



The Josh Award 2017

The Josh Award is the UK's national award in science communication, established to recognise and support talent, innovation and creativity in science communication.

The award provides the opportunity to become resident science communicator at the Manchester Science Festival, in partnership with the University of Salford. The winner will develop and deliver a new project or event during Manchester Science Festival 2017 (19th- 29th October 2017), while showcasing best practice in the field of science communication.

The winner will receive support to nurture their development in the field and their involvement in the Manchester Science Festival from the Festival team, the University of Salford's Science Communication Space, and the BIG STEM Communicators Network.

Aim of the award

To recognise and nurture emerging talent within science communication, prioritising innovation and creative practice, and involvement with the Manchester Science Festival.

Objectives

- To strengthen innovative and creative practice of science communication nationally.
- To support the development of an innovative project/event for Manchester Science Festival 2017, as Science Communicator in Residence.
- To develop the winner's professional network, by providing partnership opportunities and skills training.

Selection criteria

Science Communication (20%)
Demonstrate exceptional potential for delivering an innovative and creative science communication experience.
Audiences (20%)
Demonstrates an ability to engage families through creative and participatory science engagement.

Impact (20%)

Demonstrates a compelling and measurable pathway to impact.

Proposal for project/event meets the selection criteria below (40%)

- Suitable for families with children 5-11 years old
- Exploring a contemporary science topic
- Playful, hands-on and participatory for whole family
- High quality production and delivery
- Free for visitors
- Takes place at the Museum of Science and Industry on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October 2017

Who is the award for?

Science communication practitioners who can be full-time, part-time, or practicing science communication through various aspects of their jobs, e.g. as a researcher at a University. We welcome applications from individuals and groups. The Award is open to anyone involved in science communication in the UK (and is a UK resident).

About Josh

The Award is inspired by and named in memory of Josh Phillips who was the first Science Communication Officer at the Museum of Science and Industry. Josh was a much loved, much respected and highly talented science communicator whose outstanding career is commemorated with this award. Josh was also Chair of BIG at the time of his passing.

About Manchester Science Festival

Manchester Science Festival is a celebration of science. People are invited to play, create and experiment with science through beautiful installations, immersive science experiences, intriguing evening events, inspiring debates, hands-on workshops and more. Manchester Science Festival is proudly produced by the Museum of Science and Industry.

About BIG

BIG is the skills sharing network for individuals involved in the communication of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects. BIG runs regular events and training courses on issues relevant to science communication and informal science and maths education. Our annual conference - The BIG Event - is regarded as one of the best science communication conferences in the UK as a source of best practice skills-sharing and networking.

Members of the BIG community get access to news, discussion forums, training and events offering networking and sharing of information and views, as well as many other benefits such as free entry to UK science centres and museums.

About University of Salford

The University of Salford Science Communication Space is composed of award winning scientists, whose achievements include the Times Higher Education Research Project of the Year and whose science communicators have featured on such programmes as the BBC's Life Scientific and in festivals around the UK.

<http://scicomm.space>

The Prize

The winner will receive the following:

- Role as Manchester Science Festival Science Communicator in Residence for 2017. The winner will receive the support of the Manchester Science Festival team, members of BIG and previous Josh Award winners to develop and deliver an innovative and creative new project or event at Manchester Science Festival.
- Up to £2500 to develop your project or event with Manchester Science Festival and up to £1000 personal expenses budget. Please note this budget will be agreed and held by the Manchester Science Festival and the University of Salford.
- Attendance at the annual BIG Event (conference fee and annual membership provided by BIG, worth around £300) to network with and present to a diverse range of science communicators from across the sector. The 2017 BIG Event will take place from Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st July 2017 at Life Science Centre in Newcastle Upon Tyne.
- A personal prize cheque of £500 provided by the Josh Award
- The Josh Award trophy, held for one year

The winner will be expected to:

- Develop and deliver a project/event for Manchester Science Festival that meets the programming criteria established for the Award and act as Science Communicator in Residence at the Manchester Science Festival, which will take place from Thursday 19th to Sunday 29th October 2017
- Deliver the annual 'Science Communication' lecture at the University of Salford, Manchester (dates to coincide with MSF 2017).
- Accept the Josh Award and meet with the Josh Award Chairman at either Manchester Science Festival or BIG Event.
- Attend the BIG Event 2017 and write a case study of the created event/project which can be presented at the BIG conference and written in the BIG newsletter.

Selection Panel

- Timothy Phillips, Chairman Josh Award Foundation
- Antonio Benitez, Manchester Science Festival Director
- Carole Keating, Manchester Science Festival Creative Producer
- Ruth Murray, Learning and Participation Manager, Museum of Science and Industry
- Bridget Holligan, Chair BIG
- James Piercy, BIG member
- Professor Andy Miah, Chair of Science Communication and Future Media, University of Salford
- Dr Katie Steckles, Josh Award winner in 2016

Process

- Nominations open April 2016.
- Nominations must be made using the attached nomination form and e-mailed to msf@msimanchester.org.uk by 5pm on Monday 22nd May 2017.
- Nominations will be considered by a selection panel, whose decision is final, and the winner will be notified before the end of May.

Timings

- June – July: Attend two planning meetings with Manchester Science Festival team to develop event/project
- 19th to 21st July: Attendance at BIG Event
- August – October: Finalising project/event
- 28th and 29th October: Event to take place during Manchester Science Festival
- November/December: Evaluation/de-brief plus shared learning to be disseminated via BIG.

Previous Josh Award Winners



The 2016 winner was Dr Katie Steckles (<http://www.katiesteckles.co.uk/>) a mathematician based in Manchester, who gives talks and workshops on different areas of maths. Katie was the official Science Communicator in Residence for the 2016 Manchester Science Festival, and ran the Manchester Megapixel project, a large-scale public engagement event exploring the science and technology and maths of how digital images are produced.



The 2015 winner was Professor Andy Miah (<http://andymiah.net/>), Chair in Science Communication & Future Media at the University of Salford. Andy curated a two-day drone expo, which gave visitors the chance to fly a number of drones, watch demonstrations from experts and discover new and surprising uses for drones.

The 2014 winner was freelance science communicator Sarah Bearchell

(<https://sites.google.com/site/sarahsadventuresinscience/>).

Sarah was chosen as she focused her bespoke sessions on a SEN audience and developed connections with SEN schools local to the Manchester Science Festival, something that had not been done at the Festival before.



The 2013 winner was scientist Aravind Vijayaraghavan, a lecturer in nanomaterials at the University of Manchester (<http://aravind.weebly.com/about-me-cv.html>). Aravind created a large scale, crowd-sourced model of graphene that was a striking addition to the Festival programme that year and allowed groups of people to add to this huge model that grew during the Festival, while talking with scientists about graphene.

The 2012 winner was stand-up mathematician Matt Parker (<http://standupmaths.com/>) who created and built a computer made of dominoes which was capable of making a simple calculation.



All of the previous winners exhibit a wide variety of backgrounds, experience and creative addition to the Manchester Science Festival.