



2025 Call For Entries

Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Sheraton Imperial Hotel Raleigh-Durham
6:30 p.m. Reception
7:30 p.m. Dinner & Awards



ELIGIBILITY

You must be a member of the North Carolina Home Builders Association (NCHBA) to be considered for any award. All award winners will be announced and recognized at the STARS Awards Gala during the 21st Century Building Expo & Conference.

Individual Achievements are based on performance between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024

Projects must be completed between January 1, 2024 and June 15, 2025

ENTRY FEES & DEADLINES

Categories 1 - 68:

Early Bird Entry Fee: \$100 per entry

Regular Entry Fee: \$150 per entry

Category 69:

No entry fee required

Categories 70-85:

Entry Fee: \$50 per entry

Early Bird Deadline: All entries (fees and materials) must be received on or before **June 15, 2025**

Regular Deadline: All entries (fees and materials) must be received on or before **July 15, 2025**

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

You work hard on your projects, let the judges see your hard work in the best light! Carefully review your entry in comparison to the judging criteria and ask yourself:

Does my project statement tell the story of my entry to someone who doesn't know anything about me or what I do?

STEPS TO ENTER

Carefully review all entry categories, requirements and judging criteria before preparing and submitting your project statement and entry materials.

Materials for all entries include:

1. Project Statement for Each Entry
2. Payment Form
3. Digital Files: site plan, floor plan, photos, audio or video files (varies by category).
4. Submit your completed entries electronically by file sharing through Dropbox with judging@nchba.org

**All entries must be submitted electronically. File names should include category number and company or project name. If submitting multiple entries, please have a folder for each category with appropriate files.*

**All materials submitted become the property of the STARS Awards and may be used by NCHBA for promotional purposes. Entry materials cannot be exchanged or modified after the final submission date.*

** Please ensure all digital files are high resolution and in color and should be submitted as JPEG or PNG files.*

JUDGING

Each entry will be judged on its own merits by a panel of distinguished individuals selected for professional expertise in the home building industry. Judges may re-categorize an entry if they believe it has been entered in the wrong category or it is better suited for another category. Judges reserve the right to divide categories into sub-categories depending on the range of entries.

If there is only one entrant in a category it does not automatically receive recognition. The entry must have an average score of 70% or higher based on the judging criteria and materials received.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Categories & Judging Criteria

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

1. Sales Professional of the Year

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Obstacles overcome, innovative selling ideas, prospecting techniques, broker relations, customer service, community and HBA involvement. Submit net sales, units closed, number of buyer referral sales, total number of broker sales, agent start date with community and average traffic per month. Requires a project statement and photo of entrant.

2. Sales Team of the Year

Two or more licensed agents reporting under one name.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Obstacles overcome, innovative selling ideas, prospecting techniques, broker relations, customer service, follow-up, community and HBA involvement. Submit net sales, number of units closed, number of buyer referral sales, number of sales co-brokered, average sales price and traffic per month. Requires a project statement and team photo.

3. Online Sales Counselor of the Year

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Obstacles overcome, innovative selling ideas, prospecting techniques, ability to drive traffic to community, prospect conversion, community and HBA involvement. Submit years in new home online sales, number of communities and sales agents supported, total number of homes closed, volume of closed sales, average lead response time, percentage of time committed to online role and other responsibilities. Requires a project statement and photo of entrant.

4. Mortgage Professional of the Year

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Obstacles overcome, outreach with builders, buyers and community, buyer satisfaction, builder communication, innovative techniques used, community and HBA involvement. Submit total number of homes closed, volume of closed sales and sales philosophy. Requires a project statement and photo of entrant.

5. Marketing Professional of the Year

Must be a current Sales & Marketing Council Member.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Plan development and implementation, unique marketing strategies, plan performance, obstacles overcome, SMC, community and HBA involvement. Submit number of years in home sales marketing, number of communities marketed, number of homes closed and average marketing budget. Requires a project statement and photo of entrant.

