

KAM Awards of Excellence



| Leadership & Innovation | Mentorship |
| Governance | Volunteerism | Practice & Programming |

Since KAM's inaugural meeting in late 1979/early 1980, our members have fundamentally shaped the development of KAM, but also the Kingston and area's vibrant cultural heritage sector through their dedication, expertise, passion, and collegiality - exemplifying the principle that "we do better together."

The Kingston & Area cultural heritage sector is as diverse and vibrant as the individuals through whom it is animated. Over the years, many community volunteers and cultural professionals have been a part of KAM, each leaving their distinctive imprint in KAM's story.

Having celebrated our 40th anniversary in 2020, it is time to recognize the service, dedication, and expertise of our peers and colleagues, and celebrate their contributions that make KAM, this sector, and our communities great.

The KAM Awards of Excellence is a peer recognition award program, where KAM members both nominate and vote for the nominees in each category. There are five categories for the KAM Awards of Recognition: Governance; Practice & Programming; Leadership & Innovation; Mentorship; and Volunteerism. Three of the award categories are named in recognition of a former KAM member who has notably influenced KAM and our regional cultural heritage sector for the better in these ways.

The KAM Awards of Excellence 2024 nomination cycle is now open.

Members or organizations can nominate one individual per category. Deadline for nominations is 25 January 2023. Please send the completed nomination form to info@kingstonmuseums.ca with "Award Nominations 2024" in the subject line. Recipients will be notified by 29 February 2024, with award presentations at the KAM AGM in March 2024.

Nomination Guidelines:

- i. Nomination Forms are available for download from the KAM website: <https://www.kingstonmuseums.ca/engage>
- ii. These awards recognize individuals who exemplify the attributes and capacities captured through these award categories.
- iii. The nominees must be current or former KAM cultural heritage staff or volunteers from a recognized KAM membership organization or hold/have held an individual membership.
- iv. The nominator must be a member in good standing, either through a KAM member organization or hold their own individual membership. The nominator may only submit one nominee per category per nomination cycle.
- v. Current KAM Board members are not eligible for nomination; neither are KAM staff.
- vi. Current KAM Board members and KAM staff can not provide letters of support for any nomination.
- vii. Once an individual has been awarded a KAM Award of Excellence (with the exception of Practice and Programming) they are not eligible for nomination in that same category for a period of 3 years.
- viii. It is understood and appreciated that the contributions of many of the individuals within Kingston's cultural sector are well-known. However, the ultimate success of their nomination will be closely dependent on the quality and completeness of the nomination form, regardless of the nominee's reputation.
- ix. Nominators must submit two letters of support for the nomination from other KAM members.
- x. The nominator may submit two additional supplementary documents to support their nominee's application as appropriate.

Adjudication:

- i. After nominations are determined to be eligible and complete, the KAM Board will meet to adjudicate the submissions. Each nomination will be considered against the awards criteria and the nomination considered to best meet the criteria will be selected as the winner for the year.
- ii. Awards will be presented at the KAM AGM.

The Paul O. Robertson Award for Leadership and Innovation






With permission: Edgar Tumak / Robertson family

Paul is remembered with equal praise and commendation for his contributions to the heritage sector, not only in Kingston but Ontario as whole. Paul spent his career working towards creating a more diverse and inclusive sector. Paul was particularly proud of his work with the Kingston and Area Indigenous leaders guiding the City of Kingston - Cultural Services towards Truth and Reconciliation efforts. Paul was also an advocate for the 2S LGBTQIA+ community in museums across Ontario. Paul contributed to many heritage organizations, in particular the Ontario Museum Association of which he served as President from 2019 to 2021. KAM held a special place in his heart as he helped it grow and

thrive into the organization it is today such as through the City of Kingston Heritage Fund. Paul's unfailing dedication and vision for cultural heritage, and his connections to friends and colleagues, persisted until his passing from cancer. Three weeks before his death, he still made a presentation to Gananoque Town Council encouraging their support for the 1000 Islands History Museum, and partook in meetings with the Museum of Health Care, OMA, and KAM. He will be missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him, but his work and dedication will be a lasting legacy to our region.

