



The Missouri School of Journalism  
University of Missouri-Columbia

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The Best of City and Regional Magazines

## NATIONAL CITY AND REGIONAL MAGAZINE 2021 AWARD WINNERS

*Madison Magazine*, *Portland Monthly* and *Texas Monthly* won the coveted general excellence awards in their circulation categories in the 36th Annual National City and Regional Magazine Awards competition announced May 5 at CRMA's annual conference, hosted virtually with the awards program livestreamed.

*Texas Monthly* took home nine prizes this year, and *Boston Magazine* took home five. *Portland Monthly* received four awards, and *Indianapolis Monthly* won three. *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine* and *St. Louis Magazine* were each awarded two prizes, and 10 others — *405 Magazine*, *5280*, *Baltimore, D Magazine*, *Kansas City magazine*, *Louisville Magazine*, *Madison Magazine*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, *Seattle Met* and *Washingtonian*— received single awards.

*Texas Monthly's* nine wins included a first-place finish in Reporting for Michael Hall's piece "Five Judges, Five Representatives, and the District Attorney Say She Was Wrongly Convicted," which judges called "a gripping account that puts the entire legal system on trial." *Texas Monthly's* Sterry Butcher received the Herb Lipson Award for Column Excellence for his "talent for bringing human and nonhuman ecosystems to vibrant life." Two more writing awards went to *Texas Monthly*: Excellence in Writing for its July issue containing aspirational storytelling unique to the Lone Star state and Feature Story for Robert Draper's "The Aftermath." The magazine also took home two design awards, Feature Design and Illustration and Graphics, and two online awards, Excellence Online for *texasmonthly.com* and Multiplatform Storytelling for an eight-part series about an unsolved mystery titled "Tom Brown's Body." General Excellence judges said the magazine's "dignified, intelligent-looking approach would not be out of place with a literary magazine."

*Boston Magazine's* five wins included the Photography category for "How Do You Build A Seafood Empire?" Judges said Pat Piasecki's photos "showed an attention to narrative" and "follow a path from the water to the plate." In the writing categories, writer Chris Sweeney took home the prize in the Profile category (circulation above 60,000) division with a story about a local politician's rise to fame and fall from grace. A scathing review of the city planning department earned top marks in Civic Journalism, and Spencer Buell's "City Life" earned the win for best Online Column. Catherine Elton received Writer of the Year honors for "fearless tackling of big, bruising topics, carefully manicured fact-gathering, deploying verbs that pulse with urgency and compassion."

Described as "fresh, energetic, and contemporary but still classic," *Portland Monthly* grabbed the attention of the General Excellence judges. A vibrant package on restaurants' resilience by *Portland Monthly* took the award for Food or Dining Feature Package for its "superb photography and electric design." The magazine also won in Excellence in Design for its captivating photography and illustrations, and in the category of Leisure/Lifestyle Interests for a summer package "adjusted for the COVID era, with a focus on small pleasures and safe adventures to be found close to home."

"Circle City" by *Indianapolis Monthly* reflects its namesake's diversity and culture, earning it first place for Magazine Section. The magazine's "City Guide" took home the win for Ancillary/General Interest, and a profile of Indy legend Roger Penske was tapped the winner for Feature Story (Circulation less than 60,000). Judges said the writer "sets up an almost unbearable tension between the narrative threads" in that story.

*Mpls.St.Paul Magazine's* January, July and November covers were rewarded for their boldness, earning the win in Cover Excellence. Dara Moskowitz Grumdahl placed first in Food or Dining Writing with stories that went beyond food and touched on universal emotions such as hope, humanity and courage.

*St. Louis Magazine's* standout feature on local pizza joints was awarded first place in Feature Design for its fresh take on the classic "Best Of" package that incorporated surprising elements. The designer behind the masterpiece, Tom White, was also named Designer of the Year for his work that achieves balance "due to a thoughtful and dynamic understanding between the artwork and the designer's own decisive input."

*Madison Magazine* ushered in a new design in 2020, and General Excellence judges took notice of it and the “strong editorial packages that tackled the year’s hardest topics head-on, including an electrifying cover story about the Black Lives Matter movement.” Sarah Hepola’s artful exploration of aging in “Growing Old Gratefully” for *D Magazine* received first place in the Essays/Commentary/Criticism category. In Profile (circulation less than 60,000), a *Louisville Magazine* story about a mysterious local artist was named winner. Judges said the writer of that piece employed gonzo journalism techniques.