6. Superintendent of the Year

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Obstacles overcome, jobsite performance, vendor relations, individual certification or designation, community and HBA involvement. Submit number of houses constructed and number of years in home building industry. Requires a project statement and photo of entrant.

7. Construction Manager of the Year

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Obstacles overcome, organizational and planning skills, meeting budgets and goals, vendor relations, individual certification or designation, community and HBA involvement. Submit number of projects managed, supervision responsibilities and overall company responsibilities. Requires a project statement and photo of entrant.

8. Best Humanitarian Member Project

Individual HBA Member projects can include: volunteer activities, charitable works, workforce development initiatives, etc. outside of the HBA.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Originality, concept, overall presentation, execution and impact. Requires a project statement, up to fifteen photos and materials highlighting the initiative.

Categories & Judging Criteria

MARKETING & ADVERTISING

Marketing projects should have been completed between January 1, 2024 to June 15, 2025

- 9. Best Brochure or Newsletter for a Community
- 10. Best Brochure or Newsletter for an Associate
- 11. Best Brochure or Newsletter for a Builder

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Concept, copy, design, creativity, readability, layout, overall presentation and project effectiveness. Requires a project statement, completed project and at least one photo.

- 12. Best Logo for a Community
- 13. Best Logo for an Associate
- 14. Best Logo for a Builder

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Concept, overall design, readability, continuity and execution. Requires a project statement and up to fifteen images of logo and usage.

- 15. Best Marketing Campaign for a Community
Entries must be a coordinated series of print, digital and social media marketing.
- 16. Best Marketing Campaign for an Associate
Entries must be a coordinated series of print, digital and social media marketing.
- 17. Best Marketing Campaign for a Builder
Entries must be a coordinated series of print, digital and social media marketing.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Concept, creativity, overall design, execution, continuity and effectiveness. Requires a project statement, copies of the project components, applicable links and up to fifteen photos.

- 18. Best Advertisement for a Community
Standalone marketing piece (print, digital, billboard, email, etc.) not part of a marketing campaign.
- 19. Best Advertisement for an Associate
Standalone marketing piece (print, digital, billboard, email, etc.) not part of a marketing campaign.
- 20. Best Advertisement for a Builder
Standalone marketing piece (print, digital, billboard, email, etc.) not part of a marketing campaign.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Concept, creativity, overall design, execution and effectiveness. Requires a project statement and a copy and/or photo of the advertisement.

- 21. Best Website for a Community
- 22. Best Website for an Associate
- 23. Best Website for a Builder

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Overall design, effectiveness, use of best practices and user experience. Requires a project statement with web address included and up to fifteen photos.

- 24. Best 30 to 60 Second Commercial
Broadcast or YouTube
- 25. Best Video Project
Long Format (Over one minute)

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Originality, creativity, concept, execution as it relates to reaching the target market and traffic generated. Requires a project statement, project or links and up to six photos.

- 26. Best Sales / Information Center
For a builder, developer, associate or community.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Effectiveness, function of layout, display content, creativity and design used in office. Requires a project statement and up to fifteen photos of overall exterior, interior, displays, office space, etc.

Categories & Judging Criteria

INTERIOR DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING

Square footage based on heated living area.

Projects can be model, spec or custom single-family homes.

27. Best Interior Merchandising for a Home
Under 2,500 Square Feet

28. Best Interior Merchandising for a Home
2,501 to 4,000 Square Feet

29. Best Interior Merchandising for a Home
Over 4,001 Square Feet

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Concept, creativity, functionality, overall design, impact of furniture and accessories and sales success. Requires a project statement, floor plan and up to fifteen photos.

30. Best Interior Design for a Home Under
2,500 Square Feet

31. Best Interior Design for a Home Between
2,501 to 4,000 Square Feet

32. Best Interior Design for a Home Over
4,001 Square Feet

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Project can be new construction, remodel or renovation. Interior design and architecture, effective use of space, creative and innovative material application, challenges overcome and ability to meet client needs. Requires a project statement, floor plan and up to fifteen photos.

