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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Millet & District Museum and Archives to Receive 2023 Leadership Award for Education from the Alberta Museums Association**

September 5, 2023

Edmonton, Alberta - The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is pleased to announce the Millet & District Museum and Archives as the recipient of the AMA's 2023 Leadership Award for Education, in recognition of their work to provide inclusive, responsive educational programming that works across generations to connect their community and promote heritage appreciation.

The Millet Museum centres their educational program delivery around the belief that museums exist to serve their communities and are most effective when responding to community needs. Their 2022 programs focussed on community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, providing affordable children's activities, mental health supports, and seniors' programming to lessen isolation and provide access to the digital world.

The Millet Museum partnered with local mental health support services on the Rural Mental Health Legacy project to reduce the stigma associated with mental health services and promote strategies for well-being. Through outreach at community events, public education work, and the creation of a permanent exhibit on Millet residents' mental health experiences, this project demonstrates the integral role museums play in honouring community stories, while building awareness and community inclusion.

The Millet Museum embraced the challenge of remaining relevant to communities by positioning themselves to meet essential community needs. The *Life in a Digital World* exhibit, exploring technological changes and changes in heritage preservation, was informed by participants in the museum's technology use courses with the Millet Seniors Club.

"Going to these programs has changed how we now deal with the 'new' world we live in," said Joanne Maynard, President of the Millet Seniors Club. "It has helped us to feel more comfortable with technology, more engaged, and able to know that we have the resources in our community to help us."

Nominations for the Leadership Awards are adjudicated by the Leadership Awards Committee, comprised of Individual Members of the AMA. The Award will be presented at an Awards Gala during the AMA's 2023 Fall Gathering, presented in partnership with Heritage Park Historical Village. The Millet & District Museum and Archives' achievements will be celebrated the Gala, taking place on Friday, September 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gasoline Alley Museum at Heritage Park in Calgary.



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## **Background**

The Leadership Award for Education recognizes those who facilitate a culture of inquiry. Recipients 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. They 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.

The AMA Leadership Awards recognize the exceptional work of Alberta museums and museum professionals in creating value, accessibility, and relevance in their communities. The Leadership Awards recognize excellence, innovation, and creativity in Alberta's museum community in three categories: Engagement, Education, and Sustainability. More information about the AMA Leadership Awards can be found on the [AMA website](#).

The Alberta Museums Association provides a variety of programs and services to over 500 museums and museum professionals across Alberta. Through its focus on community engagement, social responsibility, and sustainability, the AMA utilizes its funding, accreditation, awards, and professional development opportunities to support institutions in their vital role as leading contributors to the social, cultural, and educational fabric of Alberta. The AMA believes that museums can leverage their positions as trusted institutions to encourage respectful dialogue, provide educational opportunities, and bring awareness to some of society's most pressing issues.

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