



## **2017 Community Leader Arts/Culture Award**



### **Museum of disABILITY History**

Established in 1998 by Dr. James Boles, then president and CEO of People Inc., the Museum of disABILITY History is dedicated to advancing the understanding, acceptance, and independence of people with disabilities. People Inc. is Western New York's leading human services agency, working to ensure that individuals with disabling conditions or other special needs have the supports to participate and succeed in an accepting society.

The Museum is a leader in the work to restore abandoned institutional cemeteries in WNY. Many of those who lived and died in these State-run facilities were outcast or forgotten by their families. In some cases, their graves are the only testament to their existence. To provide them justice, the Museum has discovered and restored over 2,000 such graves in the last five years.

The Museum's exhibits, collections, archives, and educational programs create both awareness and a platform for dialogue and discovery about a population that has long been underserved and overlooked. It is the only museum of its kind in the United States, and has been recognized for its work to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of people with disabilities.

For its work to advocate for the rights of those living with disabilities, and for its commitment to building a more Just and Inclusive region, the NFJC proudly recognizes the Museum of disABILITY History with the 2017 Community Leader Award in Arts/Culture. Accepting this award is Dr. Jim Boles.



*"...a just community begins with me!"*

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