Jean-Paul-L'Allier Prize for Heritage

2026 Edition

FAQ - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Who can apply?

Only OWHC member cities that are in good standing (with their situation regularized until 2025) can apply.

2. Does the project have to be completed?

Projects does not need to be completed, but it must be implemented. Projects exclusively in the planning phase will not be accepted.

II. TYPES OF PROJECTS AND APPROACH

3. What is meant by a "structuring project"?

A structuring project places habitability at the center of public action and acts as a lever for urban transformation. It must integrate various dimensions (habitat, mobility, climate resilience, public space, governance, among others) and generate long lasting effects on uses, spaces, and everyday life. It may involve changes in institutional practices and activate dynamics that transcend specific interventions (See Annex 1).

4. Can a project focus solely on housing, mobility, etc.?

Yes. A project can focus on a single area, only when it demonstrates an integrated approach and cross-cutting effects on the habitability of the historic center. It is essential to demonstrate a coherent logic of transformation and avoid isolated or one-off interventions.

5. Does the project have to cover all four Strategic Axes?

Not all axes need to be covered in the same proportion, but it must demonstrate a transversality and integration with the principles of habitability promoted by the OWHC.

6. Can a public policy or program be submitted?

Yes. Projects, programs, or public policies that meet the established criteria are accepted.

7. Can it be a project executed by another entity?

Yes, only if the city has assumed leadership and/or coordination of the project and can demonstrate this in the financial plan and the verification means.

III. SCALE, IMPACT, AND CATALYST EFFECT

8. Does the scale of the project influence the evaluation?

No. The Prize does not distinguish between the biggest project or the one with the largest budget; it evaluates its relevance, coherence, and ability to generate a structural impact on the habitability of the historic center. Therefore, investment amounts are not requested.

9. What is meant by "catalytic effect"?

It refers to the project's ability to activate or accelerate transformation processes that are prolonged over time, strengthen coordination between actors, and promote new dynamics beyond the site of intervention.

10. What does it mean to mobilize heritage as an active resource?

It means that heritage is not limited to conservation, but actively contributes to improving quality of life, housing, public space, mobility, the local economy, governance, among other things.

IV. EVIDENCE AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

11. Is it mandatory to have indicators?

No. It is not mandatory to have a formal system of indicators. However, the application must present a monitoring framework that allows for the assessment of the achievement of objectives.

12. What is meant by " verification means"?

These are the pieces of evidence that prove that the project was implemented and produced results. They may include official documents, technical reports, available data, before/after photographs, minutes, evaluations, administrative records, or other relevant evidence. The key is to demonstrate consistency between objectives and results.

The verification means must demonstrate both the execution (what was implemented) and the effects or impacts (what changed). For execution: before/after photos, minutes, decrees, guidelines adopted, commissioning, administrative records. For impacts: simple indicators (use of space, accessibility, perceived safety, mobility, residential occupancy, participation), surveys, monitoring, or testimonials. It is recommended to include a few solid elements and avoid generic lists without support.

13. What kind of results are expected?

Concrete, verifiable, and lasting results, clearly linked to defined objectives and supported by evidence.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

14. Should we indicate the total amount of the project?

No. Amounts should not be indicated.

15. How should the financial package be presented?

The diversification of funding sources (city, other public entities, private sector, cooperation, etc.) should be indicated. It is sufficient to present an approximate percentage distribution, without detailing figures. In addition, you should specify which actors financed or co-financed the project (city, other public entities, private sector, cooperation, foundations, etc.) and, if applicable, briefly mention the mechanism (fund, reinvestment of income, inter-institutional agreement, public-private partnership, etc.). Avoid detailed budgets or amounts: what matters is showing diversification, consistency, and implementation capacity.

VI. APPLICATION FILE

16. What documents should be submitted?

- Project explanatory document (maximum 5 pages)
- Executive summary (maximum 1 page, text only)
- Graphic material (.zip folder with up to 10 images)

17. Does the executive summary need to be signed?

Yes, it must be signed by the mayor (by letter or signature on the corresponding document).

