



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Thomas A. Livesay Named Recipient of 2015 American Association of Museums Award for Distinguished Service** *Briscoe Museum director, educator, and advocate honored at Annual Meeting in Atlanta, April 26-29*

**(SAN ANTONIO, TX – May 1, 2015)** -- The Board of Directors of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) has announced that Thomas A. Livesay, executive director of the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, TX, is the recipient of its Award for Distinguished Service to Museums for 2015. The award, established in 1981, recognizes excellence and contributions to the museum profession for at least 20 years. Criteria include the individual's cumulative contribution to institutions, the museum profession and the larger museum community. It is only given in years when there is a worthy nominee.

"Tom Livesay is the consummate example of what altruism to the profession really means," said Mark A. Tullos, director of the Louisiana State Museum System. "He has proven to be one of our nation's most important...and valuable counselors guiding not only individual institutions, but our national association, through challenging deliberations affecting museum best practice and policy creation."

Nancy Loeffler, board chair of the Briscoe Western Art Museum adds, "This well-deserved award showcases the caliber of leadership and talent we have at the helm of the Briscoe Museum. Tom brings to San Antonio expertise born of experience and a commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of our community as a whole."

With a career spanning four decades, the keystone to Livesay's professional legacy was the 15 years he served as Director of the Museum of New Mexico System in Santa Fe, where he managed four museums and six state monuments. During his tenure, the museums were expanded by 65,000 square feet and by more than 210,000 artifacts. He also secured the funding for the new Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, the expansion of the Museum of International Folk Art and completed master planning for the New Mexico History Museum inaugurated in 2009.

Additional career highlights include leadership positions with the Louisiana State University Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Longview Museum and Art Center and the Amarillo Art Center (now Amarillo Museum of Art).

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Livesay has been devoted to the entire museum field through his service as an AAM board member (twice), as President of the Texas Association of Museums, and as chair for the Commission of Public Records, State of New Mexico.

In a letter supporting Livesay's nomination, William U. Eiland, director of the Georgia Museum of Art stated, "Tom's service to our field has indeed been 'distinguished.' His personal style of friendliness and generosity may have endeared him to colleagues and employees, but his wisdom, his generosity, and his commitment to the field gained for him universal respect and admiration."

### **About The Briscoe Western Art Museum**

The Briscoe Western Art Museum, named in honor of the late Texas Governor, Dolph Briscoe, Jr. and his wife, Janey Slaughter Briscoe, preserves and presents the art, history, and culture of the American West through exhibitions, educational programs, and public events reflective of the region's rich traditions and shared heritage. More information at [BriscoeMuseum.org](http://BriscoeMuseum.org).

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Ford W. Bell, AAM President, presents Thomas Livesay with the 2015 Award for Distinguished Service Award at AAM Annual Meeting in Atlanta on April 2, 2015.