

# 2016 Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition



The annual Excellence in Exhibition Label Writing Competition is sponsored by the American Alliance of Museum's Curators Committee (CurCom) in cooperation with EdCom and NAME and in partnership with the Museology Graduate Program at the University of Washington, Seattle.

By highlighting the remarkable work of label writers and editors, the competition seeks to champion high quality label writing and inspire museum professionals to produce their very best work. Each year, selected exhibition labels are featured at the Marketplace of Ideas during the AAM annual meeting and in the competition's online archive. The goal is to serve as a resource for museum professionals striving to write excellent label copy.

Each year, jurors representing CurCom, EdCom, NAME as well as previous honorees volunteer their time and expertise to review and select the winning entries. In 2015, the competition received over 70 submissions totaling over 180 labels. Of those, jurors identified just 13 labels to recognize. The skill and commitment of the jurors are the keys to making the release of the competition's winners an exciting event each year. Previous years' winning entries are accessible online through the competition's archive. This archive offers museum professionals an

opportunity to seek inspiration in a varied collection of excellent label writing techniques and styles and is one of the competition's greatest assets.

2016 marks the fourth year of the collaboration between CurCom and the University of Washington. This unique partnership provides emerging museum professionals the opportunity to apply skills and theory presented in the classroom to a professional environment. As the competition project manager, graduate students at the University gain leadership, communication and management skills while engaging with label writers and other museum professionals.

John Russick, Vice President for Interpretation and Education at the Chicago History Museum has organized the competition since 2008. Each year a graduate student from the Museology Program serves as project manager. This year, Peter Kleinpass will manage the competition.

Our panel for the 2016 competition includes Joy Bivins (CurCom), Adam Tessier (NAME), Eileen Campbell (EdCom) and Kat Talley-Jones, whose label for Death Trap for Killers was honored in the 2015 competition.

Questions can be emailed to: [Labelcmp@uw.edu](mailto:Labelcmp@uw.edu)