic development. It may be the attraction of a world-class event that made a significant economic impact on a community, an atypical alliance of groups who may have never worked together before or the creation of a program that significantly improves a community’s ability to attract investment.

Economic Development Award for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

This award recognizes economic development organizations/entities/individuals that have made strides in improving the diversity, equity and inclusion within their work, communities, or organizations. WEDA will recognize innovative programs, projects and partnerships that are pioneering, groundbreaking and/or novel.

WEDA recognizes that communities and individuals are working hard to address economic diversity, equity and inclusion to help disproportionately affected underserved populations. It may be a project, program, or an atypical alliance of groups who may have never worked together before that significantly improves a community’s ability to improve Diversity, Equity & Inclusion outcomes.

Economic Development Award for Economic Response & Recovery

This award recognizes economic development organizations/entities/individuals that made innovative efforts to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. WEDA will recognize innovative programs, projects and partnerships that are pioneering, groundbreaking and/or novel.

WEDA recognizes that communities and individuals have faced severe impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. It may be a project, program, or an atypical alliance of groups who may have never worked together before that significantly addressed economic response and supported economic recovery.



Washington Economic Development Association

Economic Development Awards Program NOMINATION FORM

Nomination Category (Select One)	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Project of the Year – Business Retention or Expansion <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Project of the Year – Business Recruitment <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Advocate of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Professional Award <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation in Economic Development Award <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Award for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Award for Economic Response & Recovery
Nominator, E-mail Address, and Phone Number	
Name of Project or Person Nominated	
Nominee’s Name, E-mail Address and Phone Number (Primary Name of Nominee for Project of the Year)	
Please provide a complete list of names & e-mail addresses of individuals who should be recognized if this is not an individual nomination.	
In 500 words or less, please tell us why you believe this nominee should receive this award (You may complete this form or attach a document)	
<p><i>Up to 5 pages of additional material may be scanned and attached to this nomination. Examples could include newspaper articles, the Executive Summary of plans and letters of reference. Please note that if more than 5 pages are attached, only the first 5 five pages will be considered. (If you have attached the 500 word nomination, it will not count towards the 5 pages.)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for recognizing outstanding achievements in Economic Development!</i></p>	

DEADLINE: Nominations will be accepted electronically, until 5:00 pm on March 3, 2023.

Please note: The Awards Committee may not make an award in each category and reserves the right to enter an award into an alternate category than the one originally submitted.

Email your nomination to info@wedaonline.org

For questions regarding a nomination or the Awards, please contact Suzanne Dale Estey, WEDA’s Executive Director, at suzanne@wedaonline.org or Bruce Kendall, WEDA Awards Committee Chair, at bruce@edbtacomapierce.org