An eye-catching opening spread from a profile of Kimbal Musk in *5280* earned first place in the Spread Design category (Circulation more than 60,000) for its vibrant colors and modern gothic script. In the less than 60,000 division of the same category, *Kansas City magazine* earned first prize for merging a beautiful portrait with bold typography. *Philadelphia Magazine* tackled recycling and sustainable practices in fresh ways in “Waste Not,” the award winner for Reader Service.

*Baltimore Magazine*’s issue titled “A Moment of Reckoning” responded to the murder of George Floyd and ensuing protests by incorporating the voices of the city’s Black leaders and earned it a win in the Special Issue category. *Seattle Met*’s newsletter “Daily” took home first place in the E-Newsletter division; judges described it as “visually dynamic, brief and easy to navigate.” In ancillary publications, *405 Home*’s fall issue sports an inviting editorial mix that helped it clinch a win in Ancillary: Home/Shelter. And *Washingtonian Weddings* winter/spring won the Ancillary: Weddings category with useful content presented in stylish and dynamic ways.

More than 100 judges selected the finalists. They included representatives from publications and media outlets such as *AARP the Magazine*, *Advertising Age*, *The Atavist Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Consumer Reports*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Country Gardens*, *Discover Magazine*, *Eater*, ESPN, *Fast Company*, *Food & Wine*, *Forbes*, *Game & Fish*, *Garden & Gun*, *GQ*, *Houston Press*, *IEEE Spectrum*, *Inc. Magazine*, *Life Magazine*, *Marie Claire*, *Men’s Health*, Meredith Corporation, *Midwest Living*, *Milwaukee Business Journal*, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Outdoor Life*, *Rachael Ray In Season*, *Scientific American*, *Successful Farming*, *Time*, Voice Media Group and *The Washington Post*, as well as journalism professors from the Missouri School of Journalism.

**The 2021 finalists and winners are:** (Winners are listed first in bold print.)

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

***Madison Magazine***  
*Columbus Monthly*  
*Honolulu Magazine*  
*Louisville Magazine*  
*Sonoma Magazine*

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

***Portland Monthly***  
*Baltimore Magazine*  
*D Magazine*  
*Seattle Met*  
*St. Louis Magazine*

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

***Texas Monthly***  
*Boston Magazine*  
*Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*  
*Philadelphia Magazine*  
*Washingtonian*

**Essays/Commentary/Criticism**

***D Magazine***

*New Orleans Magazine*

*Portland Monthly*

*Yankee Magazine*

*Yankee Magazine*

**“Growing Old Gratefully” (Sarah Hepola)**

“A World Turned Upside Down” (Chris Rose)

“Dear White Portland” (Tiara Darnell)

“Do the Pilgrims Still Matter?” (Justin Shatwell)

“Hope on Any Given Day” (Sophronia Scott)

**Food or Dining Writing**

***Mpls.St.Paul Magazine***

**(Dara Moskowitz Grumdahl)**

**“Every Day Adds Up”**

**“Sugar and Spice”**

**“It’s All Right to Cry”**

5280

(Scott Mowbray)

“All in the Family”

“Bourdain Revisited”

“Remembrance of Meals Past”

*D Magazine*

(Eve Hill-Agnus)

“Stranded”

“High Steaks”

“!Viva La Resistencia!”

*Indianapolis Monthly*

(Julia Spalding)

“Where There’s Smoke”

“Flight of Fancy”

“Small But Mighty”

*Seattle Met*

(Allecia Vermillion)

“On the Ruby Brink”

“How Nathan Lockwood Rolls”

“Takeout’s Slow-Casual Future”

**Herb Lipson Award for Column Excellence**

***Texas Monthly***

**(Sterry Butcher)**

**“Birds in Hand”**

**“Letters To No One”**

**“A Consideration of Signs”**

*Cleveland Magazine*

(Sheehan Hannan)

“The Two Cities”

“Is the Consent Decree Enough?”

