

Award Guidelines

First Nations Project of the Year



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 for the First Nations Project of the Year Award. 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 all assessment criteria and have commenced or completed between July 2024 and December 2025.

AREAS OF OPERATION

- Engagement (e.g., exhibitions, education, public programs)
- Collection management (e.g., research, conservation, policy)
- Organisational management (e.g., innovative policies relating to staff, governance, sustainability)

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The award will be judged by a panel of respected First Nations representatives, cultural experts, and industry professionals. The following are the criteria against which a nominated project will be assessed and scored:

- 1. CULTURE, COMMUNITY & 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. INNOVATION:** The project demonstrates innovation in its approach towards incorporating and presenting First Nations perspectives and knowledges within museum and gallery practice. This could include exhibitions, collections, audience engagement, or policy development.
- 3. RELEVANCE:** The project is relevant to the needs and interests of First Nations peoples and communities. This could include the exploration of current issues affecting First Nations people, such as social justice or environmental concerns.
- 4. IMPACT:** The project has made a positive impact on audiences, communities, or museum and gallery practice. This could include increasing awareness and appreciation of First Nations art and culture; creating economic opportunities; and promoting or advancing Truth and Treaty.

Be advised that nominations will also be assessed on **application quality**. Judges will consider accuracy and clarity of writing, relevance of support materials, as well as effectively demonstrated outcomes.

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 between July 2024 and December 2025.
- Organisations are permitted to self-nominate.
- Only one nomination per organisation, per category 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 via the online form by **5:00 PM on Friday 27 February 2026**. You will receive an email confirming that your nomination and support material have 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