



AICC 2019 Independent Packaging Design Competition

Held in conjunction with AICC's 2019 Annual Meeting

September 16-18, 2019

Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Rules, Regulations & Important Information

Please review these documents carefully before completing your entry forms online.

Competition Rules & Regulations

Once you have completed the competition entry process online, you must ship samples of your entries. You must include the following:

- 1. Completed entry forms for EACH entry you are submitting**
- 2. Check (if paying by check)**
- 3. Electronic file images of each entry in .jpeg format.**

(Please note that once you submit your entries on the package design website you are acknowledging that you have read, understand and adhere to all rules and regulations of the competition).

The deadline for submitting entries online is Friday, August 16, 2019.

When shipping your entries to our designated competition warehouse, you are required to use the competition's official shipping label, which can be downloaded and printed from AICC's website at www.aiccbox.org/pdc.

If you have any questions about the competition or the entry process, please contact AICC Headquarters toll-free at (877) 836-2422 and ask for Laura Mihalick or Cindy Huber.

Thank you for your interest in entering this year's competition and good luck!

AICC 2019 INDEPENDENT PACKAGING DESIGN COMPETITION

Since 1981, the AICC, the Independent Packaging Association has been proud to recognize, showcase and reward independents who have met and exceeded their customers' expectations of their packaging designs and displays in its package design competition.

Each year, independents from around the world display increasing sophistication and skill in the use of graphics and artistic design as well as innovative, highly technical, and environmental applications of corrugated in the marketplace. This same sophistication and skill is exhibited in the overwhelming number of entries AICC receives during each competition in which independents compete for first, second, third and honorable mention as well as to become the Industry's People's Choice and take home the prestigious Judges' Choice Awards.

The competition features categories for companies to enter their best corrugated, folding carton, or rigid box designs into the competition. The competition requires companies to provide a written description of the entry, production and manufacturing details, and a sample of the actual entry.

Entries are judged on location at the AICC Annual Meeting by a panel of industry experts from different segments of the industry using the criteria established by the AICC Packaging Design Competition Committee. During the judging process, AICC judges place heavy emphasis on an entry's written description in the belief that the details included in this description often provide important background information about the entry such as the customer's goals for the project and how the box plant team determined the best course of action to meet and/or exceed those goals.

During the 2019 Annual Meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to view the competition exhibit, as well as, place their vote for the People's Choice Award. This award was established in 1999 to recognize the top entry as determined by visitors to the exhibit.

The winners will be announced during the awards happy hour on the evening of Tuesday, September 17.

COMPETITION AWARDS

Awards are presented to winners in each of the categories as well as for the overall competition.

Within Each Competition Category (Place Awards): First Place, Second Place, Third Place, and/or Honorable Mention will be awarded for each category receiving sufficient entries. AICC will award a first place in all categories that receive entries and that qualify by meeting the criteria *. All winners (entries) will receive an engraved plaque following the competition. Winners also have the opportunity to purchase additional copies of the competition plaques/awards to share with customers and suppliers who participated in making the entry a winner. **Winners will be announced during the happy hour awards reception on Tuesday, September 17 between 5:30 pm-7:00 pm at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.**

* AICC requires judges to select winners in all categories which receive entries that meet criteria. Honorable mention will be at discretion of the judges. Judges' Choice will be chosen from only first place entries in categories eligible for Judges' Choice.

Overall Competition Awards

- **People's Choice Award**
The people have spoken! In 1999, we started asking AICC's national meeting attendees what entry they would choose to win and there started the People's Choice Award! During the AICC 2019 Annual Meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to cast their vote for their favorite entry.
- **Judges' Choice Award**
Aptly renamed the Judges' Choice Awards in 1999, are the four best entries in structural and graphics corrugated categories, and folding carton and rigid box categories. These will be chosen from only first place entries that are eligible for Judges' Choice.

ENTERING THE COMPETITION

You can enter in the AICC Independent Packaging Design Competition via the online competition registration site or the paper form, both found at www.aiccbox.org/pdc.

Before You Start Entering Your Entry's Information

- **Please read the complete AICC Competition Rules & Regulations.** This contains all of the important information that you'll need to know to successfully submit your entries into the competition including information on eligibility, entry fees, shipping, set-up procedures, and much more. It will only take a small amount of time to review and it could mean the difference between winning and disqualification.
- **Please read each of the competition category descriptions very carefully.** It is important for you to understand that different judging criteria exists for each category, so it is critical that your entries meet the criteria for the specific category you have entered it into. The judges are given the authority to re-categorize or disqualify an entry during the judging process (no refunds for entries that are disqualified).
- **Remember to provide all of the requested and required information.** Each piece of information you provide helps the judges to better evaluate your entry. Missing information will not help your entry and may lead to disqualification. If you do not know the answer to a question, or believe the question does not apply to your entry, enter "NA" into the field or choose "NA" from the drop down box.

Complete Entries Must Include:

- Full payment (credit card or check accepted)
- Completed Entry Forms for each entry
- A color digital/electronic image for each entry

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

Total entry fee payments must be made when you submit your online entry forms to AICC. AICC will not accept entries without complete payments.

Entry Fees

Entries/AICC Member: Fees are \$250 for the first entry and all subsequent entries are free. We encourage you to submit more than one entry!

Additional Services

Competition entries that require electric, water, and/or additional/special lighting (i.e., spotlights, pin lights), will be charged accordingly for these services. Entrants requesting or requiring these services are responsible for all costs incurred and making the arrangements at the Encore Las Vegas hotel. If you have an entry that will need additional requirements, please contact Laura Mihalick at Lmihalick@aiccbox.org to make arrangements.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

Date and times are subject to change. Please check with AICC Headquarters for the most up-to-date schedule.

