

Intergenerational Award - MLA

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is proud to be sponsoring an Adult Learners' Week Intergenerational Award. The award is a recognition of the learning achievements of two or more generations learning either together or from each other in the sector.

Adult Learners' Week is the UK's largest and longest running festival of learning and it will take place from 15-21 May 2010. This is a week-long national campaign, coordinated by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), and celebrates all kinds of learning – informal, leading to a qualification or just for fun. As part of the week, the awards give extraordinary learners the recognition they deserve. Their stories illustrate the life-transforming power of learning as an adult and can inspire others to get involved in learning activities.

In Touch, an Adult Learners' Week Award Winner in 2009, is a volunteer programme run jointly by the Manchester Museum and the Imperial War Museum North. It promotes lifelong learning and improves basic skills levels and quality of life in places where social and economic deprivation is highest. The project has involved over 120 volunteers across Greater Manchester, including long-term unemployed people, those with low and outdated skills levels, young adults in danger of exclusion, single parents, refugees and asylum seekers.

As a result of the programme, volunteers have gained confidence and skills to progress onto further learning and secure employment in cultural and non-cultural organisations. "Learning in the museum is fantastic – it really doesn't matter what age you are or what your background is", said an In Touch volunteer.

Natasha Innocent, Senior Policy Adviser, Learning and Skills at MLA, said, "Museums, libraries and archives provide excellent opportunities for different generations to both learn together and from each other. Their rich collections and resources provide creative opportunities for extended families, friends and acquaintances to learn about the past, the present and the future. MLA believes the Adult Learners Week Intergenerational Award will showcase those opportunities offered by the sector and build new partnerships."

There are four award categories available: Individuals, Groups, Families and Projects; and nominees may also be entered for special awards. All learners nominated for an award will receive a certificate of achievement. The winners will receive a learning voucher - valued between £200 and £1,500, and will be presented with their award in a ceremony during Adult Learners' Week.

All award categories are open to learners living in England only. Nominations close at **5pm on 29 January 2010**. Nominating for an Adult Learners' Week Award is simple and it can be done on paper or online. Nominations submitted by 15 December 2009 will be entered for a free prize draw to win one of five £20 shopping vouchers, in time for Christmas.

For more information, visit www.alw.org.uk/nominate , e-mail alw@niace.org.uk or contact the Campaigns and Promotions Team at NIACE on 0116 2044200.