

Beetlestone Award Application Process

*There is no proforma for this application, but you are requested to use the headings below in the order shown, and to set out your application clearly and concisely in response to the questions asked. Please refer to the **Notes of Guidance** below, as you do so.*

The panel would like to see you explain at appropriate points what you have done to create more inclusive, equitable, and diverse environments - both in your own practice and for your audiences.

Personal details

- (a) Full name, professional and residential addresses
- (b) Your preferred telephone number and email address for communication regarding this Award.

Role and responsibilities

Describe your current role and responsibilities, and state the length of time you have held this position.

Impact

Explain, with the relevant evidence, how you and your work have made a demonstrable impact on the field of Informal Science Learning (ISL). We are particularly interested in how your work has led to advancements in the principles and practice of communicating science, but you should also include information about your impact on audiences. Where possible, you should indicate how you have influenced others who also provide leadership.

Progression

Outline your major achievements and contributions to date to the field of ISL. What have been the defining moments in your career so far, and what are you most proud of? If you have something to add about your response to the impact of Covid-19 on the sector, this is the place to include it.

Vision

What is your vision (a) for your personal contribution to the field in your remaining years of work in communicating science, and (b) for the development of the field in general?

Legacy

What can you now identify as the probable legacy of your personal contributions to the field of 'informal science learning'?

Awardee responsibility

A Bursary of up to £500 is available to Awardees in addition to the prize money. Awardees claiming this will be required to share their anticipated legacy with the field. Explain how you would do this, by means of a creative contribution to a conference, workshop or online resource - describing the work upon which your application for the Award is based, and explaining its relevance and application to the wider field of ISL.

References

References are not required, but if you would like the support of third-party referees, please supply the names and contact details of no more than two individuals that the panel may choose to approach.

Your application should be sent by email to beetlestoneaward@gmail.com to arrive no later than Monday 15 May 2023.

Applications will normally be acknowledged within 48 hours of receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within this time, please send a text to 07779 758795. This will alert us to any problem with spam filters at either end of the process.

Notes of Guidance

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 Techniquest 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
- 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 completing this form <https://forms.office.com/e/FF5cy2mKhN>.

All candidates for the Award, whether self-nominated or recommended by others, will be asked to complete an Application, following the guidance given above. The **deadline** for receipt of all completed applications is Monday 15 May 2023.

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
- Access to 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

Awardee responsibilities if a Bursary is claimed

- 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 (2023 Chair: Harry White) will consist of

- two members of the Organising Committee
- a representative from the BIG STEM Communicators Network
- Leonardo Alfonsi, PsiQuadro, Perugia, Italy
- last year's Award winner, Karen Davies.

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.