Minnesota Book Awards
35th Annual Ceremony
Presented by Education Minnesota

Celebrate the state’s best books at the Minnesota Book Awards Ceremony. Awards will be presented live to winners in nine categories and the recipient of the Kay Sexton Award. Jearlyn Steele will serve as emcee.

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023
Ordway | 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul
Preface | 6:00 p.m.
Awards Ceremony | 7:30 p.m.
Epilogue | 9:00 p.m.
Ceremony will also be livestreamed.

Meet the Finalists
Get to know the 2023 Minnesota Book Awards finalists as authors from each category participate in a series of online panel discussions about their work.
Discussions will be posted in April. Register for The Friends e-news for notifications or visit thefriends.org/youtube to view.

36 Books Blog
Beginning in April, we will feature exclusive interviews with finalists leading up to the awards celebration.

About the Book Awards
The Minnesota Book Awards is a year-long program of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library that fosters our statewide literary arts community. The process begins in the fall with book submissions and continues through winter with two rounds of judging. Winners are announced at the spring Minnesota Book Awards Ceremony.
Woven throughout the season are events that promote the authors and connect the world of Minnesota books – writers, artists, illustrators, publishers, editors, and more – to readers throughout the state. In recognition of this and its other statewide programs and services, the Library of Congress has recognized The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library as the state’s designated Center for the Book.

Sponsors
Thank you to our many sponsors who make the Minnesota Book Awards possible.

Presenting Sponsor:

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For tickets, livestream registration, and all your Minnesota Book Awards information, scan this code and visit our website.

thefriends.org/mnba
#mnbookawards

The Ceremony is supported, in part, by the City of Saint Paul Cultural Sales Tax Revitalization Program. The year-round programs of the Minnesota Book Awards are made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

2023 Finalists
Children’s Literature
Sponsored by Bernadette Janisch
The Dark Was Done by Lauren Stringer
So Much Snow by Kristen Schroeder; illustrated by Sarah Jacoby
Where We Come From by Diane Wilson, Sun Yung Shin, Shannon Gibney and John Coy; illustrated by Dion MBD
You Are Life by Bao Phi; illustrated by Hannah Li

General Nonfiction
Sponsored by The Duchess Harris Collection
Daughters of Arraweelo: Stories of Somali Women by Ayaan Adan
They Don’t Want Her Here: Fighting Sexual and Racial Harassment in the American University by Carolyn Chalmers
Through the Banks of the Red Cedar: My Father and the Team That Changed the Game by Maya Washington
Wilhelm’s Way: The Inspiring Story of the Iowa Chemist Who Saved the Manhattan Project by Teresa Wilhelm Waldof

Genre Fiction
Sponsored by Macalester College
The Quarry Girls by Jess Lourey
Sinister Graves by Marcie Rendon
The Temps by Andrew DeYoung
The Ursulina by Brian Freeman

Memoir & Creative Nonfiction
Sponsored by Bradshaw Celebration of Life Centers
Farewell Transmission: Notes from Hidden Spaces by Will McGrath
Seven Aunts by Staci Lola Drouillard
Sinkhole: A Legacy of Suicide by Juliet Patterson
The Way She Wants to Get There: Telling on Myself by Mary Moore Easter

Middle Grade Literature
Sponsored by Education Minnesota
The Counterclockwise Heart by Brian Farrey
Meet Me Halfway by Anika Fajardo
Monsters in the Mist by Juliana Brandt
Windswept by Margi Preus

Novel & Short Story
Sponsored by Jeff Janisch
The Barrens by Kurt Johnson and Ellie Johnson
Sirens & Muses by Antonia Angress
Till the Wheels Fall Off by Brad Zellar

Poetry
Sponsored by Wellington Management, Inc.
How to Communicate by John Lee Clark
Real Work by Janna Knittel
Surface Displacements by Sheila Packa
The Wet Hex by Sun Yung Shin

Young Adult Literature
Sponsored by Expedition Credit Union
Born in a Red Canoe by Katharine Johnson
The Complicated Calculus (and Cows) of Carl Paulsen by Gary Eldon Peter
Maxwell and the Legend of Inini-Makwa by Simon Hargreaves
Mendel by Damone Bester

Emilie Buchwald Award for Minnesota Nonfiction
Sponsored by Annette and John Whaley
A Natural Curiosity: The Story of the Bell Museum by Lansing Shepherd, Don Luce, Barbara Coffin, and Gwen Schagrin
Rochester: An Urban Biography by Virginia M. Wright-Peterson
The Steger Homestead Kitchen: Simple Recipes for an Abundant Life by Will Steger and Rita Mae Steger with Beth Dooley
When Minnehaha Flowed with Whiskey: A Spirited History of the Falls by Karen E. Cooper