

The Beetlestone Award – Guidance Notes

The Award

- was established in 2018 to recognise leadership and legacy in the field of ‘informal science learning’
- is in memory of Professor John Beetlestone, the founding Director of Techniquet Science Discovery Centre, Cardiff, Wales
- will be given annually, so long as resources allow and suitable candidates are presented
- is offered in association with BIG STEM Communicators Network, formerly known as the British Interactive Group.

Informal Science Learning

Informal science learning (ISL) is the term we have chosen to cover areas previously or otherwise described by terms such as ‘public understanding of science’, ‘public engagement with science’, ‘science communication’, ‘learning science outside the classroom’. It refers to experiential learning of science as practised outside the formal setting of a school or university, in – for example – a science festival, a science museum or science centre.

Who may apply

To be considered for this Award, you will be:

- actively engaged in the field of ISL
- currently in a leadership role in the UK
- committed to equality, diversity and inclusion within ISL
- well established within the field
- able to demonstrate strategic vision and the creation of a legacy

How to apply

You may nominate yourself or someone else for this Award by sending an email to beetlestoneaward@gmail.com. All candidates for the Award, whether self-nominated or recommended by others, will be asked to complete an Application, which you can download [here](#). The **deadline** for receipt of all completed applications is Tuesday 3 May 2022.

Criteria for the Award

The Award will be made to a candidate who is demonstrably outstanding in the following ways:

- achievements in progressing the field of ISL
- strength and clarity of vision for personal role and for the field
- developing a legacy for the field

Given the creative response across the sector to the challenging circumstances of the pandemic, the panel would be particularly interested to hear how people have adapted to this fast-changing situation. **The Award will nevertheless be based upon the totality of the application.**

Prize

- UK-wide recognition amongst your peers in the ISL field
- A personalised Beetlestone Award trophy to keep
- A personal award of £500*
- A bursary of up to £500* to facilitate dissemination (see below)
- Your conference fee paid (should you wish to attend) to this year's BIG Event, a 3-day conference to network with and present to a diverse range of STEM engagement professionals from across the sector

**Payments will be made in pounds sterling only.*

Awardee responsibilities

- to present, through a creative contribution to a conference, a workshop or online resource, a description of the work for which the Award has been made, explaining its relevance and application to the wider field of ISL
- to share this information with the field, duly acknowledging the Beetlestone Award, in a relevant publication - whether in print or online
- to sit on the award's selection panel for the following year

The above presentation to take place within 12 months of the announcement of the Award, and the publication to appear no later than a further 12 months thereafter.

Organising Committee

Colin Johnson OBE - Chair *Director, Techniquest, 1997-2004*

Ian Hall -Treasurer

Wendy Sadler MBE, *Director, science made simple*

Debbie Syrop, *Public Engagement Officer, School of Engineering, Cardiff University*

Harry White, *Science Centre Consultant, HW Consult*

Selection Committee for the Award

The Selection Committee (2022 Chair: Harry White) will consist of

- two members of the Organising Committee
- a representative from the BIG STEM Communicators Network
- Ken Gleason, Museum Consultant, Hands-on Science, Maine, USA
- the previous year's Award winner.

The Selection Committee will not enter into correspondence with applicants. Submitting an application constitutes an acceptance that the Committee's decision is final.

Evaluation

The process and outcomes of the Award will be held under continuous review by the Organising Committee, who reserve the right to vary the conditions and frequency of the Award at any time. In any particular year, the Award will be made only if this is justified by the quality of the response to the solicitation.

About John Beetlestone

Professor John Beetlestone MBE (1932-2017) was the founding Director of the UK's first purpose-built science discovery centre, Techniquest. His vision and drive brought together a creative group of people who established an institution based in Cardiff, but which reached out across the world with its exhibits and programmes. Notable firsts during his leadership (1986-1997) included a city-wide Festival of Science, science centre links with music, arts and drama, an MSc programme in Communicating Science, overnights in the science centre, a travelling planetarium and many other initiatives which have gained ground in ensuing years. His legacy is not simply a building or an institution; it is found among the many people – young and no longer young - who have been inspired to follow his lead.