

gamaa

GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIVEMENT AWARDS

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2026 Nomination Guidelines

Established in 2004, the Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA) are presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) to honour the achievements of individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The Awards aim to:

- encourage continuous improvement and development of galleries, museums and related cultural organisations.
- enhance the profile of galleries, museums and related cultural organisations in local and wider communities.
- inspire and recognise best practice.
- recognise and encourage the contribution made by individuals to their organisations and to the gallery and museum sector.

2026 GAMAA Timeline

30 April 2026	GAMAA open
13 July 2026	GAMAA close at 10am
late August / early September	Shortlisted nominees are announced
To be confirmed	The winners are announced at the Awards ceremony

Why should you enter?

Being shortlisted for the Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA) offers several significant benefits:

- 1. Increased Visibility:** Being recognised in this way can significantly elevate your gallery or museum's profile.
- 2. Staff Recognition:** Recognition of your staff, project team, or volunteers' hard work and contributions at a state-wide level can enhance team-building and confidence.
- 3. Enhanced Reputation:** Past finalists have reported that being shortlisted has positively shifted perceptions about their organisation, acting as a testament to their quality and commitment.
- 4. Attracting Support:** Your acknowledged achievements can motivate stakeholders, sponsors and partnerships, leading to increased support for new initiatives and projects.
- 5. Inspiration for Innovation:** The recognition can serve as a catalyst, providing the motivation needed to develop and implement new ideas and programs within your organisation.
- 6. Networking Opportunities:** Being part of the GAMAA process can connect you with other professionals in the field, leading to potential collaborations and the exchange of ideas.
- 7. Publicity and Promotion:** M&G QLD's media campaign offers opportunities for media coverage and promotion, drawing attention to your work and accomplishments.

Who can enter?

The GAMAA are open to any public museum or gallery, including First Nations cultural spaces (such as an arts/cultural centre or keeping place), not-for-profit organisations (such as artist-run initiatives), public libraries or historical associations that operate in Queensland and deliver outcomes related to museum or exhibition practice.

Organisations can either self-nominate or be nominated by another organisation or an individual.

If a private or commercial organisation, individual artist or consultant is collaborating with a museum, gallery, or First Nations cultural space, the nominee must be the museum, gallery, or First Nations cultural space.

Collaborative entries are permitted. If two or more organisations are submitting a joint nomination, one organisation must be designated as the primary contact on the nomination form.

Individuals cannot self-nominate. They must be nominated by another person. The individual being nominated must be a paid staff member or a volunteer of a Queensland public museum or gallery.

How to enter?

All nomination forms and support material must be submitted online by the closing date via the M&G QLD GAMAA webpage:

<https://magsq.com.au/gallery-and-museum-achievement-awards/>

If you require a paper/hard copy nomination form, or if you need assistance, please contact M&G QLD at:

P: 07 3059 9740

Freecall: 1800 866 101

E: information@magsq.com.au

Please also refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page on the M&G QLD GAMAA webpage

<https://magsq.com.au/gallery-and-museum-achievement-awards/>

Entry fees

If you or your organisation is a member of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) or Public Galleries Queensland (PGQ) there is no fee to enter the GAMAA.

For all other nominations, a non-refundable fee of \$30 applies. Please contact M&G QLD to arrange payment.

If you need to check your AMaGA or PGQ membership status, please contact the AMaGA Queensland / PGQ Membership Officer at:

P: 07 3059 9745

Freecall: 1800 866 101

E: membership@magsq.com.au

Nominations close 10 am, Monday, 13 July 2026

What are the GAMAA Categories?

There are 7 Organisation categories and 2 Individual categories.

Organisation Award Categories

1. Projects: Organisations with 1–6 FTE Paid Staff
2. Projects: Organisations with 7+ FTE Paid Staff
3. Engagement: Organisations 1–6 FTE Paid Staff
4. Engagement: Organisations 7+ FTE Paid Staff
5. First Nations: Open
6. Sustainable Practices: Open
7. Volunteer Museum / Gallery of the Year (less than 1 FTE)

Individual Award Categories

1. Individual: Paid Staff
2. Individual: Volunteer

n.b. First Nations-led projects are eligible for all Award categories.

