American Planning Association
Arizona Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

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November 23, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLAGSTAFF, AZ – The Arizona Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-AZ) held its annual awards ceremony on November 5, 2026 at the High Country Conference Center. Planning awards recognize peer recognized notable planning pursuits that have exemplified planning principles and fostered positive impacts on Arizona and its communities.

Award recipients in 2026 included:

Planning Excellence: OVTrailsConnect Trails and Paths Master Plan, Town of Oro Valley

Strengthening Communities: Resilience & Sustainability: Hualapai Route 66 Corridor Plan, Hualapai Centennial Celebration Committee, Hualapai Tribe

Regional or General or Comprehensive Plan (50,000 and over): Plan Tucson 2025, City of Tucson Planning & Development Services Department

Regional or General or Comprehensive Plan (less than 50,000): La Paz County 2035 Comprehensive Plan – Future Unlimited, La Paz County, Matrix Design Group

Student Planning Project: Exploratory Report for a Community Preference Policy, University of Arizona, MSUP Class of 2026

Great Public Places Arizona: Novus Place, Dig Studio, Nelsen Partners

Distinguished Contributors to Arizona Planning

Distinguished Planning Pioneer: Larry Harmer

Distinguished Citizen Planner: Kimber Lanning

Distinguished Professional Planner: Albert Elias, AICP