Nominating information for Covington beautification awards:

The Covington Neighborhood Collaborative, the Old Seminary Square Neighborhood Association and some former members of the now defunct Friends of Covington are reviving the annual Covington Beautification Awards program that was launched by the Friends group more than 30 years ago. The following information is being gathered in an effort to recognize some 20 property owners – residential or commercial -- in the city in 2023. It would be helpful if people who make nominations would provide answers to all or at least most of the following questions:

1. Location of property: street number and, if possible, neighborhood: 1839 Euclid, church sits at corner of Euclid and 19th, directly across from where Howell Street meets 19th in the Peaselburg neighborhood.
2. Name(s) of property owner or tenant(s) who are responsible for the property: The property is owned by the Diocese of Covington with Fr. Dan Schomaker serving as Pastor. The campus includes the church, elementary school, gymnasium, rectory, and parish office. Fr. Dan, as Pastor, is responsible for the property and has led the substantial restoration project since his arrival six years ago. There are approximately 400 families registered with the parish and a substantial portion of the restoration project was funded by capital campaign contribution from the parish family and neighboring communities.
3. Contact information for the person who has nominated the property as well as for the person or persons who would be a recipient of the award: Nomination submitted by Pete Nerone, peter.nerone@gmail.com, 513-490-8259, 1809 Holman Street, Covington KY 41014.
4. If possible, some information about the person or persons who might be an award recipient. (For example: Mom, dad, two kids and a pooch. Mom teaches school, dad is a firefighter, Bill’s in the fifth grade..., etc.): Fr. Dan, as the pastor and person mostly responsible for the restoration would accept the award and might include the school Principal, Kathy Nienaber, and Fr. Jordan Hainsey of the Diocese archives. Fr. Jordan shepherded much of the artistic work on the interior including procuring items from other churches, restoration of the artwork, frescos, and murals, and commissioning of a new mural above the main alter.
5. Length of time that the owner or tenant has lived at the address: The parish is roughly 153 years old with the church in the current location for more than 100 years. Fr. Dan has been pastor for six years.
6. If possible, information about the architectural style of the home or commercial structure: The church is unique in the area being built with dark red bricks. The roof and bell tower can be seen and easily recognized from many hilltops in northern Kentucky. The interior seating is sloped toward the alter. The wide expanse of the interior does not have interior pillars. The property has been the subject of some excellent news articles written by prominent local historians.
7. If possible, information about the age of the building: The building is just over 100 years old.
8. What sort of work has been done on the exterior of the building in recent years that makes it worthy of a beautification award?: In recent years the building has had some skillful tuckpointing, restoration of the stained-glass windows, restoration of the entry doors, new HVAC, restoration of the three bells and ringing devices in the bell tower, a welcoming statue of the patron saint, Augustine at the corner of 19th and Euclid, and exterior accent lighting.
9. What sort of work has been completed in the yard or garden or in the overall landscaping treatment that makes it a good candidate for an award?: Fr. Dan’s green thumb and parish volunteers maintain the flower gardens and planters. It compliments the planters and public gardens in the neighborhood maintained by members of the Friends of Peaselburg.
10. Is there any information available about previous owners who might have been noteworthy or prominent in the city or the state?: Please refer to the attached history articles.
11. Are there any anecdotal stories about the property that might distinguish it in any way from other properties in the city? The campus has been the site of the local Independence Day Parade for the past fifty years.
12. Very broadly, is there anything that might make the property “special” in any way?: Many past and current residents see many key events in their personal and family history as being connected to St Augustine parish.
13. Question for the prospective award winner: Why is it important to take care of the exterior of your property? The exterior and interior complement each other and make a clear statement to the observer that caring for oneself or one’s own property is a sign to others that we care about our community.
14. Is there any evidence that taking care of your property influences others to do the same? The neighborhood of Peaselburg has enjoyed a recent renaissance. Each property steward that has stepped forward to improve a property has clearly inspired others to follow suit.
15. What are the advantages of living in the City of Covington? It’s the best place to live in Greater Cincinnati despite the obvious fact that Kentucky and Ohio ignore us.
16. What are the disadvantages of living in the City of Covington? As stated in 15 above, it’s the best place to live in Greater Cincinnati despite the obvious fact that Kentucky and Ohio ignore us.