

McKeel Hagerty is presented LeMay—America's Car Museum Nicola Bulgari Award

Honor recognizes individuals dedicated to preserving America's automotive heritage

LeMay—America's Car Museum (ACM) has presented its Nicola Bulgari Award to McKeel Hagerty, president and CEO of Hagerty, which offers insurance and valuation tools for classic vehicles. The award, named after jewelry magnate and classic car collector Nicola Bulgari, is given annually to an individual who makes outstanding contributions to preserving America's automotive heritage through education, restoration and collecting. Past recipients include Dr. Frederick Simeone, founder of the Simeone Automotive Museum, and Ed Welburn, GM's VP of global design.

"McKeel has been one of the most progressive and innovative leaders in the automotive industry," said David Madeira, ACM president and CEO. "He has demonstrated a deep commitment to the preservation of America's car history, founding the Historic Vehicle Association and supporting educational institutions and shop programs that are dedicated to the future of classic cars."

Hagerty took over the family business in 1995 and has grown the company from 30 employees to more than 500. He created the Collectors Foundation, awarding \$2.75 million in scholarships and grants to prepare young adults for careers in automotive preservation and restoration. It was renamed the Hagerty Education Program after partnering with America's Car Museum in January 2014. Hagerty has committed another \$1.75 million to support collector vehicle education.

"I have been fortunate to build much of my life around my love of cars," said Hagerty, who serves on ACM's board of directors. "They embody so much: freedom, beauty, technology and culture.



(L-R)
David Madeira,
McKeel Hagerty

However, personal transportation will look very different to future generations, as autonomous cars and other technologies take the automobile from an object of desire to a mobility appliance. We must be more disciplined in protecting our automotive treasures so they can be celebrated and enjoyed by future generations."

The ceremony was held in June during the Wheels & Heels Annual Gala, which celebrated the second anniversary of the Tacoma, Washington-based museum. Titled "CARnivale!," the Rio-themed evening anniversary gala and dinner included live music and auctions, raising over \$425,000 to benefit the Museum. More than 300 supporters attended.

LeMay—America's Car Museum, a four-level, 165,000-sq.ft. attraction, opened in 2012 in downtown Tacoma. The largest automobile museum in North America, it explores how the automobile has fulfilled a distinctive role at the core of the American experience and shaped our society. The spacious Museum, with rotating exhibits, is designed to be the centerpiece for automotive history as well as an educational center and library. The facility, adjacent to the Tacoma Dome, also has a 3.5-acre show field, theatre, café, banquet hall and meeting facilities.

ACM holds its annual Board meeting in Scottsdale in January, during our collector car auction week. Hagerty is always here, too, as they insure a huge percentage of the vehicles traveling to Arizona and crossing the block during those events.

For more information on the Museum and its events or becoming an ACM member, visit www.lemaymuseum.org. ■