33. Best Design Detail

New construction or remodel project. Entry should focus on a single design detail, such as staircases, window casing details, bars, or other distinctive elements.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Design, architecture, craftsmanship, execution, challenges overcome, innovation, impact on the space, ability to meet market or client needs. Requires a project statement, floor plan and up to fifteen photos.

OUTDOOR DESIGN

34. Best Home Landscape Design

35. Best Community Landscape Design

36. Best Outdoor Living Space
Projects could include screened porches, fire pits, etc.

37. Best Outdoor Kitchen

38. Best Swimming Pool

39. Best Home Exterior Transformation
Requires before and after photos.

40. Best Community Amenity Center

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Concept, creativity, craftsmanship, execution, design functionality, challenges overcome, impact on the space and ability to meet market or client needs. Requires a project statement, floor plan and up to fifteen photos.

GREEN BUILDING

41. Best Green Single-Family Home
Projects can be custom or production.

42. Best Green Home Remodel
Projects do not require green certification.
Before and after photos required.

43. Best Sustainable Project
Projects can include new construction, multi-family, community development or mixed-use development.

44. Best Green Home Feature
Entries should highlight one particular feature and can focus on: indoor air quality, water conservation, renewable energy, reclaimed materials, etc.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Design, architecture, creativity, innovation, effective site plan, use of space, green construction techniques, green features, green certifications, overcoming challenges and meeting client expectations. Requires a project statement, copies of green certifications and up to fifteen photos.

Categories & Judging Criteria

REMODELING

Project cost should include only remodeling costs and should not include home purchase costs.

- 45. Best Kitchen Remodel Under \$100,000
- 46. Best Kitchen Remodel Over \$100,000
- 47. Best Bathroom Remodel Under \$75,000
- 48. Best Bathroom Remodel Over \$75,000
- 49. Best Room Remodel
Projects excluding kitchens and bathrooms.
- 50. Best Addition
- 51. Best Whole Home Remodel
Under \$250,000
- 52. Best Whole Home Remodel
Between \$250,000 and \$500,000
- 53. Best Whole Home Remodel
Between \$500,000 and \$750,000
- 54. Best Whole Home Remodel
Over \$750,000
- 55. Best One-Of-A-Kind Home Remodel
- 56. Best Aging In Place or Accessibility
Residential Remodel
- 57. Best Historic Preservation / Restoration
Project must preserve the character of the original structure and meet the local qualifications for a historic building. Historical building registration not required.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Design, architecture, effective and efficient use of space, creativity, challenges, innovation, ability to meet client needs and impact of transformation. Must include square footage and contract price on project statement. Requires a project statement that must include project cost, starting and remodeled floor plans, ten to twenty photos showing before and after from same view point, elevations and any other supporting materials.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Square footage based on heated living area.
Projects should be new construction single-family homes.

- 58. Best Single-Family Production Home
Under 2,250 Square Feet
- 59. Best Single-Family Production Home
Between 2,251 and 3,500 Square Feet
- 60. Best Single-Family Production Home
Over 3,500 Square Feet
- 61. Best Single-Family Custom Home
Under 2,500 Square Feet
- 62. Best Single-Family Custom Home
Between 2,501 and 3,500 Square Feet
- 63. Best Single-Family Custom Home
Between 3,501 and 4,500 Square Feet
- 64. Best Single-Family Custom Home
Between 4,501 and 5,500 Square Feet
- 65. Best Single-Family Custom Home
Over 5,500 Square Feet
- 66. Best One-Of-A-Kind Home
Project can be custom or spec.
- 67. Best Aging In Place or Accessibility
Residential Project

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Projects built for a specific client or as a spec home should be entered into the custom categories. Must include square footage and sales price on project statement. Design, architecture, curb appeal, effective and efficient use of space, creativity, challenges, innovation, ability to meet market or client needs. Requires a project statement, floor plan and up to fifteen photos as well as front and rear elevations.

