



39th Annual IBPA Book Award™



IBPA
BOOK AWARD

CALL FOR ENTRIES

IBPA's Annual Book Award Program
Recognizing Publishers for Excellence
in Book Editorial and Design



*You are invited to enter
the **39th Annual***

IBPA Book Award™

WELCOME TO THE IBPA BOOK AWARD PROGRAM

Since 1985, the IBPA Book Award has been regarded as one of the highest national honors for independent publishers. The awards are administered by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) with help from over 160 book publishing professionals including librarians, bookstore owners, reviewers, designers, publicity managers, and editors.

WHY ENTER

The IBPA Book Award program is the oldest, most established, and recognized national honor in independent publishing. The awards are unique in that the verbatim judging forms are returned to all participating publishers, providing entrants with direct feedback on each submission.

Each year, a gala award ceremony is held in conjunction with the IBPA Publishing University conference where one Gold and two Silver award winners are announced in each category. During the ceremony, all Gold winners receive an engraved trophy marking their achievement. Following the ceremony, winners are announced to major trade journals, select libraries, all IBPA social media channels (including Facebook, “X”, Instagram, the IBPA news feed), and more.

In addition, all winners (Gold and Silver) receive:

- Recognition prior to the awards ceremony on the IBPA website.
- Archived listing after the awards ceremony on the IBPA website.
- Two tickets to the awards ceremony recognizing all of the award winners.
- A press release template to use when announcing the winning book(s).
- A personalized award certificate.
- Special award stickers to affix to the winning books.
- Free use of digital award seal to use on your book cover.

Finally, all entrants into the award program receive 15% off IBPA Publishing University conference tickets.

PERIODS OF ENTRY

For books published in 2026, there are two periods of entry:

JULY 1, 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

OCTOBER 1, 2026 TO DECEMBER 15, 2026

Books published between January and December 2026 are eligible to be entered into either deadline period. All entries must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2026. This final deadline cannot be extended.

Books with a copyright date other than 2026 will not be considered without proof that the book first became available for sale in 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

Publishers of print and audiobooks with a copyright date of 2026 may enter the current competition. Books with a copyright date of 2025 will not be considered. Books with a copyright date of 2027 will be held over for next year's program.

COMMUNITY CATEGORIES

IBPA is pleased to recognize historically marginalized communities in the following categories:

- AANHPI Communities
- Black/African American Communities
- Disabled Communities
- First Nations/Indigenous Communities
- Latina/o/e Communities
- LGBTQIA2+ Communities
- Neurodivergent Communities

Please note that submissions to these categories will first be judged on the book's contributions to the respective community and **MUST INCLUDE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR** (editor, primary illustrator or photographer for highly illustrated books, publisher, or author) to the project from that community. Submissions will then be judged on the quality of the publication as outlined for the rest of the awards categories.

More details can be found at
ibpabookaward.org/faqs

IBPA Book Award Categories

Special Note:

Children's Picture Books are only eligible in categories 1, 4, 8, 16, 22, 23, 26, 38, 39, 48, and 51.

CATEGORY AND COMMUNITY BOOK AWARDS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. AANHPI Communities | 15. Fiction: Science Fiction & Fantasy | 28. Poetry |
| 2. Animal & Pet | 16. First Nations/Indigenous Communities | 29. Political & Current Events |
| 3. Biography & Autobiography | 17. Graphic Novel | 30. Professional & Technical |
| 4. Black/African American Communities | 18. Health & Fitness | 31. Psychology |
| 5. Body, Mind, & Spirit | 19. History | 32. Reference |
| 6. Business & Career | 20. Humor | 33. Regional |
| 7. Cookbook | 21. Inspirational | 34. Religion |
| 8. Disabled Communities | 22. Latina/o/e Communities | 35. Self-Help |
| 9. Education | 23. LGBTQIA2+ Communities | 36. Sports & Recreation |
| 10. Fiction: General | 24. Memoir | 37. Travel |
| 11. Fiction: Historical | 25. Nature & Environment | |
| 12. Fiction: Horror | 26. Neurodivergent Communities | |
| 13. Fiction: Mystery & Thriller | 27. Parenting & Family | |
| 14. Fiction: Romance | | |

CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

- 38. Children's Picture Book (0–3 years)
- 39. Children's Picture Book (4–7 years)
- 40. Middle Grade: Fiction (8–12 years)
- 41. Young Adult: Fiction (13–18 years)
- 42. Middle Grade/Young Adult: Nonfiction (8–18 years)

BEST NEW VOICE AWARDS

- 46. Best New Voice: Fiction (first book by a new author)
- 47. Best New Voice: Nonfiction (first book by a new author)
- 48. Best New Voice: Children's/Young Adult (first book by a new author)

AUDIOBOOK AWARDS

- 43. Audiobook: Fiction*
- 44. Audiobook: Nonfiction*
- 45. Audiobook: Children's/Young Adult*

*For audiobooks, you must send three (3) Audible or Spotify gift or promotion codes to Terry Nathan. If your audiobook is not available on Audible or Spotify, please contact Terry Nathan for additional submission options before applying.