A nominee for this award category exemplifies the following:

-  The ability to inspire productive action in oneself and others during times of creation, invention, uncertainty, ambiguity, and risk.
-  Demonstrates the ability to both think and influence others to create "new and better" ideas to move towards positive results.
-  Creative, collaborative, curious, courageous, resilient, and committed.






The J. Ross McKenzie Award for Mentorship



With permission: McKenzie Family and RMC Museum

J. Ross McKenzie was the first professional curator for the RMC Museum in Kingston, working in this position from 1990 to his formal retirement in 2015. Ross passed away in 2019 but is remembered not only for his passion and expertise in local and military history, but for his mentoring and coaching of the many students, RMC cadets, emerging sector professionals and colleagues that crossed his path over the years. He valued kindness and personal responsibility, was generous in sharing his expertise and interests, and recognized that everyone has a story to tell. He imbued these values in his work, and both KAM and Kingston & Area cultural heritage is the richer for it.

A nominee for this award category exemplifies the following:




-  Demonstrate an exemplary commitment to the cultural heritage sector by enthusiastically and respectfully sharing their expertise, skillset, and knowledge in a mentorship capacity
-  Eagerness to invest in others, willing to be a sponsor/ally, to share and create opportunities for success and growth both personal and professional
-  Gives honest and productive feedback
-  Supporting and mentoring others with challenges or issues that they may be experiencing
-  Values reflective listening and empathy.

The KAM Board of Directors' Award for Governance



This award recognizes the highest degree of integrity and dedication that can be shown by a member of a Board. It might highlight the creation of objects for incorporation, the continued commitment of excellence, be an individual who can be counted on as an Integrity Commissioner. An individual who places the highest value of a Museum, Historic Site, or Art Gallery for fair practices in its dealing with staff, the public and fellow team members.

A nominee for this award category exemplifies the following:





-  Is a current or former Board member of a recognized KAM member organization or group
-  Has left a legacy through governance efforts of which the positive effects on the organization continues to be visible
-  Exemplifies strong leadership, good management, effective partnerships and creative thinking

The KAM Board of Directors' Award for Volunteerism



Volunteers are increasingly the lifeblood of any community, and cultural organizations are no exception. It would be impossible for organizations like KAM to succeed without the interest, dedication, passion, time and expertise of Volunteers. They help to keep the doors open and the lights on. They provide programming, operations and fundraising support and, in many cases, are the face of an organization. Indeed, the countless Volunteers that have contributed to KAM over the past 40-plus years have enabled the organization to become what it is today.

A nominee for this award category exemplifies the following:

-  Devotes an abundance of their time and resources, and is passionate about helping others
-  Sets the example for how just one individual can make an enormous impact in their community
-  Vision for the community, strives to bring people together, believes in the value and importance of contributing to their communities
-  Is a true role model for other volunteers in their organization or in the community




The Ann Blake Award for Practice and Programming



With permission: Ann Blake & Beyond Classrooms Kingston

Ann Blake’s distinguished career spans nearly three decades in the areas of programming and museum education. In 2014, Ann was instrumental in establishing the charity Beyond Classrooms Kingston as a way to engage teachers and students by immersing them in cultural heritage sites for a week of learning. Her mentorship and support inspired countless colleagues, volunteers, educators, and students within our community over the years. Ann especially shone when working with students in museums who gravitated to her assurance that we all had stories to uncover and tell and every question had value. Ann’s belief that it takes a community to make a museum successful propelled her, throughout her career, to pioneer many partnerships between museums and the community. Her work continues to have a lasting impact.

A nominee for this award category exemplifies the following:

-  Contributes exemplary professional practice and/or programming within Cultural Heritage provision
-  Establishes and shapes professional standards, ethics and opportunities that evolves cultural heritage in productive and impactful ways.
-  Generates new cultural heritage provision - either in terms of product or improving accessibility and relevancy to diverse audiences