

Museum is shortlisted for not one, but TWO, National Awards

We have just been notified that the museum has been shortlisted for two different categories in the Museums & Heritage Awards for Excellence.

These awards are described as - an unparalleled opportunity to celebrate the wealth of expertise and innovation in the industry. They spotlight the truly exceptional work that goes into creating world-class visitor attractions, providing recognition to operators and suppliers that is much deserved and long overdue. It is the showcase for the best in the museums, galleries and heritage visitor attractions industry. (<http://tinyurl.com/cwp624>)

The museum based its entry on the Diesel Exhibition that ran over the summer in 2008. They were told by the Event Director that both the quantity and quality of entries for all 12 categories of this year's awards was exceptionally high, making short listing even more difficult than ever before.

Despite this, the museum has successfully made the shortlist for both the Classic Award and for the Project on a Limited Budget. Here is the detail of the categories and what the judges would be looking for.

- **Classic Award**
This is open to any museum, gallery or heritage attraction that has been established for 10 years or more. Judges will be looking for evidence of continued growth, development and visitor interest over the long term. Emphasis will be placed on the ongoing relevance and vibrancy of the museum or heritage attraction.
- **Project on a Limited Budget**
This category recognises excellence in the creation of a project or exhibition carried out on a limited budget. Particular attention should be paid to the cost-effectiveness of the project and the use of creativity to overcome issues of funding - it is not merely about the sums involved. The overall impact the project or exhibition has had on the museum or heritage attraction should also be taken into consideration.

This year's winners will be announced at a glittering ceremony on Wednesday 13th May at Church House in Westminster. Presented by journalist and broadcaster, Simon Calder, the evening is guaranteed to be a wonderful celebration of all the incredible work achieved in this sector during 2009.

Whatever the outcome on the 13th May we know that making the shortlist is testament to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who give so freely of their time to make the museum such a success. With all that enthusiasm we strive to delight our visitors and this news shows that our efforts can be judged on a National stage.

Let's all keep our fingers crossed for the 13th and hope it is a lucky event for us.

