



Society for American Archaeology

— Award for Excellence in Public Education—

Current Committee Charge: The committee solicits nominations and selects recipients for the Award for Excellence in Public Education. This award is designed to recognize and encourage outstanding achievements by individuals or institutions in the sharing of archaeological knowledge and issues with the public. The award rotates among three categories: curriculum, community, and media and information technology.

Committee Composition: Committee composition is one chair and at least four members.

Term Length: Term length is three years. Individuals ending their terms cycle off the committee at the close of the Business Meeting held during the annual SAA Meeting, and new appointees begin their terms at this time.

Award Cycle: The award cycles through three categories: media and technology [2017], curriculum [2018], community [2019]...and the cycle begins again.

Committee Chair and End of Term: Jayur Mehta [2017]

Committee Chair Contact Information: e-mail: jmehta@tulane.edu

Committee Members and Ends of Terms: Jayur M. Mehta [2017], Melissa Harvey [2018], Rita Elliott [2018], Mark J. Wagner [2018]

Committee on Awards Chair: Mark C. Slaughter [2019]

Board Liaison to Award Committee: Tobi Brimsek

Award Description: This award recognizes excellence in the sharing of archaeological information with the general public and is designed to encourage outstanding achievements in public engagement. The 2017 award will be presented in the Media and Information Technology category; the award will emphasize how nominees used print and/or online media to educate and increase public awareness. This category recognizes outstanding programs or products that reflect collaborative initiatives that engage diverse communities. Potential applications and nominees who feel their work is eligible should contact the committee in early November to solicit guidance. The committee will consider outstanding nominations in other categories for future awards. The committee also recognizes that some programs or projects may be eligible for more than one category. Upon request, the committee will provide suggested examples of programs or projects eligible for the award category in a given year.

Who Is Eligible to Submit Nominations or Apply for the Award: Any member of SAA may submit a nomination file, although awardees are not required to be members of the SAA.

Nomination/Submission Materials Required: Nominators will work with the Chair prior to submission to assemble a nomination file that will include 1) the nomination form (at the end of this document); 2) a letter of nomination that identifies the outstanding program or product being nominated and summarizes the accomplishments; 3) supporting evidence of the accomplishments; and 4) endorsements (no more than three). The nomination letter and narrative should address the following topics:

- **Overview:** Describe the program/product being nominated, including its goals and how it is made available to the public.
- **Creativity:** Discuss the innovative aspects of the program/product.
- **Leadership:** Explain how the program/product serves as an exemplary model of public education related to archaeology.

- **Public Impact:** Document the impact of the program/product on relevant publics beyond the discipline of archaeology (general public, special interest groups, pre-collegiate or nontraditional students, others).
- **Ethics:** Mention ways in which the program/product promotes an understanding of ethical archaeology, such as appropriate presentation of archaeological methods, encouragement of site stewardship, connection and consultation with descendants, and other public involvement.

The nomination file should include details (include (including photos or samples, if possible) of the specific program/product and supporting materials that document the results of the specific program/product. This material should clearly demonstrate the case being made in the nomination narrative. For example, supporting materials might document the impact of a specific program in terms of the numbers of the public involved, personnel qualification, the frequency or longevity of programs offered, formal evaluation results, and/or feedback from the audience. Endorsements from secondary nominators are welcomed (please, no more than three). Prior nomination does not exclude consideration of a nominee in subsequent years. Designers of programs or products may nominate their own work. Nominations may include programs or products conducted or created within the last five years. Electronic submissions are encouraged. If a nomination package is mailed, six (6) copies of the nomination package (including supporting materials) must be submitted.

Nomination/Submission Deadline: January 6, 2017

Other Special Requirements: The Committee Chair will work with nominators to ensure a complete nomination. Nominators are encouraged to contact the Chair by November 1, 2016 to begin this process.

Selection or Evaluation Criteria: Nominations are reviewed individually by members of the Award for Excellence in Public Education Committee, who select a recipient based on the following criteria: public impact, creativity in programming, leadership, and promotion of archaeological ethics.

Committee Deliberation Process (e.g. dates, venue): After reviewing all nominations individually, committee members meet electronically and/or via telephone conference after the submission deadline has passed to select the winner.

Nature of Award (e.g.monetary, medal, symposium): The awardee is recognized by the SAA through a plaque presented during the business meeting held at the Annual Meeting, a citation in *The SAA Archaeological Record*, and acknowledgment on the awards page of the SAA Website.

Awardees

2016 None

2015 Kansas Archeology Training Program

For over 40 years, the Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) has linked professional archaeologists with members of the public, local communities, and descendant peoples to understand, document, and protect archaeological sites, and to salvage endangered ones. This has been accomplished through a partnership between the Kansas Anthropological Association and the Kansas Historical Society. Integral to the program are a regularly scheduled field school that engages thousands, and a Certification Program that has graduated close to 400 experienced avocational archaeologists who are frequently called upon to assist archaeological projects. While not the first, the KATP stands out for its longevity, scope, consistency, and reliability. Its systematic and sustained efforts have created a strong community of informed citizens who appreciate and advocate for archaeology and cultural resource studies. Advocacy at this scale is highly deserving of recognition with the 2015 Award for Excellence in Public Education.

2014 Abby the ArchaeoBus: Society for Georgia Archaeology, New South Associates, Georgia Transmission Corporation, and Georgia State University

Abby the ArchaeoBus, is a mobile archaeological classroom that has reached 1000s of educators, students, and families since it was created in 2009 by the

Georgia Society for Archaeology (SGA) and its volunteers. It is a creative and innovative means to foster public understanding of archaeology and appreciation for site stewardship. It provides flexible , informal programs for large public events and formal classroom resources emphasizing standards based analytical skills. In 2013, New South Associates' staff and Georgia State Anthropology graduate students, guided by the SGA, served as ArchaeoBus' educators targeting schools, libraries, museums, and events in metropolitan Atlanta and reaching 6000 youngsters, many in economically challenged school districts. As a “magic school bus” full of archaeology fun and knowledge; a collaborative partnership among the avocational, academic, business, and CRM communities; an opportunity for public archaeology training of college students; and in the educational experience it provides to visitors, it deserves the SAA's Excellence in Public Archaeology award.

2013 None (Media and Information Technology)

2012 The Education Outreach Program of the Office of Archaeological Studies (Community)

For its leadership in archaeology education, including its interactive programs for sharing archaeology throughout the state and engaging New Mexicans in protecting the archaeological record, we proudly present this award to the Education Outreach Program of the Office of Archaeological Studies.

2011 None (Media and Information Technology)

2010 Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter (Curriculum)

2009 Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville, Illinois (Institution)

2008 Texas Beyond History: The Virtual Museum of Texas' Cultural Heritage (Media and Information Technology)

2007 The 5th Street Cemetery Necrogeographical Study (Curriculum)

2006 Richard E. Pettigrew (Archaeologist)

2005 Office of Archaeological Studies, Museum of New Mexico
(Institution)

2004 Patricia Wheat Stranahan (Educator)

2003 Jeanne Moe (Archaeologist)

2002 AnthroNotes (Institution)

2001 George Brauer (Educator)

2000 George Stuart (Archaeologist)

1999 Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (Institution)

1998 Jan ColemanKnight (Educator)

1997 Brian Fagan (Archaeologist)