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For release after 10 p.m. June 6, 2025 The Best of City and Regional Magazines

NATIONAL CITY AND REGIONAL MAGAZINE 2025 AWARD WINNERS

Seattle Met, Baltimore Magazine and Boston Magazine won the coveted General Excellence awards in their circulation categories in the 40th Annual National City and Regional Magazine Awards competition announced June 6 at CRMA's annual conference held at the Hilton City Center in Denver, Colorado.

Texas Monthly took home eight prizes this year. Philadelphia Magazine and Texas Highways each earned four wins. Denver's city magazine, 5280, Boston Magazine and Seattle Met were awarded three prizes each. Baltimore Magazine, Houstonia Magazine, San Diego Magazine and Washingtonian each won two awards this year. Fort Worth Magazine, Milwaukee Magazine and Portland Monthly, received single prizes.

Excellence in Writing went to *Texas Monthly*. Judges described the magazine's May issue as tightly written "with clarity and artistry that can keep any reader engaged." The magazine's second writing award was for Profile (Circulation more than 45,000) for Sarah Hepola's "What Cheer Led To." Hepola's journalism provided an unforgettable window into the hyper-competitive world of cheerleading.

Texas Monthly received three design awards, including Designer of the Year. According to judges, designer Jenn Tompkins demonstrated a sophisticated approach to design and typographic mastery. The magazine took home the award for Illustration and Graphics. Judges noted the magazine's great photography and impeccable typography. In addition, Texas Monthly won the award for Cover Excellence (Circulation more than 45,000) for its covers featuring strong imagery and inventive type.

Three editorial awards went to *Texas Monthly* as well. "Explorer" took home the award for Magazine Section. Judges praised the section that "tells tales about Texas people and traditions with deep heart." The award for Food or Dining Feature Package (Circulation more than 45,000) went to José R. Ralat for "The Best 50 Tacos in Texas." Judges noted the package's dynamic descriptions, insightful sidebars and illustrations with Mexican flair. Finally, *Texas Monthly* won the prize for Online Excellence for its website texasmonthly.com, where judges said the magazine's journalism truly comes to life with vibrant photography, investigative projects and excellent explainer videos.

Philadelphia Magazine received awards in four categories, three in the writing division. Emily Goulet won the Herb Lipson Award for Column Excellence for her columns, which judges noted were "written with grace, humor and a certain generosity of spirit." She also was named Writer of the Year. Judges praised Emily Goulet, saying that she "delights the reader with emotional complexity, incisive commentary and deft prose." The magazine took home the Essays/Commentary/Criticism award for Don Steinberg's, "The Battle of Big Horn." The piece was touted by judges as a remarked piece of journalism, full of charm, insight and vivid details." Philadelphia Magazine won one editorial award for Ancillary Publication with its issue "Kelce," which was described as "a timely dedication to a player who embodies the city in all its forms."

Texas Highways won four awards, with three of them in design categories. Texas Highways took home the prize for Excellence in Design, with judges describing the design as "modern and refreshing." The magazine earned the prize in Spread Design (Circulation more than 45,000) for "Oh Shell Yeah." Judges noted that the spread had "excellent integration of image and strong typographic design." Dave Shafer, Chris Linnen and Brandon Jakobeit won the Photography award for their work in "Running Its Course,"

which judges complimented as having excellent pacing, juxtaposition and sizing. *Texas Highways* also won an editorial prize for its Special Issue "The Magic Valley." Judges called it "a dazzling success."

Denver's magazine 5280 was awarded three editorial division prizes, including Leisure/Lifestyle Interests (Circulation more than 45,000) for "Rare Architecture." Judges highlighted the glowing photographs, readable graphics, evocative text and wealth of practical information. The magazine won the award for Reader Service for "Death Comes for Us All." Judges said the caliber of writing makes the piece a must-read. Also, 5280 nabbed the Civic Journalism award for its article "Indeterminate," which examined the pitfalls of Colorado's indeterminate-sentencing mandates.

