

Downtown Atlantic Canada Awards of Excellence Program

Applications for 2026 Now Open. The Downtown Atlantic Canada (DAC) Awards of Excellence Program celebrates the outstanding work of BIA/BIDs in our communities.

Eligibility

DAC members in good standing are invited to submit projects individually or in partnership with others. The submitting organization must have played a significant role in the project's success, including its implementation and results. Given the importance of partnerships, all participants should be identified in the submission.

Projects must have been completed or significantly implemented within the past two years. Multi-phase projects must have a major phase completed to qualify. Ongoing programs must demonstrate a new or innovative element within the eligibility period.

Award Categories

- **Leadership & Management** – Recognizing excellence in strategic leadership and operational management.
- **Economic Development** – Highlighting business retention, recruitment, market research, historical preservation, tourism, nighttime economy, and incubator programs.
- **Marketing & Promotions** – Showcasing branding, public relations, marketing strategies, sponsorships, crisis communications, public engagement, and events.
- **Public Realm** – Celebrating placemaking, cleanliness, safety, and hospitality initiatives.

Note: Multiple entries can be submitted in the same or different categories. A separate fee applies to each entry. Awards are not guaranteed in every category annually.

Supplemental Materials

Applicants may include up to six items that illustrate their project, such as photos, website/blog screenshots, publications, advertisements, media articles, training materials, and more. Compile all supplemental materials in a separate document for upload, keeping submissions concise (1-6 items per entry).

How to Apply

- **Application Form:** [\[PDF\]](#)
- **Deadline:** May 1, 2026
- **Submission:** Email completed applications to Ken Kelly at ken@downtownsatlantic.com

Cost to Submit

- **Fee per entry:** \$50
- Payment options:
 - **E-transfer:** downtownatlanticcanada@gmail.com
 - **Mail:** Downtowns Atlantic Canada
c/o Suite 104, 1546 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS, B3J 3X7
 - **Cheques payable to:** Downtown Atlantic Canada

Contact Information

Ken Kelly, Executive Director
Email: ken@downtownsatlantic.com
Phone: **250-869-2239**

Awards Presentation

The DAC Awards of Excellence will be presented at the **Annual DAC Conference (June 3–5, 2026)**. Winners are encouraged to attend and will have the opportunity to give a short speech upon receiving their award.