



OCBC 15th Annual Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Award Nomination Criteria Form

**DEADLINE EXTENDED! Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Award Nomination Form Due:
Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 5 p.m.**

**Winners Announced and Recognized at OCBC's Annual Dinner:
Thursday, February 26, 2026 in Anaheim, CA.**

Entry Submission Instructions:

- **All nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.** This printed form is meant to help you gather all of the necessary information prior to submitting nominations online. Nominations will not be accepted via email, postal mail, Word document, PDF, etc. If you would like a downloadable, PDF version of this form to assist in gathering information needed for your nomination, please visit <https://bit.ly/ocbc-rtrc-nom-criteria-form>. The form must be completed in one session; there is no option to save your information and return later.
- **Nomination Deadline:** Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 5 p.m.
- **Nomination Fee:** \$125 per entry
- You will select a method of payment for the entry fee at the end of this form; once again, only online submissions are accepted. If you select credit card, you may pay then via credit card. If you select check, you may make the check payable to OCBC – 3210 El Camino Real, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92602. Checks must be received by Friday, December 19, 2025.

- Winners will be recognized at OCBC's 2026 Annual Dinner in Anaheim on Thursday, February 26, 2026. All nominees will be able to purchase special, discounted tickets to attend the Annual Dinner once award nominations have closed.
- For questions, please contact: Paulina Alvarez, Government Affairs Manager, palvarez@ocbc.org or 949-794-7208.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS AND JUDGING CRITERIA

Economic Development Award Judging Criteria:

The Economic Development Award recognizes outstanding and innovative programs in economic and business development that retain or generate jobs and investment on an ongoing basis. This award honors comprehensive initiatives that drive economic growth through business retention and expansion, integration of innovative technology, sustainable development, and community revitalization. Honorees must demonstrate measurable impacts such as job creation, enhanced business success, environmental sustainability, modernized infrastructure, and anything else that has contributed to the overall economic vitality and resilience of our Orange County community. Economic Development Awards will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Extent of the economic impact on its community, such as an increase in the overall tax base, the creation of new jobs, or other measurable program goals.
- Achievement of its stated objective with **measurable results**. Projects should be completed before being nominated; applicants should rely on actual, not expected or projected, outcomes.
- Development of strong relationships with key stakeholders and widespread support in the community.
- Innovation, originality, and cost effectiveness.
- Relevance and transferability of elements to other communities.

Economic Development Awards Category Examples:

- **2025 Winner – City of Costa Mesa: *Totally Electronic Self-Service Application (TESSA)*:** The City of Costa Mesa streamlined its land management and permitting systems into one centralized application system called Totally Electronic Self-Service Application, or TESSA. The digital platform used across all departments has reduced processing time, allowing projects to launch sooner. Moreover, the city partnered with local universities to provide part-time roles to interns offering hands-on experience in developing a centralized application system.
- **2025 Honorable Mention – City of Santa Ana: *Planning and Building Agency Express Permit Program (PBx)*:** The City of Santa Ana’s Planning and Building agency launched PBx, short for Planning and Building Express, an express permit service that allows customers to get same-day permits at the Building Safety Division counter. Since the program’s launch, wait and service times have been reduced. With the success of the program, the city is assessing other areas to expand PBx services such as Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permitting services.

Public-Private Partnership Award Judging Criteria:

This award recognizes outstanding collaborative projects that have significantly enhanced economic development within communities. Winners represent efforts in which larger private contributions have been added to smaller, vital public commitments. Nominees should demonstrate:

- The extent to which public and private sector participants have formed a true partnership or joint venture in planning, developing, and financing the project.
- Direct economic benefit to the community (e.g., job creation, increased tax base). Be sure to include metrics when demonstrating results.
- Spin-off impact of the project.
- Creativity in packaging and marketing the project.

Public-Private Partnership Category Examples:

- **2025 Winner – Related California: *The Crossroads at Washington*:** In 2019, the City of Santa Ana and the County of Orange selected developer Related California to build an 86-unit affordable housing development. The Crossroads at Washington, which provides housing for low-income families and special needs populations, offers onsite services for residents, as well. Today, it is 95% leased with more than 200 residents living in the development, working in Orange County, attending local schools and supporting the local economy.
- **2025 Honorable Mention – Jamboree Housing Corporation: *Estrella Springs*:** Jamboree Housing partnered with public agencies such as the County of Orange, the city of Santa Ana and CalOptima Health to transform an underused Budget Inn in Santa Ana into Estrella Springs. The 89-apartment development offers housing for individuals and veterans experiencing homelessness, those living with mental health diagnoses, and individuals earning up to 30% of the area median income (AMI). Units provide kitchens with modern appliances, while residents also have access to a computer lab, fitness stations and community garden.