Boston Magazine took home the General Excellence award for the largest circulation division. Judges said Boston Magazine "exemplifies everything that makes a great city mag. You can feel the ambition, energy and love for Boston on every page." The magazine won the prize for Feature Design (Circulation more than 45,000) for "Boston's AI Revolution." Judges noted that the article's "fusion of Revolutionary War clothing with a modern-day robot perfectly captured the evolution of technology." The magazine also took honors for best Food or Dining Section with "The Beacon," which judges called "vibrant in every way," noting the well-conceived stories, rich profiles and savvy roundups.

Seattle Met won three prizes, including the General Excellence award for magazines with a circulation less than 23,000. Judges noted the magazine's sharply written stories, digestible service journalism, and elegant design and photography. The magazine also came out on top for Feature Design (Circulation less than 45,000) for "More Than Fried Dough," which judges described as fun, charming, ambitious and deliciously bold. Finally, the magazine won the award for Feature Story (Circulation less than 45,000) for "Who Is The City For." Judges made the selection for the article's exhaustive reporting, delicate prose and deep well of empathy.

Baltimore Magazine was awarded two prizes. In the General Excellence category for magazines with a circulation of 23,000 to 45,000, the publication topped the competition with its range. Judges stated, "Baltimore's editorial versatility allows it to take a fun, festive and, when necessary, unflinching approach to the city it serves, treating readers to outstanding local journalism packaged in a classic, clean design." The magazine also took home the award for Profile (Circulation less than 45,000) for "Better Call Barry." Judges said summing up the article's subject Barry Glazer in a few thousand words seems like an impossible task, but author Ron Cassie adeptly does just that.

Houstonia Magazine was named the winner in two editorial awards, including Feature Package for "Boomtown." The judges noted the magazine's use of "statistics, deft storytelling, clean design and a local's eye for underreported issues." The magazine also won the award for Newsletter Excellence for "Don't Say Howdy: An Opinionated Local's Guide to Houston." Judges said, "The writing is sharp and witty, and the inclusion of photos, video and Spotify playlists create a top-notch user experience."

Two awards went to *San Diego Magazine*. The "Best Restaurants 2024" won Food or Dining Feature Package (Circulation less than 45,000). The package was described by judges as "a freshly researched, cleverly written, witty and endlessly surprising read threaded with well-made, thought-provoking photos and a uniquely paced design that grabs and holds right to the yummy end." *San Diego Magazine* also took home the award for Food or Dining Writing. Judges praised the author, saying "to read Troy Johnson's work is to catapult past lazy lines and tired phrases."

Washingtonian won two writing awards, including the award for Reporting. The deep accountability reporting in "Emergency Disservice" is the kind local magazines everywhere should be doing, according to judges. The magazine also reigned in the category of Feature Story (Circulation more than 45,000) for Jessica Sidman's "Red Meat," which judges highlighted as a perfect story filled with great lines.

Fort Worth Magazine won the award for Cover Excellence (Circulation less than 45,000). The magazine's January, February and June issues showcased engaging covers that stood out among the rest. In the Leisure/Lifestyle Interests (Circulation less than 45,000) category, Milwaukee Magazine took home the prize for "High Dive." Judges said, "The intimate coverage makes readers feel like regulars rather than strangers and draws them in like a moth to a dim hanging bulb." Finally, Portland Monthly topped the Spread Design (Circulation less than 45,000) category for "Sexually Implicit." The judges noted that the juxtaposition of "the innocence of school supplies with the adult theme of the cuffs is a clever way to introduce a story."

More than 100 judges selected the finalists. They included representatives from publications and media outlets such as AARP Publications, *Advertising Age*, Associated Press, *The Atlantic, Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Bloomberg Journal*, *Business Insider*, CityLab, *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle Magazine*, Emerson Collective, *Entertainment Weekly*, ESPN, *Food Network Magazine*, *Food & Wine Magazine*, *Game & Fish*, *Garden & Gun*, Hearst Magazines, *Inc. Magazine*, Investigative Reporters & Editors, the kitchn, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, Newmanology, The Outline, *Rachel Ray Every Day Magazine*, *THOM Magazine*, *Pioneer Woman Magazine*, *Martha Stewart Weddings*, *Men's Health*, *Midwest Living*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *National Geographic*, *Outdoor Life*, *Pets*, *Psychology Today*, *Sporting Press*, *Tennis Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, *Washington Post*, *The Waterbury Observer*, as well as journalism professors from the Missouri School of Journalism.