“Slow Walk”

*Indianapolis Monthly*

(Philip Gulley)

“Sick to Death”

“Friends Like These”

“Lying in State”

*Philadelphia Magazine*

(Emily Goulet)

“Why Are We All So Obsessed With Homegoods?”

“Love and Basketball”

“Life With Bernie”

*Yankee Magazine*

(Ben Hewitt)  
“Snow Man”  
“The Fix”  
“A Return to the Old Ways”

### **Reporting**

***Texas Monthly***

**“Five Judges, Five Representatives, and the District Attorney Say She Was Wrongly Convicted” (Michael Hall)**

*Boston Magazine*

“The Day the Music Died” (Carly Carioli with Eli “Paperboy” Reed)

*Boston Magazine*

“Till Death Do Us Part” (Susan Zalkind)

*Philadelphia Magazine*

“Homelessness and the Heart of the City” (Jonathan Valania)

*Yankee Magazine*

“Gull Trouble” (Sara Anne Donnelly)

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

***Louisville Magazine***

**“Who Is Vyncex?” (Josh Wood)**

*D Magazine*

“The Spice Queen” (Kathy Wise)

*Indianapolis Monthly*

“A Different Wavelength” (Tony Rehagen)

*Sactown Magazine*

“In the Name of the Father” (Hillary Louise Johnson)

*St. Louis Magazine*

“Her Own Counsel” (Nicholas Phillips)

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

***Boston Magazine***

**“The Short, Wild Ride of Correia the Kid” (Chris Sweeney)**

*Boston Magazine*

“Winter, the Weatherman, and Me” (John Wolfson)

*Philadelphia Magazine*

“Helen Gym Is the Most Popular Politician in Philadelphia” (Christine Speer Lejeune)

*Philadelphia Magazine*

“Remnants on a South Philly Stoop” (Jason Sheehan)

*Texas Monthly*

“The Gospel of Brené” (Sarah Hepola)

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

***Indianapolis Monthly***

**“May Day” (Tom Chiarella)**

*D Magazine*

“Into the Deep” (Matt Goodman)

*Madison Magazine*

“The Future of Madison’s Epiconomy” (Marc Eisen)

*Portland Monthly*

“Zodiac Signs” (Jordan Michelman)

*Seattle Met*

“After They Got John” (James Ross Gardner)

### **Feature Story (Circulation more than 60,000)**

***Texas Monthly***

**“The Aftermath” (Robert Draper)**

5280

“Elect the Wolf?” (Cally Carswell)

*Alaska Magazine*

“The Questions We Ask” (Marybeth Holleman)

*Washingtonian*

“Inside the Mind of the MAGA Bomber” (Luke Mullins)

*Yankee Magazine*

“The Unfinished Journey of João Victor” (Mel Allen)

### **Writer of the Year**

***Boston Magazine***

**Catherine Elton**

*D Magazine*

Zac Crain

*D Magazine*

Peter Simek

*Philadelphia Magazine*

Jason Sheehan

*Seattle Met*

James Ross Gardner

### **Excellence in Writing**

***Texas Monthly***

**July**

*Boston Magazine*

December

*Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*

July

*Philadelphia Magazine*

September

*Seattle Met*

Winter

**Spread Design (Circulation less than 60,000)**

<i>Kansas City magazine</i>	<b>“Long Live the Queen” (Katie Sloan, Samantha Levi)</b>
<i>Baltimore Magazine</i>	“French Revolution” (Amanda White-Iseli, Scott Suchman)
<i>Portland Monthly</i>	“Where’s the F**king Tomatoes, Channing?” (Brian Breneman)
<i>Seattle Met</i>	“God Save the Punks” (Jane Sherman)
<i>St. Louis Magazine</i>	“She Was Eloise” (Emily Cramsey)

**Spread Design (Circulation more than 60,000)**

<b>5280</b>	<b>“The Gospel According to Kimbal Musk” (Dave McKenna)</b>
<i>Boston Magazine</i>	“Science or Censorship?” (Benjamin Purvis)
<i>Boston Magazine</i>	“The Long Shot” (Benjamin Purvis)
<i>Texas Monthly</i>	“Unfriendly Skies” (Emily Kimbro)
<i>Texas Monthly</i>	“After the Protests, A Changing of the Guard?” (Jenn Hair)

