

**1st Annual Black Authors Awards Honoring Writing Excellence**

**Calling all publishers and authors!**

We are proud to announce the 1st Annual Black Authors Awards (BA Awards), conducted to honor the year's best published titles. We are now accepting entries for books with **2021-2024** copyrights with over 25 books sold. The contest is presented by Beach Girls PR & Marketing and our book marketing website, Literacy Moments Magazine literacymomentsmagazine.com, headquartered in King of Prussia, PA. We are proud to have hosted the BA Awards and supported the independent publishing movement.

The awards are intended to bring increased recognition to the thousands of exemplary independent, university, and self-published titles published each year. The BA Awards reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing. BA Awards are independent spirits and expertise comes from writers and publishers of all sizes and budgets and books are judged with that in mind. Authors obtain additional points from the public voting window from Jan 15th to Feb 1st . Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be presented in the General categories, as well as Regional fiction and non-fiction categories and 10 eBook categories.

The Criteria for the award are as follows:

1. Must portray some aspect of the black experience, past, present, or future.
2. Must be written/illustrated by an African American
3. Must be published in the U.S. in the year 2021-2024.
4. Must be an original work.
5. Must meet established standards of quality writing for youth which include:
	* Clear plot
	* Well drawn characters, which portray growth and development during the course of the story.
	* Writing style which is consistent with and suitable to the age intended.
	* Accuracy

Register Here: https://www.jotform.com/tables/233616046947159

Thanks for your participation, and best of luck!

Condea Libby, Awards Director

**General categories are open to all entrants, in fiction and non-fiction categories.**

Regional BA Awards will be awarded to the Best Fiction and Best Non-Fiction books in different geographic regions. If your book is written with a regional focus, do not miss this opportunity to extend your exposure and increase your chances of winning a BA Award. The entry fee is just $55 when adding a Regional entry to your General category entry.

We do accept ebooks in all general and regional categories, we also present gold, silver, and bronze medals in ten eBook categories to acknowledge the importance of ebooks and their distinct format. The entry fee is just $55 when adding an ebook entry to a regular print book entry, but fees are the same as general category fees when entering an ebook category only.

All BA Awards entrants are automatically considered for Book of the Year; no extra effort is needed to enter. They will be chosen from the regular Award entries, and nominated by judges. These selections recognize those who exhibit the courage and creativity necessary to take chances, break new ground, and bring about change in the Read Black mission.

**Guidelines**

**WHO MAY ENTER**

Independent publishers, university presses, self-publishers, and independent authors throughout North America, as well as select overseas publishers and authors who publish books intended for an English-speaking audience are eligible. Authors are welcome to enter their books themselves.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Books released with **2021-2024** copyrights are eligible. Entrants are to select the category and/or region (see category list) in which the book(s) should be judged. Regional entries do best when their subject matter reflects the region in which they are entered.

**ENTRY FEES**

Submission for multiple categories is acceptable, but each requires a fee. Entry fees are per title, per category – see “Early-bird” entry fee schedule on the online form. When entering a title into more than one category, please send a copy of the book for each category entered. Multiple entries can be sent in one package, and entry fees paid online can be combined into one payment amount. Please include the completed entry form or online registration receipt in the same package as the books.

**SENDING YOUR BOOK/EBOOK/AUDIOBOOK**

The final step of the online entry process is to print out your entry info receipt and mailing instructions. Send one copy of the book for each general and/or regional category entered, with the entry form or online receipt tucked inside the front cover. For example, when you enter two general categories and one regional category, please send three books. All books entered become the physical property of Beach Girls PR & Marketing and will eventually be donated to libraries and charities. Judges get to see the book itself, so please feel free to send press kits and/or bookmarks.

You will have the option to upload electronic submissions after you enter an ebook category and pay online. Audiobook submissions and ebook gifts should be sent to literacymoments@gmail.com Attn: BA Awards.

**DEADLINES**

Early bird deadlines in December and January are designed to encourage early entries. All entries must be posted online or postmarked by the final deadline of February 1, 2024. We will confirm your entry via email and send periodic updates about judging and results announcements. Please add beachgirlspr@gmail.com and literacymoments@gmail.com so we can stay in touch throughout the awards process. All nominations will be announced during the Black History Book Fair month.

