



Gleitsman Activist Award

Created in 1993 by an endowed gift from the estate of Alan Gleitsman, the Center for Public Leadership awards the annual Gleitsman Activist Award to honor exceptional leaders and innovators who have sparked positive social change and inspired others to do the same. Gleitsman stated the intent of this award is to “recognize people who make a difference, tell their story, and make other people aware of what one person can do.”

Awardees are nominated by the public and selected based on their leadership achievements in social activism and demonstrated efforts to challenge injustice. The winner of the Gleitsman Activist Award receives a cash prize and a specially commissioned sculpture designed by Maya Lin, the creator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama.

"Gleitsman Award winners embody public leadership through deep moral purpose, collaborative approaches that lift many voices, and an ability to work within and to push systems of power. This award shines a light on incredible activists, their many brave colleagues, and issues that are often underrecognized."

Ken Himmelman
Executive Director, Center for Public Leadership

The Gleitsman Activist Award alternates biennially between the Gleitsman Citizen Activist Award and the Gleitsman International Activist Award. The Citizen Activist Award recognizes activists who fight injustice and implement social change in the United States, while the International Activist Award honors leading social activists who work to correct inequities in the global community, thereby improving the quality of life for all the world's citizens.

CPL acknowledges the generosity of the Gleitsman Foundation for its support of the Gleitsman Activist Award.