Categories & Judging Criteria

Community of the Year

Category 68

The community must have a minimum of five additional entries, excluding any individual achievement awards. No more than two of these entries may be in marketing-related categories. In addition, entrants must submit a letter of recommendation from the community's developer endorsing their participation. This letter must clearly state the percentage of the community that the entrant represents.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Overall community design, variety of housing styles, plans and special features. Creativity, effectiveness and continuity of marketing plan. Protection and access to the natural environment. Mixture of land uses incorporated in an efficient and innovative manner. Overall sales success. Requires a project statement, community map or site-plan, home design options, supporting marketing materials and up to fifteen photos of different aspects of the community.

BUILDERS MUTUAL **SAFETY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**

Category 69

Awarded to the builder or trade contractor who has developed, implemented and maintained a high quality safety program. The award will be judged on the following:

- Quality of the company safety program
- Management's involvement in the safety culture
- High level of employee or trade contractor involvement in safety
- Effectiveness of the safety program
- Hazard prevention and control
- Safety and health training
- New or innovative programs, practices, procedures or resources used to promote safety
- Unique program elements used to support and heighten safety awareness



Entrants are required to provide a project statement and submit responses to the following questions in paragraph form (350 words or less per question). You are also strongly encouraged to include samples of any templates, materials, photos or programs you use in your safety initiatives.

1. Describe your company's safety program.
2. Why is your company's safety program effective and how is it unique?
3. Explain how your company's management supports the safety program and involvement the employees play in the safety culture.
4. Explain your company's procedures to correct or control present or potential safety hazards on the jobsite.

Categories & Judging Criteria

LOCAL HBA AWARDS

The following categories are exclusively for Local HBAs.

70. Best HBA Website

71. Best HBA Social Media

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Overall presentation, content, creativity, organization, ease of use, balance and effectiveness. Requires a project statement, link to website or social media and up to fifteen photos.

72. Best HBA Publication

May be single piece or an ongoing series, digital or print, and targeted to members or consumers.

73. Best HBA Marketing Campaign

Entries must be a coordinated series of digital or print pieces and targeted to members or consumers.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Overall presentation, message relevance, content, graphic design, creativity and effectiveness. Requires a project statement and copy or link to piece or campaign.

74. Best HBA Member Educational Program

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Organization, execution, creativity, benefit to membership, level of member engagement and effectiveness. Requires a project statement and materials (photos, reports, etc.) highlighting the program.

75. Best Membership Recruitment or Retention Initiative

Any programs, projects or initiatives that encourage and improve membership recruitment or retention.

76. Best Workforce Development Initiative

Any programs or projects that encourage and improve the number of qualified workers in the industry.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Organization, execution, creativity, impact, goals achieved, level of association and member engagement and initiative effectiveness. Requires a project statement and materials (photos, reports, etc.) highlighting the initiative.

77. Best Government Affairs Initiative

Any event or program created to advance housing issues or combat anti-housing proposals.

78. Best Build PAC Fundraiser

Any event or program created to raise Build-PAC funds.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Organization, execution, creativity, pro-housing impact, association and member engagement, goals achieved and effectiveness. Requires a project statement and materials (photos, reports, etc.) highlighting the initiative.

79. Best HBA Parade of Homes Marketing

May be single piece or campaign, digital or print and targeted to members or consumers.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Overall presentation, creativity, graphic design, content, organization, effectiveness and goals achieved. Requires a project statement and copy or link to piece or campaign.

80. Best HBA Community Project or Program

Designed to provide community support and assistance.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Organization, execution, creativity, community impact, goals achieved, level of engagement of association and members. Requires a project statement and materials (photos, reports, etc.) highlighting the initiative.