Friday, August 16, 2019: Deadline for Entry Submissions

All entry forms must be submitted by **5:00 pm (EST)** on Friday, August 16. All entries must also be paid in full by either credit card or check in USD.

***coming soon* Deadline for Display Entries**

Entries must be shipped to our designated competition warehouse using the competition's official shipping labels. Shipping labels and instructions coming soon.

Saturday, September 14-Sunday, September 15, 2019: Competition Set-Up

Competition set-up will take place at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel from **12:00 pm—5:00 pm (EST)** on Saturday, September 14 and from **8:00 am—12:00 pm (EST)** on Sunday, September 15. If you will be coming to assist with the set-up of your entries, please alert Laura Mihalick at Lmihalick@aiccbox.org.

All entries must be assembled and ready for judging by **12:00 pm (EST)** on Sunday, September 15. **After 12:00 pm you can come check on your entry until 5:00 pm.**

Monday, September 16, 2017: Competition Judging

Competition judging begins at **9:00 am on Monday, September 16**. No one except for judges and AICC staff will be allowed on the competition floor while judging is taking place.

Tuesday, September 17, 2017: Competition Open for Viewing & Voting for People's Choice

The competition room will be open from 8:00 am—5:00 pm for viewing and voting by AICC member's for the People's Choice award. Voting will continue during the happy hour reception from 5:30-7:00pm.

Tuesday, September 17, 2017: Competition Awards Happy Hour Reception

The reception will take place from from 5:30 pm—7:00 pm. Winners will be announced in all categories and winning entries will receive ribbons designating the award.

Wednesday, September 18, 2017: Competition Open for Viewing

The competition room will be open for public viewing from 8:00 am—10:00 am.

Wednesday, September 18, 2017: Competition Closes / Disassembly

The competition room will close at 10:00 am (EST). **By 12:00 pm (EST)**, all entries must be retrieved and packaged for shipment. Entries not prepared for shipment will be destroyed. Making return shipment arrangements and all costs involved are the responsibility of the entrant. AICC is not responsible for the return of any entries or product.

ENTRY SLIDES & IMAGES

AICC's competition requires entrants to include color images of all entries that will be used for publicity and publishing purposes. Following are the guidelines for submitting the images:

- All entries are required to have a color electronic image file for each entry that has been submitted into the Competition.
- If possible, please do not include your company name in the image.
- You are strongly encouraged to have the electronic image professionally taken to ensure outstanding and high-quality publication quality. A fuzzy image will not portray your entry at its best no matter how great it is.

Electronic/Digital Images:

- Please note that only .GIF and .JPEG files will be accepted.
- All electronic image file sizes should be 200 dpi or less.

ELIGIBILITY

- The AICC 2019 Independent Packaging Design Competition is open to all AICC member corrugators plants, sheet plants, folding carton and rigid box plants.
- Associate members, corrugated industry suppliers, advertising companies are NOT eligible to enter the competition.
- For an entry to be eligible for the 2019 competition, it must have been designed and manufactured as part of a production run between September 2017 and September 2019. Test and sample runs are ineligible to compete. An exception to the production run rule is Category 12: Corrugated Art & Design in which the entry cannot be part of a production run.
- The entry must not have won an award for the company in a prior AICC packaging design competition.
- You are encouraged to enter as many entries and categories as possible. An entry can be entered in multiple categories if it is applicable to each category and meets each category's specific judging criteria.
- Online entry submissions must be completed by the close of business on **Friday, August 16 at 5:00 pm (EST)** in order to be eligible to compete in the competition.

SHIPPING YOUR ENTRIES

This information will be populated soon.

RETURNING YOUR ENTRIES

AICC will not accept responsibility for any part of the return shipment process including, but not limited to, paperwork requirements, packaging materials, payment, or storage. If you would like to have your entry returned to you, please note that on your entry form and let an AICC staff person know on-site for proper instruction. You will be required to pack-up and ready your entry to be returned. Entries not prepared for shipment by **12:00 PM (EST) on Wednesday, September 18** will be destroyed.

JUDGING

The competition entries are judged by an expert panel of members who come from different segments of the packaging industry, including suppliers, boxmakers, and academia. Note that judges can re-categorize or disqualify entries.

On the AICC Competition show floor, our teams of judges will evaluate the competition entries using:

- The judging criteria noted in the category descriptions or overall judging criteria
- The entry information
- The written description you submitted online
- The actual packaging design entry display

The written description of your entries is extremely important and should relay, in detail, what your customer's requirements were for the project, how you met them, and what processes you used to achieve the final product. When writing your description, you should also take into account the category's judging criteria noted in the category description or the overall criteria.

LIABILITY & SECURITY

Entrants are responsible for the security of their entries, products and other items of value that may be included with or as part of your entries.

AICC will NOT be held responsible for product or items shipped with entries during set-up, while on the competition floor, and during the tear down period.

All property shipped to and/or from the competition is at the sole risk of the entrant. Each entrant shall obtain on his or her own behalf such insurance as he or she deems necessary to protect against loss or damage and agrees to indemnify AICC against, and hold it harmless from, any liability whatsoever resulting from participation in the competition by the entrant or any person thereon with the consent of the entrant, whether or not caused by the negligence or fault of AICC or any of its agents.

While every reasonable precaution will be taken to protect persons and property during set-up, exhibit, and tear down periods, neither the representatives of AICC, service contractors, or management of the exhibit facility are responsible for loss or damage to an entrant's property through theft, fire, accident, or any other cause or for any injury that might occur to show visitors, entrants or their agents, employees or others.

Entrants must comply with the safety, fire and health ordinances regarding the installation of the competition entries.

For questions on the competition please contact Laura Mihalick at Lmihalick@aiccbox.org.