All nominations are peer assessed by a volunteer judging panel, and the successful recipients are celebrated at the GAMAA Ceremony.

Organisation Awards

Projects

Recognises outstanding projects such as exhibitions, publications and cultural events.

Nominations for this category could include physical or online initiatives that deliver a high standard of artistic or cultural outcomes for the organisation, stakeholders, the sector and/or community.

Engagement

Recognises outstanding projects or initiatives that engage with various audiences to reach new demographics, deepen relationships with existing visitors and project partners, or enhance outreach to underrepresented communities.

Nominations for this category could include physical or online initiatives in public programming; education; volunteer programs; research; websites; social media; community participation; access; inclusion; and community wellbeing.

First Nations

Recognises outstanding projects or initiatives that deliver meaningful First Nations cultural outcomes that build cross-cultural awareness and respect, and share and preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures.

These projects are developed by or in collaboration with First Nations people.

Nominations for this category could include exhibitions; publications; public programming; education; knowledge-sharing; Reconciliation Action Plans; and collection management.

Sustainable Practices

Recognises initiatives that demonstrate outstanding achievement in the areas of:

- Environmental sustainability; and/or
- Operational sustainability.

Nominations for this category could include a museum or gallery's efforts to become more environmentally sustainable; engage the public on environmental, climate or social issues; or it may include the development of effective partnerships; fundraising or sponsorship initiatives; infrastructure; improvements to administration, management or governance; marketing; collection management; digitisation; disaster recovery; adoption of new technologies or business systems.

Volunteer Museum/Gallery of the Year

Recognises the outstanding achievement of a volunteer-run museum or gallery through strategic initiatives including policies, business planning, governance, exhibitions, collections management, education, audience engagement, and/or community partnerships that advance the organisation and its impact.

Individual Awards

Individual: Paid Staff

Individual: Volunteer

These Awards celebrate the exceptional contributions of both paid staff and volunteers in Queensland's public museum and gallery sector. To be eligible for nomination, individuals must have worked in the sector for a minimum of five years. For volunteers, this five-year service requirement does not need to be consecutive.

Nominees in this category are expected to demonstrate best practices and show significant contributions to enhancing the capacity, professional standing, and reputation of their organisation/s.

Judging Criteria

All '**Organisation' nominations** (i.e. categories that are not 'Individual' nominations) will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Leadership and Initiative

Demonstrates leadership qualities, excellence and initiative in implementing innovative programs or sustainable practices that benefit the museum or gallery, communities, and/or the sector.

2. Planning and Resource Management

Demonstrates the ability to effectively plan, secure and manage resources, and successfully deliver programs and/or activities that align with the organisation's strategic priorities and goals.

3. Artistic, Cultural or Organisational Outcomes

Evidence of high-quality artistic or cultural outcomes that demonstrate excellence and capacity-building benefits for the organisation, its workers and the community.

4. Impact and Evaluation

Assesses the positive impact achieved through the nominated activity/ies, including how these outcomes were evaluated to inform future practices; improve the organisation's strategic planning; build capacity and/or engage audiences and the community.

n.b. Projects or initiatives that involve First Nations Peoples, young people or underrepresented communities must adhere to best practice cultural protocols and demonstrate appropriate consultation and engagement.

These criteria will help to ensure that nominations are evaluated comprehensively and fairly, recognising the diverse contributions that museums, galleries and First Nations cultural spaces make to Queensland communities.

All '**Individual**' nominations (i.e. categories that are not 'Organisation' nominations) will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Distinctive Outcomes

The ability to deliver unique and impactful outcomes that are distinctive to the individual being nominated. This includes evidence of their accomplishments and specific contributions, highlighting what distinguishes them from others. Examples may include initiatives that have driven significant growth, secured funding, developed new audiences, raised awareness, or advanced their organisation. It can also recognise the provision of consistent, high-quality service.

