



Healthy City Design AWARDS 2026



OCT
20-21



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Recognising excellence in the design and planning of healthy and sustainable cities and communities

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Submission deadline:
9 June 2026

Organised by



Destination City partners



Journal partner



Social value partner



Urban transformation partner



Theme partners



Roundtable partner



Judging process and timetable

April 2026

Awards Call for Entries launched

9 June 2026

Deadline for Awards entries

July 2026

Judging phase 1: Evaluation and shortlisting of submissions by judging panel. The shortlisted submissions are notified and invited to register their participation in the Congress to feature their project in poster format

September 2026

Judging phase 2: Live webinar judging and presentation of shortlisted projects

20 October 2026

Evening Awards Dinner and Ceremony at Manchester United Old Trafford Stadium

November 2026

Publication of award winners on SALUS Global Knowledge Exchange, European Healthcare Design and Architects for Health websites, and via press announcements in national, professional and social media channels

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Healthy City Design 2026 Awards

Recognising excellence in the design and planning of healthy and sustainable cities and communities

The Healthy City Design Awards recognise innovation and excellence in the conceptualisation, planning, design and delivery of places and infrastructure within the urban built environment that promote human health and wellbeing, while embedding the principles of planetary health and sustainable development.

The awards comprise eight categories that reflect the breadth and interconnected nature of healthy city design today. These span key domains including healthy city design and planning; healthy homes and neighbourhoods; population and neighbourhood health; sustainable infrastructure and green mobility; community impact and social value; healthy working environments; smart cities and digital health; and design research for healthy cities. Together, they capture interventions from building to city scale, as well as the systems, technologies and research that underpin healthier, more inclusive and resilient urban environments.



The awards aim to celebrate projects, schemes and research that offer innovative and well-considered approaches to improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of urban populations. This includes addressing environmental quality, enabling active lifestyles, improving air quality, strengthening community agency and participation,

enhancing climate resilience, advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, and ultimately improving quality of life for people of all ages.

The awards are underpinned by the guiding principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in advancing good health and wellbeing, sustainable cities and communities, climate action, responsible consumption, and strong partnerships.

Across all categories, the awards recognise excellence in innovation, sustainable development, health equity, social value and community impact, highlighting the contributions of professionals and researchers working to create healthier, more liveable and resilient cities worldwide.

The winners will be announced at a prestigious awards dinner and ceremony to be held at Manchester United Old Trafford Stadium on 20 October, bringing together leaders from across the built environment, public health and research communities.



Max Farrell

Chair, Healthy City Design;
Founder and CEO, LDN Collective, UK



Marc Sansom MBA

Co-founder, Healthy City Design;
Managing director, SALUS Global
Knowledge Exchange, UK

Submission process

Who should enter?

The awards are open to international organisations and project teams across the public, private and academic sectors. This includes those involved in research, commissioning, planning, design, investment and development within the urban built environment. Eligible entries may relate to a wide range of asset types, including residential, commercial, mixed-use and social infrastructure projects.

Eligibility

Entries are invited for built projects, conceptual proposals and research programmes completed between 1 January 2023 and 1 October 2026. Projects may be submitted to more than one category, provided each entry is clearly tailored to the specific criteria of that category. However, the same project may not be re-entered into the same category in subsequent years.

Evaluation committee

The awards are judged by an international panel of experts drawn from across the health, planning, design and built environment sectors. Each category is led by a chair and supported by two additional judges with relevant expertise. This structured evaluation process ensures a robust, balanced and transparent approach to decision-making. Any judge with a conflict of interest in relation to an entry will withdraw from that part of the adjudication process.

Judging process and criteria

Phase 1: Initial review: Judges independently assess all submissions remotely. Each entry must include a written submission statement and a 15-slide presentation (PowerPoint or PDF) of images and plans. Submissions are evaluated against defined criteria, after which the judging panel convenes to agree a shortlist.

Phase 2: Final presentations: Shortlisted entrants will be invited to present their projects live via webinar to the judging panel. Following these presentations, judges will

determine the winners and any commendations ahead of the awards ceremony.

Winners will be announced at the Healthy City Design Awards Ceremony and Dinner at Manchester United Stadium on 20 October 2026.



How to submit

To enter, visit www.healthycitydesign.global and navigate to the Awards section. Select your chosen category or categories and follow the steps below:

Step 1: Complete the online entry form and submit a 1,500-word statement addressing the category criteria.

Step 2: Upload supporting materials, including:
A 15-slide PowerPoint or PDF presentation
Up to 10 images and 5 plans (high-resolution JPEG format)
An optional video link (YouTube or Vimeo)

Step 3: Complete payment to finalise your submission.

Important notes: All submissions must clearly and explicitly address the criteria outlined in the submission forms. Entrants are advised to consult the full Rules of Entry for detailed guidance on eligibility, payment and submission requirements.