The 2025 finalists and winners are: (Winners are listed first in bold print.)

General Excellence 1 (Circulation less than 23,000)

Seattle Met

Honolulu Magazine Madison Magazine Portland Monthly Sarasota Magazine

General Excellence 2 (Circulation 23,000 to 45,000)

Baltimore Magazine

Hour Detroit Milwaukee Magazine San Diego Magazine Sonoma Magazine

General Excellence 3 (Circulation more than 45,000)

Boston Magazine

5280 Philadelphia Magazine Texas Highways Texas Monthly

Essays/Commentary/Criticism

Philadelphia Magazine

Boston Magazine

Philadelphia Magazine Texas Highways Texas Monthly

"The Battle of Big Horn" (Don Steinberg)

"My Dad's Last Day in Court" (Andrew Bloomenthal, Catherine Elton, Chris Vogel)

"Fault Lines" (Tom McGrath)

"The Great Escape" (Roberto José Andrade Franco)

"Instead of Fixing the Foster Care System, Texas Is Trying to Game the Courts" (Forrest Wilder)

Food or Dining Writing

San Diego Magazine (Troy Johnson)

"Home Is Where the Restaurant Is"
"Meet Me in the Parking Lot"
"The Legend of Rocky's"

Chicago Magazine (John Kessler)

"Feld Experiment"
"A Big Splash"

"Best New Restaurants"

Hour Detroit (Danny Palumbo)

"Exceptional Italian Sandwiches"

"At Adelina, Order Like Your Grandma"

"Forever Young at Noori Pocha"

Mpls.St.Paul Magazine (Dara Moskowitz Grumdahl)

"Chips and Everything"
"Perfect Punk Pasta"

"Minnesota's Favorite Restaurant"

Philadelphia Magazine (Jason Sheehan)

"Baking in Bastia"

"The Ephemeral Joys of Illata"

"Pride and Provenance"

Herb Lipson Award for Column Excellence

Philadelphia Magazine (Emily Goulet)

"Second Chances"

"God, Me ... and Mom"
"The Things Parents Save"

Chicago Magazine (Edward McClelland)

"Impress Your Neighbors by Visiting Chicago's Four Corners in

One Day"

"The Illinois-Indiana Border Separates Two Worlds"

"A Gun for Every CTA Rider"

Philadelphia Magazine (Shaunice Ajiwe)

"Did I Make It Awkward?"
"Who Let the Dogs Out?"
"Wishful Thinking"

Pittsburgh Magazine (Virginia Montanez)

"Dahn Memory Lane: Why a Pittsburgh Heiress Jilted an Italian

Count"

"Dahn Memory Lane: Why Pittsburgh Is Spelled With an H"
"Dahn Memory Lane: A Look Back at (Violent) Political

Elections in Pittsburgh"

Texas Monthly (Russell Gold)

"When is a Pipeline in the Public Interest?"

"Quit Fracking With Fresh Water"
"The Lone Star Lithium Boom"

Reporting

Washingtonian "Emergency Disservice" (Ike Allen, Andrew Beaujon)

Philadelphia Magazine "Who Killed the Pops?" (David Murrell)

Texas Monthly "Dome of Silence: Sexual Harassment in the Texas Senate"

(Olivia Messer, Cara Kelly)

Texas Monthly "The Billionaire Who Runs Texas" (Russell Gold)

Washingtonian "It Could Fall Over" (Ike Allen)

Profile (Circulation less than 45,000)

Baltimore Magazine "Better Call Barry" (Ron Cassie)

Fort Worth Magazine "How to Survive a Night Out With a Rock Star" (Brian Kendall)

Milwaukee Magazine "The Cleaner" (Archer Parquette)
Rhode Island Monthly "English Class" (Mike Stanton)

St. Louis Magazine "Chaz Risked His in Order to the "

(Nicholas Phillips)

Profile (Circulation more than 45,000)

Texas Monthly "What Cheer Led To" (Sarah Hepola)

Chicago Magazine "The Ramen Lord" (Kevin Pang)

