



## 2019 AWARDS OF MERIT

MANY's **Awards of Merit** recognize outstanding, innovative programs, staff, and volunteers who have enriched New York State museums with new and remarkable projects. Any organization or individual can nominate an organization, person(s), or project **completed in 2018** at a museum, heritage, or cultural organization in the state of New York. Nomination of oneself or one's organization is permissible and encouraged. The Award of Merit winner receives discounted admission to the annual conference to help them accept the award in person.

### Awards of Merit Program Categories

#### **Anne Ackerson Innovation in Leadership Award**

This award recognizes a board member or staff leader that saw their organization through a critical challenge or significant opportunity in a creative, effective manner.

#### **The Rising Star Award**

This award recognizes a museum professional who is under the age of 35 and currently employed at a cultural institution. The Rising Star displays creative thinking and inspires institutional change.

#### **Individual Achievement**

This award recognizes devoted staff and volunteers who are instrumental in moving their organizations forward over a sustained period. Nominations are accepted for individuals or a team of staff and/or volunteers.

#### **Persistence Award**

This award rewards those who take risks and rise to the challenge of turning an unexpected challenge into an asset. Nominations should indicate the initial goal, what changed, and the resulting organization benefit.



#### **Excellence in Design Award Sponsored by NAME**

This award recognizes an exhibition (physical and/or digital) produced by a cultural institution that articulates content through engaging design and creates a satisfying visitor experience. Supporting materials must include installation documentation and audience feedback.

#### **Innovation in Collections Access Award**

This award recognizes exemplary projects (physical and/or digital) that broaden access, preserve, and catalog museum and heritage organization collections.

#### **Engaging Communities Award**

This award recognizes an organization's that uses creative methods to engage its community and build new audiences. Projects can include collections interpretation, exhibitions, lecture series, educational or public programs, focus groups, strategic planning, or other community engagement effort.

NB: For the Engaging Communities and Innovation in Collections Access awards *judges will consider making awards in the following four budget categories: Volunteer - \$100,000, \$100,000 - \$500,000, \$500,000 - \$1,000,000, and over \$1,000,000.*

## **Judging Criteria and Nomination Requirements**

Nominations will be reviewed on their own merit and will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, significance to the field, overall quality, and their unique or innovative character. Judges will consider the ways in which a project demonstrates the professional growth of an organization or individual, adherence to museum standards and best practices, level of risk and return on investment, and how the project enhanced the organization's mission.

### **Completed Nominations Include:**

1. Completed Awards of Merit Nomination Form
2. Nominated institution's mission statement and brief description of organization.
3. If you are nominating someone for an individual award, include brief bio.
4. 50 words or less description of project or individual achievement for promotional materials.
5. Project documentation must be submitted as attached pdfs and may include digital images, powerpoint presentation, audio or video, press releases, newspaper articles, reviews, or other promotional materials. For exhibition catalogs or other museum publications, please mail a hard copy to the MANY office at 265 River Street, Troy, NY 12180.
6. 500-750 word description that addresses the following as relevant to the category.
  - a. How the project or person's work benefited the public.
  - b. How the project enhanced the professionalism of the organization/individual.
  - c. How the project improved the organization's ability to serve the public.
  - d. How project an outstanding example in its category.
  - e. How is this organization/person best utilizing their resources?
  - f. How is this project relevant? Is it significant, innovative?
  - g. How was this project/person ambitious?

**To submit, email application form and supporting materials to  
[conference@nysmuseums.org](mailto:conference@nysmuseums.org) by November 30, 2018**