

October 11th, 2017

The 2017 Children in Museums Award goes to:

Tekniska Museet, The National Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

At a lively ceremony which took place on the evening of Wednesday 11 October at the Hands On! Conference in Pilsen, Czech Republic, the results of the 2017 Children in Museums Award were announced. 20 museums took part in the competition this year, with a short-list of ten finalists listed below. The entries were of an extremely high quality and a real testament to the growing maturity of a relatively new field for the museum profession.

The judges said: we were unanimous in our decision to make the National Museum of Science and Technology the winner of the 2017 Children in Museums Award. Its innovative approaches to foster curiosity, creativity for neuroscience and the brain's extraordinary abilities from a contemporary perspective are highly praised. There is a great focus on availability as an expression of the museum's comprehensive and consistently implemented strategic renewal to be a place for everyone. MegaMind, with its high quality design, total accessibility and basis of serious research and development of contents reaches a new level in children's museums, while acknowledging that there has to be a permanent process of development and change to reflect present-day questions and challenges. Our warmest congratulations go to the museum on this remarkable achievement.

The winner receives a cash prize of 5,000 Euros and holds for one year a bronze statue of Miffy, the world-famous children's character, created by Dick Bruna. The sculptor is Marc Bruna, Dick Bruna's son.

The Sponsor

Grateful thanks are due to Mercis BV for their generous sponsorship of the Award.

Background of the Award

The Children's Museum Award was established in 2011 by the European Museum Academy and Hands On! for the recognition of excellence in the specific sector of international children's museums. In 2014 the name of the



Award was changed to the Children in Museums Award, to reflect the wider range of provision for children in today's museums. Applications are welcomed from children's museums and from education, children and youth departments in museums and science centres, both long-established and recently opened.

Short-Listed Museums

Pauline Gandel Children's Gallery, Melbourne Museum, Melbourne, Australia
Alice – Children's Museum, Berlin, Germany
EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Dublin, Ireland
The Children's Museum Jordan, Amman, Jordan
Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, Hilversum, The Netherlands
Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands
Maritime Museum Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Brabant Natural History Museum, Tilburg, The Netherlands
Centraal Museum – Miffy Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Tekniska Museet, National Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

2016 Winner of the Award

GeoFort, Herwijnen, The Netherlands

The European Museum Academy

EMA is a non-profit Foundation established to reflect museums at the international level, to promote research on museography and museology as a high cultural activity, to provide constructive criticism and promote discussion on new exhibitions and museums, and to disseminate museological knowledge and ideas among members of the profession. It aims to promote the conception and development of new as well as of traditional museums as tools of social change. EMA co-operates with Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums for this Award. EMA members of the Jury of the Award are also members of the EMA Pool of Experts.

Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums

Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums is an international professional organisation representing and advocating for its non-profit member institutions. It actively stimulates the creation and development of children's museums (including science centres, large collections based institutions serving young visitors) and more space for cultural and educational activities for children and young people. Hands On! supports the important role of children's museums as centres where play inspires creativity, informal and lifelong learning.

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