



2021 Awards Program

The Mountain-Plains Museums Association (MPMA) is accepting nominations for its annual awards ceremony to be held at the MPMA conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, October 5-8, 2021.

Rodeck, Leadership and Innovation, Carolyn Garrett Pool, and President's award winners will receive a one-day complimentary conference registration for the day of the awards banquet with a ticket to the banquet. Presentation of the awards will be made during the awards banquet at the MPMA annual meeting.

Award winners are expected to attend the awards banquet in-person to receive their award.

Entrants will be notified of their award status via email by August 27, 2021.

Questions: please email the MPMA Awards Chair: hyojung.cho@ttu.edu or the MPMA Executive Director: director@mpma.net

Deadline: All nominations must be received by July 16, 2021

THE RODECK AWARD

The Rodeck Award recognizes an individual member of MPMA who has contributed significant service to the museum field within the MPMA region and to MPMA. It is given infrequently and only in recognition of long and very distinguished service. Recipients are noted for their contributions to the field of state, provincial, and local history, art, anthropology or natural history, and are recognized nationally as leaders in the profession. MPMA employees are not eligible. Recipient must be present to accept award.

Nominations must demonstrate:

- The nature and extent of individual service
- Significance of scope of service
- Contribution to the growth and development of the profession

In addition to filling out the [online nomination form](#), the following additional materials must be sent to the MPMA Awards Chair, Hyojung.cho@ttu.edu:

- A cover letter describing the nominee's qualifications and how they meet the award's criteria
- Supporting letters (no more than three)
- Materials that outline the nominee's career (resume preferred if possible)

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION

Has your institution developed an exhibit that reached your audience in a new way? Have you developed a new system for tracking your collections? Have you found ways to reach a non-traditional audience? Have you found creative ways to work with new partners or found a new method for training staff and/or volunteers? Innovation is more important than ever and the MPMA Leadership and Innovation Award celebrates the creative spirit of MPMA member institutions honoring leadership and innovation in all areas of museum operation.

Innovation can include, but is not limited to, the following areas: audience and community building, collections management, education programs, exhibits, interpretation, management practices, outreach initiatives, public programs, use of technology and visitor experience.

Nominations must demonstrate:

- Originality and creativity—How original and creative is the project?
- Practicality and Replication—Is the project practical and can it be done by others?
- Connection to Mission—Does the project relate to the institution’s mission?
- Impact on Community—Does the project provide benefits beyond the institution?

In addition to filling out the [online nomination form](#), the following must be sent to the MPMA Awards Chair, Hyojung.cho@ttu.edu:

- A description of the program no more than five pages in length, which includes:
 - The institutional mission
 - Project goals
 - How the project fits within the institution’s long-range plan
 - Project cost
 - Target audience (This might include staff and/or volunteers.)
 - Measurable outcomes
 - The nomination may include photographs or illustrations.

PRESIDENT’S AWARD

The President’s award is given for significant service to MPMA and the recipient is selected by the current MPMA President. Applications/nominations for this award are not accepted. The award can be presented to an individual, institution, or business that is a member of MPMA in recognition for extra-ordinary service to the organization. The award is a public recognition of those people, institutions or businesses that have contributed significantly in any capacity to the continued growth and success of MPMA.

CAROLYN GARRETT POOL AWARD

The Carolyn Garrett Pool Award recognizes an outstanding student at a university within the MPMA region. The student must be enrolled in a museum studies program or a history, archaeology, or anthropology program with a strong museum emphasis. Students must have demonstrated outstanding academic success, leadership, and ability to complete projects within a museum setting. Self-nominations are permitted. The student must have completed a minimum of 12 hours in the program to qualify. Eligibility for the award extends through the first full semester following graduation.

In addition to filling out the [online nomination form](#), the following must be sent to the MPMA Awards Chair, Hyojung.cho@ttu.edu:

- A cover letter describing the student's qualifications and how the qualifications meet the award criteria
- Description of a museum project completed by the student and an evaluation of the project
- Verification of enrollment in one of the defined areas of study at a university within the MPMA region
- Letter of support from a faculty member at the university detailing the student's academic performance and describing the museum studies component of the program if the area of study is not museum studies
- Letter of support from a staff member or volunteer at the museum where the museum project was completed
- Additional letters of support may be included along with other supporting materials (i.e. photographs) where appropriate.