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Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Named Finalist for 2024 IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service

TUCSON, AZ—The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced today that the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is among 30 finalists for the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of two institutions in Arizona to be selected as a finalist for this award.

The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant impact in their communities. For 30 years, the award has honored institutions that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities.

“The Desert Museum’s selection as a National Medal Finalist is extremely meaningful to our staff, Trustees, volunteers and other supporters – it affirms that we matter to the communities we work within. It provides inspiration to deepen and expand regional partnerships that will continue to increase accessibility, enhance mutual benefit, and achieve greater mission impact into the future.” said Craig Ivanyi, *Executive Director*.

To celebrate this honor, IMLS is encouraging Desert Museum community members to share stories, memories, pictures, and videos on social media using the hashtags #ShareYourStory and #IMLSmedals, and engage with IMLS on [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). For more information, please visit the [IMLS website](#).

National Medal winners will be announced in late May. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions during an in-person National Medals Ceremony in Washington, DC this summer.

To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the [IMLS website](#).

About the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: Founded in 1952, the Desert Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization widely recognized as a model institution for immersive and innovative interpretation of native plants and animals in their natural habitat. The 98- acre Desert Museum in Tucson, AZ is regularly recognized as a top-tier facility due to its pioneering approach to interpreting the complete natural history of a single region. It is a zoo, botanical garden, art gallery and natural history museum, all rolled into one. The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert. To learn more, visit www.desertmuseum.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services: The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).