CMA 2010 Award Winners

The highly anticipated awards dinner celebrated excellence in Canadian museums on May 12, 2010, at the 63rd CMA National Conference in St. John’s, NL.

Two new awards

Barbara Tyler Award in Museum Leadership

Thanks to the leadership of its executive director, Jann L.M. Bailey, the Kamloops Art Gallery (BC) has been propelled forward and transformed into a central force both in Kamloops and across Canada.

This prize is awarded in memory of former CMA president Barbara Tyler, who died in 2007. The award recognizes leadership excellence in the museum community in Canada.

Museum Volunteer Award

Under Linda Kane’s guidance, the Cupids Museum (St. John’s NL) has grown to an award-winning community museum that now has become the primary focus of the 400th anniversary in 2010 of the founding of the first English settlement in Canada by John Guy in 1610.

Presented in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums, this award recognizes volunteers who have devoted their time and energy to a heritage institution.

The CMA would like to thank the members of the jury for their time and dedication.

Nominations are now being accepted for the CMA 2011 awards. Next year’s awards dinner and National Conference will be held in London (ON). The deadline for submissions is November 15, 2010.

Visit www.museums.ca for information on the various award categories.

CMA Awards of Outstanding Achievement

These awards recognize exceptional museum projects in several categories:

Education

The McCord Museum (Montreal QC) in partnership with The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site of Canada and the Programme de soutien à l’école montréalaise, designed and implemented a bilingual educational program for immigrant students, entitled Nomadic Adventurers/Les Aventuriers Nomades.

Exhibitions

The Canada Science and Technology Museum and the Portrait Gallery of Canada, a program of Library and Archives Canada (Ottawa ON) produced the exhibition Karsh: Image Maker, highlighting the work of one of Canada’s greatest portrait photographers, Yousuf Karsh. With the travelling version of the exhibition, Canadians can discover the story of the artist and the tools he used to create his images.

Facility Development and Design

This culmination of years of consultation, research and curriculum development, the Creamery Square Heritage Centre (Tatamagouche) comprises four diverse community collections and an archives research facility in a historically significant Nova Scotian industrial heritage site.

Management

The Museum of Vancouver (BC) launched a comprehensive new brand in June, 2009. The result was a new urban brand that is lively, timely, provocative, inquisitive and innovative. The rebranding of the Museum of Vancouver is a striking example of effective innovation to meet the challenging economic times.

Marketing

The “Doors Open Toronto — The First Decade 2000-2009” marketing campaign from the City of Toronto’s Museum Services has become a model for other Canadians museums by granting free access during one weekend per year to a culturally diverse and multi-generational audience and raising historical, social and cultural awareness.

Publications

Vistas: Artists on the Canadian Pacific Railway is a rich compilation of images and documents published by the Glenbow Museum for an exhibition showcasing the exploration of the Canadian West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Glenbow Museum (Calgary AB) has made through Vistas a superb contribution to the art and culture of Canada.
Philanthropy

Paul J. Johnson has been a key factor in seeing his vision become a reality in the past 25 years by bringing leadership, finances and dogged determination to many and various projects throughout his home city and province (St. John’s, NL).

The CMA recognises individuals who have significantly contributed to the museum community:

Fellow

Ian Gordon Lumsden was named Fellow of the CMA for his significant contribution and dedication to the arts in Canada, his tireless efforts on behalf of museums and his support of the CMA.

Award of Distinguished Service

The CMA saluted the outstanding careers of Susan Gibson Garvey (NS), Robert W. Frame (NS) and Patricia Grattan (NL).

The following awards were presented in collaboration with other organizations:

ICOM Canada’s International Achievement Award

Through his professional practice, François Tremblay, director of exhibitions and international relations at the Musée de la civilisation (Quebec City QC), quickly set the standards for project development, co-productions and travelling exhibitions involving foreign museums.

Museums and Schools Partnership Award

The Commission scolaire de la Beauce-Etchemin and its partner, the National Battlefields Commission (QC) developed and delivered Chefs-d’oeuvre d’apprentis, [Student Masterworks], an exhibition displaying French-regime artefact replicas crafted by students.

I feel so privileged to receive this award; Barbara Tyler was a friend and colleague whom I admired and respected for her dedication to the cultural field. She was a fierce advocate for the arts, and a woman who established the highest standards of museum practice. To be the first recipient of the Barbara A. Tyler Award in Museum Leadership is an honour beyond my words to express.

But I am going to try!

Living and working in a small regional city such as Kamloops can present a sense of isolation from the larger alliance of galleries and artists in Canada. For me this isolation very quickly evaporated the moment I got involved with the Canadian Museums Association.

I have often said that I have had the privilege of having a parallel career, one as the executive director of the Kamloops Art gallery, the other, as an active member of the CMA. I have been a member since John wore green running shoes to conferences!

The CMA has given me so much over the years, through workshops, legal symposiums, annual conferences and the likes, it has helped me to hone my skills as a museum practitioner, whether it was participating as a member of the board, working with colleagues across the country on the editorial board of Muse, learning such skills as fundraising, board development, creating an endowment fund, advocacy, and the list goes on.

But what I have gained the most from my involvement with the CMA is friendship, colleagues willing, without hesitation, to share information and help each other through difficult times. Colleagues, who took the time to call, email or send cards when I was on medical leave—some whom I had never met. I can tell you, it was a very humbling experience.

I learned from the CMA and from watching our fearless leader in action that the merit of an organization is not only the quality of the programs it organizes, but how the organization reaches out to its diverse communities. The CMA is an important hub for all museums and museum workers in Canada today. It is respected around the globe for the work it has accomplished, and I am so proud to be a part of its history.

This award is about leadership, about constructing ways and means for people to contribute to make something extraordinary happen, it is about bringing out the best in people, inspiring and nurturing a culture that motivates and excites those involved, it is about fostering creative change.

As I look around the room this evening I see dedicated museum professionals, all with extraordinary leadership skills—intelligence, determination, adaptability, persistence, self-confidence and integrity. Collectively we have become a voice to be reckoned with. Barbara Tyler would be proud.

I would like to thank the president of the Board of Trustees of the Kamloops Art Gallery who nominated me, the CMA, the members of the awards committee for this remarkable honour. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jann L.M. Bailey