

Attachment A: Overview of the Affordable Housing Solutions Award

Eligibility Requirements

The Affordable Housing Solutions Award is open to projects that:

1. Delivered on or supported the vision of affordable housing units in the timeline identified in the call for nominations.
2. Project must include units that meet the definition of Affordable Housing per the City's Official Plan.
3. Received all required approvals, is constructed, and occupied.

Award Criteria

The primary criteria for assessing the merit of the projects will be:

- Affordability of the project for residents
- How groups who face greater housing challenges have been supported.
- Innovation or creativity of the housing project or plan including but not limited to partnerships, construction methods, financing or operations that support affordability, approaches to community-building, etc.
- Models and programming that could help address affordable housing and housing security in a sustainable manner.
- Design that provides a positive contribution to the community

Jury Panel

Awardees will be selected by a jury panel comprised of the following:

- Director of Planning and Housing Policy (or designate)
- Up to four professionals which represent such expertise as urban planning, affordable housing, social services, urban design and architecture.

This jury panel will review the nominated projects for the Affordable Housing Solutions Award to select one or more winning projects.

Awards selected from among various nomination categories:

Eligible Affordable Housing Solutions Award nominees will also be eligible for two other KGPA award categories:

1. **People's Choice Award:** given to a project that receives the greatest number of votes from the community through a variety of polling options. Projects for consideration will be short-listed to a group of up to 10 projects from those eligible in the Urban Design,

Neighbourhood Design, Placemaking, Mike & Pat Wagner Heritage, Affordable Housing Solutions, and Sustainable Kitchener award categories that contribute to making Kitchener a great city.

2. **Schmalz Award for Design Leadership:** given to an exceptional project that achieves overall excellence in meeting the City's objectives in two or more categories - urban design, heritage conservation, affordable housing and sustainable design. It represents the best overall project of the awards program. Named after W.H.E. Schmalz, the architect who designed Kitchener's first City Hall and clock tower (which is now a landmark in Victoria Park) along with numerous other buildings in the city. His father, W.H. Schmalz, was mayor when the Town of Berlin became a city.