



38th 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 **38th 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 170 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 (formerly Twitter), 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 2025, there are two periods of entry:

JULY 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 15, 2025

Usually, books published between January 2025 and September 2025 are entered in the first entry period and books published between October 2025 and December 2025 are entered in the second entry period. As long as the books have a copyright date of 2025, however, they can be entered any time prior to the final deadline. All entries must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2025. This final deadline cannot be extended.

Books with a copyright date other than 2025 will not be considered without proof that the book first became available for sale in 2025.

ELIGIBILITY

Publishers of print and audiobooks with a copyright date of 2025 may enter the current competition. Books with a copyright date of 2024 will not be considered. Books with a copyright date of 2026 will be held over for next year's program. Qualifying publishers include:

- independent publishers
- hybrid publishers
- author publishers
- university presses
- association presses

COMMUNITY CATEGORIES

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

- AAPI 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, 5, 10, 18, 25, 26, 29, 41, 42, 49, 51, 57, and 60.

Large format books (larger than 9" x 12") are only eligible in categories 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 18, 25, 26, 28, 29, 33, 39, 48, and 59.

CATEGORY AND COMMUNITY BOOK AWARDS

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

CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

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

DESIGN AWARDS

46. Cover Design: Fiction (9" x 12" or smaller)
47. Cover Design: Nonfiction (9" x 12" or smaller)
48. Cover Design: Large Format: (larger than 9" x 12")
49. Cover Design: Children's/Young Adult
50. Interior Design
51. Interior Design: Children's/Young Adult

AUDIOBOOK AWARDS

52. Audiobook: Fiction*
53. Audiobook: Nonfiction*
54. Audiobook: Children's/Young Adult*

BEST NEW VOICE AWARDS

55. Best New Voice: Fiction (first book by a new author)
56. Best New Voice: Nonfiction (first book by a new author)
57. Best New Voice: Children's/Young Adult (first book by a new author)

FEATURED AWARDS

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

58. The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book: Fiction
59. The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book: Nonfiction
60. The Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book: 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.



IBPA
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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.

Make check payable to **IBPA** or bill my

VISA Mastercard AMEX DISCOVER

Amount \$ _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE SECURITY CODE

NAME ON THE CARD (PLEASE PRINT)

SIGNATURE

CONTACT PERSON

CONTACT PERSON'S ADDRESS

CONTACT PERSON'S CITY, STATE, ZIP

CONTACT PERSON'S TELEPHONE

CONTACT PERSON'S EMAIL

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 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.

CATEGORY (NO. AND NAME)

TITLE

PUBLISHING COMPANY

WEBSITE ADDRESS

PLEASE INDICATE THE BOOK'S TARGET AUDIENCE:

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 56, 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, 5, 10, 18, 25, 26, 29, 41, 42, 49, 51, 57, and 60. Large format books (larger than 9" x 12") are only eligible in categories 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 18, 25, 26, 28, 29, 33, 39, 48, and 59.

If paying by credit card, please place your credit card details in an envelope on top of the entries. Do not include inside each book.

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

HOW TO SEND (PRINT BOOKS)

Ship books and payment for entry fees in the same package via a shipping service, such as UPS or the USPS, to ensure on-time delivery to the IBPA offices. Place the payment for entry fees in an envelope on top of the entries in the package. Please do not include the payment in an envelope on the outside of 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.

Send a check made payable to "IBPA" for the total amount of entry fees or fill out the credit card section on the entry label at left and send it to the IBPA Office.

PACKAGE MAILING LABEL

PLEASE CUT HERE

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