



**The American Council of the Blind's  
Audio Description Project  
Announces Call for Nominations for the  
Thirteenth Annual ADP Awards-2021**

The Audio Description Project (ADP) is a wide-ranging audio description promotion and production initiative with goals that include-

- building advocacy on behalf of audio description;
- offering a range of educational resources and working to establish nationally acknowledged user-focused guidelines for quality description in its various genres as well as a professionally recognized certification program for audio describers;
- encouraging growth of audio description with an emphasis on the involvement of AD users/consumers, especially youth;
- disseminating information on audio description and provide general support for regional, state, and local forums;
- encouraging studies on audio description particularly with respect to its efficacy as a technique for conveying visual images and its impact on literacy for children and others.

One part of the project involves the recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of audio description.

**Application Categories**

This year's ADP Awards include a call for nominations in nine categories:

- Achievement in Audio Description – Media / Organizations
- Achievement in Audio Description – Media / Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts / Organizations
- Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts / Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description - Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers / Organizations

- Achievement in Audio Description - Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers / Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description - International
- Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award in Audio Description - Research and Development
- Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description

The call for nominations ends on Sunday, May 9, 2021, with winners announced during a plenary general session of the American Council of the Blind Conference and Convention in July 2021 (the 2021 Conference and Convention sessions will be held virtually via ZOOM and also broadcast on ACB Radio).

Nomination material, criteria and more information follows and is also available at: [www.acb.org/adp](http://www.acb.org/adp)

### The Awards and Criteria for Selection of Recipients

- Achievement in Audio Description – Media: Organizations
  - Media: Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description – Performing Arts: Organizations
  - Performing Arts: individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description – Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers:
  - Organizations
  - Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers: Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description - International
- Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award in Audio Description - Research and Development
- Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description

The Achievement Awards are made to individuals and/or organizations for outstanding contributions to the establishment and/or continued development of significant audio description programs in each of three areas: media, performing arts, and museums. Beginning in 2021, we are recognizing *organizations* and *individuals* in separate award categories for the Media, Performing Arts and the Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers achievement awards.

The Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award for Research and Development is made to an individual or organization for outstanding research that leads to the advance of audio description.

**With the exception of the International Achievement Award and the Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award for Research and Development only US-based organizations or individuals are eligible.**

**On occasion, we will award Special Recognition Awards to organizations or individuals in the various Achievement Awards categories.**

**The Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description has been established as a tribute to the late Barry Levine, the highly-respected moderator of the Audio Description listserv, administered by the American Council of the Blind (ACB). Barry was not only an avid description user in both media and performing arts; he served so many others as the President of Audio Description International. He was a trusted friend and valued mentor; when he passed away suddenly in May 2009, the nation lost a forceful and impressive advocate for audio description.**

**The Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of audio description over an extended period of time, leading, inspiring or providing significant service to others.**

### **Past Recipients**

#### **- Achievement in Audio Description - Media**

**2009- Maria Diaz and Closed Caption Latina  
2010- WGBH and Media Access Group  
2011- Harry A. Jessell, TV News Check  
2012- Described and Captioned Media Program  
2013- Hollywood Access Services  
2014- Diane Johnson and Descriptive Video Works  
2015- Netflix  
2016- Fred Brack  
2017- ABC Digital  
2018- Rooted in Rights  
2019- Microsoft/Xbox  
2020- Disney +**

#### **- Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts**

**2009- Lisa Helen Hoffman and Geva Theater  
2010- Paper Mill Playhouse  
2011- Mimi Smith and Amaryllis Theater Company  
2012- Kentucky Center for the Arts  
2013- Steppenwolf Theatre**

**2014- Adrienne Arsht Performing Arts Center**  
**2015- Jesse Minkert and Arts and Visually Impaired Audiences**  
**2016- Arts Access**  
**2017- Lori Ward, Tennessee Performing Arts Center**  
**2018- MindsEye Radio/Marjorie Moore**  
**2019- Hunter Gullickson and The Guthrie Theater**  
**2020- Broadway Sacramento**

**- Achievement in Audio Description - Museums/Visual Arts/Visitor Centers**

**2009- Elisabeth Axel and Art Education for the Blind**  
**2010- Beth Ziebarth and Smithsonian Institution**  
**2011- Rebecca McGinnis and Metropolitan Museum of Art**  
**2012- National Park Service**  
**2013- The White House**  
**2014- Sandy Malmquist and the Connecticut Children's Museum**  
**2015- Meadows Museum of Art at the Southern Methodist University**  
**2016- Dole Institute of Politics/Audio Reader**  
**2017- none**  
**2018- Tennessee School for the Blind and Julia Cawthon**  
**2019- Hannah Goodwin and the Museum of Fine Arts-Boston**  
**2020- Michele Hartley-National Park Service**

