



FAQs, Nomination Questions, and Criteria

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. I/my organization won a sPARK Award last year. Can I/my organization submit a nomination again this year?

Yes, previous sPARK Award winners are eligible to submit nominations. However, the Selection Committee will prioritize submissions that are recent, relevant, and impactful. We strongly discourage nominations for programs, organizations, or initiatives that have already received a sPARK Award unless they have significantly evolved or advanced since being recognized.

We highly encourage individuals/organizations that have previously been awarded to submit nominations for any specific programs/projects/initiatives that have not been previously selected or submitted for consideration.

2. Can I nominate an individual or organization without informing them?

No. If you are nominating someone other than yourself or your organization, you must provide their contact information in your submission so they can be notified. All nominees are required to review and confirm the accuracy of their nomination.

3. Can I encourage other individuals to submit multiple nominations for the same individual or program to increase their chances of winning?

No, we discourage submitting duplicate nominations and the Selection Committee will only review one aggregate nomination in the case of duplicates. Instead, you may include a document listing individuals who endorse the nomination. Please note that the Selection Committee evaluates nominations based on the quality and impact of the nominee's work, not the number of submissions received.

4. If I win a sPARK Award, can I accept the cash prize if I am not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization?

No, the cash prize is awarded only to active 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that can provide proof of tax-exempt status. If the winner is not a 501(c)(3), they may choose a nonprofit organization to receive the cash prize on their behalf.

5. Who will select the sPARK Award winners?

The sPARK Award winners are selected by a volunteer Selection Committee composed of community leaders from diverse professional and personal backgrounds with strong ties to the San Diego community and Balboa Park.

Balboa Park is a place for everyone. We strongly encourage you to highlight any aspects of diversity, equity, inclusion, or accessibility related to your nomination for consideration.



CONTACT:

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Igniting Innovation Award – Nomination Questions, and Criteria

The Igniting Innovation Award recognizes innovation, imagination, and risk-taking related to Balboa Park. Individuals, organizations, partnerships or collaboratives may receive this award for efforts that spark new ways of viewing or experiencing Balboa Park, leading to increased opportunities, possibilities, and potential.

- 1. List the names of all the individuals, organizations or entities being nominated for this award.**
- 2. Describe the project, program, experience or endeavor being nominated for this award.** For consideration: What was it called? What did it do? Did it address a need? Who was involved? Where and when did it take place? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 3. Describe why the effort was innovative, imaginative or creative.** For consideration: Was it the first time it had been done or did it create something new by building upon other efforts? Was it conceptualized or developed in some unique way? Was it risky or did it push the envelope in any way? Did it make people view or experience Balboa Park differently than before? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 4. Describe the specific connection(s) to Balboa Park.** For consideration: Was Balboa Park essential in some way or provide a catalyst to make this happen? Were the parties involved connected to Balboa Park or did it take place primarily in Balboa Park? Did it serve or benefit Balboa Park as a whole or its spaces, institutions, employees, visitors or other stakeholders? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 5. Describe the outcome(s) or result(s) of this effort.** For consideration: What were quantitative and/or qualitative outputs or outcomes? What was the overall impact or lesson learned? Were there challenges that were overcome? How did it benefit Balboa Park spaces, institutions, visitors, employees or other stakeholders? What were other benefits? Can it serve as a model to others or be scaled up? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 6. Describe any diversity, equity, inclusion or accessibility activities that were part of this effort, as applicable** (e.g., racial, ethnic, cultural, age, gender identity, sexual preference, physical or mental ability, etc.). For consideration: Was there intentional effort to incorporate or represent diverse points of view? Was there intentional effort to target or serve diverse audiences? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 7. Is there anything else you feel we should know about this effort?** (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)

Crossing Boundaries Award – Nomination Questions, and Criteria

The Crossing Boundaries Award recognizes interdisciplinary or cross-sector collaboration that demonstrates Balboa Park's multifaceted impact. Individuals, organizations, partnerships or collaboratives may receive this award for efforts that cross disciplinary, organizational, cultural, generational or other boundaries to make connections among nature, art, science, performance, learning, history, civic engagement or other areas of interest.

