



The Josh Award 2018

The Josh Award is the UK's national Award in science communication, established to recognise and encourage early professional career, talented innovation and creativity in science communication and engagement.

The Award provides the opportunity to become resident science communicator at the Manchester Science Festival 2018. The winner will also develop and deliver a new project or event for Manchester Science Festival 2018 (18th- 28th October 2018), showcasing best practice 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 the Festival team and the BIG STEM Communicators Network. They will have the opportunity to be involved in the development of the programme for Manchester Science Festival, in an advisory capacity.

Purpose of the Josh Award

To recognise and nurture emerging talent within science communication and engagement, prioritising innovation and creative practice, and to foster involvement in the Manchester Science Festival and the science communicators community.

Objectives

- To strengthen the innovative and creative practice of science communication.
- To support the development of an innovative project or event for Manchester Science Festival 2018
- To enhance the winner's experience through their involvement in the development of the programme of a large-scale science festival
- To develop the winner's professional network, by providing partnership opportunities and skills training

Selection Criteria 2018

Science Communication (20%) Demonstrates exceptional potential for delivering an innovative and creative science communication experience.

Audiences (20%) Engages audiences through creative and participatory science. We especially welcome proposals working with under-represented audiences.

Learning (20%) Demonstrates a compelling example of reflective practice and shared learning.

Vision (40%) Helps deliver the Manchester Science Festival's vision of being the UK's most bold, creative and ambitious one in 2018. Show how your project or event will have impact. How might its impact last after the Festival?

Who is the Award for?

Early career science communication practitioners, who can be full-time, part-time, or practising science communication through various aspects of their jobs, e.g. as a researcher at a university. We welcome applications from individuals and groups. The Award is open to anyone involved in science communication in the UK and who is a UK resident.

About Josh

The Award is inspired by and named in memory of Josh Phillips, who was the first Science Communication Officer at the Museum of Science and Industry. Josh was a much loved, much respected and highly talented science communicator whose outstanding career is commemorated with this Award. Josh was the Chair of BIG, the UK's premier science communicators network, at the time of his passing.

About Manchester Science Festival

Manchester Science Festival is a creative celebration of science. Visitors are invited to play, create and experiment with science through beautiful installations, immersive science experiences, intriguing evening events, inspiring 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. Our annual conference - The BIG Event - is regarded as one of the best science communication conferences in the UK, and is the source of best practice skills-sharing and networking.

Members of the BIG community have 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.

The Prize

The Josh Award winner will receive:

- Up to £2500 to develop their project or event to be part of Manchester Science Festival 2018. Please note this budget includes all the costs and expenses for the project and will be agreed and held by the Manchester Science Festival.
- The role of Manchester Science Festival Science Communicator in Residence for 2018. This means the winner will have the opportunity to be involved in the development of the programme for Manchester Science Festival 2018 in an advisory role.
- Attendance at the annual BIG Event (conference fee and annual membership provided by BIG, worth around £300) to network with and present to a diverse range of science communicators from across the sector. The 2018 BIG Event will take place from 18th to 20th July 2018 at Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium.
- A personal prize cheque of £500 provided by the Josh Award Fund
- The Josh Award trophy, to hold for one year

The winner will be expected to:

- Develop and deliver a project or event for Manchester Science Festival 2018, which meets the Award's selection criteria.
- Act as Science Communicator in Residence for the Manchester Science Festival 2018.
- Deliver the annual 'Science Communication' lecture centred on their Festival project. (dates to coincide with MSF 2018).
- Attend the BIG Event 2018 and write a case study of the created event/project which can be presented at the BIG conference and included in the BIG newsletter.
- Accept the Josh Award at the BIG Event and meet Josh Award Chairman either there or at Manchester Science Festival.
- Receive personal prize cheque from the Josh Award Fund.
- Be part of the selection panel for the Josh Award 2019

Selection Panel

- Timothy Phillips, Chairman Josh Award Foundation
- Antonio Benitez, Manchester Science Festival Director
- Holly Jones, Manchester Science Festival Programme Coordinator
- Karl Byrne, Chair BIG
- James Piercy, Science Communication Practitioner
- Professor Andy Miah, Chair of Science Communication and Future Media, University of Salford
- Jon Chase, Josh Award winner in 2017

Process

- Applications open March 2018.
- Applications must be made using the Josh Award 2018 Application Form and e-mailed to msf@msimanchester.org.uk by 5pm on 20th April 2018.
- Applications are considered by the Selection Panel, whose decision is final
- The winner will be notified by 15th May.

Timetable

- June – July: Attend two planning meetings with Manchester Science Festival team to develop event/project, and to join in Festival Programme planning in an advisory role
 - 18-20 July: Attend BIG Event: Present own work and Festival Plan
 - August – October: Finalising Festival project or event with MSF Team
 - October – Give Josh Award Lecture (date and location tbc), on what your event or project is all about and why its utterly exciting
 - 18th to 28th October: Event takes place in Manchester Science Festival
 - November-December 2018: Festival Evaluation and de-brief, plus shared learning to be disseminated via BIG.