Esri User Conference 2017 - Map Gallery Submissions

If you would like to be considered for a Map Gallery Award, please review this document for Judging Process Criteria to learn how entries are evaluated, and Map Gallery Categories to determine where your map product best fits.

Judging Process Criteria

Each map entry will be judged on how it fulfills the design objectives for its designated category (please be sure to read the additional requirements of your selected category).

Unless complying with a size is a requirement for a particular category, all printed wall maps must be legible at the normal viewing distance for the Map Gallery, which is approximately three to six feet (one to two meters).

Esri International User Conference Map Gallery judges will evaluate entries in all categories using the following general criteria as well as the usability and appeal of additional online formats.

Online entries require a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that links to the online digital map. Printed maps or posters that accompany digital maps will be displayed on the panel(s) reserved during the submission process. Mobile devices and reserved judging desktops will be used to view your online map entries.

- Originality of subject(s) or approach to solution
- A derived work – should state so, in which case the previous designer living or not, should have a citation to original. (e.g. Designed after Marinus of Tyre, Isles of the Blessed)
- General cartographic and presentation quality
- Elegant, professional, and presentational design (i.e., an aesthetically pleasant combination of art and science)
- Clear and appropriate map or presentation title
- Content that's relevant to its title (addresses the subject, logical classifications, proper level of detail)
- GIS mapping subject or theme being well communicated
- Appropriateness for the selected entry category
- Important and engaging subject or topic of scientific and practical value
- Effective use of Esri software (i.e., GIS tools and methods being clearly acknowledged or indicated)
- Effective layout (logical and efficient arrangement)
- Wall map symbols and text that are legible at normal viewing distance of approximately three to six feet (one to two meters)
- Effective use of symbology and color (meaningful, appropriately classified, balanced, distinguishable)
- Clarity and placement of text (correct labels or explanation of features and classifications)
- Appropriate use of cartographic elements (legend, scale, north arrows, graticules, projection, index map, etc.)
- Only necessary elements being included in presentation
- Clear descriptions of analysis method(s) and stated results or conclusions
- For print media: output quality (appropriate map size, print resolution, stable media)

Map Gallery Categories

Analytic Presentation

This category is open for work that evidences analysis of a stated problem or issue. It should identify and communicate the problem or issue using maps and additional graphics but with a focus on the methods, techniques and processes used in the analyses. Entries to this category can be printed or submitted as online products. For online submissions, this category requires a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that is a live link to the online digital map. The work should identify the relevance of the problem-solving methods to the analytical task at hand and judges will also be looking for evidence of sound logic and a strong systematic approach to the work.

Small Format Printed Map

This category is open for maps that are not larger than 11in by 17in (or A3, 297mm x 420mm). This is a printed map category and the map can be printed either on a suitable printer (laser, dye, etc.) or on a professional printing press. The map should demonstrate that the final size is suitable and adequate for the theme being mapped. Its layout should be well composed, balanced and it should efficiently communicate its intended message. The judges will also be looking for clarity and brevity in the map and the way in which the design supports effective succinct cognitive processing of the information.

Large Format Printed Map

This category is for maps that are larger than 11in by 17in (or A3, 297mm x 420mm). This is a printed map category and the map can be printed either on a suitable printer or on a professional printing press. The map should demonstrate that the final size is suitable and adequate for the theme being mapped and designed to be viewed on display in a large gallery space. Layout should be well composed and balanced and efficiently communicate its intended message. The judges will also be looking for an appropriate level and density of detail to support the final size and intended message. The map should also clearly support effective cognitive processing of the information.

Map Series or Atlas

Entries to this category must consist of a series of maps, no single one of the series of maps is to be larger than 21 in. (54 cm) wide if printed professionally on a traditional printing press. Optionally, this category also supports online entries where, for instance, a series of maps is used to explore a unified theme or where the atlas itself is designed and produced entirely online. For online submissions, this category requires a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that is a live link to the online digital map. In addition to the design of individual maps, the judges will be looking for the overall appearance and continuity of the product as a collection of maps. There should be a consistency in approach and a unifying design that creates a distinctively excellent product for a central, coordinated theme.

