The American Council of the Blind's Audio Description Project Announces the 2021 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 the 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. This year's ADP
Awards include a call for nominations in nine categories. The deadline for nominations is May 23, 2021.

**ADP Nine Awards Categories:**
- Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts/Organizations
- Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts/Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description - Media/Organizations
- Achievement in Audio Description - Media/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 23, 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 - Performing Arts: Organizations - Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description - Media: Organizations - Individuals
- Achievement in Audio Description - Museums/Visual Art/Visitor Centers - Organizations - 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**
2020 - Disney +
2019 - Microsoft/Xbox
2018 - Rooted in Rights
2017 - ABC Digital
2016 - Fred Brack
2015 - Netflix
2014 - Diane Johnson and Descriptive Video Works
2013 - Hollywood Access Services
2012 - Described and Captioned Media Program
2011 - Harry A. Jessell, TV News Check
2010 - WGBH and Media Access Group
2009 - Maria Diaz and Closed Caption Latina

**Achievement in Audio Description - Performing Arts**
2020 - Broadway Sacramento
2019 - Hunter Gullickson and The Guthrie Theater
2018 - MindsEye Radio/Marjorie Moore
2017 - Lori Ward, Tennessee Performing Arts Center
2016 - Arts Access
2015 - Jesse Minkert and Arts and Visually Impaired Audiences
2014 - Adrienne Arsht Performing Arts Center
2013 - Steppenwolf Theatre
2012 - Kentucky Center for the Arts
2011 - Mimi Smith and Amaryllis Theater Company
2010 - Paper Mill Playhouse
2009 - Lisa Helen Hoffman and Geva Theater
Achievement in Audio Description - Museums/Visual Arts/Visitor Centers
2020 - Michele Hartley-National Park Service
2019 - Hannah Goodwin and the Museum of Fine Arts-Boston
2018 - Tennessee School for the Blind and Julia Cawthon
2017 - none
2016 - Dole Institute of Politics/Audio-Reader
2015 - Meadows Museum of Art at the Southern Methodist University
2014 - Sandy Malmquist and the Connecticut Children's Museum
2013 - The White House
2012 - National Park Service
2011 - Rebecca McGinnis and Metropolitan Museum of Art
2010 - Beth Ziebarth and Smithsonian Institution
2009 - Elisabeth Axel and Art Education for the Blind

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

Special Recognition Achievement in Audio Description
2020 - Mary Hanks - Houston, TX, Audio Described Aotearoa Ltd. - New Zealand
Dr. Margaret Pfanstiehl Memorial Award in Audio Description - Research and Development
2020 - United Airlines
2019 - Dr. Brett Oppegaard
2018 - Dr. Francisco Lima
2017 - Actiview
2016 - Disney / Pixar "Disney Movies Anywhere App"
2015 - Accessible Media, Inc. "AMI Player"
2014 - Dr. Louise Fryer
2013 - Ryerson University and Dr. Deborah Fels
2012 - Dr. Philip Piety
2011 - Dr. Joshua A Miele and the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute
2010 - American Foundation for the Blind
2009 - none

Barry Levine Memorial Award for Career Achievement in Audio Description
2020 - Matthew J. Kaplowitz
2019 - Jon P. Skaalen
2018 - The Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family National Center for Accessible Media at WGBH (NCAM)
2017 - Diane Johnson, Descriptive Video Works
2016 - Dr. Francisco Lima
2015 - Dr. Pilar Orero
2014 - Dr. Joel Snyder
2013 - Rick Boggs
2012 - Dr. Alan Woods
2011 - Dr. Barry Cronin
2010 - Gregory Frazier and Audio Vision
2009 - Jim Stovall (Narrative Television Network)

**2021 Annual Audio Description Project Awards**
- You may submit as many nominations as you wish (one nomination per form).
- Self-nominations are permitted.
- Deadline for Nominations: May 23, 2021

**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

Make your nomination online at: [https://jsnyder42.wufoo.com/forms/2021-audio-description-project-awards/](https://jsnyder42.wufoo.com/forms/2021-audio-description-project-awards/)

Or fill out the form below and submit your nominations to kim.charlson@perkins.org

Or mail your nominations to:
Kim Charlson,
Audio Description Project Steering Committee Co-Chair
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) 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) 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) 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.