Leadership in Public Service Award Judging Criteria:

This award recognizes an elected or public official who has served as a committed advocate for economic advancement 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 Orange County as a leader and advocate for the business community.

Leadership in Public Service Award Category Example:

- **2025 Winner – City of San Juan Capistrano:** The City of San Juan Capistrano worked with ALMQUIST Development to plan and approve its joint vision of River Street Marketplace, an economic revitalization project that establishes San Juan Capistrano as South Orange County's premier dining and entertainment destination. Designed to impact the city's economic development, the 60,000 square foot family-friendly dining and shopping hub, located in the oldest neighborhood in California dating back to 1775—Los Rios Historic District—brings in 32 new businesses and approximately 440 new jobs, and features farm-inspired architecture that pays homage to the history of the site and surrounding community.

To submit a nomination, click or type in the link leading to the category award you would like to submit a nomination for below. You may submit more than one entry in each category.

Nominations will close November 17, 2025 at 5 p.m.

NOMINATION FORM URLS:

Economic Development Award – <https://bit.ly/ocbc-rtrc-econ-dev>

Public-Private Partnership Award – <https://bit.ly/ocbc-rtrc-public-private-partnership>

Leadership in Public Service Award – <https://bit.ly/ocbc-rtrc-leadership-in-public-service>

“*” indicates required fields

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Please note, the organization and project title entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please check carefully this is the project title and organization you would like to be featured.

Project/Initiative Title*

Please note, the project/initiative title entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please carefully review for spelling and accuracy.

Organization*

Please note, the organization entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please carefully review to ensure this is the organization you would like the project featured under. If this is a multi-organizational project, please list all organizations in the order that they should be recognized for this project.

Date Project Began*

Date Project Completed*

Contact Full Name*

- First Name
- Last Name

Contact Title*

Contact Organization*

Contact Email*

- Will receive confirmation email

Contact Phone*

Contact Address*

- Street Address
- City
- State / Province / Region
- ZIP / Postal Code

PIO Full Name*

- First Name
- Last Name

PIO Email***Organization LinkedIn Handle****Organization Facebook Handle****Organization X Handle****Organization Logo***

- Max. file size: 256 MB.
- Please upload your high resolution (at least 2 MB) organization logo. A transparent logo is preferred. If you have multiple versions/orientations of your logo, please upload all versions so we can utilize the best version/orientation on the materials. Only 1 organizational logo can be featured.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION DETAILS

This section is intended to provide details of the project. Please keep answers to each question/statement under 200 words unless otherwise specified.

Please provide a brief description of the project.*

Word Count: < 200 Words

From the brief description above, please provide a 1-2 sentence summary of the project.*

Word Count: < 50 Words. This summary will be utilized in some areas that the nominees are showcased, such as the OCBC website, marketing materials, etc.

What is the goal or purpose of the project?*

Word Count: < 200 Words

Who are the participants/partners in the project? Please include those involved in planning/implementation/funding/lending, coalition partners, and any other partners you would like to highlight.*

Word Count: < 200 Words

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

Word Count: < 200 Words

Is this project replicable or transferable, and/or can it be adapted for use in other communities? What lessons have been learned?*

Word Count: < 200 Words

In what ways is this project innovative or creative?*

Word Count: < 200 Words

Please provide any other relevant details not covered above or specific to your category.

Word Count: < 200 Words

Website Link: News articles, company website post, etc.

Begin URL with https://

Photo(s) related to nomination

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Supporting Documents

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Supporting Documents

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Please ensure all information above is entered accurately before submitting your nomination.

REQUIRED: By checking this box, you agree the project details submitted including statistics, data and numbers are accurate and true.*

- Yes

REQUIRED: By checking this box, you allow Orange County Business Council to make minimal edits to the project description for brevity and clarity on marketing and event materials, during the event, and in any communications (press releases, social media, website, etc.). You also give Orange County Business Council permission to publish all organizations' and individuals' names and images digitally and in print.*

- Yes
-

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Please note, the organization(s) and project(s) title entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please check carefully this is the project(s) title and organization(s) you would like to be featured.

Project/Initiative(s) Title*

Please note, the project/initiative(s) title entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please carefully review for spelling and accuracy.

Organization(s)*

Please note, the organization(s) entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please carefully review to ensure this is the organization(s) you would like the project/initiative(s) featured under.

