The Josh Award 2015

The Josh Award is an award established to recognise and support up-and-coming talent in science communication.

The award recognises a defining moment in the career of a science communicator; a person who is a practicing scientist or someone who has chosen science communication as their profession.

This defining moment could be a game changing project, piece of work, way of working or a key moment of change, creativity, innovation or passion. A defining moment in a career that has transformed science communication practice, inspired others or changed the landscape of science communication.

The award provides the opportunity to become the science communicator in residence at the Manchester Science Festival 2015, developing and delivering a new project or event while showcasing best practise in the field of science communication.

The winner will receive support to nurture their development in the field and their involvement in the Manchester Science Festival from both the Festival team and the BIG STEM Communicators Network.

About the Award

Aim of the award

To recognise up-and-coming talent in science communication through an award scheme, nurture development in the field and support the involvement in the Manchester Science Festival.

Objectives

• To recognise one outstanding contributor to science communication each year by means of a defining moment in their career.

• To assist them in the development of an innovative project or event for Manchester Science Festival as Science Communicator in Residence.

• To support their development through networking and skills training.

Who is the award for?

Science communication practitioners or those practising science communication through various aspects of their jobs, e.g. as a researcher at a University.
We invite applications from a very broad range of people who communicate science, for example (but not limited to) university researchers and PhD students, museum and science centre staff, community volunteers, teachers and professional science communicators.

We welcome applications from individuals and groups.

The Award is open to anyone involved in science communication in the UK (and is a UK resident).

**About Manchester Science Festival**

Manchester Science Festival is a celebration of science. People are invited to play, create and experiment with science through beautiful installations, immersive science experiences, intriguing evening events, inspiring talks and debates, hands-on workshops and more. Manchester Science Festival is proudly produced by the Museum of Science and Industry.

**About BIG**

BIG is the skills sharing network for individuals involved in the communication of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.

BIG runs regular events and training courses on issues relevant to science communication and informal science and maths education. Their annual conference - The BIG Event - is regarded as one of the best science communication conferences in the UK as a source of best practice skills-sharing and networking.

Members of the BIG community get access to news, discussion forums, training and events offering networking and sharing of information and views, as well as many other benefits such as free entry to UK science centres and museums. Find out more at www.big.uk.com

**About Josh**

The Award is inspired by and named in memory of Josh Phillips who was Science Communication Officer at the Museum of Science and Industry and a former Chair of BIG. Josh was a much loved, much respected and highly talented science communicator whose outstanding career is commemorated with this award.

**The Award**

**The winner will receive the following:**

- Role as Manchester Science Festival Science Communicator in Residence for one year. This means you receive the support of the Manchester Science Festival team, members of BIG and previous Josh Award winners to develop and deliver an innovative and new project or event at Manchester Science Festival 2015.

- Up to £1000 to develop your project or event with Manchester Science Festival and up to £500 personal expenses budget (this budget will be agreed and held by the Manchester Science Festival).

- A free conference place at the BIG Event (in Norwich 22-24 July) to network with and present to a diverse range of science communicators from across the sector.

- Membership of BIG for one year.

- A personal prize cheque of £500 provided by the Josh Award Fund.
• The Josh Award trophy, held for one year.

The winner will be expected to:

• Develop and deliver a project/event for Manchester Science Festival (in agreement with the team) and act as Science Communicator in Residence at the Manchester Science Festival, which will take place from Thursday 22nd October to Sunday 1st November 2015.

• Accept the Josh Award and meet with the Josh Award Chairman at either Manchester Science Festival or the BIG Event in Norwich 22-24 July.

• Write of a case study of the created event/activity which can be presented at the BIG conference and written in the BIG newsletter

Previous Josh Award Winners

The 2014 winner was freelance science communicator Sarah Bearchell (https://sites.google.com/site/sarahsadventuresinscience/). Sarah was chosen as she focused her bespoke sessions on a SEN audience and developed connections with SEN schools local to the Manchester Science Festival, something that had not been done at the Festival before.

The 2013 winner was scientist Aravind Vijayaraghavan, a lecturer in nanomaterials at the University of Manchester (http://aravind.weebly.com/about-me-cv.html). Aravind created a large scale, crowd-sourced model of graphene that was a striking addition to the Festival programme and allowed groups of people to add to this huge model, that grew over time, while explaining graphene.

The 2012 winner was stand-up mathematician Matt Parker (http://standupmaths.com/) who created and built a computer made of dominoes and was capable of making a simple calculation.
All of the previous winners exhibit a wide variety of backgrounds, experience and creative addition to the Manchester Science Festival.

Process

- Nominations open February 2015.
- Nominations must be made using the attached nomination form and e-mailed to m.navin@mosi.org.uk by 5pm on Friday 17th April 2015.
- Nominations will be considered by a selection panel, whose decision is final, and the 2015 winner will be notified by 18th May 2015.

Timings

February 2015: Launch (online and communications) and nominations open
April 2015: Nominations close
May 2015: Winner notified and announced
May – July 2015: Development of ideas
July 2015: Attendance at BIG Event, meet last year’s winner and confirm project and plan programme.
August – October: Planning and finalising project
October/November: Project or event to take place during Manchester Science Festival
November/December: Evaluation/de-brief plus shared learning to be disseminated via BIG.

Selection Panel

- Timothy Phillips, Chairman
- Natalie Ireland, Head of Learning and Public Programmes, Museum of Science and Industry
- Marieke Navin, Manchester Science Festival Director
- Karen Bultitude, Lecturer in Science Communication and Director of Research in the Department of Science and Technology Studies, UCL
- James Piercy, Chair BIG

www.mosi.org.uk
www.manchestersciencefestival.com
http://www.big.uk.com/

Previous winners include Chris Smith from the Naked Scientists, David Price from Science Made Simple (left), Karen Bultitude from the UWE, Bristol (middle), Steve Cross from UCL (right)