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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lougheed House Receives 2020 Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility

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Edmonton, Alberta - The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is pleased to announce Lougheed House as the 2020 recipient of the Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility. This Award recognizes Lougheed House's commitment to creating exciting and unique visitor experiences that tell the lesser-known stories of Calgary and to integrating social responsibility into all aspects of its museum practice.

Lougheed House has challenged itself to go beyond the traditional historic house museum to embrace, challenge, and educate the communities around it and evolve alongside them. The House's ongoing partnerships with Indigenous, racialized, queer, and feminist communities and its responsiveness to the feedback gathered from these diverse communities firmly positions it as a leader in the museum field.

Lougheed House created a Community Engagement Framework and a Re-Imagined Exhibition Development Plan that is embedded with community feedback. Standing out as a model for other institutions, this framework guides Lougheed House's work with the community and enables it to transform its exhibit spaces to reflect the more diverse history of Calgary. The exhibit, *Roar: Exploring Queer History and Gender Identity*, is a shining example of Lougheed House's re-imagining and historic illumination.

"This year's Selection Committee was impressed with the ways in which the team at Lougheed House has decided to break free from the typical narrative of an historic house and engage deeply with its communities," said Meaghan Patterson, Executive Director / CEO. "The AMA is pleased to provide Lougheed House with this recognition and looks forward to seeing how they continue making a difference in their communities going forward."

In choosing to focus on the evolution of the House and to tell the lesser-known histories of the many and varied communities it serves, Lougheed House is building a thriving and sustainable organization that exemplifies the active role museums can take alongside their partners in shaping the narrative of a dynamic Alberta.

Historically, the Award is presented at an Awards Ceremony held as part of the AMA's Annual Conference. However, in light of COVID-19 and public health requirements, an in-person ceremony will not take place this year, and Lougheed House's achievements will be celebrated virtually.

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Background

The Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility is the vision of Robert R. Janes, PhD, created to support and further the work of museums that are solving community issues and promoting health and well-being. Together with the AMA, the ambitious goal of the Award is to create vibrant and sustainable communities by investing in programs that effect real social and environmental change, and which have the potential to create public benefit on a larger scale. The recipient of the Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility receives a financial contribution to investigate drivers for success, scale up activities, and create a model for others to follow, thereby contributing to the long-term impact of museums in their communities.

The Alberta Museums Association provides a variety of programs and services to over 500 museums and museum professionals across Alberta. Through its focus on community engagement, social responsibility, and sustainability, the AMA utilizes its funding, accreditation, awards, and professional development opportunities to support institutions in their vital role as leading contributors to the social, cultural, and educational fabric of Alberta. The AMA believes that museums can leverage their positions as trusted institutions to encourage respectful dialogue, provide educational opportunities, and bring awareness to some of society's most pressing issues.

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