- 1. List the names of all the individuals, organizations or entities being nominated for this award.**
- 2. Describe the project, program, experience or endeavor being nominated for this award.** For consideration: What was it called? What did it do? Did it address a need? Who was involved? Where and when did it take place? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 3. Describe how the effort involved players from different sectors, disciplines or organizations.** For consideration: Why was it necessary to have multiple players? How or why did they come together? What were their contributions or roles or perspectives? What were some tools or practices that helped this partnership or collaboration? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 4. Describe the specific connection(s) to Balboa Park.** For consideration: Was Balboa Park essential in some way or provide a catalyst to make this happen? Were the parties involved connected to Balboa Park or did it take place primarily in Balboa Park? Did it serve or benefit Balboa Park as a whole or its spaces, institutions, employees, visitors or other stakeholders? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 5. Describe the outcome(s) or result(s) of this effort.** For consideration: What were quantitative and/or qualitative outputs or outcomes? What was the overall impact or lesson learned? Were there challenges that were overcome? How did it benefit Balboa Park spaces, institutions, visitors, employees or other stakeholders? What were other benefits? Can it serve as a model to others or be scaled up? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 6. Describe any diversity, equity, inclusion or accessibility activities that were part of this effort, as applicable** (e.g., racial, ethnic, cultural, age, gender identity, sexual preference, physical or mental ability, etc.). For consideration: Was there intentional effort to incorporate or represent diverse points of view? Was there intentional effort to target or serve diverse audiences? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 7. Is there anything else you feel we should know about this effort?** (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)

Enhancing Ecosystems Award – Nomination Questions, and Criteria

The Enhancing Ecosystems Award recognizes outstanding efforts to improve the environmental wellbeing and sustainability of Balboa Park, and thus, the natural world. Individuals, organizations, partnerships or collaboratives may receive this award for efforts that enhance Balboa Park ecosystems, expand environmental stewardship within or through Balboa Park or support the connection between Balboa Park's natural spaces and community health.

- 1. List the names of all the individuals, organizations or entities being nominated for this award.**
- 2. Describe the project, program, experience or endeavor being nominated for this award.** For consideration: What was it called? What did it do? Did it address a need? Who was involved? Where and when did it take place? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 3. Describe how the effort improves the environmental health and sustainability of Balboa Park, and thus, the natural world.** For consideration: What tangible capital or environmental improvements were made? Does the effort build upon previous environmental health and sustainability activities and/or does it support such activities in the future? What environmental conservation or sustainability educational, informational, or awareness-building efforts were involved? How does the effort support positive environmental impacts broadly? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 4. Describe the specific connection(s) to Balboa Park.** For consideration: Was Balboa Park essential in some way or provide a catalyst to make this happen? Were the parties involved connected to Balboa Park or did it take place primarily in Balboa Park? Did it serve or benefit Balboa Park as a whole or its spaces, institutions, employees, visitors or other stakeholders? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 5. Describe the outcome(s) or result(s) of this effort.** For consideration: What were quantitative and/or qualitative outputs or outcomes? What was the overall impact or lesson learned? Were there challenges that were overcome? How did it benefit Balboa Park spaces, institutions, visitors, employees or other stakeholders? What were other benefits? Can it serve as a model to others or be scaled up? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 6. Describe any diversity, equity, inclusion or accessibility activities that were part of this effort, as applicable** (e.g., racial, ethnic, cultural, age, gender identity, sexual preference, physical or mental ability, etc.). For consideration: Was there intentional effort to incorporate or represent diverse points of view? Was there intentional effort to target or serve diverse audiences? (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)
- 7. Is there anything else you feel we should know about this effort?** (2,000 characters with spaces maximum)