



GRAPHEX AWARDS - HOW TO SLAY THE COMPETITION

Webinar Dec 13th





THANK YOU TO OUR WEBINAR SPONSORS







PRESENTED BY:

TERESA CAMPBELL

PIA MIDAMERICA PRESIDENT





THE BASICS

- Regional Competition among KS, MO, OK & TX
- Where to find what you need piamidam.org/graphex
- Review the category list
- Information to gather before you fill out the entry form
- Benefits of entry





THE THEME







CALL FOR ENTRIES

- Submit by Friday, Jan. 13 for \$10 off each entry, code EARLYBIRD2023
- Final deadline (samples + entry form) Friday, Jan. 27, 2023
- Next Tuesday, Dec. 13th Register for our GraphEx Entries Webinar where we will
 share best practices from category selection to picking your pieces to promoting
 entries to shipping or dropping off your entries.

REGISTER FOR WEBINAR



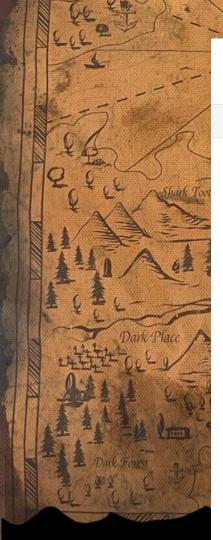
ONLINE ENTRY FORM // Use our online entry system for easy submitting & payment. The completed form will be emailed — just print it off and mail with your samples.

SUBMIT ENTRIES

UPDATED CATEGORY LIST // Even more digital printing and expanded packaging categories, including sample boards and illuminated signage. Download the full list with submission instructions.

DOWNLOAD CATEGORY LIST







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GraphEx - Graphic Excellence Awards

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GRAPHEX 2023

The Graphic Excellence Awards are a celebration of the power of print, technical achievements, innovation and of you, the print professionals who have honed your craft, continue to work tirelessly to service your customers, and do it all with a smile. We are so honored to serve you.

CALL FOR ENTRIES



Have a great piece produced in 2022? Don't waste any time submitting entries for next year's Graphic Excellence Awards. Submit before Jan.13th for earlybird pricing

LEADN MODE AND SUBMIT 2023 ENTRIE

VIEW OUR 2022 KS/MO WINNER

VIEW OUR 2022 OF THE WINNE

NOMINATIONS

Was there anyone who really stood out and went above and beyond the call of duty this year? Recognize and honor them for their outstanding contributions to our industry with a 2023 GraphEx people nomination.

All nominations are due by February 24, 2023.

CCD DDOEECCIONAL

The second second second

RINT CHAMPION KS/MO

PRINT CHAMPION OK/TX

PRODUCTION PROFESSIONAL

VOLING DROFESSIONALS

AHOY MATEYS!



This year's theme is **Printers of the Caribbean!** Wit' inspiration from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, expect t' see pirates, loot maps, 'n lots o' doubloons! Register today fer a sail on the high seas.



PIA | MIDAMERICA graphex

DIGITAL & OFFSET PRINTING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS

- Announcements & invitations offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Announcements & invitations offset (4 or more colors)
- Announcements & invitations digital
- Announcements & invitations specialty (i.e. screen printing, combo printing methods, non-paper substrates)

ANNUAL REPORTS

- Annual reports offset
- Annual reports offset (combo, process color cover with 1, 2 or 3 color text or vice-versa)
- Annual reports digital
- Annual reports digital / offset combo

ART REPRODUCTION

- Reproduction of fine art for use as decoration
- Art reproductions offset Art reproductions - digital

BOOKLETS

- Bound, in any manner; 32 pages or less, including cover and text 40 Booklets, small format offset (6 x 9 or smaller)
- Booklets, small format digital (6 x 9 or smaller)
- Booklets, large format offset (over 6 x 9)
- Booklets, large format —digital (over 6 x 9)
- Booklets web

BOOKS

- Bound volume of more than 32 pages, including cover & text
- Books, hard cover offset Books, hard cover - digital
- Books, soft cover offset
- Books, soft cover digital

YEARBOOKS

- Bound volume used to document students at schools or universities Yearbooks - offset
- Yearbooks digital
- Yearbooks digital / offset combo
- Yearbook supplements

- Not stitched, folded from flat sheets 11" x 17" or smaller
- Brochures offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Brochures offset (4 or more colors)
- Brochures digital
- Brochures digital / offset combo

- Not stitched or glued, only folded from flat sheets 11" x 17" or larger
- Broadsides offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Broadsides offset (4 or more colors)
- Broadsides digital

CALENDARS

- Calendars, flat offset
- Calendars, flat digital Calendars, booklet - offset
- Calendars, booklet digital

CAMPAIGNS

Two or more companion pieces that promote a product or brand.

IMPORTANT NOTE 'Entries without accompanying description will be disqualified.

- Sales campaigns offset
- Sales campaigns digital
- Direct mail campaign offset
- Direct mail campaign digital

2023 CATEGORIES

- Corporate identity campaigns offset (2 or more printed pieces designed to be used together to present a unified identity. Such as: stationery, brochures, business cards, presentation folders, sale sheets,
- bill stuffers, etc. Letterhead & envelope count as one item. Corporate identity campaigns — digital (see #84 for description) Sales campaigns — digital/offset combo

CARDS

- Rack cards offset Rack cards - digital
- Individual greeting card / notecard offset
- Individual greeting card / notecard digital Series of greeting cards / notecards — offset
- Series of greeting cards / notecards digital Postcard - offset
- Postcard digital
- Postcard series offset Postcard series - digital

CATALOGS

- Printed for business, consumer or service industries. May include products
- or listings for exhibits, education, or member institutions. Catalogs — sheetfed (up to 32 pages, including cover)
- Catalogs sheetfed (over 32 pages, including cover)
- Catalogs web (up to 32 pages, including cover) Catalogs - web (over 32 pages, including cover) 103
- Catalogs digital (up to 32 pages, including cover) 104 105
- Catalogs digital (over 32 pages, including cover) Web & sheetfed combination catalogs
- 107 Web / sheetfed & digital combination catalogs
- Catalog inserts

DIRECTORIES & SOURCE BOOKS

- Publications listing names, addresses, etc., of individuals or companies
- 110 Directories & source books offset (1, 2 or 3 colors) 111 Directories & source books — offset (4 or more colors)
- 112 Directories & source books digital

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Produced for a single organization's internal use only.
- Internal communications offset (1, 2 or 3 colors) Internal communications - offset (4 or more colors)
- 117 Internal communications digital

MAGAZINES, PERIODICALS & PUBLICATIONS Magazines, periodicals & publications - sheetfed

- Magazines, periodicals & publications web Magazines, periodicals & publications - digital
- 123 Combination magazines (sheetfed cover, web interior) Web / sheetfed & digital combo magazines
- Publication inserts offset (up to 40 lb. stock)
- Publication inserts offset (over 40 lb. stock)
- 127 Publication inserts digital

(Entries should consist of at least three issues of the same magazine title during a one-year period. Work will be judged on consistency in series.)

2023 GRAPHEX CATEGORIES • PIAMIDAM.ORG/GRAPHEX

- 130 Magazine series sheetfed 131 Magazine series - web
- 132 Magazine series digital

MENUS

- 135 Menus offset
- Menus digital
- 137 Menus digital / offset combo

DIGITAL & OFFSET PRINTING CONT'D

NEWSLETTERS

- 140 Newsletters offset (1, 2 or 3 colors) 141 Newsletters - offset (4 or more colors)
- 142 Newsletters digital

NEWSPRINT 145 Newsprint (1, 2 or 3 colors)

146 Newsprint (4 or more colors)

- POSTERS All posters, truck or window posters, car cards, or calendar posters intended

for use as a decoration or promotion 150 Posters — offset

151 Posters - digital

PRESENTATION FOLDERS & KITS

- Presentation folders offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Presentation folders offset (4 or more colors)
- Presentation folders digital Presentation kits — offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Presentation kits offset (4 or more colors) Presentation kits - digital

Presentation kits - digital / offset combo

- PRINTER'S SELF-PROMOTION Printer's self promotion — offset (individual pieces)
- Printer's self promotion digital (individual pieces) Printer's self promotion — digital / offset combo (individual pieces)
- Printer's self promotion offset (campaigns or multiple pieces) Printer's self promotion — digital (campaigns or multiple pieces) Printer's self promotion - digital / offset combo (campaigns or

- Programs offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Programs offset (4 or more colors)
- Programs digital

SELF-MAILERS

- 183 Self-mailers offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Self-mailers offset (4 or more colors) Self-mailers - digital
- Self-mailers digital / offset combo

multiple pieces)

SINGLE SHEET

- Single Sheet offset (1, 2 or 3 colors) Single Sheet — offset (4 or more colors)
- 192 Single Sheet digital

STATIONERY & OFFICE MATERIALS

- Single stationery item offset (business card, letterhead, labels, etc) (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Single stationery item offset (see items above) (4 or more colors)
- Single stationery item digital (see items above) Envelopes - offset (converted)
- Envelopes digital (converted) Envelopes - offset (non-converted)
- Envelopes digital (non-converted) Stationery packages - offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)
- Stationery packages offset (4 or more colors) Stationery packages — digital

MISCELLANEOUS

- Specialty, novelty or misc. printed materials offset (which do not fit criteria for any other categories, such as: book covers or jackets, decals, DVD / CD covers, games, holograms, maps, matchbooks, menus, playing cards, etc.)
- Specialty, novelty or misc. printed materials digital
- Specialty, novelty or misc, printed materials flexo

PACKAGING PRINTING

- Bags / gift bags
- Branded product line packaging (multiple pieces) Corrugated packaging
- Flexo printed packaging Flexible film packaging
- Container offset (containers are open, lidless) Container - digital (containers are open, lidless)
- Container flexo (containers are open, lidless)
- Folding carton offset (cartons fully closed)
- Folding carton digital (cartons fully closed) 229
- Folding carton flexo (cartons fully closed)
- Plastic packaging Retail-ready packaging
- Rigid box (paper & board only) Rigid box (combo or non-paper substrates)
- Tags & labels flexo Tags & labels - offset
- Tags & labels digital 237 Tags & labels - letterpress
- Wraps, rolled products & pressure sensitive 240 Wrapping paper
- Flexo/hot stamp in-line finishing combination Flexo/cold stamp — in-line finishing combination

POINT-OF-PURCHASE & SIGNAGE

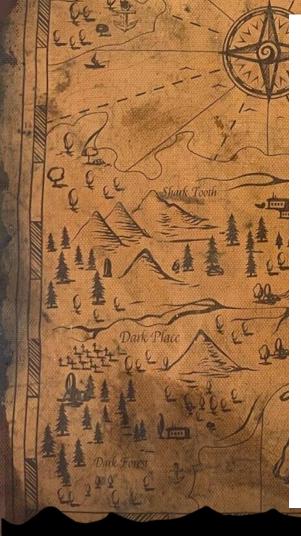
- POP (40" or less) counter / shelf offset POP (40" or less) counter / shelf - digital
- POP (40" or less) hanging offset POP (40" or less) hanging - digital

Tissue printing

- POP (40" or less) wall / window offset
- POP (40" or less) wall / window digital POP (40" or less) floor / stand alone - offset
- POP (40" or less) floor / stand alone digital Wide format (40" or more) POP - offset
- Wide format (40" or more) POP digital
- Wide format (40" or more) signs / banners offset Wide format (40" or more) signs / banners — digital
- Wide format (40" or more) display graphics offset Wide format (40" or more) display graphics — digital
- POP fabrication (includes heat bending, wood work, etc.) Wide or grand format, special installation* (Entries must include a single component on the substrate of the project. With project details of installation and video clip of finished installation that can be uploaded
- and viewed from YouTube. Final install photo required with entry.) Wide or grand format, interior/exterior scapes* (For those oneof-a-kind or too large to transport. Entries in category must include a
- single component on the substrate of the project. With project details of installation and video clip of finished installation that can be uploaded and viewed from YouTube. Final install photo required with entry.)
- Wallpaper, special installation Vehicle wraps Illuminated signage

SPECIALTY PRINTING TECHNIQUES

- 3-D printing, print requiring 3-D glasses to see image
- 3-D printing, additive manufacturing Hi-fidelity, print using more than 4-colors (i.e. touch plates) in
- halftone areas to enhance images & graphics. Lenticular
- New technology* (Print using new technology not listed in this category. 275 Entry must include description of technology and methods used.)
- Screen printing Specialty inks* (Submit printed sample and a paragraph describing the ink specialty.)
- Spot UV 279 Stochastic
- Thermography Specialty, novelty or misc, printed materials - digital / offset combo Dve-sublimation Snot varnish



SUSTAINABLE PRINTING

Environmentally sound materials (Entries must use at least TWO of the following: recycled papers, soy or vegetable based inks, aqueous coating, energy-curable inks and coatings, or other environmentally sound methods not mentioned here. *Submit entry with a paragraph describing the materials and processes employed.)

