



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY
Making history personal

For Immediate Release

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Museum of East Tennessee History Wins Multiple Awards at 2018 Tennessee Association of Museums Conference



Ken Mayes, TAM president, presents awards to Lisa Oakley, curator of education, Hannah Rexrode, education and volunteer coordinator, and Adam Alfrey, curator of exhibitions.

(Knoxville, TN) – The Museum of East Tennessee History was recently awarded three Awards of Excellence and an Award of Commendation by the Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) for exhibits, programs, audio visuals, and staff. The awards were presented at the Tennessee Association of Museums Conference held in Selmer, Tennessee on March 21.

An Award of Excellence was presented for best temporary

exhibit for *Rock of Ages: East Tennessee's Marble Industry*, as well as An Award of Commendation for best Audio Visual Exhibit Component for the introduction video produced in partnership with East Tennessee PBS. The *Rock of Ages* exhibit was developed in partnership with MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Knox County Public Library and was on view at the Museum of East Tennessee History November 2016 through July 2017. The award-winning exhibition featured a look at the region's rich marble history, the importance of the stone to the local jobs and economy, and highlighted buildings, sculptures, and furniture made from the unique stone. The exhibit also facilitated a variety of well received public programs and partnerships with Candora Marble Company, Knoxville Museum of Art, and the Tennessee Pink Marble Trail, to name a few.

ETHS's new children's event "Monsters at the Museum" was the recipient of an Award of Excellence in the Special Event category. Nearly 400 people partook in the free Halloween event in its first year. Attendees participated in a variety of fun Halloween-themed crafts, games, and activities, with storytelling that focused on regional folklore and superstitions, such as the wampus cat, while artifacts demonstrating eerie Victorian mourning traditions were on display.

The event also featured museum scavenger hunts, costume contests, and trick or treating. The Second Annual Monsters at the Museum event is scheduled for October 27, 2018.

Hannah Rexrode, ETHS education and volunteer coordinator, was recognized as the East Tennessee Emerging Museum Professional. Hannah joined the ETHS staff in December 2016 and has since brought enthusiasm and new ideas to the historical society's team. Hanna's experience in children's programming and interpretation at Belle Mead Plantation and Historic Travellers Rest in Nashville have improved ETHS's school tours, outreach, and docent programs. Mrs. Rexrode has also been instrumental in developing new family programming, including the Monsters at the Museum event and a WWI Family Day coming up on June 9, 2018.

The purpose of the TAM Awards of Excellence is to recognize, encourage, and promote excellence within the activities of the Tennessee museum community. Nominations are made either by museum staff or community individuals and are submitted in January to regional representatives for adjudication. Each entry is presented to the TAM Awards Committee, composed of six regional representatives, two at-large members, and the committee chair. The committee makes the final decisions for the awards. Awards are based on creativity, originality, resourcefulness, success, support of museum mission statement, and utilization of staff and volunteers.

About the Tennessee Association of Museums:

Founded in 1960, the Tennessee Association of Museums fosters communication and cooperation between museums, cultural societies, and other members on matters of common interest to all. Our goal is to inform the public on the importance of understanding and preserving Tennessee's cultural, historical, and scientific heritage. We also encourage publication and dissemination of information on the state's past as well as the development of professional standards of members who bring that past to the public. The organization is currently comprised of 109 museums and historic sites from across the state.

About East Tennessee Historical Society

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society is widely acknowledged to be one of the most active history organizations in the Southeast, and enjoys a national reputation for excellence in programming and education. For 184 years the East Tennessee Historical Society has been helping East Tennesseans hold on to our unique heritage—recording the events, collecting the artifacts, and saving the stories that comprise the history we all share.

The historical society pursues its education mission through publications, lectures, conferences, school programs, museum exhibits, and heritage programs such as the popular First Families of Tennessee and the Civil War Families of Tennessee. The East Tennessee History Center houses the staff and programs of the East Tennessee Historical Society, the Museum of East Tennessee History, the Calvin M. McClung Collection, and the Knox County Archives. For more information visit the website at www.eastTNhistory.org.

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