**- Achievement in Audio Description - International**

**2009- Joan Greening and the Royal National Institute of Blind People, U.K.**  
**2010- Bernd Benecke and Bayerischer Rundfunk, Germany**  
**2011- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox International, U.K.**  
**2012- Track One Communications, India**  
**2013- Accessible Media, Inc., Canada**  
**2014- Steph Kirkland and the VocalEye Descriptive Arts Society, Canada**  
**2015- Anne Hornsby, Mind's Eye, U.K.**  
**2016- Bos Soluções e Serviços Ltda., Sao Paulo, Brazil**  
**2017- ABLE, New Zealand**  
**2017- Dr. Anna Jankowska, Poland**  
**2018- Amos Be'er, Central Library of the Blind, Israel**  
**2019- Vera Arma, Italy**  
**2020- Vocal Eyes, U.K.**

**- Special Recognition Achievement in Audio Description**

**2015- Sebastian Andrade-Miles - Glendale, CO**  
**2016- Alice Austin, Eliot, ME**  
**- Mark Messersmith, The Visual Voice - Mountain View, CA**  
**2017- Timothy Wynn**  
**2018- Antonio Vazquez Martin, Aristia Producciones, Spain**

**2019- Montclair State University - Montclair, NJ**

**2020- Mary Hanks – Houston, TX**

**- Audio Described Aotearoa Ltd. - New Zealand**

**- Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award in Audio Description - Research and Development**

**2009- none**

**2010- American Foundation for the Blind**

**2011- Dr. Joshua A Miele and the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute**

**2012- Dr. Philip Piety**

**2013- Ryerson University and Dr. Deborah Fels**

**2014- Dr. Louise Fryer**

**2015- Accessible Media, Inc. "AMI Player"**

**2016- Disney / Pixar "Disney Movies Anywhere App"**

**2017- Actiview**

**2018- Dr. Francisco Lima**

**2019- Dr. Brett Oppegaard**

**2020- United Airlines**

**- Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description**

**2009- Jim Stovall (Narrative Television Network)**

**2010- Gregory Frazier and Audio Vision**

**2011- Dr. Barry Cronin**

**2012- Dr. Alan Woods**

**2013- Rick Boggs**

**2014- Dr. Joel Snyder**

**2015- Dr. Pilar Orero**

**2016- Dr. Francisco Lima**

**2017- Diane Johnson, Descriptive Video Works**

**2018- The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family National Center for Accessible Media at WGBH (NCAM)**

**2019- Jon P. Skaalen**

**2020- Matthew J. Kaplowitz**

### **How to Nominate**

**We urge you to recognize someone who has contributed significantly to the growth of audio description. Submitting a nomination is easy! It's a three-step process:**

- 1--Tell Us About the Nominee**
- 2--Tell Us About Yourself**

- 3-- Support Your Nomination

Fill out the form below OR make your nomination on-line at:

<https://jsnyder42.wufoo.com/forms/2021-audio-description-project-awards/>

**Nomination Form**

**2021 Annual Audio Description Project Awards**

- You may submit as many nominations as you wish (one nomination/form).
- Self-nominations are permitted.
- DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: May 9, 2021

If using the form below, submit your nominations to:

[kim.charlson@perkins.org](mailto:kim.charlson@perkins.org)

or to:

Kim Charlson, Co-Chair  
Audio Description Project Steering Committee  
American Council of the Blind  
1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 420  
Alexandria, VA 22311

**1) TELL US ABOUT THE NOMINEE**

Award for which you're making a nomination (choose one):

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts / Organization

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts / Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement in Audio Description – Media / Organization

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement in Audio Description – Media / Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement in Audio Description - Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers / Organization

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement in Audio Description - Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers / Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ Achievement in Audio Description - International

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Margaret R. Pfanstiehl Achievement Award in Audio Description -  
Research and Development

\_\_\_\_\_ Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**2) TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF:**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Support Your Nomination**

**For Achievements Awards in Media, Performing Arts, or Museums, attach (or type below) a 500 words or less statement that illustrates how your nominee has made outstanding contributions to the establishment and/or continued development of significant audio description programs in media, performing arts, or museums.**

**For the Dr. Margaret R. Pfanstiehl Award in Research and Development, attach (or type below) a 500 words or less statement that illustrates how your nominee has**

conducted outstanding research that has led to the advance of audio description.

**For the Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description, attach (or type below) a 500 words or less statement that illustrates how your nominee has made outstanding contributions to the field of audio description over an extended period of time, leading, inspiring or providing significant service to others.**

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**or use the form above and submit your nominations**

**to: [kim.charlson@perkins.org](mailto:kim.charlson@perkins.org)**

**or to:**

**Kim Charlson, Co-Chair  
Audio Description Project Steering Committee  
American Council of the Blind  
1703 N. Beauregard St., Suite 420  
Alexandria, VA 22311 St. Louis, MO 63109**

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