

Florida Association of Museums



2026 Annual FAM Awards Competition

Online submittal ONLY – [CLICK HERE](#).

Nominations are now being accepted for the **2026 Annual Museum Service Awards Program** sponsored by the Florida Association of Museums. The purpose of the FAM Awards Program is to recognize outstanding contributions to the museum profession in the State of Florida.

Eligibility

Museum Service Awards may be given to museum staff, volunteers, or trustees, as well as to individuals outside the museum profession who make significant contributions to the advancement of Florida's museums, either locally or statewide.

- ONLY one award will be given per category.
- Not all categories will necessarily be awarded.
- **Nominations must be submitted by current Individual or Institutional members of FAM through the online form ONLY.**
- Nominations must be received by the FAM office no later than August 7, 2026. Nominations arriving thereafter will not be considered. Incomplete applications or applications submitted not using the online form will not be considered.

Categories

Nominations may be submitted in one of the following categories:

Outstanding New Professional – recognizes a new professional with three years or less in the museum field who has made a significant contribution to his or her museum and has a promising career in the field.

Museum Excellence – recognizes an exceptional project (only submitted 1 time), exhibit, or program that has made an impressive impact on an individual museum or the field as a whole. The impact should be measurable and explained in the nomination. Nominated work must have been undertaken during the period May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026.

Philanthropist Award – The award for Outstanding Philanthropist honors an individual or a company with a history of exceptional generosity whose contributions encourage others to take philanthropic action on a community or state level.

Outstanding Volunteer – recognizes a volunteer whose service to a museum has made a lasting impact on the fulfillment of the institution's mission. The length of service as well as the impact of that service will be considered during review of the nomination.

Florida Association of Museums

Outstanding Trustee – recognizes a trustee and/or director whose service to a museum serves as a model of good governance and who has made a lasting impact on the fulfillment of the institution’s mission.

Outstanding Public Official – recognizes a public official whose work while in elected office is a model of government support of the museum field.

Exceptional Leadership Award – recognizes an individual who is working or has worked, in the museum field and whose career is making or has made, a profound impact on the field, individual museums, and the lives of the citizens of the State of Florida.

Nomination Guidelines

Each nomination must be submitted electronically at <https://flamuseums.forms-db.com/view.php?id=127691>. Please NO “see attachment” in the form. Supplementary information should be uploaded and include:

- a) two letters of endorsement
- b) three to five digital photos of the person or project/exhibit (300 dpi resolution JPG)
- c) no more than two other forms of documentation. Any other materials sent with a nomination will not be reviewed.

Judging of Entries

Nominations will be reviewed by an Awards Committee comprised of museum professionals representing the museum categories of art, history, science, and one other discipline. Judging criteria will include a two-tiered system recognizing local and statewide contributions to museums.

Awards Ceremony

The FAM Museum Service Awards will be presented during the FAM Annual Meeting and Awards Reception in West Palm Beach on the evening of September 24th, and the location is to be determined. Recipients will be notified fifteen days in advance of the conference. The nominating museum is expected to facilitate the awardees’ attendance at the presentation. Digital images submitted with the nomination may be shown as part of the Awards Program. In addition, each recipient will be featured in FAM News following the Annual Conference.

For Questions Contact:

FAM Awards Program
850/222-6028
fam@flamuseums.org