Rules of entry

1. Submission requirements: All entries must address the criteria for the selected award category and be submitted via the online entry system by the stated deadline. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Each submission must include:

i) **Entry form:** A completed online entry form with project details and contact information for key team members and the primary contact.

ii) **Submission statement:** A submission statement for each category entered, clearly addressing the judging criteria. The total word count must not exceed 1,500 words.

iii) **Visual materials:**

> A 15-slide PowerPoint or PDF presentation

> Up to 10 images and 5 plans/drawings, submitted both within the presentation and as separate high-resolution JPEG files (minimum 300 dpi)

Visuals should clearly communicate key project features and may include brief captions in slides only. High-resolution images must not contain embedded text.

iv) **Entry fee:** The standard fee is £150 + VAT per entry, payable online. The Design Research for Healthy Cities category is free to enter.

v) **Authorisation:** Entries must have consent from the client, commissioning authority or relevant stakeholder.

vi) **Eligible project types:** Entries may include built projects, phased developments or concept designs for real projects. Concept proposals must be sufficiently developed for clear evaluation.

2. Additional information and verification: Judges may request further information or clarification for shortlisted entries. Entrants must provide reasonable access to support this process.

3. Compliance and disqualification: The organisers reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not comply with these rules or contain misleading or incomplete information.

4. Intellectual property and permissions: Entrants must have permission to use all submitted materials and grant the organisers the right to use content for awards-related promotion, unless otherwise stated. Confidential material must be clearly identified.

5. Judging: All judging decisions are final. The judging process is independent and impartial, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding outcomes. Confidential and should not be made public.

Awards categories and judges

Healthy city design and planning



Lead judge: Sunand Prasad OBE, PPRIBA, Principal, Perkins&Will, UK

This award recognises excellence in urban planning and design that delivers healthier, more resilient and inclusive cities. It celebrates evidence-based, people-centred approaches to urban development, including compact city models, active living and regeneration, demonstrating how planning, design and local context combine to shape healthier urban futures.

Healthy homes and neighbourhoods



Lead judge: Ben Cave, Director, BCA; University of Groningen, UK

Supported by
AECOM

This award recognises projects that demonstrate how housing and neighbourhood design can support health, equity and everyday wellbeing. It highlights innovative, evidence-based approaches to delivering healthy, affordable and adaptable homes within inclusive, walkable communities, improving access to services, green space and social connection across all stages of life.

Smart cities and digital health



Lead judge: Andy Miah, Chair of science communication and future media, University of Salford, UK

Supported by
Urban Initiatives
Sudara Company

This award recognises how digital innovation and smart technologies can improve health, wellbeing and quality of life in cities. It celebrates projects that use data and technology to create more responsive, efficient and inclusive urban environments, while addressing governance, ethics and equitable access to ensure real-world impact.

Sustainable infrastructure & green mobility



Lead judge: Louise Ciotti, Programme lead for architecture M-Arch, University of the West of England, UK

This award celebrates projects that integrate sustainable infrastructure and green mobility to support human and planetary health. It recognises low-carbon, resource-efficient and inclusive systems, including transport, energy and nature-based solutions, that improve air quality, enable active lifestyles and strengthen environmental, social and economic resilience.

Population and neighbourhood health



Lead judge: Beatrice Fraenkel, Trustee, Design Council, UK

This award recognises place-based approaches that improve health outcomes at population and neighbourhood levels. It highlights projects that integrate healthcare into communities alongside planning and design strategies that support prevention, early intervention and health equity, creating accessible, resilient and people-centred systems of care.

Community impact and social value



Lead judge: Lourdes Madigasekera-Elliott, Creating Healthy Places, East Sussex County Council, UK

This award recognises projects that deliver measurable social value and positive community impact through planning and development. It highlights approaches that embed equity, inclusion and health outcomes into decision-making, demonstrating meaningful engagement, co-design and long-term benefits that strengthen communities and ensure development delivers tangible public value.

Healthy working environments



Lead judge: Jeremy Myerson, Academic director and co-founder, Healthy City Design; Professor emeritus, Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design, Royal College of Art, UK

This award recognises excellence in the design, delivery and management of workplaces that support health, wellbeing and productivity. It includes a wide range of settings and highlights evidence-based approaches that improve physical and mental health, safety, inclusion and sustainability across diverse working environments.

Design research for healthy cities



Lead judge: Helen Pineo, Urban planner and research associate professor, University of Washington, USA

This award recognises outstanding research that advances understanding of how the built environment influences health, equity and wellbeing. It celebrates original, independently assessed research that contributes to design, policy or practice, including studies, tools and frameworks with clear relevance and potential for real-world impact.

For further enquiries on the awards, sponsorship or exhibition opportunities, contact:

info@salus.global
www.healthycitydesign.global



Community partners

THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR URBAN HEALTH

ISGlobal Barcelona Institute for Global Health



UD/MH
THE CENTRE FOR URBAN DESIGN AND MENTAL HEALTH

URBAN HEALTH 360
Urban Health is a microcosm of global health

WORKTECH ACADEMY

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