For release after 10 p.m. Monday June 5, 2023
The Best of City and Regional Magazines

NATIONAL CITY AND REGIONAL MAGAZINE 2023 AWARD WINNERS

Sonoma Magazine, Seattle Met and Boston Magazine won the coveted General Excellence awards in their circulation categories in the 38th Annual National City and Regional Magazine Awards competition announced June 5 at CRMA’s annual conference, held at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.


Texas Monthly’s five wins included a first-place finish in Civic Journalism for Russell Gold’s piece “It Could Happen Again,” which judges called “a propulsive feature about the catastrophic failure of the Texas power grid in February 2021.” Texas Monthly’s Skip Hollandsworth “masterfully reports and recounts” a “mind-bending story” in “The Cowtown Killer,” which won Feature Story (Circulation more than 60,000). Texas Monthly received one design award for Spread Design (Circulation more than 60,000) for “Mr. Steal Your Grandma” that judges said was “scripted with the passion of a vintage love letter.” The magazine also took home two more awards: Excellence in Writing for its February 2022 issue and Excellence Online for texasmonthly.com, a website judges claimed, “Texans can’t live without.”

Boston Magazine received awards in four categories. It won the General Excellence 3 prize; judges noted the magazine is “a vivid chronicle that balances the joy of its city with trenchant investigative reporting” in which “readers are reminded every month that their city is thriving.” Boston Magazine’s Catherine Elton took home two writing awards. She won Writer of the Year with stories that “showcased deep reporting, rich details and were executed with compassion, style and an elegant mix of authority and vulnerability” and Profile (Circulation more than 60,000) with “Who is Dianne Wilkerson?” Steve Calechman took home the Herb Lipson Award for Column Excellence for well-written columns that are “fun to read as they explore interesting subjects that appeal to a wide variety of readers.”

D Magazine’s Kathy Wise “untangled a series of events and synthesized legal arcana into a compelling narrative” in “The Most Lawless County in Texas,” winner of the Reporting prize. Eleanor Cummins won the Feature Story (Circulation less than 60,000) award for “The Worst Part About Dying,” a “masterful examination of problems at a famous funeral home.” D Magazine also won two ancillary publication awards: Home/Shelter for its March/April Home issue and General Interest for September’s CEO magazine, a “well-curated issue” that “stands out for its thoughtful front- and back-of-book departments combined with meaty features.”

Philadelphia Magazine’s four wins included the Reader Service piece “150 Ways to Do Philly Like a Tourist,” which “offers a fresh look for locals to approach and appreciate the city as an out-of-towner would see it.” Jason Sheehan won first prize for Food or Dining Writing, in which “his restaurant coverage demonstrates a deep knowledge, and his vivid writing is imbued with plenty of personality.” The magazine was the winner of the Ancillary: Weddings category with its Winter/Spring 2022 magazine that judges noted as a “beautiful issue” that “highlights sharp writing, tight editing, smart design, and consistently gorgeous photography.” Philadelphia Magazine also took first prize in Illustration and Graphics for “Woeler You Talking About?” “The Lost Moments of COVID” and “Home Runs” in its February and August issues.
Seattle Met received the prize for General Excellence 2. Judges described the magazine as “well-crafted copy that grabs readers and holds on tight; editor letters so good you actually read them; attitude-forward photographs; fresh, consistent design; humor sprinkled everywhere.” With covers that were described as “energetic, playful, and vibrant” Seattle Met won first place in Cover Excellence. The magazine took home the award for Excellence in Design for its Spring 2022 issue, which judges noted for how it “proves fun and sophistication cannot only live harmoniously in a design system but thrive.” For “Washington’s 60 Most Timeless Inventions,” Seattle Met won the Leisure/Lifestyle Interests category.

Described as “a brave, raw, and honest reflection,” Portland Monthly’s “A Matter of Choice” by Hanna Neuschwander was awarded first place in the Essays/Commentary/Criticism category. The magazine won Spread Design (Circulation less than 60,000) for “Sacred Cow,” which was praised for its powerful and bold color combination. “Let’s Do Lunch,” a colorful package “stacked with service and fun” gave Portland Monthly a win in the Food or Dining Feature Package category.

St. Louis Magazine won two awards, including Feature Design (Circulation less than 60,000) for “Wild Things” in which the design encouraged readers to embark on a self-directed journey through nature. With “family-targeted articles” that help families find things to do, St. Louis Magazine’s “Family” e-newsletter topped the E-newsletter category.