81. Best HBA Event or Special Project

May be an event or project designed to generate non-dues revenue, honor members, highlight HBA, etc.

Judging Criteria and Required Materials:

Organization, execution, creativity, impact, goals achieved, level of engagement of association and members. Requires a project statement and materials (photos, reports, etc.) highlighting the initiative.

Categories & Judging Criteria

82. NCHBA New Executive Officer of the Year

Presented to an EO who has served no more than three years in an association management position and is judged to have made major contributions to the profession during this time period. Eligible candidates must have served no more than three years cumulatively by December 31, 2024 as an executive officer of an NCHBA-affiliated local association.

83. NCHBA EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Presented to an EO who has served more than three years in an association management position and is judged to have made major contributions to the profession during this time period. Eligible candidates must have served more than three years cumulatively by December 31, 2024 as an executive officer of an NCHBA-affiliated local association.

General Award Criteria:

- Candidate must be submitted by a sponsor; self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Previous winners are not eligible.
- Entries must include:
 - ◆ A one-page summary, submitted by the sponsor, on why the nominee qualifies and should receive the award being sure to address the judging criteria outlined below.
 - ◆ Along with the summary; photos, newspaper articles, etc. may be included to detail the work of the Executive Officer.
 - ◆ At least one professional recommendation from a member of the local HBA.
 - ◆ At least one high resolution photo of the nominee.
 - ◆ Candidates must be an Executive Officer of an NCHBA-affiliated local association .
 - ◆ Candidates must demonstrate participation in the State and/or National EOC.

Judges will use the following criteria when reviewing nominees:

- Candidates' actions during the 2023 calendar year must have promoted the goals of their HBA.
- The candidates' association management practices, concepts, techniques, and ideas during the 2024 calendar year must have assisted in the advancement of other EOs.
- **Local Association & Membership Activities:** Committee and Board involvement; accomplishments in relation to the local association; participation in and support of the local association, its events and programs.
- **NCHBA/NAHB Association & Membership Activities:** Committee and Board involvement; accomplishments in relation to the association; participation in and support of the association, its events and programs.
- **Civic Responsibility:** Examples include community service projects, charity support and involvement, youth organizations, religious activities, etc.

I nominate _____ for **New Executive Officer of the Year**

I nominate _____ for **Executive Officer of the Year**

Please refer to page 2 for deadlines and submittal instructions.

Your name: _____

HBA: _____



NCHBA
NC HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Categories & Judging Criteria

- 84. NCHBA Distinguished Associate Member or the Year
- 85. NCHBA Distinguished Builder Member or the Year

These awards recognize North Carolina Home Builder Association members who have made significant long-term contributions to the HBA, the building industry and community. Recipients of these prestigious awards will be announced at the STARS Awards Gala.

We invite you to nominate a Builder or Associate member that you believe is deserving of this special honor. Self-nominations are accepted. Previous winners are not eligible.

Judges will use the following criteria when reviewing nominees:

Local HBA Association & Membership Activities

- Committee and Board involvement
- Special projects and accomplishments in relation to the local association
- Participation in and support of the local association, its events and programs

NCHBA/NAHB Association & Membership Activities

- Committee and Board involvement
- Special projects and accomplishments in relation to the association
- Participation in and support of the association, its events and programs

Civic Responsibility

- Community service projects
- Charity support and involvement
- Youth organizations
- Religious activities

I nominate _____ for **Distinguished Builder Member of the Year**

I nominate _____ for **Distinguished Associate Member of the Year**

Please prepare a summary outlining the nominee's service and why this member should be considered for this prestigious award. You may include photos, newspaper articles, etc. in your presentation to detail the work of this member. Take this form, the summary and any other items you wish to share and send to the NCHBA office along with a photo of the nominee. ***Please refer to page 2 for deadlines and submittal instructions.***

Your name: _____

HBA: _____



NCHBA
NC HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION