



The graphic features a dark green silhouette of the state of Georgia on the left. Inside the silhouette, the text reads "2026 GEORGIA DOWNTOWN CONFERENCE" in white and green, with "ROME, GA" at the bottom. To the right, the word "AWARDS" is written in large, bold, dark green letters, with "APPLICATION" below it in the same style. Underneath, the text "2026 Key Dates:" is written in a green script font. Below this, four key dates are listed in a grid format: "MONDAY MAY 4 Submissions Open", "FRIDAY JUNE 12 Submissions Due", "TUESDAY JULY 14 Acceptance Notification", and "MON - THURS AUG 17-20 Conference". On the far right is the logo for the Georgia Downtown Association, which depicts a red building with a clock tower and the text "GEORGIA DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION" below it.

2026 Georgia Downtown Conference Awards Application

OVERVIEW AND SELECTION OF AWARDS

The purpose of these awards is to recognize, honor and promote the outstanding achievements of Georgia's local downtown development and revitalization organizations. The Selection Committee will meet, review and score all nominations. By decision of the Selection Committee, awards may not be given in every category each year and the number of awards given is at the discretion of the Committee. Also, the Selection Committee reserves the right to transfer a nomination to a more appropriate category.

CELEBRATION AND RECOGNITION OF WINNERS

Awards recipients will be announced to the public at the Georgia Downtown Conference Awards Ceremony in Rome, GA on the evening of August 18, 2026.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for submitting a nomination, you must be a member of the Georgia Downtown Association. If you are not a member, and you are interested in learning more about membership benefits, call: **(678) 244-0511**, email: rcoakley@gacities.com, or visit: <http://www.GeorgiaDowntownAssociation.org>.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR ALL NOMINATIONS

- Attach a description of the nominee's involvement or the nominee's project.
- Attach 3-5 photos that best represent the nominee's involvement or the project.
- Attach a brief description that will be used for the awards ceremony (200 words or less).

Award Type

Select One

Inspired Leader Award - This award honors a city staff member, public entity, or partner organization whose leadership exemplifies excellence in downtown revitalization. The Inspired Leader Award celebrates the visionary, innovative, and tireless individuals or teams whose everyday actions reflect deep commitment to strengthening their community.

Outstanding Downtown Promotion - This award recognizes an exceptional promotional effort that enhances the image and visibility of the community. Whether through a signature event, a clever marketing campaign, or a fresh approach to outreach, this award celebrates excellence in community promotion.

Outstanding Placemaking Project - This award honors creative, people-centered placemaking projects that enhance public spaces for under \$10,000. These tactical urbanism projects contribute to a more vibrant, welcoming, and engaging environment that reflects the community's character and sense of place.

Outstanding Historic Preservation - This award recognizes a transformative preservation project that brings new life to a historic building through adaptive reuse and rehabilitation.

Premier New Development - This award honors an exceptional new development that has made a lasting impact on the downtown district. Eligible projects include mixed-use developments, infill projects, and new construction that enhances the area and contributes to the vibrancy of the downtown area.

Outstanding Public Improvement Project - This award honors a community that has thoughtfully designed and implemented high-quality public improvements that elevate the character of the community. Eligible projects may include streetscaping, public parks, and other civic enhancements that contribute to the overall vitality of the downtown area.

Downtown of the Year - This overall honor recognizes a community that has achieved remarkable success in downtown revitalization. The award celebrates communities that set a high standard and demonstrate excellence in planning, organization, and economic development.

Name of Nominee

Name

First

Last

Name of Organization

Email

Phone

Nominee's Address

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

State

Zip Code

Award Title:

Name As It Will Appear On Award

First

Last

Name of Applicant

Name

First

Last

Person Making the Nomination

Organization/Business You Represent:

Email

Phone

Required Attachments For All Nominations

Attach a description of the nominee's involvement or the nominee's project.

Attach 3-5 photos that best represent the nominee's involvement or the project.

Upload up to 7 attachments.

I do solemnly swear that the above information provided is both truthful and accurate. I understand that all text and photos submitted in this application may be used by the Georgia Downtown Association during the awards ceremony and in press related materials pertaining to the award winners.

Yes, I agree. No, I do not agree.

Signature

Date

