

CMA AWARDS | 2021

Celebrating excellence in Canada's museum sector



CALGARY HERITAGE WINS BIG AT NATIONAL MUSEUM AWARDS

Ottawa, May 17, 2021 – There were two Calgary-based winners announced at the virtual ceremony for the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) Awards last Thursday. Kristin Evenden, Executive Director of the Lougheed House National and Provincial Historic Site was awarded the Award of Distinguished Service, a lifetime achievement award. Meanwhile Telus Spark Science Centre won the Award of Outstanding Achievement in Audience Outreach for their *Direct From...* series of educational programming.

In addition to celebrating achievement, the CMA Awards uplift and inspire by helping set community benchmarks of excellence. All are awarded following a competitive process and peer review by a volunteer jury.

"Kirstin Evenden has made significant contributions nationally and internationally to the museum sector," said CMA Membership and Awards committee chair Benoît Légaré. "Among other important contributions to cultural diplomacy, she represented Canada at the Canada-China Digital Heritage Symposium on behalf of the CMA and the Department of Canadian Heritage."

Kirstin has also been a strong advocate for Canadian museums, participating in several advocacy days on Parliament Hill as a member of the Canadian Museums Association Board. In 2020, Lougheed House National and Provincial Historic Site, where she currently serves as Executive Director, won the AMA's Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility in museums for its responsiveness to the diverse communities it serves.

Meanwhile, the "Direct From..." programming series curated by the Telus Spark Science Centre in Calgary allows students to go "behind closed doors" and gain insight in areas to which they don't normally have access. Through collaborative partnerships with institutions such as the Vancouver Aquarium and Alberta Health Services, "Direct From..." has been able to provide informative and engaging events during the pandemic to students all over communities in Alberta. The innovative series gives kids live access to programs all over Canada and the opportunity to learn, ask experts questions, and best of all – have fun!

The CMA conference brings together hundreds of museum professionals from every region of the country. It was held exceptionally online this year from May 3 to May 13.

For more information:

<https://museums.ca/site/awards/2021>

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The Canadian Museum Association (CMA) is the voice for Canada's vibrant museum community; from small, volunteer-driven organizations to cherished national institutions, and for the millions of Canadians whose lives are enriched by museums.

We advocate for public policies and support, we build skills across the profession, and we establish and inspire connections to strengthen and sustain museums.