

IMIA Industry Choice Award 2026

Award Criteria



AWARD PURPOSE

This award celebrates an outstanding product in the field of cartography and geospatial representation. It aims to recognize innovative, impactful, and high-quality map products that demonstrate excellence in design, technique, communication, and relevance.

ELIGIBILITY

- Submissions must have been completed or published between January 1 and December 31, 2025.
- Starting November 1, 2025, through February 27, 2026, submissions will be open to individuals or teams working in academic, professional, governmental, or artistic contexts.
- Entries may include products such as static maps, interactive/web maps, atlases, map-based visualizations, or cartographic installations as outlined in the submission form.
- IMIA will consider only one nomination if submitted multiple times by different parties for evaluation.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Judges will assess entries based on the following criteria, totaling 100 points:

1. Design and Aesthetics (20 points)
 - Visual appeal and clarity
 - Effective use of layout, color, typography, and symbology
 - Balance between form and function
2. Cartographic Technique and Accuracy (20 points)
 - Precision in geographic representation
 - Proper scale, projection, and generalization
 - Technical proficiency in execution
3. Purpose and Communication (20 points)
 - Clear communication of the map's purpose or story
 - Appropriateness for the target audience
 - Integration of supporting elements (legends, scale bars, annotations)
4. Innovation and Creativity (20 points)
 - Originality in concept or design

- Creative use of tools, technology, or data
 - Unique approach to solving mapping challenges
5. Data Integration and Analysis (20 points)
- Effective use of spatial data and analysis
 - Clarity and transparency in data sources
 - Relevance and reliability of data presented

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Completed submission form.
- High-resolution digital copy or access link (for web/interactive entries)
- The cost for submission for IMIA members is \$0 USD, and \$95 USD for non-members.
 - *Non-members will be invoiced separately. The invoice must be paid in full before judging begins in March to be considered.*

JUDGING PROCESS

A panel of experts in cartography, GIS, design, and geography within IMIA's Awards committee will independently review and score submissions. Final decisions will be based on aggregate scoring and committee consensus.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Winners will be announced at the Mapping Leaders Forum in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on May 12-14, 2026, and featured on IMIA's website, social media, and newsletter.