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Old Government House Recognised as Finalist at Queensland Gallery and Museum Awards

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) proudly announced the recipients of the **2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event hosted by The University of Queensland Art Museum on Thursday 19 November 2015.

Old Government House in Brisbane's CBD was recognised as a **Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff' **for** its project ***The Voice in the Walls theatre project at Old Government House***. In awarding Old Government House a Finalist in this category, the judges recognised the project's ability to engage younger audiences in a meaningful way.

This project was an initiative of Old Government House at QUT's Gardens Point campus in partnership with Imaginary Theatre Company to develop an innovative and fun way to interpret the historical significance of the House to a younger audience.

The result was a unique combination of technology, history, time travel and a healthy dose of creepiness aimed to engage children in an enjoyable, meaningful and lasting way. The performance is a 50-minute activity in which the audiences, aged 9 to 12, are central to the action. Each child is equipped with headphones and a wireless device, and is guided around the House by the voices of Victor Lamington (Lord Lamington's son) and Mary, a servant girl. They are on a quest to find pieces of the puzzle to help right the wrongs of history.

The performance is site specific to Old Government House, and the characters and events in the performance are based on historical fact. At various points in the performance the audience meet characters from the past, performed live by actors.

Presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland, the **GAMAA** celebrate the **outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and**

gallery sector. It also recognises the valuable contribution that our State's museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honours the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

M&G QLD Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "It is with great pleasure that M&G QLD congratulates the winners and finalists of the 2015 GAMAA. We commend all those who nominated for their remarkable achievements and contribution to the sector. This year's awards recognise a range of inspirational people and projects."

For a full list of GAMAA recipients go to the M&G QLD website at www.magsq.com.au.

The 2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards were presented by M&G QLD and generously supported by The University of Queensland Art Museum. The GAMAA are proudly sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting. We also acknowledge the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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