MAAK Award

The annual MAAK Award honors one individual for a lifetime of service to the preservation, understanding or promotion of Michigan's history.

The Michigan History Center and the Michigan Historical Commission created the award to honor four individuals - Governor William Milliken, Commissioner Elizabeth Adams, Secretary of State Richard Austin and Attorney General Frank Kelley - who contributed to the preservation and understanding of Michigan's history over their lifetimes of service.

Eligibility & Criteria

- Only individuals are eligible
- Must be a resident of the State of Michigan
- Sitting Michigan Historical Commissioners are not eligible
- Service honored may be at the local, state or national level
- Posthumous nominations will not be considered

Nomination Requirements

- Prepare a brief description (500 – 1,500 words) of the nominee's work or projects
- Prepare an explanation (500 – 1,500 words) of how the nominee has advanced and impacted Michigan history awareness, stewardship, preservation and inspiration
- Gather 2-5 supporting documents (for example: newspaper articles, programs, publication titles, websites)
- Gather 2-3 letters of support
- Fill out a nomination form and submit it along with all supporting documents and materials

Evaluation

Commissioners and staff review the nominations considering:

- Alignment with the purpose of the proposed award

- The overall significance and impact (state, local or national) of the nominee's work in support of Michigan history
- The strength of the nomination text, supporting materials and letters of support
- The degree to which the nominee appears to have demonstrated genuine passion, commitment and effort in support of Michigan history

Previous Winners

- Geneva Kebler Wiskemann dedicated her career to libraries, archives and the preservation of historical materials through her roles with the Michigan State Library and Michigan Historical Commission, as well as her volunteer service throughout retirement.
- Kerry Chartkoff spent the better part of her career discovering, sharing and preserving the rich history of Michigan's Capitol and the Michigan Battle Flags.
- Matthew Switlik enjoyed a lifetime of passion, innovation, exploration, sharing and stewarding of the history of Monroe County, the River Raison Battlefield and the State of Michigan.

Additional Information

- Application and supporting materials can be submitted via email or mail (see nomination form for email and physical address)
- Only one MAAK Award is given each year

Award Schedule

May 31: Nomination period opens

October 31: Nomination period closes

January: Nomination reviews are completed

February: Michigan Historical Commission makes final awards decisions; awards recipients are contacted

March 15: Award recipients provide a short personal biography and photograph

May or June: Award recipients are honored at a special ceremony in Lansing

Michigan Historical Commission and Michigan History Center

Milliken, Adams, Austin, Kelley (MAAK) Award Nomination Form

Recognizing a lifetime of contributions to preserving and sharing Michigan history.

NOMINEE SECTION

Name of Nominee _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____

Organization _____ Job Title _____

Your Name _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____

One- or two-sentence summary of the nominee's contribution to Michigan history.

Attachment Checklist:

- ☐ Brief description (500 - 1500 words) of the nominee's lifetime work and special projects.
- ☐ Explanation (500 - 1500 words) of how the nominee has advanced and impacted Michigan history awareness, stewardship, preservation and inspiration.
- ☐ Supporting documents
- ☐ Letters of support

Email complete packet to:
davism1@michigan.gov

or Mail complete packet to:
Michigan Historical Commission
Michigan History Center
Department of Natural Resources
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30740
Lansing, MI 48909-8240