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Pearl S. Buck International's *Taking Action* Tour Named AASLH Award of Excellence Winner

Pearl S. Buck International's project of developing and implementing the *Pearl S. Buck: Taking Action* Tour has been named a 2020 recipient of an Award of Excellence by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 75th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Pearl S. Buck: Taking Action is an interactive and dialogic reimagining of a typical historic house tour. This tour of the Pearl S. Buck House National Historic Landmark in Bucks County, PA, developed in collaboration with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, shares the story of Pearl S. Buck's forward-thinking human rights advocacy for issues that remain relevant today. Pearl S. Buck, winner of the Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes, used her fame to shed light on the rights of marginalized communities including people of color, people with disabilities, women, biracial children, and immigrants. Beyond using her writing to bring attention to these social justice issues, she took action to help those affected. This tour engages visitors in conversations about subjects important to Ms. Buck. It inspires them to reflect on their own values and to take action to make the world a "good and peaceful place," as Pearl S. Buck said and did.

"People who have visited our historic site and experienced *Pearl S. Buck: Taking Action* have left feedback that they now have 'more of an awareness that activism is greatly needed, especially in the

climate of America at this time' and that they were inspired to learn that 'you can start small' to make big changes in the world," noted Pearl S. Buck House curator Marie Toner. "We thank AASLH for bestowing this award on this particular project. We hope that visitors will continue to join us so we can inspire them to go out into the world and serve."

The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. This year, AASLH is proud to confer 57 national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena.

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Pearl S. Buck International® provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, builds better lives for children around the globe and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark Home.

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