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Contact:

Hyojung Cho  
MPMA Awards Chair  
806-834-0221  
[Hyojung.cho@ttu.edu](mailto:Hyojung.cho@ttu.edu)

Deb Arenz  
MPMA Executive Director  
402-904-6938  
[director@mpma.net](mailto:director@mpma.net)

**The Mountain-Plains Museums Association (MPMA)** is pleased to announce the organizations' 2018 award winners. Established in 1953, MPMA is a regional museum association that provides services to museum professionals in ten states: Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. MPMA is one of six regional associations in the United States that work in conjunction with the American Association of Museums.

**History Nebraska** received the **Leadership and Innovation award** in recognition of the institution's *Looking Past Skin: Our Common Threads* project. The project opened the door to many new audiences and allowed History Nebraska to expand their programs and collections. It invited and cultivated strong relationships with new audiences, in particular Nebraska's immigrant and refugee populations, and increased the diversity of the museum's collections. The project offered many events that highlighted and celebrated cultural diversity. Notably, meaningful conversations and collaborations were hosted, including three community dialogues and a Poverty Simulation event. Almost 500 people attended the final event, *Lincoln Unites!*, which included dance and music performances, ethnic foods, and sixteen community booths. The project successfully met significant aspects of History Nebraska's strategic plan, which aims to grow its audiences, expand outreach and engagement, and increase access to the collections. This program displayed innovation and leadership by developing exhibits and programs relevant to the community, working with diverse partners, prospering financially, and being a good neighbor.

This year's **Carolyn Garrett Pool Award**, recognizing an outstanding museum studies student in the region, was presented to **Alexis Grieve**. Beyond being a dedicated student with stellar grades (4.0 GPA), Ms. Grieve has shown dedication to the museum community. She presented sessions for emerging professionals at MPMA conferences and is standing for election as Secretary for the *Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums*. The panel of award judges were impressed with the impact Alexis has already had on various institutions in the Museum Field. She has demonstrated an excellent work ethic and has contributed greatly to the exhibits and planning at the Fort Casper Museum. She has also assisted with the Casper College Art Gallery operations as a student gallery assistant. At the Nicolaysen Art Museum, where she had to balance her academic study and professional duties for five months, Ms. Grieve has been

responsible for managing Visitor Services, the Museum Shop, and Facility Rentals. Ann Ruble, the Executive Director, appreciates her efforts in updating and improving operation procedures, training practices, and visitors' experiences and applauds the dramatic improvements in raised revenues. Her work has positively benefited the cultural institutions where she has served and the panel of judges feel she would be a great asset to a museum large or small.

Jenny Yearous, Curator of Collections at the **North Dakota Historical Society**, was presented with the **Presidents Award** to honor her years of service and dedication to MPMA and its members.

The **EdCom award for Excellence in Museum Programming** was awarded to the **Bullock Texas State Museum** for *B Movies and Bad History*.

In addition to the awards, **MPMA announced the winners of the 2015 Publications Design Competition and the Technology Competition.**

### **Publication Design**

- Books & Exhibition Catalogs: **Denver Art Museum** for the fully-illustrated publication "Once Upon a Time...The Western: A New Frontier in Art and Film" a companion piece to the exhibition "The Western: An Epic in Art and Film."
- Brochures & Rack Cards: **Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art** for its membership brochure
- Invitation, Development, or Promotional Piece: **Stockyards Ag Experience** for "HomeGrown;" promotional pieces for its \$3.8 million capital fundraising campaign.
- Magazines, Newsletters, Quarterly or Biannual Publications: **Montana Historical Society** for "Montana: The Magazine for Western History"

### **Technology**

- Online Presence: **Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art** for its [website](#)
- Exhibit Technology: **Art Museum of South Texas** for "Digital Darkroom: Augmented Reality Application" for the retrospective exhibition of Dorothy Hood

Steve Whittington, announced the awards which were presented by MPMA Awards Chair Hyojung Cho, during the association's annual conference in Billings, Montana, September 14, 2018.

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