

AASLH Leadership in History Awards

Award of Excellence for Individual Lifetime Achievement

The Award of Excellence for Individual Lifetime Achievement is for individuals, both career professionals (including retired) and volunteers, who have demonstrated exemplary contributions to or exceptional accomplishments for state and local history. The individual's undertakings should advance their history organization and the field of history up and above the duties required for their regular job. An individual may be recognized for leadership, scholarship, or overall lifetime contributions. The individual does not need to be active on the national level, and may not receive the Award of Excellence more than once in five years. Individuals cannot self-nominate, and this award does not recognize service that is primarily financial in nature.

Past winners of this award have included long-term volunteers, dedicated community historians, retiring directors and curators, and others with years of service in their organization and the public history field. For example:

- Ned and Linda Heindel (2022) for forty-five years of service to the Williams Township Historical Society in Pennsylvania
- Matt Mayberry (2022) for years of work as a transformative leader in local history in Colorado
- John Patrick Blair (2022) for exceptional local history scholarship in Texas
- Magda Brown (2020) for her work as a Holocaust survivor speaker for the Illinois Holocaust Museum
- Sheila Goff (2019) for years of work as History Colorado's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Liaison
- Valerie Cunningham (2019) for a distinguished career preserving the African American history of New Hampshire
- Cordelia Thomas Snow (2018) for preserving the history of New Mexico as a groundbreaking female archaeologist for over fifty years

The nomination form for this award is due March 1 and requires:

Overview: Please introduce the individual and describe their achievements and impact on the community served. Include why the award is appropriate now in the individual's career.

Mission: For individuals working with organizations, state how their work has supported the mission of the organization.

Good History statement: Highlight how the individual's work exemplifies [Good History](#) as defined by AASLH.

Two letters of critical review: Critical testimony from at least two professionals not involved with this nomination is required. One of the critical reviews should address the exceptional leadership or scholarship demonstrated by the nominee. What did this individual accomplish to benefit state and local history? The other critical review should address the effect of the nominee's efforts on the organization or the community or constituency(ies) served. How did this individual make a difference? Why and how the critical reviewers are qualified to provide critical testimony should be either clearly stated in the testimony itself or attached in a short biographical statement (no more than 250 words).

Individual statement: Attach a one-page description of the individual's work indicating how their community has been improved by the nominee's contributions.

Resume: Please attach resume(s) of individual(s) nominated.

Specific documentation: Please attach samples of the nominee's work. These can be excerpts from books or articles, photos or videos of presentations, tour scripts, exhibit text, photos or videos from webinars or tours, social media excerpts, PowerPoints of presentations or conference sessions, etc.

In the case of several smaller items (such as photos, news clippings, etc.), combine them into one document. Make sure the title of your file explains what it is: exhibitphotos.pdf, evaluations.pdf, etc.

Questions? Contact your state or regional representatives, email Becky Schoenbachler at AASLH at schoenbachler@aaslh.org, or call 615-320-3203.