



# Audio Description Project

## **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 listserve, 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

2019 - Montclair State University - Montclair, NJ  
2018 - Antonio Vazquez Martin, Aristia Producciones, Spain  
2017 - Timothy Wynn  
2016 - Alice Austin, Eliot, ME- Mark Messersmith, The Visual Voice - Mountain View, CA  
2015 - Sebastian Andrade-Miles - Glendale, CO

**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/>

Or fill out the form below and submit your nominations to [kim.charlson@perkins.org](mailto: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.

American Council of the Blind | [www.acb.org](http://www.acb.org)