FEATURED AWARDS

The Bill Fisher Awards for Best First Book (initial titles from a new publisher)

- 49. The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book: Fiction
- 50. The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book: Nonfiction
- 51. The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book: Children's/Young Adult



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BOOK AWARD

For more information,
visit ibpabookaward.org

ibpa-online.org • info@ibpa-online.org

Independent Book Publishers Association
1020 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Suite 204
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
310.546.1818

ENTRY FEES

IBPA member: \$99 per title, per category

Non-IBPA member: \$234 for first title, which includes a one-year membership in IBPA; \$99 per title, per category for second and subsequent entries.

If paying by check, send check made payable to **IBPA** for the total amount of the entry fees and send it along with your books to the IBPA office (see mailing label below).

☐ Check this box if paying by credit card, and:

IBPA members pay here

<https://www.ibpa-online.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=7591131>

Nonmembers, pay here:

<https://www.ibpa-online.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=7971063>

The nonmember fee includes a one-year IBPA membership. Nonmembers wanting to enter more than one category, please pay for one category at the non-member and follow-up with an email to info@ibpa-online.org, requesting your membership be activated. Include your full contact details in that email, including name, company name, street address, phone, email address and website address. After we activate your membership, you will be able to pay for additional entries at the member rate.

PLEASE CUT HERE

ENTRY LABEL

THIS FORM MUST BE INCLUDED INSIDE THE FRONT COVER OF EACH BOOK YOU SUBMIT, therefore cut it from here and duplicate it as often as necessary. Insert the label inside the front cover of each book submitted (if you enter one book in one category, you must insert this form into each of the four books sent).

FOR AUDIOBOOKS: Please send 3 Audible or Spotify gift or promotion codes to Terry Nathan at terry@ibpa-online.org. If your book is not available on Audible or Spotify, please contact Terry Nathan for additional options.

☐ By checking this box, I certify that the submitted publication is the intellectual property of the author(s) or publisher and that its fundamental creative content—including its original expression, narrative, ideas, and artistic vision—was created by a human author (or authors) not generated by artificial intelligence. Any use of AI-assisted tools was limited, directed by a human, and did not replace the author's primary creative contribution.

I confirm that I have the necessary rights and permissions to submit this work for consideration by the IBPA Book Awards.

SIGNATURE

CATEGORY (NO. AND NAME)

TITLE

PUBLISHING COMPANY

WEBSITE ADDRESS

PLEASE INDICATE THE BOOK'S TARGET AUDIENCE:

CONTACT PERSON

CONTACT PERSON'S ADDRESS

CONTACT PERSON'S CITY, STATE, ZIP

CONTACT PERSON'S TELEPHONE

CONTACT PERSON'S EMAIL

GUIDELINES

WHAT TO SEND (PRINT BOOKS)

Submit four (4) copies of each title for the initial category entered into print book categories. If you are entering the same title in multiple categories, you need to submit three (3) additional books for each additional category entered.

Example: If you enter the same title in Categories 8 and 50, a total of seven (7) books should be sent with the entry.

Insert the entry label, **at left**, inside the front cover of each print book. Double-check to be sure you have filled in the label completely and have entered the title in the most appropriate category.

Children's Picture Books are only eligible in categories 1, 4, 8, 16, 22, 23, 26, 38, 39, 48, and 51.

Please note: Books entered into the program will not be returned to you.

HOW TO SEND (PRINT BOOKS)

Ship books via a shipping service, such as UPS or the USPS, to ensure on-time delivery to the IBPA offices.

Pay online as instructed above, or place payment by check in an envelope on top of the entries in the package. Please use the package mailing label below to identify your submission.

WHAT & HOW TO SEND (AUDIOBOOKS)

For the **audiobook categories**, please send 3 Audible or Spotify gift or promotion codes to Terry Nathan at terry@ibpa-online.org. If your book is not available on Audible or Spotify, please contact Terry Nathan for additional options.

Pay online as instructed above or send a check made payable to "IBPA" for the total amount of entry fees and send it to the IBPA Office.

PACKAGE MAILING LABEL

PLEASE CUT HERE

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Independent Book Publishers Association
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