

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2025

Objectives

These awards are designed to:

- recognize individuals' outstanding contributions to the Ontario museum community, with emphasis on innovation;
- advance the museum profession in Ontario;
- encourage high standards of excellence in the museum field.

Criteria

These awards are given for achievements that:

- meet the objectives listed;
- are of community, provincial or national significance;
- impact the nominee's institution or community;
- exceed the current standard of museum practice;
- demonstrate innovation, creativity and leadership;
- represent the museum or institution's vision and mandate;
- make effective use of available resources;
- are accomplished in the museum field in Ontario.

Awards Recognizing Individual Achievement

Eligible Nominees:

- must be Individual members of the OMA or be affiliated with an Institutional or Commercial member of the OMA;
- may not be members of the Awards of Excellence Committee or the OMA Council;
- may be posthumously nominated.

Categories

Distinguished Career Award of Excellence

The OMA Distinguished Career Award of Excellence will be presented to individuals who, over an extended period of time, have created a lasting and meaningful legacy in the Ontario museum community. Note: nominees in this category do not need to be at the end of their career or retired to receive this award.

Promising Leadership Award of Excellence

The OMA Promising Leadership Award of Excellence will be presented to emerging professionals, of any position or institution, who have shown promising leadership within the museum community. An emerging professional is an individual within the first ten years of their professional career.

Volunteer Service Award of Excellence

The OMA Volunteer Service Award of Excellence will be presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to a museum or museums through volunteer work.





HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Nomination Package

Each nomination is made up of three parts:

1. **Nomination Form** – nominee information and a description of the achievement
 - When making a nomination, please provide a detailed description of the nominee assuming that the Committee is not familiar with the individual. This description should be factual and concise.
2. **Support material** – audio-visual materials that illustrate the nominee's achievements/contributions.
2. **Letter of Recommendation in support of the nomination** – see below for further information

Nomination Process

Nominator

- Nominees may nominate themselves or they may be nominated by another individual.
- Self-nominations are permitted for all Awards.
- The nominator does not need to be a member of the OMA.

Supporter/Advocate

- The Supporter/Advocate provides a Letter of Recommendation as part of the nomination application.
- They must not benefit (materially or by reputation) from the nominee receiving the award.
- Does not need to be a member of the OMA.
- Must be an individual with professional knowledge and/or experience in the subject area of

the nomination—may be a colleague or co-worker.

Letter of Recommendation

The Letter of Recommendation should not exceed 500 words. It should provide a clear assessment as to why the nominee embodies the award category, detailing relevant activities, impacts, practices, and commitments. It should also describe the process of how they carried out their assessment of the nominee, as well as provide a brief description of their qualifications outlining their professional knowledge and/or experience, and relationship to the nominee.

Areas to elucidate in a Letter of Recommendation for a **Distinguished Career, Promising Leadership, or Volunteer Service** nomination include, but are not limited to:

- Scholarship
- Dedication
- Innovation
- Significant contribution to the Ontario museum community and/or sector
- Leadership
- Relationship-building
- Community Impacts

Find out about last year's award recipients on the OMA website:

<https://museumsontario.ca/2024-ontario-museum-association-awards-of-excellence/>

HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Adjudication

- A five-member committee of museum professionals from across the province will review and assess nominations and select award recipients.
- The Awards Committee recommends nominees for the Distinguished Career, Promising Leadership, and Volunteer Service Awards of Excellence for ratification by the OMA Board of Directors.
- At the discretion of the Awards Committee, an Honourable Mention may be awarded per category.
- Committee members are required to sign a conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement.

Award Notification & Presentation

- Award Recipients will be announced in October 2025, followed by an online awards presentation in November 2025.

Submission Deadlines

- **Nomination forms** must be submitted through the Webform (insert link)
- **Support materials** and **Letters of Recommendation** should be emailed directly to the Operations Manager:
operations@museumsontario.ca
- Incomplete nominations and nominations received after the deadline will not be accepted.

All nomination materials
must be
submitted by:

Nomination Deadline:
**Wednesday, August 27,
2025**



NOMINATION WRITING TIPS

HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION

DO!

- ✓ **Read through the requirements carefully** and approach the nomination like you would a grant application, i.e., give the Awards of Excellence Committee exactly what they are asking for in the way they are asking for it.
- ✓ **Make your nominee sound as exciting and inspirational as you know they are!** Use your audio-visual support materials! Photos and video of the project and the audience help the Committee feel like they were there.
- ✓ **Carefully read the instructions on how to write a Letter of Recommendation** and choose an Advocate who can speak to the merits and contributions of the nominee. Contact the OMA if you need assistance.
- ✓ **Explain what makes your nominee excellent!** How has the Nominee gone above and beyond what is expected in the day-to-day? For example:
 - **For the Distinguished Career, Promising Leadership or Volunteer Service Awards of Excellence:** Describe how the nominee has gone above and beyond normal expectations for someone in their position or with their job description.

... AND REMEMBER:

So many of our museum colleagues are quietly doing amazing things for their communities and in their museums, but because they are the only staff member or volunteer, no one else knows about it.

Spread the word about the exciting work happening in Ontario's museum community; we all want to be inspired in the work we have chosen!

**Nominate a colleague
or nominate yourself today!**