



# Leadership in History Awards

## **Publications Category Nomination Instructions**

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Submission Deadline: March 1, 2018  
Awards Announced by: July 15, 2018

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Submit your nomination online at: <https://aaslh.submittable.com/submit/100015/2018-leadership-in-history-awards-for-publications>

For over seventy years, AASLH has given Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Award winners serve as models and inspirations for others in the field.

**AASLH accepts nominations for the following:**

- **The Award of Merit** – Recognizes excellence for projects (including civic engagement, exhibits, multimedia, publications, public programming, and special projects), and individual achievement.

The Awards Committee may also select candidates from the Award of Merit winners for additional honors: **The Albert B. Corey Award** honors primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that best display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work, and the **History in Progress (HIP) Award** recognizes a project that is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial in terms of funding, partnerships or collaborations, creative problem solving, unusual project design, or inclusiveness.



## General Criteria for Awards

- Nominations are encouraged for exceptional and meritorious work by organizations or individuals. The mere fulfillment of routine functions does not justify an award. Action over and above the ordinary call of duty is prerequisite for a Leadership in History Award.
- Special consideration is given to new and promising ideas, approaches, and innovations that will serve as a model for the field.

## Instructions for Publications

Submit all nominations via the AASLH online submission process.

(<https://aaslh.submittable.com/submit/100015/2018-leadership-in-history-awards-for-publications>). Nominations must be uploaded by midnight EST on March 1, 2018. **Do not send applications or publication copies to the AASLH office.**

**In addition to the online form, AASLH requires that two copies of the publication be submitted to your state team leader. If your publication is an e-book with a print edition, you must submit the print edition for review. You can find contact information for your state team leader at <http://about.aaslh.org/awards-contact/>**

The publication category includes books, journals, and other scholarly works focusing on state and local history. It does not include annual reports, brochures, newsletters, and other marketing materials.

- All publications should have full back matter (references and index).
- Publications should have a bibliography/works cited page and/or footnotes/endnotes.
- Publications should be published within the eighteen months prior to the March 1 deadline.
- Works that are primarily transcriptions of primary sources or photographic should demonstrate why these documents were important for publication. The documents should be interpreted with an argument through annotated notes or an introduction.
- Publications intended for children should indicate intended audiences.

For the AASLH Award of Merit for publications, the reviewers look at three important criteria: historical merit, style, and reach/impact. The following are questions that reviewers seek to answer from your nomination during the evaluation process. Please make sure these questions are addressed in your narrative and that your letters of critical review evaluate the publication in light of these criteria.



### **Historical merit**

1. Did the author conduct thorough research on the topic, and is this reflected in the publication? Did she or he utilize available primary and secondary sources? Is the information factual? Does the work perpetuate stereotypes, or offer only a superficial exploration of the topic?
2. Does the publication contribute to the field of state and local history? Does it fill gaps in existing knowledge? Does it illuminate a topic previously not covered, or if it has been covered, does this work examine the topic in a new way and share new insights?
3. We require publications to include sources and citations. Are the index and footnotes or endnotes usable for readers looking to explore other sources?

### **Style**

4. Is the writing clear, polished, edited, organized, free of typos, and readable?
5. While this is not a design competition, presentation does matter. If a book's production value is so low it doesn't appeal to readers or will not physically last, its usefulness is diminished. Is this publication well produced, with readable type and sturdy binding? Does the design appeal to readers and researchers?

### **Reach/Impact**

6. How is this publication being distributed and shared? How many copies have been printed and/or sold? Are free copies being made available to select audiences (e.g., libraries and schools)? For journals, how is the publication being shared with the community beyond simply being a membership benefit?
7. What is the long term plan for sharing this publication's knowledge and content? Is it being made available beyond the print form? Are past issues or select articles available online? Is there a companion website or exhibit that brings this information to a broader audience?

## **Assembling the Nomination**

- I. **Section 1** – Completed Nomination Form and Narrative
- II. **Section 2** – Two Letters of Critical Review with CVs/Resumes – Both letters of critical review should be from unbiased reviewers not associated with the project or your institution and include the following information:
  - Scholarship of work
  - Quality of sources consulted
  - Contribution to the field of state and local history
  - One review may focus on the outcome and effect of the publication but it should be as specific as possible in demonstrating the impact. For example, has the book's publication



lead to a measurable increase in visitation, public programming, shop revenue, or visibility for the institution or subject matter?

- Resume/CV of reviewer
- Local news coverage, press releases, etc., do not qualify as letters of critical review, although these may be included in Section 5 of your nomination. **Please include a resume or CV for each reviewer.** Reviews published in scholarly journals may be substituted for the second letter of critical review.

**III. Section 3** – One Page Budget for the publication showing all revenues and expenses. If you have questions about providing this information, please contact your state team captain.

**IV. Section 4** – Resumes of Key Personnel

**V. Section 5** – This section is for additional, non-required materials that you feel will enhance your nomination. Examples of appropriate materials include additional letters of support, publicity and promotional materials, evaluations (if not required), information, newspaper articles, etc. Page limit: 5 pages of additional material.

## Submitting Your Nomination

- Contact your state team leader prior to submitting your nomination. They can answer questions, provide tips, and help you craft a stronger nomination. Their contact information can be found at [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org) or call 615-320-3203 for more information.
- Submit the completed nomination form via the AASLH website by March 1, 2018. Two copies of your publication should be sent to your state team leader.
- Please do not send the nomination or review copies to the AASLH office.

## Please Note

- Failure to follow all instructions may result in the nomination being withdrawn from consideration by the Awards Committee.
- More information and tips for putting together a successful nomination can be found at [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org).