Environmental certification (Entries must have FSC, SFI or PEFC cert.)

VARIABLE DATA PRINTING

Must all have type / make of digital press used. See space on entry form. Variable data* (Entries must include at least two different printed samples and if applicable a snapshot of PURL and ROI data. Submit with a paragraph describing the VDP process. Variable foil should be entered in Binding & Finishing categories.)

BINDING AND FINISHING

Binding, smyth-sewn

Binding, case

311 Binding, comb, spiral, wire-o, or coil

312 Binding, perfect 313 Binding, tape

314 Binding, turned edge 315 Diecutting

316 Foil stamping - traditional

317 Foil — digital enhancements 318 Embossing or debossing

319 Lamination coating & film (including cast and cure)

320 Specialty coatings, fragrances, invisible inks, scratch off, etc.* Include description of project & process) Specialty coatings — digital* (Include description of project & process)

Binding & finishing techniques, combinations' (Include description) Binding & finishing techniques, other* (Include description of

Unique folds, pop-ups, assembly techniques involvement devices

Product packaging assembly

Binders 327 Tip-on

328 Sample board

OTHER

THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE*

This category is for 'over the top' production. Entries into this category will require production notes, clearly explaining how the piece was produced. A brief summary of the project scope and expectations by the client and how your print team found the solutions to meet those needs. Note specific undersease challenges experienced throughout the production process and how they were resolved. What if any, aspect of the finished piece was a direct suggestion by your team that really "made" the piece successful?

INTEGRATED MARKETING*

Entries in integrated marketing must show printed material plus any combination of involvement in at least three areas of a broad spectrum of creative services, such as: website, information architecture, interior or exterior design, construction, programming, video production, photography, flash marketing presentations, and/or online marketing campaigns, QR codes, PURLS, etc. Entries are judged on overall quality and consistency in cross-media compliance and identification. Description required of integrated methods used in this campaign. Please include any analytical statistics to support promotion success if available.

CASE STUDY MARKETING*

Entries in case study marketing must show printed material plus any combination of involvement of other venues to market. Description required of campaign objectives, campaign strategy, campaign summary with response and methods used in this campaign. Please include any analytical statistics to support promotion success if available.

GRAPHIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

JUDGING & AWARDS PROCESS

PACKING UP THE ENTRIES

- · Please send 3 copies of each entry piece. This will ensure minimal wear on each entry, thereby showing best at both Dallas / Fort Worth and Kansas City Galas.
- Fill out ONE Entry Form for each entry. (Three samples & one entry form.)
- · Attach entry forms carefully.
- Don't use cellophane tape, heavy-duty clamping clips or paper clips that can scratch pieces. Do utilize plastic bags to group pieces. Use light tack artist tape to attach entry forms to the back of pieces. Consider using photographer's gloves for handling pieces, as finger prints and soil often do not come off. Pay online or enclose a check payable to PIA MidAmerica for the
- total number of entries times the entry fee. Package / ship in sturdy box / container so that entries do not get
- damaged in transit.

CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

Pieces must have been printed in 2022 and may be entered in more than Praces must have one printed in 20/2 and may be entreed in more than one category. Three (3) copies of each entry, accompanied by an entry form, must be submitted in each category in which the piece is entered. In the 20/3 competition there are three divisions.

Division 1, Small Firm (Companies employing 16 20 employees)

Division 2, Medlum Firm (Companies employing 21 to 100 employees)

- Division 3, Large Firm (Companies with more than 101 employees) · Student (See qualifying rules for student entries)

Each division will have identical categories. Entries which are considered exceptional within the category will be recognized with an "Award of Recognition," with the single best entry receiving a "Best of Category." "Best of Category" winners will compete first for the most prestigious "Best of Show" honors, then "Best of Division" and then "Specialty Awards. Top winners cannot compete for more than one top award. Except by special request in advance of the judging, all entries become the property of the 2023 GraphEx Graphic Excellence Awards Competition.

