

# 2026 WOMEN LEADERS IN TRANSPORTATION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION AWARDS PROGRAM

Ethel Birchland Lifetime Achievement Award  
The Glass Hammer Award  
Future Industry Leader Spotlight Award  
Excellence in Academia Award

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 24**



# WOMEN LEADERS IN TRANSPORTATION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION AWARDS PROGRAM

## Purpose

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Established in 2010 by ARTBA Chairman Bill Cox, the Women Leaders in Transportation Design and Construction Council “promotes leadership and career advancement for women in the industry through mentoring, recognition, educational activities and networking.”

The Women Leaders in Transportation Design & Construction Awards Program was established to recognize and honor extraordinary efforts of individuals, companies and public agencies that have demonstrated leadership and dedication to innovation in the transportation design construction fields as well as the promotion of women leaders within the industry.

## Nominations & Criteria

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Anyone can nominate a candidate. ARTBA membership is not required. All nominations must be submitted online.

Applicable nomination fees for the “Glass Hammer Award” and the “Ethel Birchland Award” can be paid by credit card through our online store when submitting the application.

Nominations will be considered for the following four awards:

### 1. “Ethel Birchland Lifetime Achievement Award”

This category includes a \$450 application fee.

Named after Ethel Birchland, who served as ARTBA’s executive director from 1924 to 1928, this award is given to at least one woman who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and long-term service in the transportation design and construction industry’s public or private sectors. Particular focus is given to the individual’s dedication to the advancement of innovation and other women leaders.

#### Required Materials

1. Nominations should be written in a 500 words or less essay format and must address the following items in separate paragraphs:
  - A) Highlight the record of professional achievement over the length of a career.
  - B) Spell out significant contributions to industry associations and/or community organizations.
  - C) Detail activities aimed at advancing innovation and women leaders.

2. High-quality electronic image of the individual being nominated (300dpi or higher). JPEG, TIFF, or high-quality PDF are acceptable.

#### Supporting Documentation

Additional documentation that is recommended and to be used by the judges, may include, but is not limited to (limit five files submitted online):

- Biographical sketch
- Resume
- News articles
- List of awards or citations
- Published works

### 2. “The Glass Hammer Award”

This category includes a \$650 application fee.

It is given annually to at least one company in the transportation construction industry that has innovative programs and activities directed at successfully promoting women leaders within their organization. Extra credit is given to those firms that also promote women leadership within the associations and community organizations they financially support.

#### Required Materials

Nominations should be written in a 500 words or less essay format and must address the following items in separate paragraphs:

- A) Describe specific corporate initiatives that have promoted women leaders within the firm and quantify how many have benefited.
- B) Emphasize any company programs aimed at promoting women leaders in industry-related associations or local community groups.

#### Supporting Documentation

Additional documentation that is recommended and to be used by the judges, may include, but is not limited to (limit four files submitted online):

- News articles
- List of awards or citations

**SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION  
ONLINE TODAY!**

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## 3. "Future Industry Leader Spotlight Award"

Self-nominations are preferred for this category.

The award is given annually to bring national industry attention to at least one woman student enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies at a U.S. college or university who have thus far achieved an outstanding academic record and demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills within and outside the academic environment. Candidates may be pursuing a degree in any discipline germane to the business of transportation design and construction.

All students who are currently enrolled in a university are eligible, **but must submit the following items online:**

1. A current resume.
2. A complete college transcript demonstrating a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. An accompanying cover letter that explains:
  - A) The student's plans for an industry career
  - B) Highlight specific leadership roles and activities on campus
  - C) Highlight specific leadership roles as a student in construction industry-related associations or in the local community
4. Two letters of recommendation from university professors or employers within the transportation field.
5. High-quality electronic image of the person being nominated (300dpi or higher). JPEG, TIFF, or high-quality PDF are acceptable.

### Supporting Documentation

Additional documentation that is recommended and to be used by the judges, may include, but is not limited to (limit five files submitted online):

- Biographical sketch
- News articles
- List of awards or citations
- Published works

If the student wishes, his/her resume will be placed in an online database that is available to HR professionals at industry firms.

## 4. "Excellence in Academia Award"

This award is given annually to at least one woman in academia or a research institution who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, mentorship and significant educational and/or research contributions in the transportation industry.

### Required Materials

1. Nominations should be written in a 500 word or less essay format and must address the following items in separate paragraphs:
  - A) Highlight the record of outstanding leadership.
  - B) Spell out significant educational and/or research contributions to the transportation industry.
  - C) Detail activities aimed at mentoring students or colleagues.
2. High-quality electronic image of the individual being nominated (300dpi or higher). JPEG, TIFF, or high-quality PDF are acceptable.

### Supporting Documentation

Additional documentation that is recommended and to be used by the judges, may include, but is not limited to (limit five files submitted online):

- Biographical sketch
- Resume
- News articles
- List of awards or citations
- Published works

### When are Nominations Due?

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Nomination materials must be submitted online and application fees must be received no later than **July 24**. No exceptions after this date.

### Selection Notification

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Winners will be notified by Aug. 14.

Award winners will be recognized during a special luncheon held in conjunction with ARTBA's National Convention Sept. 27-30 in in Kohler, Wis.

### Questions?

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Contact ARTBA's Savannah Waters at [swaters@artba.org](mailto:swaters@artba.org).