



ALBERTA MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Leadership Awards

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LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Alberta Museums Association Leadership Awards recognize exceptional work and innovative thinking in the museum community through the collection, research, preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of the world around us, which contribute to the social, cultural, and educational fabric of Alberta.

The Leadership Awards Program is grounded in the belief that excellence, innovation, and creativity form the foundation of outstanding museums.

Principles of the Alberta Museums Association Leadership Awards

The following principles underpin the entire Leadership Awards Program and should be considered in each of the categories.

LEADER

Any person or organization, regardless of stature or position, who inspires those around them through their vision, determination, and endless passion.

ACCESSIBILITY

Must be physically and intellectually available to everyone.

AGENTS OF CHANGE

The result of an effort by individuals or organizations to engender change that causes a shift for the greater good of communities, citizens, or society.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

People and organizations behave ethically and with concern for social, cultural, economic, and environmental issues in their communities and beyond.

INNOVATION

The blend of risk-taking plus creativity that results in new ways of thinking, working, and being, for the betterment of institutions and communities.

Award Categories

ENGAGEMENT – Cultivating Museum and Community Interaction

Nominees in this category are continually searching for new and innovative ways to engage the public with culture. They see museums as a fundamental part of society – as something to be accessed and embraced by everyone. Nominees lend their space and ideas to engaging programming and other activities that take museums outside their traditional roles in society and encourage inclusive conversations. They create opportunities for reconciliation, hope, and healing. Nominees seek to connect people to museum collections in unusual and daring ways. They advocate for museums as evidenced through their everyday work. Nominees engage various communities to tell exceptional stories that could otherwise be overlooked. These initiatives provide meaningful experiences for Albertans to discover more about the stories of the people and cultures that define our history and shape our modern communities.

SUSTAINABILITY – Building Organizational Vibrancy

Nominees in this category work to integrate the Five Facets of Sustainability (cultural, health and well-being, environmental, financial, and social) into their museum practice. They implement best practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by supporting forward-thinking research, exhibits, conservation practices, and programming. They are seen as leaders due to their bold and inspiring work. Nominees actively lead and participate in community projects and programs that consider environmental and social issues and play an important role in creating a thriving museum sector, both now and far into the future.

EDUCATION – Facilitating a Culture of Inquiry

Nominees in this category are innovative in their approach to educational program development and delivery. They view education as a core function of the museum, which is reflected in their collections research and exhibit development. They inspire lifelong learning through participatory programming, interpretation, and artifact engagement, and reach out to diverse audiences and encourage people to think critically about the world around them. Nominees strive to make information accessible to a wide audience by considering the needs of different types of learners, using evaluation tools to understand community impact and refine their approach to programming, and providing opportunities for visitors to experience a sense of curiosity and wonder.

Leadership Awards Nomination

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

Potential nominees in all categories include:

- individuals
- institutions
- project teams

Nominees in all categories will:

- demonstrate leadership in museum practice and use their work to inspire their peers to do the same.
- be innovative in their approach to improving quality of life and creating value in their communities.

The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) welcomes submissions that span the depth and breadth of museum practice, including, but not limited to:

- collections management
- community engagement
- conservation
- curation
- education
- environmentalism
- exhibit design
- interpretation
- new media
- publications
- scholarly research
- visitor studies
- volunteer management

Nominees that recognize and explore ideas of accessibility, reconciliation, and inclusion are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Nomination Process

Any resident or institution of Alberta may nominate an individual, institution, or project team for an award. Nominators and nominees are not required to be members of the AMA and self-nominations are accepted.

All nominations will be reviewed by the Awards Selection Committee, which is comprised of Individual Members of the AMA. Adjudication is based on information provided by the nominator. Please carefully read the How-To Guide and include all required documentation.

In each category, a maximum of one recipient will be awarded each year. The Awards Selection Committee reserves the right not to award in all categories or to re-categorize nominations if it is determined that the criteria are more clearly met by another award category.

Posthumous nominations are not eligible. Incomplete nominations or nominations that do not comply with the nomination guidelines will not be considered by the Awards Selection Committee.

How-To Guide

This How-To Guide is designed to assist nominators in preparing a nomination that addresses the criteria that will be used by the Awards Selection Committee to evaluate the nominations.

Please visit museums.ab.ca to see a list of past recipients.

Engagement Award

Potential nominees include **individuals, institutions, or project teams.**

STEP 1: Review the Award Categories

Ensure that the nominee demonstrates excellence in museum leadership and practice in the chosen award category.

STEP 2: Provide a biography or organizational profile of the nominee (required)

The biography or organizational profile of the nominee provides background and context for the Awards Selection Committee and should not focus solely on the particular reason for nomination. The following must be addressed:

- Provide a brief biography or organizational profile of the nominee and their most recent activities and accomplishments. For institutions, this should include the mission and vision statements.
- What makes the nominee exceptional in their area of expertise?
- What impact has the nominee had on Alberta's heritage sector and their community?

STEP 3: Answer the following category-specific questions related to Engagement (required)

- How has the nominee created opportunities to engage and connect people with culture, museums, or museum collections in unusual and daring ways?
- How has the nominee reached out to new and diverse audiences?
- How has the nominee promoted museums and heritage as a valued and integral part of the community?
- How has the nominee assessed the impact their institution, program, or project has had on improving the quality of people's lives?

STEP 4: Solicit two letters of support (required)

The letters of support must place emphasis on instances where the nominee embodied the skills or initiatives outlined in the Engagement Award Category and clearly describe how the nominee has made an impact on the community or organization. Letters can be electronic files or scans of print documents. All letters must be genuine and submitted with the understanding that any part of it may be used for publicity or publication.