IMPORTANT NOTE 'Entries without accompanying description will be disqualified

To ensure a fair and unbiased competition, all entries will be judged by a team of printing experts from outside Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. The judges will be instructed to base their decisions first on technical complexity and the quality of printing, then on design features and overall appearance. Entries with visible or technical flaws will be eliminated from the competition.

AWARD HIERARCHY Best of Show Division Awards

- Specialty Awards
 Best of Category
- · Award of Recognition

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD WINNERS

A letter of notification will be emailed to all "Best of Category" and "Award A feeter of nonreasion win been aneato an best of Category and Award
of Recognition" winners immediately following the judging. Division and
Major Award winners will be announced at the 2023 Graphic Excellence
Awards Galas to be held during the month of April in both Dallas / Fort Worth and Kansas City.

WINNER RECOGNITION

Winners of "Best of Category" will receive one framed certificate at no charge, which will be awarded at the 2023 Graphic Excellence Awards Gala, Winners of "Awards of Recognition" may purchase framed certificates for \$45 each. Additional framed certificates may be purchased for clients. Additional trophies may be ordered as well. A certificate order form will be available to each winner confirming the wording on the certificate, which can be customized on duplicate awards.

MEDIA RECOGNITION

News releases announcing the major winners will be sent to local, regional and national trade magazines and business publications. Select local newspapers will also receive news releases relating to local award winners. Event photos will be available at piamidam.org/graphex.

2023 GRAPHEX CATEGORIES • PIAMIDAM.ORG/GRAPHEX



In this form:

Address *

- · Entering company
- · Printing company, if different from entering company
- About entry piece(s)
- · Entry requirement acknowledgement
- · Payment information

Entering Company

Contact information for company submitting entry

Company *	
Membership *	PIA MidAmerica memberStudent
# of employees *	ex: 23
Division *	 ○ Division 1 - Small Firm (1-20 employees) ○ Division 2 - Medium Firm (21-100 employees) ○ Division 3 - Large Firm (101+ employees)
Contact Name *	First & last name
Contact Email *	example@example.com
Phone Number *	123-456-7890
Phone Number Type *	~

Entry Piece(s)

Multiple entries may be submitted at the same time. Simply click the "Add another entry" button at the end of this section. The text boxes can expand by pulling on the bottom right corner of the box.

Please enter information for each piece you're submitting in this section. Full details and Category List at https://piamidam.org/graphex.

Members: \$59/entry Non-members: \$99/entry Students: \$20/entry

Early-bird discount applies to member and non-member entries postmarked on or before Jan. 13, 2023 - \$10 off per entry • use code EARLYBIRD2023

Use "Add another entry" to submit multiple pieces / categories. *

* Entry Title

As you would like entry to

* Category Number (number only)

Details at piamidam.org/gra nhex

* Description

Please be specific about how your piece

* Printing Equipment used

Make & model of press, bindery & finishing

* Paper & ink

Paper & ink brands, make, mill.

* Printing is

offset-only
flexo-only
digital-only
combination

Manufacturing partner(s)

Any outsourced diecutting,



Enter online then print and submit with entry samples.





• Must be produced in 2022

- Student division and divisions by company size 1-20, 21-100, 101+
- 3 samples of each entry (KS/MO, OK/TX, National)
- Early bird deadlines & discounts **Jan 13** saving \$10/entry, final deadline **Jan 27**
- Blind judging from independent judges outside the region
- Don't fret over picking the right category judges will recategorize
- <u>The story behind an entry is extremely valuable</u> this is where you can shine!
- Collaboration between the client, designer, suppliers & manufacturing partners are important
- Specifics about the equipment & supplies often explain how complicated it was to accomplish
 uncoated paper, special ink, unique stitching, etc.

GUIDELINES



JUDGING HIERARCHY

- By division each category is judged first by best of category and award of excellence. Some categories are saturate. Receiving an award of excellence shows superior quality of which you should be proud.
- You will be informed of what best of categories and award of excellence you receive.
- Best of category winners go on to compete for best of show, best of division and specialty award honors. Best of show is selected first. Entries winning top levels are ineligible for other high level awards.
- Specialty awards are across all divisions include Best Use of Ink, Best Use of Paper, Judge's Choice, Best of Digital, Best of Packaging, Best Finishing, etc.



