

Award Guidelines

Change-maker of the Year

INTRODUCTION

The Change-maker of the Year Award recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions towards advancing the sector. This award provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the visionaries who are pushing boundaries, challenging norms, and creating new possibilities for museums and galleries in Victoria and beyond.

ELIGIBILITY

All paid staff working in Victorian presenting and collecting organisations are eligible to be nominated for the Change-maker 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. Nominations must address all assessment criteria, and individuals must currently be a paid staff member of a presenting or collecting organisation, or have ended their employment between July 2024 and December 2025.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following are the criteria against which a nominated individual will be assessed and scored:

- 1. INNOVATION:** The individual makes significant contributions to museum and gallery practice through innovative ideas and creative approaches. This could include new programs and/or ways of exhibiting, managing collections, and engaging diverse audiences through including new technologies and practices.
- 2. IMPACT:** The individual's work has a measurable impact on museum and gallery practice, and whose efforts have contributed to advancing the sector.
- 3. LEADERSHIP:** The individual demonstrates exceptional leadership skills, whether through managing teams, leading by example, building collaborative partnerships, or inspiring others in the sector.

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

- Individuals must currently be a paid staff member of a presenting or collecting organisation, or have ended their employment between July 2024 and December 2025.
- Individuals are permitted to self-nominate.
- 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