D Magazine "Where Her Heart Is" (S. Holland Murphy)

Texas Monthly "Jesse Plemons Is Gonna Need a Moment" (Sean O'Neal)

Washingtonian "Far From Home" (Joan Niesen)

Feature Story (Circulation less than 45,000)

Seattle Met "Who Is the City For?" (Eric Nusbaum)

Fort Worth Magazine "A Tragedy Revisited" (Malcolm Mayhew)

Madison Magazine "Tending Roots" (Kynala Phillips)

Milwaukee Magazine "These Days Are Yours and Mine" (Archer Parquette)

Sonoma Magazine "Force of Nature" (Austin Murphy, Brian Tucker, Paul C. Miller)

Feature Story (Circulation more than 45,000)

Washingtonian "Red Meat" (Jessica Sidman)

Chicago Magazine "The Islamic Republic of Iran vs. Abbas Alizadeh"

(Max Blaisdell)

Philadelphia Magazine"Hell Is Living Next to a Wildflower Farm" (Tom McGrath)Texas Monthly"The Juror Who Found Herself Guilty" (Michael Hall)Washingtonian"On Wednesdays, She Wore Pink" (Sylvie McNamara)

Writer of the Year

Philadelphia MagazineEmily GouletCleveland MagazineAnnie NickoloffSt. Louis MagazineNicholas PhillipsTexas MonthlyLauren LarsonTexas MonthlyMichael Hall

Excellence in Writing

Texas MonthlyMay5280JuneD MagazineMayPhiladelphia MagazineFebruaryWashingtonianNovember

Spread Design (Circulation less than 45,000)

Portland Monthly "Sexually Implicit" (Michael Novak, Matt Chase)

Baltimore Magazine "Little Nancy Comes Home" (Amanda White-Iseli,

Justin Tsucalas)

Madison Magazine "Hot Boxed" (Tim Burton)

Portland Monthly "The Motherhood Revolution" (Michael Novak,

Johanna Goodman)

St. Louis Magazine "Baptism of Fire" (Tom White)

Spread Design (Circulation more than 45,000)

Texas Highways "Oh Shell Yeah" (Brandon Jakobeit, Kenny Braun,

Mark Mahorsky)

5280 "A Bugless Life" (Sean Parsons)
Philadelphia Magazine "The Waiting Game" (Jamie Leary)

Texas Monthly "The Greatest Sideshow on Earth" (Emily Kimbro,

Victoria Millner, Jenn Tompkins, Darice Chavira, Kayla Miracle,

Juleanna Culilap)

Washingtonian "Guns on the Left" (Sherri Dalphonse, Patrick Hruby,

Jeff Glendenning, Anna Marina Savvidis, Connie Zheng,

Will Allen-DuPraw)

Feature Design (Circulation less than 45,000)

Seattle Met "More Than Fried Dough" (Nate Bullis, Amber Fouts)

Baltimore Magazine "Greetings from Ocean City" (Amanda White Iseli, Josefa,

Christopher Myers)

Palm Springs Life "Car and Home" (Anna Kula)

Portland Monthly. "Lifestyles of the Happy and Gray" (Michael Novak, Jason Hill)

Seattle Met "The Best New Restaurants" (Jane Sherman, Amber Fouts)

Feature Design (Circulation more than 45,000)

Boston Magazine "Boston's AI Revolution" (Benjamen Purvis)

Boston Magazine "This Could Be You" (Benjamen Purvis)

D Magazine "How to Die in Dallas" (Stephen Arevalos, Maryam Aziz,

Jasmine Green)

Texas Highways "Burgers Worth the Drive" (Chris Hughes, Sara D'Eugenio,

Ali Khan, Amy McCarthy, Matthew Odam, Amanda Albee)

Texas Monthly "Who's Wasting Our Water?" (Emily Kimbro, Victoria Millner,

Jenn Tompkins, Darice Chavira, Kayla Miracle,

Juleanna Culilap)

Photography

Texas Highways "Running Its Course" (Dave Shafer, Chris Linnen,

Brandon Jakobeit)

Chicago Magazine "Clubland" (Erik M. Kommer)

Palm Springs Life "The Bold and the Beautiful" (Emily Chavous Foster,

Anna Kula, Ethan Gulley)

"Captured in Wine" (James Joiner) Sonoma Magazine

"To Live and Die in Dallas" (Emily Kimbro, Victoria Millner, Texas Monthly

Jenn Tompkins, Darice Chavira, Kayla Miracle,

Juleanna Culilap)

Illustration and Graphics

Texas Monthly "The Greatest Sideshow on Earth," "Dome of Silence,"

"Who's Wasting Our Water?"

