luminaire
design
competition
IES LOS ANGELES

# Lesley Wheel Memorial Award (2025/2026)

Luminaire Design Competition

***The Challenge***

Design and build a table lamp that is inspired by ***The natural environment of Southern California***. The table lamp needs to be fully functional and built with the LED light source. The light source will be provided in a kit for you. See info below.

***Award***
A total of up to *$10,000* will be awarded to the top submissions. Judging will be by well-known lighting/product designers and architects in the community.

***The Kit***
The lighting manufacturer Tivoli has generously donated kits this year. The LED tapelight is RGBW (color changing!). Please see the QR code below for instructions on assembling the kit:

QR Code for How-To assemble Kit:

QR Code for Tivoli Cutsheet:

***Tabletop Lamp Requirements:***

- Size restrictions: prototype fixtures are not restricted on size but must be able to be easily transported.
- Tabletop lamp must utilize the power source and dimmer from provided kit.
- Students can use any additional materials to create their design, but it should NOT be repurposed from an existing light fixture.
- LED tape light is for dry interior use - do not include moisture or liquid in your design.
- Tabletop lamps are not intended to operate for extended periods of time. They will be illuminated briefly for judging. Still, be careful with your material selections – these light sources may be hot enough to melt some materials.
- IMPORTANT NOTE: **Be sure to unplug power source before cutting LED tape light**

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***Additional Material for Submission***

In addition to the Tabletop Lamp, each entry must include the following to be considered for judging:

- Technical elevation drawing of the Tabletop Lamp design
- Final photos of the Tabletop Lamp. Tabletop Lamp to be lit up in photos. (MAXIMUM (2) photos)
- Design Statement (MAXIMUM 200 words)

There will be a final submission portal on the website for uploading these supporting documents.

***Judging Criteria***

Each entry will be judged on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Successful execution in creating a tabletop lamp, integrating the provided light source
- Appropriate material selection
- Clarity of Design Statement and elevation drawings

***Timeline***

**December 2025** – Competition for 2026 launches. Online registration opens on IESLA website

**January 1 – April 3, 2026** - Luminaire Kits will be dropped off at local universities

**January 1 - May 2026** - Let your imagination run wild! Design, design, design!

**May 11-12, 2026** - Submissions due. Drop off location TBD

**Judging Event - May 13, 2026** - Final Judging event at the Helms Bakery in Culver City.

**June 26, 2026** - Award winners invited to Lumen West Awards (Southern California Illumination Awards).

Location: Skirball Cultural Center

***Registration***

To Register, visit our website at www.losangeles.ies.org. Under the 'Students' tab, you will find the section titled 'IESLA Luminaire Design Competition.'

There is no charge to register. All registration forms must be submitted by **April 3, 2026**. The competition is open to all enrolled students in graduate, 4-year, and 2-year programs in Los Angeles County, Orange County, and the Inland Empire.

Thank you for your interest in the IESLA Luminaire Design Competition – Lesley Wheel Memorial Award for 2025-2026! Please reach out to Competition Chairperson Colleen Peach (colleenpeach.cp@gmail.com) or Duncan Johns (duncan@seanoconnorlighting.com) with any questions.