



AASLH Awards Committee Statement on Good History

AASLH bestows Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the interpretation of state and local history at institutions of every size and type. As superior and innovative achievements, the projects that earn Leadership in History Awards serve as inspirations and models to others in the field. Award-winning projects are rooted in “good history” and reflect AASLH’s [aspirational philosophy](#).

But what does it mean to do good history? Here are the main components of this idea and examples of past award winners who have exemplified this spirit. Award winners do not need to meet all of the ideals outlined in the aspirations, but should strive to identify with at least one of the philosophies described below:

Good History:

- **Embraces difficult history** by reflecting current scholarship, grounding the work in primary source research, and providing a genuine contribution to the understanding of history.
 - Bullock Texas State History Museum (2016) -- [Life and Death on the Border 1910-1920](#)
 - Missouri History Museum (2016) -- [A Walk in 1875 St. Louis](#)
 - Fairfield Museum and History Center (2016) -- [The Pequot War and the Founding of Fairfield, 1637-1639](#)
 - State Historical Museum of Iowa (2015) -- [Riding Through History](#)
 - Centre d’histoire de Montréal (2015 HIP) -- [Scandal! Vice, Crime, and Morality in Montréal, 1940-1960](#)
 - Oakland Museum of California & San Francisco Estuary Institute (2014 HIP) -- [Above and Below: Stories From Our Changing Bay](#)

- **Acts to build diversity and inclusiveness** through interpretation that considers race, ethnicity, gender, social class, and geography, and is provocative through presenting contested history and multiple perspectives.
 - Minnesota History Center (2016 HIP) -- [Peb Yog Hmoob Minnesota: We Are Hmong Minnesota](#)
 - Elgin History Museum, Grindstone Productions, and Ernie Broadnax (2016) – [Project 2-3-1: Two Boxcars, Three Blocks, One City: A Story of Elgin’s African American Heritage](#)
 - Montana Historical Society (2016) -- [Forgotten Pioneers: The Chinese in Montana](#)
 - Historic Travellers Rest Plantation & Museum (2016) -- [A Past Uncovered: The Story of the Enslaved People of Travellers Rest](#)



- Delaware Historical Society (2014 HIP) -- [Forging Faith, Building Freedom: African American Faith Experiences in Delaware, 1800-1980](#)
- Jewish Museum Milwaukee (2015 HIP) -- [Stitching History from the Holocaust](#)
- HistoryMiami (2013) -- [The Guayabera: A Shirt's Story](#)
- Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Museum (2015 Corey Award) -- [Vashon Island's Native People: Navigating Seas of Change](#)

- **Cultivates an experimental and creative spirit** as a source for imaginative problem solving, exploring new approaches, and resourcefulness, while also looking to others for inspiration. Projects that extend the mission of an organization, demonstrate risk-taking, and offer activities outside conventional boundaries will merit greatest consideration.
 - University of Wisconsin – La Crosse et al. (2016)-- [Hear, Here: Voices of Downtown La Crosse](#)
 - Nelda C. and H.J. Lucher Stark Foundation (2016) -- [A Death in the Family](#)
 - Museum of History & Industry (2016) -- [The Legacy of Seattle Hip-Hop](#)
 - Freedom Frontier National Heritage Area (2014 HIP) -- [#QR1863: A Twitter Reenactment of Quantrill's Raid](#)
 - Jewish Museum of Maryland, Maryland Historical Society, and Minotaur Mazes (2015) -- [The A-Mazing Mendes Cohen](#)
 - Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site (2015) -- [The Big Graph](#)
 - Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (2016) -- [Artifacts of Outlander: Connecting the Public to History and Archaeology Using Popular Culture](#)

- **Demonstrates the relevance of history** and showcases how the public can make use of the past in discussions of the present and the future.
 - Nashville Public Library (2016 HIP) -- [Civil Rights and a Civil Society](#)
 - History Museum at the Castle (2015) -- [A Stone of Hope: Black Experiences in the Fox Cities](#)
 - Minnesota Humanities Center and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (2015) -- [Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations](#)
 - Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site (2015) -- [The Big Graph](#)
 - Lyman Allyn Art Museum, Connecticut College, and Stephen Fan (2015) -- [SubUrbanisms: Casino Company Town/China Town](#)
 - Wethersfield Historical Society (2015) -- [Castle on the Cove: The Connecticut State Prison and Wethersfield](#)

- **Attempts to be accessible to wide audiences** with differing learning styles, abilities, and interest in history.
 - Brooklyn Historical Society (2016) -- [Crossing Borders, Bridging Generations](#)



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- President Lincoln's Cottage (2016) -- [2015 Students Opposing Slavery International Summit](#)
- Jenks Society for Lost Museums (2015 HIP) -- [The Lost Museum](#)
- Maryland Historical Society (2015) -- [Stitching History Program](#)
- Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (2014) -- [#QR1863: A Twitter Reenactment of Quantrill's Raid](#)
- The Traveling 219 Project (2014) -- [Traveling 219: The Seneca Trail](#)