

NEWS RELEASE

October 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALT LAKE CITY—The Utah Division of Arts & Museums (UA&M) and the Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) Community Writing Center have chosen 20 writers in seven categories as the winners of the 64th annual Utah Original Writing Competition. The winners were selected from over 200 entries from Utah-based writers.

Manuscripts were reviewed in an anonymous process by judges who reside outside of Utah. First- and second-place winners are awarded prize money ranging from \$150 to \$1,000, depending on the category.

An event celebrating Utah writers and the Original Writing Competition will take place on Thursday, November 8, 2023, from 6-8 p.m. There will be an awards ceremony and readings by previous competition winners.

Past winners of the Utah Original Writing Competition include four past Utah Poets Laureate, including David Lee, Ken Brewer, Katharine Coles, and Lance Larsen.

2023 UOWC Winners

Category A: Novel, judged by Vi Khi Nao

- First Place: *Fracturing Consciousness* by Sierra Branham (Spanish Fork)
- Second Place: *Mustang Ranch* by Gary Lee Duncan (Moab)
- Honorable Mention: *Spinner* by Lucy Tayco Price (Cedar City)

Category B: Creative Nonfiction Book, judged by Barrie Jean Borich

- First Place: *Excursions with Scout* by Carly Gooch (Murray)
- Second Place: *That Doesn't Sound Like Him* by Ella Stott (Riverton)

- Honorable Mentions: *The Other F**** Word* by Brittany Lee Jacobson (West Jordan)

Category C: Book Length Collection of Poetry, judged by Knar Gavin

- First Place: *Coming Apocalypse Attractions* by Cheyenne Nimes (Salt Lake City)
- Second Place: *Selenophile* by Natalie Taylor (Holladay City)
- Honorable Mentions: *Practical Wolf* by Adam Haver (Salt Lake City)

Category D: Children's Book, judged by Lakita Wilson

- First Place: *Cruise Caper* by Sabrina Vienneau (Salt Lake City)
- Second Place: *The Piccadilly Bones* by Zachar Largey (Orem)
- Honorable Mention: *Ruby, Who?* by Jill Campbell (Riverton)

Category E: Poetry, judged by Amaranth Borsuk

- First Place: "Drought & Bones" by Robert Carney (Salt Lake City)
- Second Place: "The Bright Time." by Cheyenne Nimes (Salt Lake City)
- Honorable Mention: "Thomas and Stubbs" by Shanan Ballam (Logan)

Category F: Short Fiction, judged by Caren Beilin

- First Place: "Phone in Hand" by Pamela Balluck (Salt Lake City)
- Second Place: "Relativity Burger" by Elijah Zane Browne (South Jordan)
- Honorable Mention: "#WeBeFloating" by Lesley Hart Gunn (Provo)

Category G: Creative Nonfiction Essay, judged by Jessica Zafra

- First Place: "Awash" by Ashley Wells (Providence)
- Second Place: "Parallel Universes" by Darlene Young (South Jordan)
- Honorable Mention: "The Visitor" by Bill Funk (Salt Lake City)

About the Utah Original Writing Competition

Since 1958, the Utah Original Writing Competition has awarded Utah writers for works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry in a variety of forms. The competition's mission is to aid Utah writers on their path to publication and broader recognition. Submissions must be original works and, with some exceptions, cannot be published or accepted for publication at the time of entry. Manuscripts are reviewed in an anonymous process by

judges selected from outside of Utah. There is no entry fee, and it is open to all Utah residents age 18 and over.

About Utah Arts & Museums

Utah Arts & Museums (UA&M) seeks to advance Utahns' quality of life through arts and museum experiences and cultural opportunities. We are a service organization offering a variety of professional development opportunities and grants to serve our constituents. We serve schools, local arts agencies, organizations, community centers, performing groups, museums, and individuals across Utah.

About the SLCC Community Writing Center

The SLCC Community Writing Center (CWC) supports, motivates and educates people of all abilities and educational backgrounds who want to use writing for practical needs, civic engagement and personal expression. In addition to an open space available for writing, it provides opportunities to enhance writing abilities through programs such as Writing Coaching, Writing Workshops, the Community Writing Series and Writing Partners. These services are open to all Salt Lake area residents.

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