"The Mysterious Mr. Clark," "Going Gray," "In Pods We Trust" "Not So Pumped," "Big Forest Energy," "Navigating Fall" 5280

Portland Monthly

"Executive Decisions," "Chaz ____ Risked His ____ in Order to St. Louis Magazine

the ," "The Castlewood 8-Hour Adventure Race"

"Alone Time," "Red Meat," "The Great Restaurant Fee Fiasco" Washingtonian

Cover Excellence (Circulation less than 45,000)

Fort Worth Magazine January, February, June

March/April, July/August, November/December dsm Magazine

Gulfshore Life February, March, July Houstonia Magazine Spring, Summer, Winter

January/February, March/April, July Pittsburgh Magazine

Cover Excellence (Circulation more than 45,000)

Texas Monthly August, November, December Boston Magazine April, October, December/January

Mpls.St.Paul Magazine May, June, December New Jersey Monthly March, May, November Philadelphia Magazine March, June, December

Designer of the Year

Texas Monthly Jenn Tompkins 5280 Dave McKenna Boston Magazine Benjamen Purvis St. Louis Magazine Tom White Washingtonian Niky Chopra

Excellence in Design

Texas Highways July/August Hour Detroit February Portland Monthly Fall Seattle Met Winter Texas Monthly September

Magazine Section

Texas Monthly "Explorer" (September, October) "Live a Beautiful Life" (Spring, Summer) D Magazine

"Currents" (Spring, Summer) Seattle Met

Texas Highways "Postcards" (July/August, September) "Roadmap" (July/August, September) Texas Highways

Food or Dining Section

Boston Magazine "The Beacon" (February, March)

Milwaukee Magazine "The Dish" (June, July)

Portland Monthly "Canteen" (Summer, Fall)

Seattle Met "Nosh Pit" (Spring, Summer)

Washingtonian "Taste" (August, September)

Reader Service

5280 "Death Comes for Us All" (Lindsey B. King, Dave McKenna,

Charli Ornett)

5280 "Join the Hunt" (Spencer Campbell, Sean Parsons,

Sarah Banks)

Boston Magazine "Boston's AI Revolution" (Wyndham Lewis, Brittany Jasnoff,

Chris Vogel)

Mpls.St.Paul Magazine "The Fixers" (Jayne Haugen Olson, Madeline Nachbar,

Madison Bloomquist, Kelly Ryan Kegans, Laurie Hawton,

Rebecca Rowland)

Philadelphia Magazine "Live Your Best Life ... For Less Money" (Christine Speer

Lejeune, Kristen Schott)

Leisure/Lifestyle Interests (Circulation less than 45,000)

Milwaukee Magazine "High Dive" (Chris Drosner, Chelsea Mamerow, Aliza Baran,

Tom Kertscher, Tea Krulos, Spencer Creal)

Fort Worth Magazine "Lock, Stock Show, and Rodeo" (Brian Kendall, Lauren Deitzer,

Craig Sylva)

Portland Monthly "Over the Hill" (Rebecca Jacobson, Michael Novak,

Brooke Jackson-Glidden, Jack Dylan)

Portland Monthly "The New Hotness" (Brooke Jackson-Glidden, Michael Novak,

Derek Abella, Byron Beck, Erin Ross, Portland Monthly staff)

St. Louis Magazine "The Materials That Made Us" (Christine Jackson)

Leisure/Lifestyle Interests (Circulation more than 45,000)

5280 "Rare Architecture" (Lindsey B. King, Geoff Van Dyke,

Dave McKenna, Charli Ornett)