**JUDGING PROCESS**

Judging will be based on the quality of content, design, and production with an emphasis on originality, innovation, and social relevance in each category. Our judging panel includes experts from the fields of editing, design, reviewing, bookselling, and library.

**RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT**

Three to six medalists per category will be named on about April 1st. Planning is underway for the 2024 ceremony; details to follow. All winners will receive medalist packets by mail and via the in-person event.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Each medal-winning book will receive a **medalist packet** including a gold, silver, or bronze medal, a personalized certificate, and 20 foil seals. Related publicity includes the awards event, online and social media advertising, and year-long exposure at literacymomentsmagazine.com.

**BA Awards General Categories**

1. FINE ART 46. ANIM5ALS/PET
2. PERFORMING ARTS 47. BUSINESS/CAREERS/SALES
3. PHOTOGRAPHY 48. COOKBOOKS- GENERAL
4. ARCHITECTURE 49. COOKBOOKS - SPECIALITY
5. COFFEE TABLE BOOKS 50. CURRENT EVENTS
6. POPULAR FICTION 51. EDUCATION - WORKBOOKS
7. LITERARY FICTION 52. EDUCATION II - COMMENTARY
8. SHORT STORY FICTION 53. NATURE
9. POETRY- STANDARD 54. ENVIRONMENT/ECOLOGY
10. POETRY – SPECIALTY 55. FINANCE/INVESTMENT/ECONOMIC
11. ANTHOLOGIES 56. LGBTQ+ NON-FICTION
12. JUVENILE FICTION 57 LGBTQ+ FICTION
13. YOUNG ADULT FICTION- GENERAL 58. GIFT/SPECIAL.JOURNAL
14. YOUNG ADULT FICTION- FANTASY 59. HOLIDAY
15. FANTASY 60. HEALTH/MEDICINE
16. SCIENCE FICTION 61. HISTORY (US)
17. LGBTQ+ FICTION 62. HISTORY WORLD
18. EROTICA 63. HISTORY OVERSIZED
19. HISTORICAL FICTION 64. INSPIRATIONAL/SPIRITUAL
20. MILITARY/WARTIME FICTION 65. NEW AGE/MIND BODY SPIRIT
21. HORROR 66. PARENTING
22. MULTICULTURAL FICTION 67. POPULAR CULTURE
23. MULTICULTURAL FICTION– JUV-YOUNG ADULT 68. PSYCHOLOGY/MENTAL HEALTH
24. MYSTERY 69. SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION
25. SUSPENSE/THRILLER 70. REFERENCE
26. RELIGIOUS FICTION 71. RELIGION
27. ROMANCE 72. SCIENCE
28. URBAN FICTION 73. SELF HELP
29. VISIONARY/NEW AGE FICTION 74. SEXUALITY/RELATIONSHIPS
30. TRUE CRIME 75. TRANSPORTATION
31. GRAPHIC NOVEL/DRAWN BOOK 76. TRAVEL ESSAY
32. HUMOR 77. TRAVEL - GUIDEBOOK
33. CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOKS (7 & UNDER) 78. WOMEN ISSUES
34. CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOKS (ALL AGES) 79. WRITING/PUBLISHING
35. CHILDREN’S INTERACTIVE 80. BOOK/AUTHOR/WEBSITE
36. JUVENILE-YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION 81. COVER DESIGN - FICTION
37. MULTICULTURAL N-F: JUV- YOUNG ADULT 82. COVER DESIGN – NON-FICTION
38. MULTICULTURAL NON-FICTION ADULT 83.BEST FIRST BOOK - FICTION
39. ESSAY 84. BEST FIRST BOOK JUV/YA
40. CREATIVE NON-FICTION 85. BEST FIRST BOOK CHILDREN
41. AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR I (CELEBRITY/POLITICAL) 86. BEST FIRST BOOK – ON FICTION
42. AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR II (COMING OF AGE/FAMILY) 87. BOOK SERIES - FICTION
43. AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR II (PERSONAL STRUGGLE) 88. BOOK SERIES NON-FICTION
44. BIOGRAPHY 89. AUDIOBOOK FICTION
45. AGING/DEATH & DYING 90. AUDIOBOOK NON-FICTION

