

2026 PHOENIX AWARDS



The Restoration Industry Association (RIA) is pleased to announce the application call for the prestigious Phoenix Award 2026.

Established in 1997, the Phoenix Award symbolizes the restoration industry's commitment to excellence, innovation, and resilience. Named after the mythical bird that rises from the ashes, it recognizes outstanding projects that exemplify the art and science of restoration. Rooted in the rich history of the Restoration Industry Association (RIA), this prestigious award honors the transformative work of professionals who restore hope and rebuild lives. Submit your project today and be part of this industry leadership and achievement legacy.

Projects should have been completed between **January and December 2025** (the applicant's portion of the project must be fully completed, and the entire project must be 90% completed in this timeframe).

There is no minimum project size.

Application Deadline is January 26, 2026

Winners are recognized in the trade and mainstream media, **featured in C&R magazine** and on the RIA Blog and social media channels, and given a unique opportunity to promote their success to clients, potential customers, and their local communities.

Each winner will receive one complimentary registration to the 2026 RIA Convention.

Phoenix Award recipients will be announced during a special awards session at RIA's annual International Restoration Convention and Industry Expo in Savannah, Georgia.



Award Categories

Projects should have been completed between January and December 2025 (the applicant's portion of the project must be fully completed, and the entire project must be 90% completed in this timeframe).

There is no minimum project size.

Innovation in Restoration

Awarded to a contractor/firm for a restoration project, personal property, or building which does not include building reconstruction. Generally, includes the restoration and/or remediation of a structure and its contents, does not include major reconstruction as part of the project; may include drying out a structure and reframing, drying, and/or cleaning contents. Projects may be residential or commercial.

Innovation in Reconstruction

Awarded to an individual contractor/firm, may encompass some restoration, but generally requires significant rebuilding of the structure – e.g., new roof over most or all of an entire structure; expansion or redesign of an existing structure to make it better fit a customer's current needs. Projects may be residential or commercial.



Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the Phoenix Award, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Project Completion:** The project must have been completed between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.
- **Membership:** Applicants must be current members of the RIA.
- **Restoration Projects:** The project should involve restoration, reconstruction, or mitigation efforts.
- **Documentation:** Comprehensive documentation of the project, including before and after photographs, is required, videos are also encouraged but not required.

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit their applications by following these steps:

Application Form: [Complete the official Phoenix Award application form available on the RIA website.](#)

Upload a copy of a narrative (ranging from 1000- 2000 words) – this should include an overview of the project, identify the major challenges, the steps taken to address the challenges, and any creative solutions or remedies utilized to save the client time and/or money, a financial synopsis of the value of the project (not the actual bid); identify cost savings to the client and explain what makes this project unique.

Supporting Materials: Include detailed project descriptions, photographs, and any relevant documentation that demonstrates the project's innovation and impact.

Upload before/after photos of good quality (300 dpi or higher – approximately 640k to 3 mg in size – in a.jpg or .tif format). You may also include a video link.

What are the key elements of a strong submission package?

To increase your chances of winning, ensure your submission includes:

Comprehensive Project Description: A clear narrative of the project, including challenges, strategies, and outcomes.

Submission Video: A video from you and your team about the project, with visuals to bring the project to life for reviewers. If you win, this video will be used to announce you and across the platforms to highlight your project.

Before and After Visuals: High-quality photos or videos showcasing the transformation.

Innovative Approaches: Highlight any unique solutions or techniques used.

Supporting Data: Include measurable outcomes like cost savings, timeline efficiency, or customer satisfaction.

Customer Testimonials: Positive feedback from the client can add credibility.

Compliance and Standards: Demonstrate adherence to RIA standards and industry best practices.

Reprint permission must accompany any submitted photos taken by a professional photographer.

Submission Deadline: Ensure all materials are submitted by the deadline of **January 26, 2026**.

Application Fees: Applicants may submit a total of two entries in each category

RIA Members \$300 for the first project and \$200 for the second project

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate application.



Judging Criteria

A minimum of three jury members with extensive experience in restoration, reconstruction, and insurance issues will select the winning projects for each award. Jurors' names will be kept confidential. Jurors will not vote for or against competitor contracts from their market areas, nor will they judge any projects in which they may have been involved in some capacity.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** The project must demonstrate creative solutions to challenges.
- **Value:** Demonstrate value through a conspicuous reduction in the amount of the loss to the insurance carrier and/or the property owner.
- **Technical Excellence:** High standards of technical execution and quality.
- **Effective Problem-Solving:** Focus on effective problem-solving in a catastrophic or complex loss situation

Application Deadline is January 26, 2026



Award Announcement

The winners of the Phoenix Award 2026 will be announced at the RIA Annual Convention and Industry Expo. Winners will receive:

- **Recognition:** Highlighted in RIA publications and on the official website and social media, as well as a feature in C&R Magazine.
- **Trophy:** A commemorative Phoenix Award trophy.
- **Convention Pass:** Each winner will receive one complimentary registration to the 2026 RIA Convention.



Contact Information

For further information or assistance with your application, please contact:

- **Email:** info@restorationindustry.org
- **Phone:** 856-372-5175

Submit your application today and showcase your exceptional work in the restoration industry! We look forward to celebrating your achievements.



Phoenix Award Best Practices

How should the package be organized?

Cover Letter: Introduce the project and why it is worthy of the award.

Project Overview: Summarize the project scope, timeline, and goals.

Detailed Documentation: Include detailed narratives, images, and supporting data.

Conclusion: Reflect on the project's significance and impact on the industry.

Attachments: Ensure all supplementary documents are properly labeled and referenced.

What common mistakes should be avoided?

Lack of Clarity: Avoid vague descriptions or omitting key details.

Poor Quality Visuals: Submit clear, high-resolution images and videos.

Disorganization: Ensure the package follows a logical and easy-to-navigate structure.

Failure to Meet Guidelines: Adhere to submission requirements, including deadlines and formatting.

What makes a submission stand out?

Creativity and Innovation: Highlight unique aspects of the project.

Detailed Documentation: Show evidence of the project's complexity and success.

Client Impact: Demonstrate how the project positively impacted the client and community.