

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Winners Announced for the 36th Annual Oklahoma Book Awards

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) is pleased to announce the winners of the 36th Annual Oklahoma Book Awards, which were revealed during a special ceremony held Friday, May 16 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Book Awards celebrate outstanding contributions by authors, illustrators, photographers, designers, and publishers whose work is either created by Oklahomans, centers on the state, or explores Oklahoma-related themes. The evening also honored Mike Wimmer, a celebrated illustrator and artist, with the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his lasting contributions to the literary and artistic landscape of Oklahoma.

This year's winners represent a diverse array of voices and genres, from children's literature and poetry to fiction and lifetime achievement.

### 2025 Oklahoma Book Award Winners

- **Children's Category:** *When We Gather (Ostadahlisiha): A Cherokee Tribal Feast* by Andrea L. Rogers (HarperCollins)
- **Young Adult Category:** *Find Her* by Ginger Reno (Holiday House)
- **Design Category:** *Echoes of Light: Images into Writing* — Designed by Carl Brune (Twin Feathers Ink)
- **Illustration Category:** *Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* — Illustrated by Paul Peart-Smith (Beacon Press)
- **Photography Category:** *findings: translations hallazgos: traducciones* — Photography by Jeanie Gooden (Peach Can Press)
- **Fiction Category:** *The Promise of Unbroken Straw* by Ken Steele (Yorkshire Publishing)
- **Non-Fiction Category:** *By The Fire We Carry: The Generations-Long Fight for Justice on Native Land* by Rebecca Nagle (HarperCollins)

- **Poetry Category:** *Until Air Itself is Tinted* by Cullen Whisenhunt (Turning Plow Press)

The Oklahoma Book Awards are made possible through the support of the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book. For more information about the Oklahoma Book Awards and the Oklahoma Center for the Book, visit [oklahoma.gov/libraries/book-awards](http://oklahoma.gov/libraries/book-awards).

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### **About the Oklahoma Department of Libraries**

The [Oklahoma Department of Libraries](http://oklahoma.gov/libraries) is the official State Library of Oklahoma. It serves the information and records management needs of state government, assists with public library development, coordinates library and information technology projects for the state, and serves the general public through its specialized collections.

### **About the Oklahoma Center for the Book**

The Oklahoma Center for the Book (OCB), a state affiliate of the National Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, was established in 1986 as the fourth state center in the nation. Created by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in response to a national call for state participation, OCB promotes the importance of books and reading, celebrates Oklahoma authors past and present, preserves the state's literary heritage, and encourages reading for pleasure among Oklahomans of all ages. OCB also partners with the nonprofit Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book to host a variety of literary events across the state.