5280’s Dave McKenna won Designer of the Year and was praised by judges for adding vibrancy to the articles, playing with scale and using creative typography. Chicago Magazine’s Edward Robert McClelland won for the Online Column “Neighborhood,” where he immerses “himself in the stories of Chicago’s far-flung localities.” With rich reporting and storytelling, strong characters and the perfect use of web, print and video platforms, Honolulu Magazine’s “Seeking Happiness” took home first prize for Multiplatform Storytelling.

Noted as a poetic and powerful work of art, Louisville Magazine won the Special Issue category for “Home.” Mpls.St.Paul Magazine won first place in the Magazine Section for “Talk,” which judges said was “a great example of how using consistency in bold, yet clean design choices makes for an easy-to-read user experience.” With “mindful anecdotes, insightful commentary and eco-poetry excerpts,” Sactown Magazine’s Hillary Louise Johnson won Profile (Circulation less than 60,000) with “Man. Versus. Nature.”

With stunning visuals, intelligent writing and great reader service, the General Excellence 1 award went to Sonoma Magazine. Texas Highways took home first prize in Photography for “The Tree of Life,” in which the images tell the story of an important tree species. Finally, “Simple photography neatly captures the personalities of reptiles, mammals and birds alike” in Washingtonian’s Feature Design (Circulation more than 60,000) award-winning feature “Our Pets.”

The 2023 finalists and winners are: (Winners are listed first in bold print.)

**General Excellence 1 (Circulation less than 30,000)**

- *Sonoma Magazine*
- *dsm Magazine*
- *Madison Magazine*
- *Palm Springs Life*
- *Sarasota Magazine*

**General Excellence 2 (Circulation 30,000 to 60,000)**

- *Seattle Met*
- *Baltimore Magazine*
- *D Magazine*
- *Hour Detroit*
- *Portland Monthly*

**General Excellence 3 (Circulation more than 60,000)**

- *Boston Magazine*
- *Chicago Magazine*
- *Philadelphia Magazine*
- *Texas Monthly*
- *Washingtonian*

**Essays/Commentary/Criticism**

- *Portland Monthly*
  - “A Matter of Choice” (Hanna Neuschwander)
  - “Is This Land Your Land?” (Kate Siber)
  - “For Those Moms About to Rock” (Joanna Weiss)
- *5280*
- *Boston Magazine*
- *Philadelphia Magazine*
- *Sactown Magazine*
  - “The Lost Moments of COVID” (Christine Speer Lejeune)
  - “The Long Way Home” (Martin Kuz)

**Food or Dining Writing**

- *Philadelphia Magazine* (Jason Sheehan)
  - “The Moment That Comes Next”
  - “Into the Fire”
  - “Finishing What Kalaya Started”

- *Boston Magazine* (Jolyon Helterman)
  - “A Hundred Different Layers”
  - “A Shot Across the Bao”
  - “A Riviera Runs Through It”

- *Chicago Magazine* (John Kessler)
  - “French Revolution”
  - “The Problem With Alinea”
  - “Twice the Spice”

- *D Magazine* (Brian Reinhart)
  - “Masa of None”
  - “La Dolce Vita”
  - “Grain of Truth”

- *Washingtonian* (Ann Limpert)
  - “Fancy That”
  - “The Great Washington Bake-Off”
  - “Move Over, Detroit”
**Herb Lipson Award for Column Excellence**

**Boston Magazine**
- (Steve Calechman) “Culture”
- “Oodles and Oodles of Doodles”
- “The Mascot Who Wouldn’t Disappear”
- “Hold Your Horses”

**D Magazine**
- (Tim Rogers) “The Ender”
- “Resting Bird Face”
- “You Won’t Believe These Emails Sent to WFAA Management”
- “I Took Care of the Coyotes. You’re Welcome”

**Mpls.St.Paul Magazine**
- (Sheila Mulrooney Eldred) “The Method”
- “Sick Days”
- “Sundown”
- “Deer in Headlights”

**Philadelphia Magazine**
- (Sandy Hingston) “Crankcase”
- “The Other Left”
- “The Real Drug Wars”
- “Over the River and Through the Woods”

**Phoenix Magazine**
- (Amy Silverman) “Raising Arizona” “Raising Phoenix”
- “Dream Weaver”
- “No Country for Young Women”
- “Off-Broadway… Road?”

