

The “Polly” Award



Polly Rosenbaum

In 1999, the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records established the Polly Rosenbaum award in recognition of Polly’s tireless support for libraries, museums, archives, and the preservation of Arizona’s rich cultural history.

This award connotes a special acknowledgment of elected or appointed officials (not on the current Library Board) who cherish Arizona’s rich cultural resources and support the work of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

Nominations are made by employees of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, and the members of the Friends of Arizona Archives, and Arizona State Capitol Museum Guild.

The Selection Committee includes one professional staff person from each agency division, one representative from the Friends of Arizona Archives, and one representative from the Arizona State Capitol Museum Guild. Agency Division Directors chair the committee on a rotating basis.

The “Polly” Award is presented annually during Statehood Day celebrations at the State Capitol.



Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records

Winner of the 2011 "Polly" Award



Catherine May

Catherine May has, and continues to serve the state of Arizona both professionally and personally. As a Senior Historical Analyst for the Salt River Project, Catherine performs historical research and maintains records and archives for one of Arizona's largest utilities which has delivered power and water to the Southwest for more than 100 years. Catherine also serves as President of the Executive Committee on the Board of Directors for the Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development in Phoenix. Tumbleweed's Mission is to serve abused, abandoned, troubled, and neglected youth in our community.

The "Polly Award" recognizes Catherine May's sincere interest in, and public commitment to the State Library's mission to preserve Arizona's history and to provide access to information, as demonstrated in numerous ways:

- * As a prime mover in the Coordinating Committee for History in Arizona (CCHA), Catherine led efforts starting in early 2003 in planning for Arizona's Centennial in 2012.
- * In conjunction with her leadership in the Friend's of Arizona Archives, she was deeply involved and instrumental in the efforts to design, construct and finish the Polly Rosenbaum State Archives and History building. The state of the art building won the 2008 Southwest Contractor's award for Best Electrical and Mechanical Design.
- * Demonstrating skillful leadership in a variety of arenas, Catherine helped Archives Month achieve statewide recognition, supported the Arizona History Convention, helped the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC) acquire and perform specific responsibilities to create awareness and promote observance of Arizona's Centennial at the local and state level under Laws 2005, Senate Bill 1065 (Chapter 1), and also served on the Friend's of Arizona Archives Board.

Catherine has deep appreciation for the value of cultural institutions and the roles they play in helping citizens live their lives, work their jobs, and understand their history. Catherine May's support of the Agency reflects the example of Polly Rosenbaum. Her continuing efforts to help us in our mission to provide access and preserve Arizona are treasured by us all.

It is with deep respect, appreciation and pleasure that Catherine May was selected for the 2010

Polly Rosenbaum Award.