**REGIONAL AWARDS**

1. NE (Northeast) ME, VT, NH, MA, RI, CT
2. MA (Mid Atlantic) NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD
3. ****DIS (DISTRICT) VA, WV, DC
4. SE (Southeast) KY, NC, SC, GA, TN, FL
5. MS (Midsouth) MS, LA, AR, TX AL
6. GL (Great Lakes) OH, MI, IN, IL, WI
7. MW (Mid-West) MN, IA, MO, OK, KS
8. UW (Upper West) NE, SD, ND, WY MT
9. WM (West Mountain ) ID, UT, CO, NM, AZ, NV
10. WP (West Pacific) CA, OR, WA, HI, AK
11. IS (Island) PR, USVI, Cuba, DR,
12. CE (Canada East) ON, QB, NF, NB, NS, PE, Nunavut
13. CW (Canda West) BC, AB, SK, MB, NW Territory, Yukon
14. AF (Africa) All countries with approval
15. EU (Europe) All countries with approval

**EBOOK CATEGORIES**

EB1: Best Adult Fiction Ebook EB2: Best Romance/Erotica Ebook

EB3: Best Mystery/Thriller Ebook EB4: Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror Ebook

EB5: Best Adult Non-Fiction Personal Ebook EB6: Best Adult Non-Fiction Informational Ebook

EB7: Best Juvenile/Young Adult Fiction Ebook EB8: Best Children’s Illustrated Ebook

EB9: Best Regional Ebook Fiction EB10: Best Regional Ebook Non-Fiction

**WHO ENTERS THE BA AWARDS?**

All independent publishers are eligible, ranging from self-published authors to major university presses. Entering your titles in awards programs does take time, money, and effort, but the payoffs include increased visibility, credibility, public relations value, personal satisfaction, and prestige. Awards are a great morale boost for all those involved, and they influence reviewers and buyers. An award seal on a book’s cover increases retail sales.

**WHAT SETS THE BA AWARDS APART?**

BA Award entrants have four ways to win: the General, Regional, Ebook, and Outstanding Books of the Year (which all entrants are considered for with no extra fee). Award winners appear for an entire year on our website, [www.literacymomentsmagazine.com,](http://www.literacymomentsmagazine.com,) and are featured prominently in feature stories in our monthly newsletter, and full page in Literacy Moments Magazine which goes out to over 10,000 subscribers worldwide, many of whom are agents, buyers, and librarians.

**IF I ENTER THE AWARDS ONLINE, HOW DO YOU JUDGE MY BOOKS?**

We designed the online entry system to make entering the BA Awards more convenient, but you still have to ship the books to us. We suggest that you send a traceable package so you can confirm the delivery of your entry. Please include the online entry receipt or completed entry form with the book. We do send confirmation by email when your entry is received and processed by our team. If your book is ebook only and you only entered it in a General and/or Regional category, please email it as a PDF titled using the format “YourBookTitleAuthorName.pdf” to literacymoments@gmail.com in the subject line.

**DO THE JUDGES READ EVERY BOOK FROM COVER TO COVER?**

Book awards judges are very good at assessing a book’s quality, much as a buyer at a bookstore or library determines whether or not to purchase. The further a book makes it into the judging process the more likely it will be read completely.

**CONTACT INFORMATION: Condea Libby, Awards Director \* literacymoments@gmail.com**

**2024 BA AWARD BOOK AWARDS ENTRY FORM**

Book Title (and/or website if entering category 81)

Author

Publisher Name of Publishing Service Provider (e.g.- iUniverse, KDP Amazon, etc) as Would Be Listed on a Results Announcement

General Categories (You may enter more than one, but add fees below and send one book for each category)

Regional Category (F= Fiction NF= Non-Fiction) and/or Ebook Category (Ebook/Audiobook will need to be sent to literacymoments@gmail.com)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT ONE COPY OF THE BOOK FOR EACH CATEGORY ENTERED!**

**General and ONLY Regional:**

Early bird 1 – Open- November 14, 2023 @ $25 =

Regular Price – January 17, 2023-March 1, 2024 @ $55 =

**Add Regional or Ebook to General Category**  @ $55 =

Contact Person

Email Address (This email address will receive all updates)

Company / Publisher (for mailing purposes)

Mailing Address (include Unit/Apt/Suite/Floor # if applicable)

City, State, Postal Code, Country

Telephone

**HOW TO SEND**

Ship books with and entry form(s) to:

BA Awards

840 1st Avenue, Suite 400

King of Prussia, Pa 19403