**Reporting**

**D Magazine**
- “The Most Lawless County in Texas” (Kathy Wise)

**Boston Magazine**
- “The Bullet and the Ballplayer” (Mike Damiano)

**Texas Monthly**
- “Trouble at the ‘Lord’s Mill’” (Sonia Smith)

**Texas Monthly**
- “What Lies Beneath” (Russell Gold)

**Yankee Magazine**
- “Collision Course” (Bill Donahue)

**Profile (Circulation less than 60,000)**

**Sactown Magazine**

**Honolulu Magazine**
- “Bone by Bone” (Martha Cheng)

**Pittsburgh Magazine**
- “A Representative Rep” (Cristina Rouvalis)

**Rhode Island Monthly**
- “Belle of the Ballgame” (Ged Carbone)

**St. Louis Magazine**
- “The Fighter” (Nicholas Phillips)

**Profile (Circulation more than 60,000)**

**Boston Magazine**
- “Who is Dianne Wilkerson?” (Catherine Elton)

**Chicago Magazine**
- “Being Paula Camp” (Monica Eng)

**Philadelphia Magazine**
- “Finishing What Kalaya Started” (Jason Sheehan)

**Phoenix Magazine**
- “The Mysteries of Kari Lake” (Craig Outhier)

**Yankee Magazine**
- “The Balloonist” (Ian Aldrich)

**Feature Story (Circulation less than 60,000)**

**D Magazine**
- “The Worst Part About Dying” (Eleanor Cummins)

**Baltimore Magazine**
- “The Audacity of Despair” (Ron Cassie)

**Louisville Magazine**
- “Roses and Thorns” (Tracy Clayton)

**Portland Monthly**
- “Sacred Cow” (Ramona DeNies)

**Seattle Met**
- “The Relative Under the Sea” (Benjamin Cassidy)
Feature Story (Circulation more than 60,000)
Texas Monthly
“The Cowtown Killer” (Skip Hollandsworth)
Boston Magazine
“Loss, Love, and the Hermit Who Went Viral” (Casey Sherman)
Chicago Magazine
“The Accusation” (Jake Malooley)
Chicago Magazine
“Unmaking a Murderer” (Jake Malooley)
Philadelphia Magazine
“Doc Is Dead! (For Real This Time… We Think)” (David Murrell)

Writer of the Year
Boston Magazine
Catherine Elton
Philadelphia Magazine
Victor Fiorillo
St. Louis Magazine
Nicholas Phillips
Texas Monthly
Russell Gold
Washingtonian
Sylvie McNamara

Excellence in Writing
Texas Monthly
February
5280
November
Boston Magazine
December
Chicago Magazine
September
Texas Highways
March

Spread Design (Circulation less than 60,000)
Portland Monthly
“Sacred Cow” (Michael Novak)
D Magazine
“Force of Nature” (Lesley Busby)
Hour Detroit
“Under His Spell: Meet Detroit’s Own Sam Richardson”
(Lindsay Richards)
SacTown Magazine
“Magic Mountain” (Rob Turner)
St. Louis Magazine
“Thereir American Dream” (Emily Wells)

Spread Design (Circulation more than 60,000)
Texas Monthly
“Mr. Steal Your Grandma” (Emily Kimbro)
Philadelphia Magazine
“Hanging on by a String” (Jamie Leary)
Philadelphia Magazine
“The Disappearing Dad” (Jamie Leary)
Texas Monthly
“What Drives Greg Abbott?” (Victoria Millner)
Washingtonian
“What’s New Washington?” (Jason Lancaster, Anna Marina Savvidis, Michael Schaffer)

Feature Design (Circulation less than 60,000)
St. Louis Magazine
“Wild Things” (Tom White, Kevin A. Roberts)
Baltimore Magazine
“Crabs: A Love Story” (Amanda White-Iseli, Scott Suchman, Jason Schneider, Janelle Erlichman Diamond, Brian Oliver, Kyler Garner)
Baltimore Magazine
“The Audacity of Despair” (Amanda White-Iseli, Alex Fine, J.M. Giordano, Jesse Dittmar, Mike Morgan)
D Magazine
“The Best of Big D” (Elizabeth Lavin, Lesley Busby, Jasmine Green)
St. Louis Magazine
“Food Love” (Tom White, Kevin A. Roberts)