18. Can additional attachments, links, or videos be sent?

No. Only the documents expressly requested in the rules will be evaluated.

19. Can images only be included within the document?

No. If they are included in the explanatory document, they must also be sent in the .zip folder in accordance with the technical specifications.

VII. PROCESS AND EVALUATION

20. How will the applications be evaluated?

The jury will evaluate the projects based on the criteria established in the technical document, considering the information provided by the candidate cities.

21. Are aesthetic aspects evaluated?

No. The jury will not comment on aesthetic or formal aspects unrelated to the stated objectives.

22. When will the candidate cities be announced?

On June 11, 2026.

23. When will the winning city be notified?

In mid-August 2026, through confidential communication.

24. When will the result be announced publicly?

During a highlight of the 18th OWHC World Congress (Marrakech, October 26–29, 2026), where there will also be a space to present the project.

25. Can there be honorable mentions?

Yes. The jury may award up to two (2) honorable mentions.

VIII. PREVIOUS ENTRIES

26. Can a city that has already participated reapply?

Yes. It may submit a new project or a new phase with substantial progress.

27. Can a city that won in a previous edition apply again?

Yes, if it submits a different project.

ANNEX 1: COMPARATIVE TABLE: CLASSIC/STRUCTURAL PROJECTS

Classic (or sectoral) project	Structural (and cross-cutting) project
Sectoral (one thematic area/single lever)/initiative or prerogative of a single service	Transversality (mobilizes several levers)
One-off / limited / scattered intervention	Contributes to activating complex dynamics / exemplary or suggestive for subsequent actions / knock-on effect (marks a turning point)
Focused intervention logic (response to a specific need)	Transformation logic (response to a global vision and strategy of habitability)
Effects mainly localized	Impacts beyond the intervention site and at other scales (beyond the intervention perimeter)
Defined primarily by the financial resources available, which determine its scope and duration of implementation	Defined primarily by the objective pursued (within the framework of a global strategy), and then construction of the financial package with adequate resources (budget, partnerships, phases)
Actions carried out separately, without coordination/without explicit synergies	Coherent and integrated action (coordination of public policies, services, and stakeholders involved)
Included in sectoral plans	Part of an overall urban strategy
Commitments necessary to be able to carry out despite the restrictions of the historic center / results of negotiations	Historic center as a living part of an urban complex
Short-term impact, linked to the implementation of the project / may limit more interesting subsequent actions / lack of global vision	Lasting effects, monitored and documented over time (objectives and indicators), allowing for adjustments
Little replication effect	Catalyst: triggers other interventions on a larger scale
Heritage approached mainly from the perspective of conservation/restoration or as a showcase (facadism, replication, etc.)	Heritage mobilized as an active resource at the service of urban life / respect for authenticity and preservation of heritage values
Pilot projects often led by a single service/field	Steering shared between several departments/services

ANNEX 2: PRINCIPLES OF HABITABILITY

The *principles of habitability* determine the operational dimension of the *New Urban Project*:

- **Promoting heritage as a driver of innovation:** considering the adaptability of built and intangible heritage as an essential resource for imagining the urban uses and forms of tomorrow.
- **Design the city in an integrated manner:** promote cross-cutting projects that bring together the heritage, social, ecological, economic, and cultural dimensions included in the Strategic Axes.
- **Make the city a place to live above all else:** preserve and reinforce the residential function as the main objective of historic centers, while ensuring social and generational diversity.
- **Making public space a common good**: providing high-quality, accessible, comfortable, and inclusive public spaces that foster social ties, meet contemporary needs, and respect urban heritage.
- **Strengthen environmental sustainability**: integrate nature, manage resources sustainably, and reinforce climate adaptation.
- **Promoting participatory governance**: encouraging the active participation of residents, local stakeholders, and institutions in order to strengthen the sense of belonging and the legitimacy of decisions.
- **Stimulate an economy that benefits local life**: create economic attractions based on respect for the territory, highlight local knowledge, and create tangible benefits for the local community.