Boston Magazine "Lights, Camera, Boston!" (Makena Gera, Camille Dodero,

Brittany Jasnoff, Chris Vogel)

New Jersey Monthly "New Jersey Road Trips" (Gail Ghezzi, Emily Melvin,

Ken Schlager, Barbara Leap, Julie Gordon, Shaw Nielsen)

Philadelphia Magazine "The Best Seats in the House" (Christine Speer Lejeune,

Philadelphia Magazine Staff)

Texas Highways "One of a Kind" (Spencer Campbell, Cat Cardenas,

Thom Denton, Ian Dille, Dina Gachman, Mike Hoinski, Lauren Hough, Greg Marshall, Clayton Maxwell, Joe Nick Patoski, Tyler Smith, Jason Stanford)

Feature Package

Houstonia Magazine "Boomtown"

Boston Magazine "The Fractured, Surprising, and Sobering Truth About Kids and

Smartphones"

Philadelphia Magazine "An Optimist's Guide to Philadelphia"

Texas Monthly "The Bum Steer Awards"

Washingtonian "Cool Jobs"

Food or Dining Feature Package (Circulation less than 45,000)

San Diego Magazine "Best Restaurants 2024" (Troy Johnson, Samantha Lacy,

Amelia Rodriguez, Nicolle Monico, Beth Demmon,

Jackie Bryant)

Baltimore Magazine "The Classics" (Lydia Woolever)

Honolulu Magazine "The New Guide to Chinese Food" (Martha Cheng, Mari Taketa,

Christi Young Tomisato, Aaron K. Yoshino, James Nakamura"

Portland Monthly "The 50 Best Restaurants in Portland" (Brooke Jackson-Glidden,

Michael Novak, Jordan Michelman, Matthew Trueherz,

Karen Brooks, Rebecca Nguyen)

Seattle Met "The Best New Restaurants" (Naomi Tomky, Allecia Vermillion,

Jane Sherman, Amber Fouts)

Food or Dining Feature Package (Circulation more than 45,000)

Texas Monthly "The 50 Best Tacos in Texas" (José R. Ralat)

Boston Magazine "How Do You Say Pizza on the South Shore? Bar Pie!"

(Scott Kearnan, Brittany Jasnoff, Chris Vogel, Benjamen Purvis,

Nina Gallant, Madison Trapkin)

Chicago Magazine "Italian Beef's Golden Age" (Amy Cavanaugh,

Elizabeth Carlisle, Lenny Gilmore, Nick Murway, Greg Clarke,

QuickHoney)

D Magazine "Best Burgers" (Nick Rallo, Brian Reinhart, Lesley Busby,

Desiree Gutierez)

Philadelphia Magazine "Foraging Ahead" (Chloe Pantazi-Wolber, Kae Lani Palmisano)

Civic Journalism

5280 "Indeterminate" (Robert Sanchez, Dave McKenna,

Charli Ornett)

Baltimore Magazine "Rats!" (Lydia Woolever)

Philadelphia Magazine "The Waiting Game" (Christine Speer Lejeune)

Texas Monthly "Dome of Silence: Sexual Harassment in the Texas Senate"

(Olivia Messer, Cara Kelly)

Texas Monthly "The Billionaire Who Runs Texas" (Russell Gold)

Special Issue

Texas Highways "The Magic Valley" (September)

Baltimore Magazine "The Aging Issue" (December)

Boston Magazine "Best of Boston" (July)

D Magazine "To Dallas With Love" (September)
Milwaukee Magazine "The Issue of Politics" (July)

Ancillary Publication

Philadelphia Magazine Kelce

5280 5280 Health
D Magazine D CEO Magazine

D Magazine D Home Palm Springs Life D Home+Design **Online Excellence**

Texas Monthlytexasmonthly.comBaltimore Magazinebaltimoremagazine.com

Chicago Magazine chicagomag.com
D Magazine dmagazine.com
New Orleans Magazine myneworleans.com

Newsletter Excellence

Houstonia Magazine "Don't Say Howdy: An Opinionated Local's Guide to

Houston"

Baltimore Magazine "Weekender"

Chicago Magazine "Dish Newsletter"

D Magazine "DBrief"
St. Louis Magazine "Solutions"

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