

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

PRESS RELEASE

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE TO PRESENT SECOND ANNUAL MARVELS OF MEDIA EVENT CELEBRATING AUTISTIC MEDIA-MAKERS WITH AN AWARDS CEREMONY, EXHIBIT, AND FILM FESTIVAL

Advisory council includes industry leaders Josh Sapan, Brian Grazer, Paula Zahn, William J. Abbott, Cheryl Henson, Judy McGrath, and more

Awards ceremony and exhibit opening take place March 30, 2023, with festival following throughout April 2023—Autism Acceptance Month

Program spotlights autistic professionals and students in the fields of film, media, animation, game design, and more



Astoria, New York, December 8, 2022 (updated Feb. 16, 2023) — Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) invites all audiences to recognize the creativity and leadership of autistic media-makers at its second annual Marvels of Media Awards on Thursday, March 30, 2023. Launched in March 2022, the Marvels of Media initiative is the first media awards ceremony, film festival, and exhibit to celebrate neurodiversity. The 2023 awards ceremony also marks the opening of the Marvels of Media exhibit, with the film festival to follow in April 2023 during Autism Acceptance Month. Programs are free to the public.

36-01 35 Avenue Astoria, NY 11106 718 777 6800 movingimage.us

[Submissions are now closed.] Artists, filmmakers, cinematographers, game designers, and other creators working with film, media, animation, or game design may self-nominate by submitting their work or be nominated by a colleague or organization. Professional, mid-career, and emerging artists working in any area of media are encouraged to apply, as well as students of media and media-makers of all ages. Film and media nominations are accepted via [FilmFreeway](#), and applicants can use code MARVELS to waive the application fee. Video game nominations are accepted through [this form](#). To learn more about the process, visit movingimage.us/marvels-of-media-awards.

The 2023 Marvels of Media honorees will be selected by a final panel of judges and celebrated at the March 30 event. The accompanying exhibit, to be organized with guest curator Carrie Hawks (2022 Marvels of Media Awardee), will showcase the artistry of the 2023 cohort, providing a perspective on media-making through the lens of autism.

This year, the Museum has established the Marvels of Media Advisory Council featuring industry leaders including media executive William J. Abbott; executive producer Rich Battista; neurodiversity advocate Wendy Belzberg; President of Landmark College Peter Eden; media executive David Epstein; producer Brian Grazer; media entrepreneur John Hendricks; President of the Jim Henson Foundation Cheryl Henson; Executive Director of New York State Council on the Arts Mara Manus; media executive Judy McGrath; CEO of CableLabs Phil McKinney; actor Sue Ann Pien; media executive Josh Sapan; director Tony Spiridakis; journalist Paula Zahn; and media entrepreneur Strauss Zelnick.

Marvels of Media is presented by Museum of the Moving Image with Sapan Studios. Josh Sapan is a member of the Museum's Board of Trustees.

"I believe Marvels of Media is an important venture into an amazing group of creators," said 2022 awardee Bradley Hennessey, creator of the game *An Aspie Life*.

"Throughout all media, there are many on the spectrum who work day and night to develop art. The autistic spectrum covers a wide range of individuals, each unique in who they are and how they interact with the world. When this is applied to a creative endeavor, the end result is a representation of who they are. Through this, I hope visitors will gain a better understanding of what it means to be on the spectrum and their perspective on life." (*The Hollywood Reporter*)

"For the makers, the project also feels personal. 'I was basically trying to tell people what it's really like to be autistic,' [2022 awardee Jackson Mark] Tucker-Meyer says in his film, 'specifically telling normal people how it feels, because I think that's really the purpose of art: to tell 'normal' people how it feels to be different.'" (*The New York Times*)

Marvels of Media is produced in collaboration with a committee of artists, spokespeople on the autism spectrum, and experts in the field of media including: arts administrator, consultant, and educator Miranda Lee; parent advocate Brian Canha; media artist Justin Canha; occupational therapist and author Lindsey Biel; writer/comedian Maylin Pavletic; filmmaker and playwright Jackson Mark Tucker-Meyer; film event producer, programmer, and accessibility consultant Yaara Kedem; co-founder of Spectrum Laboratory Jason Weissbrod; manager of curricula and instruction at The Knowledge House Jessye Herrell; work-based learning coordinator at Tech Kids Unlimited Halenur Komsul; New York Director of Asperger/Autism Network (AANE) Pat Schissel; visual storyteller and educator Paola Quintero, JD, MAAEd; Executive Director of Exceptional Minds, David Siegel; and Rosa Martínez, President and Founder of Strokes of Genius, Inc., an organization that promotes artists with autism.

Through the Marvels of Media initiative, MoMI further affirms a commitment to supporting the creative endeavors and pursuits of autistic media-makers of all ages and backgrounds. Ongoing programs at MoMI are dedicated to audiences and media-makers on the spectrum and have included sensory-friendly screenings, trainings for parents and teachers on using media puppetry for the benefit of autistic children (held in collaboration with The Jim Henson Foundation), an early-hours educational program hosted by a live puppeteer inside *The Jim Henson Exhibition*, and disability-forward public events relating to media artistry. Recently, MoMI launched an access survey to gather information from Museum visitors on how to make the space and programming accessible for disabled and neurodivergent visitors of all experiences.

Join the conversation by using **#MarvelsofMediaAwards** or by following the Museum on Facebook ([@MovingImageMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/MovingImageMuseum)), Twitter ([@movingimagenyc](https://twitter.com/movingimagenyc)), and Instagram ([@movingimagenyc](https://www.instagram.com/movingimagenyc)).

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 70,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

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Image: Dani Bowman, 2022 awardee, at the Marvels of Media exhibit (photo: Thanassi Karageorgiou)

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Thurs, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Fri, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$20 adults, \$12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID, \$10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.