

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

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High Desert Museum Tapped as Finalist for 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service
Local community encouraged to 'Share Your Story' on IMLS social media in March, April

Bend, Ore. – The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced that the High Desert Museum in Bend is among the 29 finalists for the 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to their communities. For 24 years, the award has celebrated institutions that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service and are making a difference for individuals, families, and communities. The High Desert Museum, along with the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, was one of two Oregon museums selected as finalists.

“We are thrilled and honored to be recognized as a national leader by the Institute of Museum and Library Services,” said High Desert Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. “Inclusion as a finalist for the National Medal validates the work we’re doing to offer diverse learning experiences to our community and visitors, and the importance of creating connections to our region's arts, culture, history and natural sciences.”

“The 29 National Medal finalists showcase the tremendous ability of libraries and museums to serve as vital community resources,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “The Institute of Museum and Library Services is honored to recognize these leading institutions. We congratulate them on the work they are doing across the United States.”

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. IMLS is encouraging community members who have visited the High Desert Museum to share their story on social media. To #ShareYourStory, please visit www.facebook.com/USIMLS or www.twitter.com/us_ims and use #IMLSmedals.

National Medal winners will be announced later this spring. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions at the National Medal Ceremony on May 24 in Washington, D.C.

To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the [IMLS website](http://www.ims.gov).

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's approximately [120,000 libraries](#) and [35,000 museums](#) and related organizations. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.ihms.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the High Desert Museum

THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in 1982 and brings regional wildlife, culture, art and natural resources together to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's high desert country. The Museum uses indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, and living history demonstrations to help people discover and appreciate the high desert environment. The Museum is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

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