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

<i>St. Louis Magazine</i>	<b>“Home Slice” (Tom White)</b>
<i>Honolulu Magazine</i>	“Joy Story” (Christine Labrador)
<i>New Orleans Magazine</i>	“Food Lovers Guide” (Tiffani Reding Amedeo)
<i>San Diego Magazine</i>	“California Adventure Bucket List” (Sydnie Goodwin, Ciara Phelan, Chase Scheinbaum)
<i>Seattle Met</i>	“Between Two Equinoxes” (Jane Sherman)

**Feature Design (Circulation more than 60,000)**

<i>Texas Monthly</i>	<b>“The Year of the Taco” (Victoria Millner)</b>
5280	“Monumental Beauty” (Dave McKenna)
<i>Mpls.St.Paul Magazine</i>	“Wake Up” (Jayne Haugen Olson, Michael Norseng, Kim Jackson)
<i>Philadelphia Magazine</i>	“Marriage Stories” (Jamie Leary, Claudia Gavin, Andre Rucker)
<i>Texas Monthly</i>	“What to Read Now” (Jenn Hair)

**Photography**

<i>Boston Magazine</i>	<b>“How Do You Build a Seafood Empire?” (Pat Piasecki)</b>
<i>Seattle Met</i>	“A River Runs Through Us” (David Ryder)
<i>Sonoma Magazine</i>	“The Bounty at the Shore” (Josie Iselin)
<i>St. Louis Magazine</i>	“Iron Maidens” (R.J. Hartbeck)
<i>Washingtonian</i>	“In Memoriam” (Jeff Elkins)

**Illustration and Graphics**

<i>Texas Monthly</i>	<b>“Welcome to Battleground Texas” (November)</b>
	<b>“Twilight of the Bronze Age” (September)</b>
	<b>“We Thought World War III Had Started” (November)</b>
<i>Boston Magazine</i>	“Love in the Time of Covid-19” (May)
	“City of Spies” (May)
	“Four More Years” (October)
<i>Portland Monthly</i>	“The Bridge is Back” (January)
	“The Time Traveler” (January)
	“Now What?” (May/June)
<i>Seattle Met</i>	“Reaffirming the Right-of-Way” (March)
	“The Rise (and Fall and Rise) of the Vacation Rental” (Fall)
	“Bill Gates, Rebooted” (Fall)

*Yankee Magazine*

“Becoming Mikaela” (January)  
“Hope on Any Given Day” (March)  
“Pour It on at a Pancake House” (March)

**Cover Excellence**

***Mpls.St.Paul Magazine***  
*Kansas City magazine*  
*Louisville Magazine*  
*St. Louis Magazine*  
*Texas Monthly*

**January, July, November**  
March, April, October  
April, No. 5, No. 6  
February, May, November  
July, September, December

**Designer of the Year**

***St. Louis Magazine***  
5280  
*Boston Magazine*  
*Texas Monthly*  
*Texas Monthly*

**Tom White**  
Sean Parsons  
Benjamin Purvis  
Jenn Hair  
Victoria Millner

**Excellence in Design**

***Portland Monthly***  
5280  
*Seattle Met*  
*St. Louis Magazine*  
*Texas Monthly*

**March**  
November  
Winter  
February  
December

**Magazine Section**

***Indianapolis Monthly***  
5280  
*Philadelphia Magazine*  
*Portland Monthly*  
*Seattle Met*

**“Circle City” (August/September)**  
“Compass” (April/May)  
“Scout” (April/May)  
“Show & Tell” (Fall/Winter)  
“Currents” (Fall/Winter)

**Reader Service**

***Philadelphia Magazine***  
  
5280  
*Boston Magazine*  
*Boston Magazine*  
*Yankee Magazine*

**“Waste Not” (Brian Howard, Carla Shackelford, Regan Fletcher Stephens, Cierra Williams, Maddy Switzer-Lamme, Sandy Hingston)**  
“Scam Risk” (Lindsey B. King)  
“Best of Boston 2020” (Brittany Jasnoff)  
“Boston is Not Okay” (Rachel Slade)  
“8 Ways to Make the Most of Maple Season” (Staff)

