



International Association
of Children in Museums



European Museum Academy

PRESS RELEASE

2016 CHILDREN IN MUSEUMS AWARD

GeoFort in The Netherlands takes the Prize!

At a lively ceremony which took place on the evening of Thursday 9 June at the ECSITE Conference in Graz, Austria, the results of the 2016 Children in Museums Award were announced. 17 museums took part in the competition this year, with a short-list of nine 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: 'GeoFort is a genuinely unique and innovative experience. It makes the potentially dry topics of navigation and cartography very hands on, social and fun. It gets people outdoors but there is enough to do inside if the weather is bad. The site has been well adapted from an old fortress into a modern science centre and has a strong ethos of exploring and improving the world without being worthy. It is inclusive for children of a variety of ages and those who learn in different ways, with enough variety to engage young people and hold their attention. GeoFort is an active, realistic and enjoyable complex where children learn by doing while having fun. It is an inspiring place and a worthy winner of the 2016 Children in Museums Award.'

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! International 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

MUZEIKO – America for Bulgaria Children’s Museum, Sofia, Bulgaria
Mathematikum Giessen e.V., Giessen, Germany
Dutch Resistance Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
NEMO Science Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
GeoFort, Herwijnen, The Netherlands
National Museum in Warsaw, Poland
Museum of World Culture, Gothenburg, Sweden
National Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
Seven Stories, National Centre for Children’s Books, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE AWARD

2012 Tropenmuseum Junior, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2013 Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, USA
2014 National Gallery of Denmark (SMK), Copenhagen, Denmark
2015 Lifetime Achievement Awards: Boston Children’s Museum, USA and
ZOOM Children’s Museum, Vienna, Austria

INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY (EMA)

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.

INFORMATION ON 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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