

Blue Ribbon Awards 2010 Overview

This year, Friends of the Chicago River launches the *Blue Ribbon Awards* to honor and acknowledge the work of developers, designers, municipalities, and others for their creative approach to river sensitive design and implementation and whose work exemplifies the river ideal as described by the objectives in *People, Water and Wildlife: Blue Principles for River Design* (<http://www.chicagoriver.org/upload/CRB%20Principles.pdf>).

The *Blue Ribbon Awards* recognize those who achieve the ideal in sustainable design for humans (public access), water (hydrology) and wildlife (ecology) along the Chicago River system.

Award recipients will be celebrated at Friends' 2010 Big Fish Ball on June 9 by honorary chairs Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and Christopher G. Kennedy. All award winners can display their projects at this premier event and first place "blue ribbon" level awardees will be granted two complimentary event tickets. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Award Submission Deadline

April 16, 2010 by 4 p.m.
Friends of the Chicago River
ATTN: John Quail
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60604-2272
(312) 939-0490, ext. 20

Award Acknowledgment and Celebration at the Big Fish Ball

Taking place at the Merchandise Mart in 2010, the Big Fish Ball is Friends' premier annual fundraising event with 400 guests including a prominent and diverse group of corporate, civic, and community leaders. Chicago Mayor **Richard M. Daley** and **Christopher G. Kennedy**, President, Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc., are the Big Fish Ball's 2010 Honorary Chairs. Elegant outdoor dining, river-inspired festivities and an after-party boat cruise will be among the event highlights.

Blue Ribbon award winners will receive two complimentary tickets to the event (value \$650). Limited scholarships are available to Silver and Green award winners for Big Fish Ball event tickets.

Understanding the River Ideal: Tips for Success

Before submitting the award application, review the objectives described in the *People, Water and Wildlife: Blue Principles for River Design* which describe how river-friendly riverfront development contributes to the regional economy and the value of protecting and improving public access, water quality and habitat:
<http://www.chicagoriver.org/upload/CRB%20Principles.pdf>

Blue Ribbon Award Information and Forms

- Award General Requirements and Eligibility:
<http://www.chicagoriver.org/upload/CRB%20General%20Requirements.pdf>
- Award Submission Form: <http://www.chicagoriver.org/upload/CRB%20Submission%20form.pdf>

Award Categories

The following are possible categories that will be considered by the jury, the jury will determine the appropriate award category for each award winner. Jurors are under no obligation to grant an award for all the listed categories and may grant an award to a project that does not fall into any of the categories but deserves special recognition. Recognition may also be given to those projects that meet the objectives described in *People, Water and Wildlife: Blue Principles for River Design*, but are not selected as *Blue Ribbon Award* winners.

- Open Space
- Public/Institutional
- Commercial/Industrial
- Residential – Single-Family & Multi-Family
- Small Site <1 acre
- Large Sites > 1 acre

Blue Ribbon Awards

The awards are divided into three (3) levels based on the success of the design.

1. **Blue Ribbon** – Representing the rare project that exemplifies the highest standard of river sensitive design on a comprehensive level, throughout the entire project site. Projects that have successfully implemented innovative design techniques in order to meet and exceed the principals set forth in *People, Water and Wildlife: Blue Principles for River Design*, thereby advancing the standard by which all other river projects are judged. Only one Blue Ribbon is awarded annually.
2. **Silver Ribbon** – Awarded to a project that has exhibited an exceptional level of design excellence in sustainability on multiple levels. Only one Silver Ribbon is awarded annually.
3. **Green Ribbon** – For projects that have demonstrated a high level of river sensitive design on a levels but have excelled at least one of the *Blue Principals*. A jury may decide to issue more than one of these awards in any particular year.

The Jury

The *Blue Ribbon Awards* jury is comprised of recognized professionals and environmentalists who have excelled in the areas rewarded. The jury process is “blind” which means that the entrants’ identities are not revealed to the jury and therefore will not influence the decision making process. The jury will remain anonymous until after the awards have been decided.