Inland Empire Economic Partnership

NOMINATION FORM

14th Annual

Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet

Awards & Reception

Thursday, November 12, 2026
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Riverside City Hall Grier Pavilion

Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet

NOMINATION FORM

BASIC INFORMATION

Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Project Name: _____

Date Project Began: _____

Date of Completion (if applicable): _____

A. Program Awards (select one of the following categories)	☐ Best Arts Innovation Initiative ☐ Best Chamber and City Collaboration ☐ Best Public Works Project ☐ Best Sustainable and Green Development ☐ Best Public Safety Initiative ☐ Best City Planning Initiative ☐ Best Business Retention and Expansion
B. Leadership in Public Service - Elected	
C. Leadership in Public Service - Professional	

Nomination Guidelines

Please read the following guidelines before submitting your nomination:

- Please refer to each award category description for its specific nomination requirements.
- Agencies may submit nominations in as many award categories as they wish; however, each agency will be eligible to receive awards in a maximum of three (3) categories during the selection process.
- Projects must have a completion date within two (2) years of the event date, either two years before or up to two years after this year's event date.
- Nominations submitted in previous years are not eligible for consideration. All nominations must be newly submitted for the current awards cycle.
- Winners for each award category will be announced at the Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Awards ceremony on Thursday, November 12th.

ENTRY SUBMISSION

□ Submit entries by email to Mfernandez@ieep.com no later than **Friday, October 9th, 2026**

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

1. Leadership in Public Service – Individual – Elected and Professional

a. Elected

This award recognizes an elected public official who has served as a committed advocate for economic development in the public sector. Nominees must have demonstrated sustained and effective efforts to mobilize community groups and industry leaders in the development of programs and projects, played a key role in the planning and designing of new economic development activities, and displayed dedication and commitment to his/her constituency as a leader and advocate for economic development.

b. Professional

This award recognizes a public agency staff professional who has, over the course of their career, demonstrated integrity and excellence in management. Nominees must have demonstrated sustained and effective efforts to mobilize community groups and industry leaders in the development of programs and projects, played a key role in the planning and designing of new economic development activities, and displayed dedication and commitment to his/her constituency as a leader and advocate for economic development.

To submit a nomination for the leadership award, please include a biography of the nominee.

2. Best Arts Innovation Initiative

This award recognizes local governments that have used art as a path to economic development, revitalization, community engagement, or education. These efforts include, but are not limited to projects highlighting the region's history and encouraging community pride or engagement.

3. Best Chamber and City Collaboration

This award recognizes Chambers of Commerce that actively engage and collaborate with their city to promote the further development of the quality of life within a city. This includes proactive policy advocacy on behalf of the betterment of a city and its businesses, providing open forums for dialogue and community networking, engaging with the community through local events and economic development initiatives, and promoting the city's visibility.

4. Best Public Works Project

This award recognizes the crucial management and maintenance of infrastructure and services that are imperative to a city or county's functionality and livability. This includes infrastructure and public building improvements or new projects, advocacy and development of utility services such as water, storm, energy, and traffic safety, and exemplary project design and oversight for public infrastructure projects within a city or county.

5. Sustainable and Green Development
This award recognizes programs that simultaneously target and create relationships between economic development and environmental sustainability. These efforts include but are not limited to programs that encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy, green buildings, materials and products, environmental technologies and industries, sustainable tourism, smart growth, green infrastructure, and green chemistry.

6. Best Public Safety Initiative
This award recognizes initiatives or implementations that improve the safety, well-being, and infrastructure of a county or city. These efforts include proper exemplary emergency services implementations, proactive emergency management projects, engagement with the greater community related to public safety and community safety education, and noteworthy regulation and enforcement initiatives directly impacting the quality of life within a county or city.

7. Best City Planning Initiative
This award recognizes city planning efforts that have resulted in recognizable city growth and development. These efforts include innovative land use planning initiatives, the development of strategic plans to address economic development, sustainability, and housing opportunities, creative public space design projects to enhance a city's livability and attraction, and commendable demographic and economic research aimed at furthering a city's progress and policies.

8. Business Retention and Expansion
This award honors economic development initiatives focusing on retaining and growing existing businesses within communities and regions. Applicants should demonstrate extensive cross-community collaboration and the ability to adapt and respond quickly to unforeseen events.

To submit a program award nomination, please complete the Project Description on page 5.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR PROGRAM AWARD NOMINATIONS

This section is intended to provide an overview of the project. Please keep answers to each question under 200 words. You may expand on this information in a separate profile of no more than 3 pages, double-spaced.

DO NOT FILL OUT THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING A NOMINATION FOR A LEADERSHIP AWARD.

1. Please provide a brief description of the project.

2. What is the goal or purpose of the project?

3. Who are the participants in the project? Who was involved in planning/implementation? Who is affected?

4. What has been the impact of the project? How effective has it been in furthering economic development in your community? Identify any tangible and/or intangible results and value-added. Be sure to include metrics in your description of the results

5. Is this project replicable or transferable? Can it be adapted for use in other communities? What lessons have been learned?

6. In what ways is this project innovative or creative?

7. Are there any other relevant details to add not covered above or specific to your category?