

EcoCenter Community Impact Awards

One of the highlights of the 2017 BaySplash event will be the presentation of EcoCenter Community Impact Awards. We will be honoring a Bayview-Hunters Point educator, youth, and organization that have excelled in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) related service to inspire and empower the Bayview-Hunters Point (BVHP) community. These honorees exemplify individuals and organizations helping to advance community understanding of some the themes and topics core to the EcoCenter's education programs: environmental justice, urban sustainability, community revitalization, place-based conservation, STEAM education and diversity. As such, these honorees are also furthering bay.org / bay ecotarium's mission to protect, restore, and inspire conservation of the San Francisco Bay and its watershed from the Sierra to the Sea.

bay.org / bay ecotarium is San Francisco Bay's largest watershed conservation group, addressing today's most important water-related critical issues including climate change, wildlife protection, sustainability, coast and ocean protection, and watershed health. Five unique divisions under one powerful NGO allows bay.org / bay ecotarium to take a unified, innovative, multi-tiered approach to educate, connect, and motivate diverse stakeholders to join us in the common cause of promoting the health of the Bay and its surrounding ecosystems. The divisions include: Aquarium of the Bay, The Bay Institute, Sea Lion Center, Bay Model Alliance and EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park. For more information, please visit: www.bay.org.

Eligibility

All individuals living and/or working for non-profit/community based organizations serving the Bayview-Hunters Point community.

Categories

1. Educator: Individual working in the capacity of a formal (Pre-K to post-secondary education setting) or informal educator (non-profit or CBO based program).
2. Youth: Up to age 24 – either individual or associated with community organization/youth group.
3. Organization: A non-profit 501(c)3 or community based organization (CBO).

Criteria

The Community Impact Award review committee will determine the final nominations, based on the criteria. Additionally, the content and quality of the completed nomination applications will be taken into consideration. The general award criteria which nominees will be evaluated is listed below. The specific criterion is meant to provide guidance when nominating individuals or groups. Nominees should have had exemplary performance in **two or more** of the following:

- 1. Innovation:** Describe creative ideas and suggestions this nominee/group has contributed that have helped improve the furthering of STEAM education or awareness, or enhanced the overall success of STEAM in general. Include unique or innovative product or program designs/processes or ideas that helped improve quality or operations in education.
- 2. Leadership:** Describe how this nominee/group has demonstrated leadership regarding furthering STEAM and/or STEAM education and diversity. This may include providing vision and strategy to STEAM community activities, setting an example for others to follow while performing STEAM related duties, looking for and acting on STEM opportunities and is proactive and self-motivated fostering STEAM, persevering in the face of obstacles.
- 3. Community Outreach:** Describe how this person/group has actively furthered STEAM education or awareness in the community. Describe the program or activities which specifically contributed to community engagement in STEAM activities. List past and current activities that support nomination on how these contributions meaningfully advanced the BVHP community at large.
- 4. Inspiration:** Describe how this nominee/group has brought significant positive change in support of STEAM education and awareness to BVHP community. Describe how this nominee/group has utilized highly effective

practices to inspire and lead others to contribute constructively as well as develop and utilize strong, constructive, and productive relationships that enable the goals to be met in support of STEAM initiatives.

5. Impact: Describe how nominee/group significantly improves or enhances the quality of STEAM work in ways that make a substantial difference for STEAM educational outreach and ensures BVHP sustains a high degree of awareness. Describe how the nominee/group promotes and participates in a wide variety of STEAM programs to improve the quality of STEAM education and educational opportunities.

6. Sustainable: Describe the program and the specific aspects which make it a long-lasting, maintainable STEAM education program. In describing the program one could exhibit a proven track record to include: (1) marketing and outreach, (2) number of participants, (3) organizational structure, (4) overall budget, (5) sustainability of the program in the future, (6) monitoring of participants in their education and career, (7) webpages, (8) endorsements by educational, community or business leaders/companies, and (9) credentials of instructors or program managers.

Nomination – Requirements and Rules

Nominations for a potential awardee may be initiated by any individual or group – and should be submitted in a letter or narrative format describing:

- The individual or group you are nominating;
- What award you are nominating them for (educator, youth or organization);
- What is your contact information;
- What is the potential awardees contact information;
- And a short narrative describing the 2 or more criteria listed above that the nominee exemplifies and why. Narrative should also discuss the magnitude of the accomplishments or contributions, the impact and significance of the activities, and other quantifiable benefits to the broadly defined BVHP community.

The nomination submission deadline is September 2, 2017.

Nomination submissions are accepted either:

- Via e-mail to: baysplash@bay.org **OR**
- Drop-off in person at the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park.

Nominations are completely confidential; the names of the nominees are not made public. Incomplete nominations that are missing any of the information listed above or without an appropriate narrative will not be considered. The nominations are only valid for the current nomination year.

Please note: If you are nominating a group of individuals as a nominee, you should explicitly describe the individual contributions of each member of the team.

Review and Approval

The nominations will be reviewed and award decisions coordinated through an appointed committee comprised of bay.org / bay ecotarium leadership and EcoCenter Advisory Committee members. Nominations will be reviewed to determine eligibility and merit. Once this has been determined, the committee will evaluate each nomination according to requirements. Committee members must have consensus from the committee to make the final determination of the esteemed EcoCenter Community Impact Award winners.

Awardees will be announced no later than September 25, 2017.

Ceremony and Recognition

An awards ceremony will be held in the honour of the recipients at the EcoCenter BaySplash community event on October 7, 2017. The awardees will be recognized as follows:

- Publicly recognized during EcoCenter BaySplash reception on October 7, 2017;

- Name and description of why they received the award published on the EcoCenter website; and
- Awardees featured in monthly bay.org / bay ecotarium newsletter.

For more information about the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park, please visit: www.ecocenterhhp.org

For more information about the 2017 BaySplash event, please visit: www.ecocenterhhp.org/baysplash.

For more information about the EcoCenter Community Impact Awards or to submit your nomination, please contact: baysplash@bay.org.