DIFFERENTIATE YOUR ENTRIES

- Get input from your entire team on what pieces to submit including designers, marketing, sales, customer service, quality control, pressmen, bindery, etc. They know the detailed stories behind the scenes.
- Pull the 3 best samples. Cracking, Scuffs, hickeys, banding, out of register, binding problems, poor crossovers that are consistent on all 3 will be disqualified. If you have press sheets available consider hand binding your samples.
- Look at it under a loupe. Crisp dots are key. Judges will be using loupes and have a discerning eye.
- Is it something you'd want to keep a copy of?





PARTNERS, SUPPLIERS & COLLABORATORS

- The piece is judged in totality not just the aspects that you touched
- Celebrate your collaborators' talent by recognizing their part in your entry
- Build stronger relationships for future projects



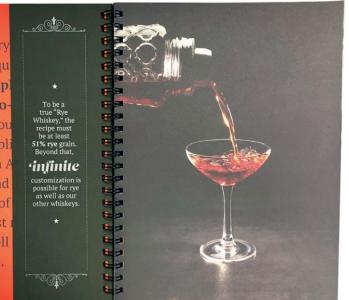


SLAY THE COMPETITION

Major winners often have design elements that take advantage of print capabilities.











UNIQUENESS

Look for unique paper, ink, cutting, binding and finishing. Tell the judges how you were able to keep the quality consistent from page to page with a short 25 word paragraph inserted into the front cover.







UNIQUENESS

Did you print 175 or 200 line screen? Scaccato, stochastic, hexichrome?





What do you do well?

MidAmerica leads the country for specialty techniques, incredible digital printing, catalogs and publications. Boston has the corner on coffee table books. Atlanta leads the way with colleges. Milwaukee engineers incredible point of purchase pieces.









Is geometry your thing?

Does the dust jacket wrap around perfectly? Is there a graphic on it that lines up with precision? Car wraps, wall murals and building signage should be submitted with photos and/or videos of the actual piece and a small version to show the dimensional innovation.







How about finishing?

Does the dust jacket wrap around perfectly? Is there a graphic on it that lines up with precision? Car wraps, wall murals and building signage should be submitted with photos and/or videos of the actual piece and a small version to show the dimensional innovation.











What about large format?

Does the dust jacket wrap around perfectly? Is there a graphic on it that lines up with precision? Car wraps, wall murals and building signage should be submitted with photos and/or videos of the actual piece and a small version to show the dimensional innovation.







THE BEST OF THE BEST

- This competition is the Oscar, Emmy & Tony of our industry.
- Making sure your entries are perfect will allow them to compete internationally
- The US shines in POP displays, engineering, posters, collegiate work, interactive and large format.
- Take advantage of entering categories where you think not worthy to enter.
- More entries give you a better chance of winning.
- The projects that you were too close to that seemed to cause heartache are likely worthy of submitting.





FIND YOUR EXTRAORDINARY WORK

- When were you a problem solver for your client?
- Where did you put in extra time and effort?
- When did the client select your company because they knew you could deliver?
- Were you the trendsetter?
- What piece did you produce where there were no shortcuts taken by the client?
- Do you have pieces with multiple passes and excellent binding?
- How about high quality simple techniques?
- What have you produced that was impressive?





THE VALUE OF ENTERING

- Builds client relationships for increased retention and loyalty
 - o Signals to your customers that you are proud of your projects you do with them
 - Tells prospective clients that you invest and value quality production standards
- Motivate and build strong teams, support culture initiatives, and attract talent
 - o Promotes that you value quality work to your current and prospective employees
 - o Opportunity to recognize rock star and rising star individuals at your company
- Increase brand leadership and brand authority in the marketplace by promoting the stories and successes of individual projects
- Helps with annual planning as well as articulating the value of your work and services



THE VALUE OF WINNING

- The competition is steep. Winning is an incredible accomplishment. Be sure to market your award all year long.
- Celebrate with your staff and client.
- Add your winning to your letterhead & envelopes, email signatures, business cards, delivery trucks and more.
- Reproduce the circle of excellence to hand out to your clients and prospects as well as duplicate awards.
- We will market for you in press releases, at the KS/MO & OK/TX galas and PrintOberfest events and share photos.
- All most all winning entries are reproduced by the same printer year after year.









Q & A

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