Instructional Map

This category is available to reward work whose intended focus is to educate while incorporating GIS. This may be presented as a poster or set of instructional materials but which communicate a concept or set of related concepts on an identified theme. The judges will be looking for evidence that the design and flow of the submission follows a strong logic from which the intended user could learn or replicate, perhaps through the use of step-by-step instructions and explanatory text in addition to maps, diagrams and illustrations. The type and style of the learning materials should be clearly designed for the target age group or user. The text on the poster should be in coordination with the imagery and support the concept or add clarification as how to utilize the instructions. This category may comprise a printed or online product or a combination of both. For online submissions, this category requires a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that is a live link to the online digital map.

Student Map (3 categories)

There are three sub-categories to this award (sub category ONE) for children age up to 12, (sub category TWO) for ages 13-18, and (sub category THREE) for those in post-secondary education (including University and Postgraduate programs). Your work can either be printed or an online product. For online submissions, this category requires a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that is a live link to the online digital map. The submission can be from either an individual or from a group. For instance, your work may be a class-based project in which a number of students participated. Your submission should be map-based and judges will be looking for the quality of the submission relative to the age group and appropriate expectations. The submissions should include details of all students/teachers/supervisors/leaders who participated and provide contact details for the educational institution (a valid contact name and email) and the name of the teacher or supervisor. The teacher(s) or supervisor(s) role should be one of mentoring and overseeing the creation of the map only.

Story Map

This category is intended to support those whose work is created in ArcGIS Online and shared through the use of either a standard or customized Esri Story Map template. It is an online entry category. Judges will be looking for the map(s) to make use of an appropriate Esri Story Map template and for the way in which the map content has been integrated, customized, and displayed. While the design of a Esri template means that the overall look and feel is largely pre-determined, judges will be looking for maps that exceed the potential of the default settings of templates. Crucially, the map should share a story and provide clear navigation for the user. There is no specific requirement for customization, but where customization is part of the online entry, judges will be looking for the work to remain coherent and for form to match function in overall design terms. This category requires a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that is a live link to the online digital map.

Use of an API in a Map

This category is for maps that make specific use of an Esri mapping API (not limited to Java script) as a core component in the design and publication of a standalone online map product. It is an entirely online entry category. Judges will access your design via mobile devices and reserved desktops. Judges will be looking for the overall quality of the map(s) to reflect the intended purpose of the overall product as well as the extent to which the map has used, developed or demonstrably customized the functionality available through the API. The cartographic approach will be considered as much as the extent to which the technology has been used successfully and judges will look for the design and application to work harmoniously. This category requires a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that is a live link to the online digital map.

ArcGIS Pro

This category is for work designed and published using ArcGIS Pro as the predominant method of production. Maps submitted for this award can either be printed or online (published to ArcGIS Online from ArcGIS Pro). The entry must be accompanied by a short description explaining how ArcGIS Pro was used and, specifically, what techniques you were able to harness. The judges will be looking to recognize work that has clearly taken advantage of and demonstrated the capabilities of ArcGIS Pro as part of the overall quality of the submission. For online submissions, this category requires a printed representation of your map and either a QR code or a URL that is a live link to the online digital map.

Most Unique

This category is designed to support work of an innovative or experimental nature. It can be a print or online submission but may also be comprised of other artistic formats. The work is expected to be distinct and to show the mapped theme in a graphically interesting, unique or provocative way. If it uses a previously designed item or found art, then appropriate written credits must be included. As an example, this would be a statement from the current map author that his/her work is in the style of or it is a work that is "after another named artist/author". The judges will look for excellence in overall design and a creative combination of the art and science of cartography. The map(s) should go beyond conventional cartographic boundaries and provide an exciting visual take on the theme being mapped. This is the category for you to show us how you've gone beyond the defaults!

Best Cartography (global category)

This category applies to all aspects and application of cartography, thus the award is presented to the Esri Map Gallery entry that, in the considered opinion of the judges, displays the very best cartography. It is the award reserved for excellence – entries in all categories above are automatically included in the designation. This will be a map or series of maps that goes beyond the basics and exhibits excellence in all aspects of cartographic design and production. Winning entries from each of the other judged categories will be considered as part of the judging process but judges reserve the right to select from any of the maps in the gallery to be recognized as supreme.