



Alexandria Archaeological Commission America's First Archaeological Commission



The Bernard “Ben” Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award

This award is named for and acknowledges the long record of achievement by Col. Bernard “Ben” Brenman, USA, Ret. Ben was larger than life in his enthusiasm, his advocacy, and his love for Alexandria. Wherever you go in Alexandria, you see, walk on, or are otherwise touched by his impact. Ben believed in education and preservation. He would give walking tours to local Scouts and regale them with the area’s history. Ben wanted to save the history of all the people who came before and the sites they inhabited. He advocated for public access and conceived a series of heritage trails across the entire city. The Alexandria Heritage Trail is a direct descendant of his concept. Ben Brenman Park was named to honor Ben’s contributions to the City of Alexandria, including acquisition of the parkland. Ben was a founding member of the Alexandria Archaeological Commission in 1975 and chaired the Commission for 21 years.

Ben Brenman wanted people of all ages and backgrounds, from today and into tomorrow, to experience archaeology and make it useful. Ben worked with developers and residents to create historic parks in new project areas, such as the Alexandria Canal Park and the African American Heritage Park. In 1989, Ben originated the idea of Alexandria’s Archaeology Protection Code, the first such code of any city in America. He is directly responsible for the city’s status as a model of community archaeology to the state, the country, and the world. Ben wanted everyone to share his love of Alexandria’s archaeology.

Criteria for the award:

Given periodically, the award is open to individuals and groups who have demonstrated high quality work, innovation, commitment, or extraordinary efforts in preservation, research, protection, enhancement, creation of historic parks and open spaces, documentation, education, public appreciation, and advocacy in relation to the archaeology of historic Alexandria.

Eligibility requirements:

Recipients can be businesses, organizations, individuals or families; including but not limited to, developers, professional archaeologists and/or firms that have conducted excavations, individuals, owners of archaeological sites, organizations (civic, church, historical, etc.), students, Scouts, teachers/professors and/or schools, or governmental agencies/ employees. City residency is not required.

Nomination process:

Nominations must be in writing. The nominator should describe in sufficient detail the work done by the nominee and discuss how that work demonstrates high quality, innovation, and

commitment to archaeological or historic preservation, research, protection of sites as open space and parks, and/or archaeological education and public appreciation. Where the nomination involves work on or preservation of a physical site, the location of that site should be clearly identified. In addition, both the nominator's and the nominee's names and addresses should be clearly identified.

Selection Process:

Nominations are made on an annual basis, but an award recipient may not be selected every year. The determination of eligibility of a nominee and the selection of an award recipient remain in the sole view and discretion of the Alexandria Archaeology Commission.

Where to find Nomination forms:

Nomination forms are available on Alexandria Archaeology's website:

www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org

If you do not have internet access, forms can be obtained by calling Alexandria Archaeology at 703-746-4399.

Nominations may be mailed to:

Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Alexandria Archaeology Museum
105 N. Union Street, #327
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Nominations may be emailed to:

archaeology@alexandriava.gov

Subject line should read, "Ben Brenman Award Nomination."

When awards are presented:

Awards will be presented during Virginia Archaeology Month in October of the year for which an award recipient has been selected. The award will be announced by Alexandria City Council proclamation at a City Council meeting.