



## **Museums Change Lives Awards: guidelines**

### **About**

The Museums Change Lives Awards will recognise and highlight outstanding practice by UK museums delivering social impact. They will promote the best examples of work by museums and individuals that support communities and engage them with contemporary issues.

We will treat the first year of these awards as a pilot to gauge the effectiveness of the awards, with a view to expanding them in the future.

### **Eligibility**

You must be an institutional member of the Museums Association (MA) to apply for the Best Museums Change Lives Project, the Local Hero Award and Best Small Museum Project. Freelancers should enter projects with the backing of the museum that they have worked with.

You must be an individual member of the Museums Association to apply for the Radical Changemaker Award. This award is open to museum employees, freelancers and volunteers.

All projects under consideration must have been delivered during the period 1 September 2017 – 1 September 2018. Projects that started before the 1 September 2017 are eligible if delivery was ongoing during the period 1 September 2017 – 1 September 2018.

The Local Hero Award is only open to museums whose principle operations are in the region or nation that is hosting the MA Conference. This year, this award will only be eligible to museums based in Northern Ireland.

The Best Small Museum Award is only open to museums with an operating budget of less than £320,000 p.a. in the most recent completed financial year.

All entrants can self-nominate for the awards.

### **Judging panel and awards**

The panel will be made up of MA conference panel members, board members, MA staff and external partners. This year's panel will be:

- Maggie Appleton
- David Fleming
- Sharon Heal
- Dhikshana Pering

Judges may move entries between categories if deemed more suitable than for the category entered. Awards will be made solely at the discretion of the judges. No feedback or correspondence will be entered into about the results and the judges' decisions are final. All entrants will be notified as to whether they are shortlisted. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at the MA Conference on Thursday 8 November and will receive a framed certificate and award.



## **Categories and criteria**

There are three awards to be presented to institutions, and one to an individual. This section sets out the different awards and the criteria by which they will be judged.

### *Institutional Awards*

#### *Best Museums Change Lives Project*

This category will recognise the best practice in the field of social impact by a museum within the period of eligibility.

The judges will be looking for high quality innovative work that reflects one or more of the themes of Museums Change Lives – Promoting Health and Wellbeing; Creating Better Places; and/or Inspiring Engagement, Reflection and Debate.

Judges will look in particular for projects that:

- work in partnership with other organisations to deliver positive outcomes
- have a clear link to the museum's collection and/or venue
- support community cohesion and work in collaboration with local groups
- diversify the museum's audience
- enable audiences to take action or change behaviour in response to the work
- use research to underpin project delivery and outcomes.

#### *Local Hero Award*

This category will recognise the best example of work delivering social impact in the region or nation hosting the MA's Annual Conference. This year, the award is open to museums based in Northern Ireland.

The judges will be looking for high quality innovative work that is designed to deliver social impact. Applicants should show how their project reflects one or more of the themes of Museums Change Lives – Promoting Health and Wellbeing; Creating Better Places; and/or Inspiring Engagement, Reflection and Debate.

Museums applying for the Local Hero Award can also apply for any of the other institutional awards.

#### *Best Small Museum Project*

This category will recognise the best example of work delivering social impact. It is only open to museums with an operating budget of less than £320,000 p.a. in the most recent completed financial year.



The judges will be looking for high quality innovative work that is designed to deliver social impact. Applicants should show how their work reflects one or more of the themes of Museums Change Lives – Promoting Health and Wellbeing; Creating Better Places; and/or Inspiring Engagement, Reflection and Debate.

Museums applying for the Best Small Museum Project can also apply for any of the other institutional awards, subject to eligibility.

#### Individual Award

##### *Radical Changemaker Award*

This award will recognise the contribution of an individual who has advanced the cause of delivering social impact in one or more museums.

The judges will be looking for evidence of how the individual has actively contributed in the past year to the delivery of one or more of the themes of Museums Change Lives – Promoting Health and Wellbeing; Creating Better Places; and/or Inspiring Engagement, Reflection and Debate.

It is open to employees, freelancers or volunteers.

#### **How to apply**

*Institutional awards:* <https://r1.dotmailer-surveys.com/c72vbx8a-503awj90>

*Individual award:* <https://r1.dotmailer-surveys.com/c72vbx8a-523awq84>

Nominees for all categories will also be asked to submit a link to a website/blog with photos or further information about their submission.

#### **Application period and deadline for entries**

Applications will open on 3 September. The deadline for entries is 1730 on Monday 8 October 2018.