Date Project/Initiative(s) Began*

Date Project/Initiative(s) Completed*

Contact Full Name*

- First Name
- Last Name

Contact Title*

Contact Organization*

Contact Email*

- Will receive confirmation email

Contact Phone***Contact Address***

- Street Address
- City
- State / Province / Region
- ZIP / Postal Code

PIO Full Name*

- First Name
- Last Name

PIO Email***Organization LinkedIn Handle****Organization Facebook Handle****Organization X Handle****Second Organization LinkedIn Handle****Second Organization Facebook Handle****Second Organization X Handle****Organization(s) Logo(s)***

- Max. file size: 256 MB.
- Please upload your high resolution (at least 2 MB) organization(s) logo(s). A transparent logo is preferred. If you have multiple versions/orientations of your logo(s), please upload all versions so we can utilize the best version/orientation on the materials.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION DETAILS

This section is intended to provide details of the project(s). Please keep responses under 200 words unless otherwise specified.

Please provide a brief description of the project(s) and partnership's achievements.*

Word Count: < 200 Words

From the brief description above, please provide a 1-2 sentence summary of the highlights.*

Word Count: < 50 Words. This summary will be utilized in some areas that the nominees are showcased, such as the OCBC website, marketing materials, etc.

What is the goal or purpose of the project(s)?*

Word Count: < 200 Words

Please specify the private industry partner(s) in the project. In addition, please include any other partners you would like to highlight, including those involved in the planning/implementation/funding/lending.*

Word Count: < 200 Words

What has been the impact of the project(s), and 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.*

Word Count: < 200 Words

Is this project(s) replicable or transferable, and/or can it be adapted for use in other communities? What lessons have been learned?*

Word Count: < 200 Words

In what ways is this partnership and project(s) innovative or creative?*

Word Count: < 200 Words

Name of Chief Executive Officer of city/agency/organization*

- First Name
- Last Name

Name of chief elected official of the city/agency/organization*

- First Name
- Last Name

Please provide any other relevant details not covered above or specific to your category.

Word Count: < 200 Words

Website Link: News articles, company website post, etc.

Begin URL with https://

Photo(s) related to nomination

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Supporting Documents

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Supporting Documents

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Please ensure all information above is entered accurately before submitting your nomination.

REQUIRED: By checking this box, you agree the project details submitted including statistics, data and numbers are accurate and true.*

- Yes

REQUIRED: By checking this box, you allow Orange County Business Council to make minimal edits to the project description for brevity and clarity on marketing and event materials, during the event, and in any communications (press releases, social media, website, etc.). You also give Orange County Business Council permission to publish all organizations' and individuals' names and images digitally and in print.*

- Yes

LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Please note, the organization and nominated individual name entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please review carefully for spelling and accuracy.

Nominated Individual Full Name*

Please note, the nominated individual full name entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please carefully review for spelling and accuracy.

Company/Organization/District*

Please note, the company/organization/district entered will be exactly how it will be printed as the nominee in the event program, on the screen at the event, on the award should the project be selected as a category winner, on social media posts and OCBC's website, in press releases, and anywhere else the nominees may be listed. Please check carefully this is the organization you would like the project to be featured under. If this is a multi-organizational project, please list all organizations in the order that they should be recognized for this project.

Date Project Began (if applicable)

Date Project Completed (if applicable)

Contact Full Name*

- First Name
- Last Name

Contact Title***Contact Organization*****Contact Email***

- Will receive confirmation email

Contact Phone***Contact Address***

- Street Address
- City
- State / Province / Region
- ZIP / Postal Code

PIO Full Name*

- First Name
- Last Name

PIO Email***Organization LinkedIn Handle****Organization Facebook Handle****Organization X Handle****Nominee Individual Headshot***

- Max. file size: 256 MB.
- Please upload your high resolution (at least 2 MB) nominee headshot.

DESCRIPTION: LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION

This section is intended to provide a profile of the nominee. Once again, this award recognizes an elected or public official who has served as a committed advocate for economic advancement 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 their constituency as a leader and advocate for the business community.

Please provide a profile of the nominee's achievements, highlighting contributions to Orange County's economy and businesses.*

Please include specific projects and initiatives, and their economic impact.

From the profile above, please provide an executive summary of the nominee (5-6 sentences) including achievement highlights.*

Portions of this summary will be utilized in some areas that the nominees are showcased, such as the OCBC website, marketing materials, etc.

Please provide any other relevant details not covered above.

Word Count: < 200 Words

Website Link: News articles, company website post, etc.

Begin URL with https://

Photo(s) related to nomination

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Letters of Endorsement

- Max. file size: 256 MB.
- No longer than 2 pages double-spaced.

Supporting Documents

Max. file size: 256 MB.

Please ensure all information above is entered accurately before submitting your nomination.

REQUIRED: By checking this box, you agree the details submitted including statistics, data and numbers are accurate and true.*

- Yes

REQUIRED: By checking this box, you allow Orange County Business Council to make minimal edits to the description for brevity and clarity on marketing and event materials, during the event, and in any communications (press releases, social media, website, etc.) You also give Orange County Business Council permission to publish all organizations' and individuals' names and images digitally and in print.*

- Yes