Feature Design (Circulation more than 60,000)
Washingtonian
“Our Pets” (Sherri Dalphonse, Marisa M. Kashino, Jason Lancaster, Anna Marina Savvidis, Jeff Elkins, Connie Zheng)
5280
“25 Best Restaurants” (Dave McKenna, Charli Ornett)
5280
“Treat Yourself” (Charli Ornett, Sarah Banks, Sean Parsons)
New Jersey Monthly
“Medical and Health Package” (Gail Ghezzi)
Philadelphia Magazine
“All About the Benjamin” (Jamie Leary)
Photography
Texas Highways  “The Tree of Life” (Joel Salcido, ire’ne lara silva, Ashley Burch, Brandon Jakobeit)
Boston Magazine  “The Secret Life of Cranberries” (Michael Prince, Benjamen Purvis, Moni Miri)
Chicago Magazine  “Welcome to Midway” (Paul D’Amato, Michael Zajakowski)
Texas Monthly  “The Boy From Booker T.” (Jeffrey McWhorter, Emily Kimbro, Claire Hogan)
Yankee Magazine  “Ocean State Odyssey” (Richard Schultz)

Illustration and Graphics
Philadelphia Magazine  “Wooder You Talking About?”
“The Lost Moments of COVID”
“Home Runs”
February and August

5280  “Limited Company”
“Two Years of Solitude”
“Power Plant”
January and August

D Magazine  “The Worst Part About Dying”
“We’re Really Dallas-ing Dentistry in 2022”
“I Took Care of the Coyotes. You’re Welcome.”
June and August

Texas Monthly  “How Many More Did He Kill?”
“Forbidden No More”
“The Dude Abides”
August and December

Yankee Magazine  “About the Hankie”
“Conversations”
“A Christmas Loon”
January/February and November/December

Cover Excellence
Seattle Met  Spring, Summer, Winter
Baltimore Magazine  May, June, July
Boston Magazine  April, June, July
Portland Monthly  Summer, Fall, Winter
The Bend Magazine  January, May, August

Designer of the Year
5280  Dave McKenna
5280  Sean Parsons
Chicago Magazine  Elizabeth Carlisle
D Magazine  Lesley Busby
Hour Detroit  Lindsay Richards
Excellence in Design
Seattle Met
Boston Magazine
D Magazine
Portland Monthly
Texas Monthly

Spring
April
August
Winter
November

Magazine Section
Mpls.St.Paul Magazine
5280
Portland Monthly
Seattle Met
St. Louis Magazine

“Talk” (November and December)
“Compass” (April and May)
“Dispatch” (Summer and Fall)
“Currents” (Spring and Summer)
“Gateway” (October and November)

Reader Service
Philadelphia Magazine
5280
Hour Detroit
Sonoma Magazine
Texas Monthly

“One Pill Can Kill You: The Fentanyl Crisis” (Lindsey B. King, Dave McKenna, Charli Ornett, Sarah Banks)
“Moving Medicine Forward and Top Doctors” (Kathryn Walsh, Scott Atkinson, Lindsay Richards, James Yang)
“Secret Sonoma” (Dana Rebmann, John Beck, Abigail Peterson, Jerry Dodrill, Ryan Mesheau)
“Relax Already” (Kathy Blackwell, Lauren Larson, Katy Vine, Josh Alvarez, Cat Cardenas, Jenn Tompkins)

Leisure/Lifestyle Interests
Seattle Met
Baltimore Magazine
Chicago Magazine
Mpls.St.Paul Magazine
Texas Monthly

“Washington’s 60 Most Timeless Inventions” (Benjamin Cassidy, Jane Sherman)
“Long Live Dive Bars” (Lydia Woolever)
“36 Fun Things to Do This Fall” (Kris Vire, Stanley Kay, Amy Cavanaugh, Jaclyn Rivas, Elizabeth Carlisle, Michael Zajakowski)
“In Search of Found Objects” (Madeline Nachbar, Kelsey Head, Jayne Haugen Olson, Madison Bloomquist, Caitlin Abrams)
“The Golden Age of Texas Fiction” (Josh Alvarez, Jeff Salamon, Jenn Tompkins)

Food or Dining Feature Package
Portland Monthly
Austin Monthly
Chicago Magazine
D Magazine
Mpls.St.Paul Magazine

