



## 2025 AAPA LIGHTHOUSE AWARDS

Illuminating Excellence in the Port Industry

# Specialty Areas and Categories

## Administration Awards (2)

### ***Excellence in Administrative Practices - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes programs or projects that have resulted in improvements in administrative, management, human resource, and/or workforce culture to foster operational excellence and organizational resilience. Submissions may include innovative administrative and organizational tools, performance reporting, workforce development and training programs, succession plans, and other initiatives, strategies, or practices that support administrative efficiency and transparency, accountability, service delivery, and a positive work environment.

## Cruise Awards (2)

### ***Excellence in Cruise Practices - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes programs or projects that have made exceptional contributions to strengthening the relationship between ports and the cruise industry. Submissions may include port initiatives that optimize or enhance facilities, operations, services, and amenities that elevate the overall cruise passenger experience.

## Economic Development Awards (2)

### ***Excellence in Economic Development Practices - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes programs or projects that significantly enhance a port's economic impact and competitiveness, highlighting ports as essential hubs of trade and economic vitality. Submissions may include strategic initiatives that optimize port assets, acquire property, facilitate trade, and expand business opportunities while aligning with the committee's pillars of community enhancement and job creation.

## Environment Awards (2)

### ***Excellence in Environmental Practices - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes programs or projects that improve environmental quality through renewable energy use, debris control, port beautification, natural resource restoration, and innovative waste management solutions. Submissions may include port initiatives that demonstrate improvements in environmental performance such as air quality, water quality, stormwater, contaminated sediment, sustainability and environmental management systems, electrification, alternative fuels, and offshore wind.



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### Facility and Infrastructure Development Awards (2)

#### ***Excellence in Studies, Plans, and/or Designs***

Recognizes exemplary efforts in the analysis, planning, and/or design of port projects. Submissions may include feasibility studies, master/project plans, or architectural and engineering designs that demonstrate foresight, technical expertise, and innovative solutions.

#### ***Excellence in Construction Practices***

Recognizes port projects that showcase exemplary construction management and delivery practices, including efficient scheduling, budget management, quality control, risk mitigation, and stakeholder coordination. Submissions may include projects completed in the past year that demonstrate ingenuity and collaboration in delivering exceptional port infrastructure and facilities.

### Finance Awards (2)

#### ***Excellence in Financial Practices - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes programs or projects that have exemplary achievements in fiscal management, stewardship, and sustainability in the port industry. Submissions may include initiatives that demonstrate innovative funding sources, investment strategies, financing procurement, revenue diversification, and billing and analytical systems.

### Legal Awards (2)

#### ***Excellence in Legal Affairs - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes a significant, complex, or otherwise important program or project to a port or its community and stakeholders. The legal aspect in the application may be the bulk or entirety of the project - such as enterprise-critical litigation - or it may be a component of a larger project such as for an environmental restoration project or a strategic shift in business operations. Submissions may be based on litigation, transactional work, regulatory work, or any other aspect of port business that involves formal legal affairs.

### Public Relations/Communications Awards (6)

#### ***Excellence in Community/Educational Outreach - Small and Large Port (2)***

Recognizes programs or projects undertaken by ports to engage, educate, and enrich their stakeholders including community, neighborhood, special interests, civic, fraternal, educational, and/or governmental organizations. Submissions may include initiatives, promotional/advocacy materials, events, or campaigns that foster meaningful connections, promote awareness, and support educational opportunities for a port's diverse stakeholders.



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### ***Excellence in Print or Digital Media Communications - Small and Large Port (2)***

Recognizes programs or projects that demonstrate exemplary efforts in effectively communicating with stakeholders, fostering transparency, promoting awareness, and enhancing the reputation and visibility of the port industry through print or digital media channels. Submissions may include websites, social media, digital magazines and newsletters, videos, advertisements, or any other digital-based media.

### ***Excellence in Public Relations (PR) Campaign - Small and Large Port (2)***

Recognizes achievements in planning, executing, and evaluating PR campaigns by leveraging strategic communication strategies, creative messaging, and targeted outreach by a port. Submissions must include a range of communications materials used in a comprehensive PR campaign or program designed to achieve specific goals and objectives. Submissions should identify the tactics, strategies, and target audiences, and include a detailed description of program elements including research, planning, implementation, and evaluation of results.

## Security Awards (2)

### ***Excellence in Security Practices - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes programs or projects that demonstrate innovation and leadership in safeguarding personnel, assets, cargo, infrastructure, and the surrounding environment against security threats and risks. Submissions may include initiatives, plans, technologies, or practices implemented that have significantly enhanced port security effectiveness, resilience, and collaboration, such as Facility Security Plans (FSPs), countermeasures to illicit drone flyovers, cybersecurity reporting regimes (or cybersecurity in general), and collaborative initiatives with Coast Guard, CISA, or other related agency.

## Technology Awards (2)

### ***Excellence in Technology Solutions - Small and Large Port***

Recognizes programs or projects that demonstrate exemplary innovation, creativity, and leadership in leveraging technology to address port challenges. Submissions may include the development, deployment, or adoption of technology solutions that:

- Drive digital transformation;
- Enhance data flow for port operations;
- Improve the safety and productivity of cargo and container handling;
- Track and maintain chassis, containers, cranes, and other yard handling equipment;
- Improve vessel transportation safety within a harbor or port, including approaches to the port;
- Enhance intermodal freight movement through the application of intelligent transportation system (ITS);
- Track and trace cargo from the port to the consignee; and
- Improve traffic flow and truck turnaround time entering and leaving a terminal.