**Leisure/Lifestyle Interests**

***Portland Monthly***  
  
5280  
*Indianapolis Monthly*  
*Rhode Island Monthly*  
*Yankee Magazine*

**“The Little Joys of Summer” (Eden Dawn, Fiona McCann, Michael Novak, Marty Patail, Conner Reed, Staff)**  
“Get in Gear” (Lindsey B. King)  
“The Pampered Camper” (Daniel S. Comiskey)  
“East Bay vs. West Bay” (Sarah Francis)  
“A World Away” (Wayne Curtis)

## **Food or Dining Feature Package**

### ***Portland Monthly***

*Austin Monthly*

*Baltimore Magazine*

*Honolulu Magazine*

*Indianapolis Monthly*

### **Civic Journalism**

#### ***Boston Magazine***

5280

*Phoenix Magazine*

*Sarasota Magazine*

*Yankee Magazine*

### **Special Issue**

#### ***Baltimore Magazine***

*Philadelphia Magazine*

*Philadelphia Magazine*

*Seattle Met*

*Washingtonian*

### **Ancillary: Home/Shelter**

#### ***405 Magazine***

*Austin Monthly*

*Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*

*St. Louis Magazine*

*Westchester Magazine*

### **Ancillary: Weddings**

#### ***Washingtonian***

*Baltimore Magazine*

*D Magazine*

*Milwaukee Magazine*

*Philadelphia Magazine*

### **Ancillary: General Interest**

#### ***Indianapolis Monthly***

*Columbus Monthly*

*D Magazine*

*dsm Magazine*

*St. Louis Magazine*

### **Excellence Online**

#### ***Texas Monthly***

5280

*Baltimore Magazine*

*D Magazine*

*Portland Monthly*

#### **“Food Fighters” (Karen Brooks, Katherine Chew Hamilton, Jenni Moore, Marty Patail, Michael Novak)**

“What’s Brewing?” (Trey Gutierrez, Chris Hughes, David Leffler, Sara Marie D’Eugenio, Nick Cabrera, Sarah Karlan)

“The Great Restaurant Reinvention” (Jane Marion)

“Poke!” (Robbie Dingeman, Mari Taketa, Catherine Toth Fox, Katrina Valcourt, Christi Young)

“Dives” (Michael Rubino)

#### **“Paved and Confused” (Rachel Slade)**

“The Loneliest Place to Die” (Lindsey B. King)

“Black and Blue” (Jimmy Magahern)

“A Line in the Sand” (Isaac Eger)

“Fighting for Survival” (Jon Marcus)

#### **“A Moment of Reckoning” (August)**

“Best of Philly” (August)

“Philly in the Time of Coronavirus” (May)

“A City Resilient” (July/August)

“We Will Get Through This” (May)

#### ***Home (Fall)***

*Home (Winter)*

*Home & Design (Fall)*

*Design STL (November/December)*

*Home (Fall)*

#### ***Weddings (Winter/Spring)***

*Weddings (Fall/Winter)*

*Weddings (Spring)*

*Weddings (Winter)*

*Wedding (Summer/Fall)*

#### ***City Guide***

*Health*

*CEO (March)*

*Inclusion*

*St. Louis Family*

#### **texasmonthly.com**

5280.com

baltimoremagazine.com

dmagazine.com

pdxmonthly.com

**Online Column**

***Boston Magazine***

*Philadelphia Magazine*

*Philadelphia Magazine*

*Texas Monthly*

*Yankee Magazine*

**“City Life” (Spencer Buell)**

“City Life” (Ernest Owens)

“Restaurants Foobooz” (Alex Tewfik)

“Tex-Mexplainer” (José R. Ralat)

“Letter From Dublin” (Mel Allen)

**E-Newsletter**

***Seattle Met***

*Boston Magazine*

*D Magazine*

*Texas Monthly*

*Yankee Magazine*

***Daily***

*The Feed*

*D Brief*

*Staying In With TM*

*Our Towns*

**Multiplatform Storytelling**

***Texas Monthly***

*Baltimore Magazine*

*Baltimore Magazine*

*Baltimore Magazine*

*D Magazine*

**“Tom Brown’s Body”**

“Into Thin Air”

“Rising Son”

“Try to Remember”

“Police Brutality in Dallas”