2. Standards of Practice and Professionalism

Demonstrates initiative and commitment to continuous learning and improvement. This may include how the individual has raised their own standards of practice, mentored others in the sector, and/or increased the level of professionalism within their organisation.

3. Cultural and Community Impact

Evidence of how the individual has enriched the cultural or social aspects of their community, or improved community access to their organisation.

4. Inspiration and Leadership

Ability to inspire others, to act as a role model or mentor, and/or lead others to promote and implement new ideas, directions or initiatives.

Support materials

For nominations for '**Organisation' categories**, please include:

- Up to 6 items of supporting documentation, such as media clippings, reviews, sample pages from catalogues, education resources, brochures, short extracts of film materials, project evaluations or documents specific to the nomination e.g. policy, Reconciliation Action Plan etc. For Volunteer Museum/Gallery of the Year nominations, one of these items must include the organisation's most recent annual report.
- Up to 4 high-resolution promotional images that are representative of the nominated project or activity. These will be used at the Awards presentation and in printed and online promotional materials (300 dpi JPG files, maximum of 2MB)
- List of support materials, including appropriate image/photo credits.

For nominations for '**Individual' categories**, please include:

- Up to 6 items of supporting documentation, such as media clippings, sample pages from catalogues, education resources, brochures, short extracts of film materials, referee reports, etc.
- Up to 4 high-resolution promotional images that are representative of the nominated individual. These will be used at the Awards presentation and in printed and online promotional materials (300 dpi JPG files, maximum of 2MB)
- List of support materials, including appropriate image/photo credits.

Referees

The application form asks you to supply the contact details of two referees. These people should be able to speak with knowledge about the project or individual being nominated, and be objective. Be sure to inform your referees that you have supplied their details. Referees will only be contacted in the event M&G QLD needs to verify the accuracy of information in the nomination, or where the judging scores are close and additional information will assist with the decision-making.

Terms and conditions of entry

1. Each nomination requires a separate form.
2. Nominated activities must be completed or have achieved a significant milestone between January 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026.
3. The decisions made by the judging panel are final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.
4. All claims made in the nomination must be accurate and true.
5. Each nomination and accompanying support materials must be submitted electronically via the online application form on the M&G QLD website <https://magsq.com.au/gallery-and-museum-achievement-awards/>. If you are unable to use the website form or require it in an alternative format, please contact M&G QLD. Hard copies of catalogues and publications can be mailed or support materials can be sent via Dropbox (or a similar service).
6. M&G QLD is unable to provide feedback on individual nominations or return any supporting materials.
7. M&G QLD reserves the right to reallocate a nomination to an alternate category if deemed more relevant by the judging panel.
8. M&G QLD reserves the right to withdraw an award category or refrain from granting an award if:
 - The judging panel determines that the quality of entries does not meet the criteria.
 - The entries are deemed inappropriate for any reason.
 - An insufficient number of entries have been received.
9. By submitting a nomination and support materials, you grant M&G QLD unlimited permission to use any written text, pictures, video recordings, sound recordings, transcriptions of sound recordings or video recordings, and other reproductions of materials provided in their original or altered form. M&G QLD reserves the right to use all for publicity, educational purposes, and reporting.
10. Submitted materials may be published on the M&G QLD website and social media and may be shared with third parties and media for promotional purposes.
11. Please keep a copy of your nomination and supporting materials for your own records.
12. Upon submitting a nomination, you will receive a confirmation email at the address you provided. It is the responsibility of the nominating individual or organisation to check this email and ensure that the details are correct. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact M&G QLD to verify that your nomination has been received.
13. By participating in this nomination process, you agree to abide by these terms and conditions.

**THE 2026 GAMAA ARE PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
IPSWICH ART GALLERY**

**Ipswich
ART Gallery**



THE 2026 GAMAA TROPHIES ARE PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY BRIAN TUCKER

THE 2026 GAMAA ARE SPONSORED BY

**PUBLIC GALLERIES QUEENSLAND
and
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**M&G QLD IS SUPPORTED BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
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