“Let’s Do Lunch” (Katherine Chew Hamilton, Michael Novak, Karen Brooks, Thomas Teal, Subin Yang, Portland Monthly Staff)
“Thrills and Chills” (Chris Hughes, Laurel Miller, Madeline Hollern, Sara D’Eugenio)
“Sushi’s Big Moment” (John Kessler, Amy Cavanaugh, Elizabeth Carlisle, Jeff Marini, Saverio Truglia, Lenny Gilmore)
“Long Live Mex-Mex!” (Eve Hill-Angus, Rosin Saez, Aileen Jimenez)
“Setting the Scene” (Stephanie March, Michael Norseng, Kelsey Head, Eliesa Johnson)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civic Journalism</th>
<th>“It Could Happen Again” (Russell Gold)</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Texas Monthly</em></td>
<td>“The High Cost of High Country Living” (Devon O’Neil, Dave McKenna, Charli Ornett)</td>
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<td><em>5280</em></td>
<td>“The Reign of the 3%” (Michael Hardy)</td>
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<td><em>Boston Magazine</em></td>
<td>“Broken” (Gretchen Voss, Catherine Elton)</td>
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<td><em>Texas Monthly</em></td>
<td>“Water, Water. Everywhere But…” (James Houck, JoAnna Daemmrich, Lauren Ropel)</td>
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<td><em>What’s Up? Annapolis</em></td>
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<th>Special Issue</th>
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<td><em>Louisville Magazine</em></td>
<td>“Best of Boston”</td>
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<td><em>Boston Magazine</em></td>
<td>“The Music Issue”</td>
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<td><em>D Magazine</em></td>
<td>“Best of Philly”</td>
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<td><em>Philadelphia Magazine</em></td>
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<th>Ancillary: Home/Shelter</th>
<th>Home (March/April)</th>
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<td><em>D Magazine</em></td>
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<td><em>5280</em></td>
<td>home (Winter)</td>
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<td><em>Boston Magazine</em></td>
<td>Home &amp; Design (Summer)</td>
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<td><em>Mpls.St.Paul Magazine</em></td>
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<td>Wedding (Winter)</td>
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<td><em>Baltimore Magazine</em></td>
<td>Weddings (Fall/Winter)</td>
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<td><em>Boston Magazine</em></td>
<td>Weddings</td>
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<td><em>D Magazine</em></td>
<td>Weddings (Winter)</td>
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<td><em>Westchester Magazine</em></td>
<td>Weddings</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ancillary: General Interest</th>
<th>CEO (September)</th>
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<td><em>D Magazine</em></td>
<td>Health (January)</td>
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<td><em>5280</em></td>
<td>Essential Chicago</td>
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<td><em>Chicago Magazine</em></td>
<td>Inclusion 2022</td>
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<td><em>dsm Magazine</em></td>
<td>Be Well Philly</td>
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<td><em>Philadelphia Magazine</em></td>
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<td><em>Texas Monthly</em></td>
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<td><em>Chicago Magazine</em></td>
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<td><em>Philadelphia Magazine</em></td>
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<td><em>St. Louis Magazine</em></td>
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<th>Online Column</th>
<th>“Neighborhood” (Edward Robert McClelland)</th>
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<td><em>Chicago Magazine</em></td>
<td>“Strong Side” (Mike Piellucci)</td>
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<td><em>D Magazine</em></td>
<td>“Pop Culture Deep Dive” (Conner Reed)</td>
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<td><em>Portland Monthly</em></td>
<td>“Playing Texan” (Sean O’Neal)</td>
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<td><em>Texas Monthly</em></td>
<td>“Tex-Mexplainer” (José R. Ralat)</td>
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| *Texas Monthly*            |                                       |
E-Newsletter
St. Louis Magazine “Family”
St. Louis Magazine “Design”
Texas Highways “Petal Pusher”
Texas Monthly “Staying in With TM”
Texas Monthly “True Crime”

Multiplatform Storytelling
Honolulu Magazine “Seeking Happiness”
Baltimore Magazine “Soul of the City”
Chicago Magazine “Chicagons of the Year”
Texas Monthly “America’s Girls”
Texas Monthly “The Really (Really!) Big Year”

For more information, contact Contest Coordinator Kimberly Townlain, University of Missouri, 216 Lee Hills Hall, Columbia, MO 65211 (573-884-1869) townlaink@missouri.edu or CRMA Executive Director Cate Sanderson, 287 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06850 (203-515-9294).