STEP 5: Supporting images (required - minimum of three images)

Images provide the Awards Selection Committee with a visual representation of the accomplishments of the nominee as it relates to the nomination. These images may be published. A minimum of three images must be submitted in high-quality digital format (minimum of 300dpi). TIF or JPG preferred.

STEP 6: Other supporting documents (optional)

Nominators may choose to supplement the information provided above with other documents (e.g., awards, newspaper articles). You may include one or more examples, but they must all be included in one electronic document. If you have other forms of supporting documentation that you would like to include, please contact the AMA.

STEP 7: Prepare and save all documents and images

All nomination documents and images must be saved as electronic files and be ready to upload. It is strongly recommended nominators prepare their responses to the questions in a separate document and paste responses into the nomination form.

[Click here to view past recipients.](#)

Sustainability Award

Potential nominees include **individuals, institutions, or project teams.**

STEP 1: Review the Award Categories

Ensure that the nominee demonstrates excellence in museum leadership and practice in the chosen award category.

STEP 2: Provide a biography or organizational profile of the nominee (required)

The biography or organizational profile of the nominee provides background and context for the Awards Selection Committee and should not focus solely on the particular reason for nomination. The following must be addressed:

- Provide a brief biography or organizational profile of the nominee and their most recent activities and accomplishments. For institutions, this should include the mission and vision statements.
- What makes the nominee exceptional in their area of expertise?
- What impact has the nominee had on Alberta's heritage sector and their community?

STEP 3: Answer the following category-specific questions related to Sustainability (required)

Click [here](#) to view the Sustainability Working Group Report.

- How has the nominee integrated one or more of the Five Facets of Sustainability into their museum practice (cultural, health and well-being, environmental, financial, and social)?
- How has the nominee adjusted their operational model to support long-term financial health and programmatic impact?
- How has the nominee supported exhibition development, programs, and research initiatives that are relevant to different community needs?
- How has the nominee encouraged inclusive solutions to community issues?

STEP 4: Solicit two letters of support (required)

The letters of support must place emphasis on instances where the nominee embodied the skills or initiatives outlined in the Sustainability Award Category and clearly describe how the nominee has made an impact on the community or organization. Letters can be electronic files or scans of print documents. All letters must be genuine and submitted with the understanding that any part of it may be used for publicity or publication.

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Education Award

Potential nominees include **individuals, institutions, or project teams.**

STEP 1: Review the Award Categories

Ensure that the nominee demonstrates excellence in museum leadership and practice in the chosen award category.

STEP 2: Provide a biography or organizational profile of the nominee (required)

The biography or organizational profile of the nominee provides background and context for the Awards Selection Committee and should not focus solely on the particular reason for nomination. The following must be addressed:

- Provide a brief biography or organizational profile of the nominee and their most recent activities and accomplishments. For institutions, this should include the mission and vision statements.
- What makes the nominee exceptional in their area of expertise?
- What impact has the nominee had on Alberta's heritage sector and their community?

STEP 3: Answer the following category-specific questions related to Education (required)

- How has the nominee strengthened the educational role of the museum in their community?
- How has the nominee demonstrated a commitment to accessible learning and engagement?
- How has the nominee inspired lifelong learning in visitors and new audiences?
- How has the nominee challenged their peers to increase knowledge and perspectives in their sector?

STEP 4: Solicit two letters of support (required)

The letters of support must place emphasis on instances where the nominee embodied the skills or initiatives outlined in the Education Award Category and clearly describe how the nominee has made an impact on the community or organization. Letters can be electronic files or scans of print documents. All letters must be genuine and submitted with the understanding that any part of it may be used for publicity or publication.

STEP 5: Supporting images (required - minimum of three images)

Images provide the Awards Selection Committee with a visual representation of the accomplishments of the nominee as it relates to the nomination. These images may be published. A minimum of three images must be submitted in high-quality digital format (minimum of 300dpi). TIF or JPG preferred.

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Nominators may choose to supplement the information provided above with other documents (e.g., awards, newspaper articles). You may include one or more examples, but they must all be included in one electronic document. If you have other forms of supporting documentation that you would like to include, please contact the AMA.

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HOW TO SUBMIT A LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION

The Leadership Awards Nomination Form is completed online and all supporting documents and images must be uploaded to the form and submitted in one step. Please review the online nomination form for the maximum word count in each field.

Click [here](#) to access the nomination form.

- You will need a computer with reliable Internet access.
- You must have an email address that is regularly accessed.
- Complete the nomination form by typing or pasting directly into the fields.
- Attach all nomination documents in Word or PDF format and images in either JPG or TIF files.
- Click "Submit."
- Once submitted, the nomination cannot be updated or edited.

You will receive a notice via email that your nomination has been received.

If you have any questions about the Leadership Awards Program or the nomination process, please contact awards@museums.ab.ca or 780.424.2626.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

PRESENTED BY THE AMA

Lieutenant Governor's Award

Candidates are nominated and selected by the AMA Secretariat and Board of Directors.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of an individual to Alberta's museum community. It commends their personal achievements in culture and heritage at the provincial, national, or international level.

**Recognizing extraordinary
contributions of individuals.**

Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility

The award recipient will be selected by members of the AMA and community stakeholders working in the area of social action and responsibility.

This award is the vision of Robert R. Janes, PhD, to support and further the work of museums that are solving community issues and promoting health and well-being. Together with the AMA, the ambitious goal is to create healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities by investing in initiatives that effect real social and environmental change.

Each year, a \$3,000 award will be provided to one Alberta museum that has worked with social service groups or community stakeholders to create positive change for a locally identified social or environmental issue. Funds are provided to support museums with proven track records in order to investigate what makes their programs work, scale up their activities, and create models that will allow their innovative work to be replicated elsewhere.

Supporting and furthering the work of museums that are solving community issues and promoting health and well-being.



For more information, please contact:

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