

Award Guidelines

First Nations Project of the Year



The Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards recognise and celebrate excellence across the sector. They seek to reward presenting and collecting organisations and the individuals who support and strengthen Victoria's creative and cultural industries through outstanding work and a commitment to best practice.

INTRODUCTION

The First Nations Project of the Year Award acknowledges and celebrates the outstanding efforts of individuals, groups, and institutions who demonstrate a commitment to placing First Nations first – advancing and showcasing First Nations art, artists, culture, and history. This award recognises innovative projects that foster meaningful and respectful collaborations between cultural institutions and First Nations communities, as well as those that demonstrate a clear understanding of and engagement with the contemporary issues of First Nations people.

ELIGIBILITY

All presenting and collecting institutions located within Victoria are eligible to be nominated in the 2023 Project of the Year Awards. This includes all public museums and galleries, archives, zoos, botanical gardens, historical societies, libraries, Keeping Places, science centres, and any other organisations that acquire, conserve and exhibit arts and cultural material. Nominated projects must address 3 assessment criteria and have commenced or completed within the past 12 months.

AREAS OF OPERATION

- A. Engagement (i.e., exhibitions, education and public programs)
- B. Collection management, research, conservation, preservation
- C. Management (i.e., innovative policies relating to staff, governance and environmental or organisational sustainability)

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The award will be judged by a panel of respected First Nations representatives and cultural experts, together with industry professionals. The following provides a comprehensive list of criteria against which a nominated project will be assessed and scored. Submissions must address at least 3 of the assessment criteria as listed below:

- 1. Culture, Community and Country:** The project ensures the involvement of Elders, knowledge keepers, and/or Traditional Organisations; recognises their contributions; and demonstrates a commitment to the celebration of First Nations culture.
- 2. Empowerment:** The project demonstrates empowerment of First Nations people, such as by providing opportunities for leadership, skills development, and career advancement.
- 3. Collaboration:** The project demonstrates successful collaboration between First Nations people and other partners, such as museums, galleries, or other organisations. This could include the sharing of resources, expertise, and knowledge.
- 4. Education & interpretation:** The project demonstrates excellence in education and interpretation, such as by creating exhibitions or programming that are engaging, informative, and accessible to a range of audiences.
- 5. Relevance:** The project demonstrates relevance to First Nations cultures and/or perspectives, as well as to the needs and interests of their communities. This could include the exploration of current issues affecting First Nations people, such as social justice or environmental concerns.

6. Innovation: The project demonstrates innovation in its approach to the museum and gallery sector, such as through the use of new technologies, creative programming, or unique exhibits.

7. Impact: The project has made a positive impact on communities, such as by increasing cultural awareness; creating economic opportunities; and promoting and advancing towards reconciliation, Treaty and Voice.

8. Recognition & respect: The project demonstrates recognition and respect for First Nations cultures, values, and perspectives, as well as for the contributions of First Nations people to the museum and gallery sector. This could include the acknowledgement of traditional practices and cultural knowledge, as well as the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Submissions must include:

- Nominee details:**
Including name, position, and associated organisation
- Nominator details:**
Including name, position and contact details
- Assessment criteria:**
Outline individual achievements, addressing each assessment criteria (max 200 words each)
- Supporting documentation:**
Three (3) high-resolution images (minimum)

SUPPORT MATERIAL

The following is a list of both required and optional supporting material:

Images (required):

Attach three (3) high-resolution (300dpi) digital images as separate files, which may be used for promotional use. Please ensure that permissions have been sought prior to uploading images, and be sure to provide:

- Credit details (photographer and, where relevant, artist details)
- Brief caption
- Requirements for cultural sensitivity warning, if applicable

Other (optional):

Provide up to three (3) pages of material that supports the nomination. This can include press clippings, publications, letters of support, other industry awards, etc.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Projects nominated must have commenced or completed within 12 months prior to the closing date (3 July 2023).
- Organisations are permitted to self-nominate.
- Only one nomination per organisation will be accepted. For large institutions who have multiple projects to consider, we recommend checking with other departments to avoid potential disqualification.
- In all matters relating to eligibility, the decision of the organisers is final.
- In all matters relating to assessment, the decision of the judges is final.

HOW TO SUBMIT

All nomination forms and support material must be submitted online by 5pm on 3 July 2023. You will receive an email confirming that your nomination and support material has been received. If you DO NOT receive this after you have submitted your application, please contact either AMaGA Victoria or PGAV via the details provided below.

QUESTIONS

We are here to help! For any general nomination or submission advice please contact:

AMaGA Victoria:

Michelle Fracaro, mfracaro@amagavic.org.au

PGAV:

Anne Robertson, anne.robertson@pgav.ngv.vic.gov.au