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NATIONAL BOOK AWARD SUBMISSIONS OPEN TODAY AND NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2017 JUDGES IN FICTION, NONFICTION, POETRY, AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S LITERATURE

New York, NY, March 6, 2017 – The National Book Foundation began accepting submissions for the 2017 National Book Awards today on its website, nationalbook.org. Traditionally, the entry form has not been available to publishers until the first week of April. The deadline for submissions, which is similarly timed to years past, is May 17.

“By moving the submission date up by one month, we are able to offer our esteemed judges extra time to deliberate over the titles in consideration for a National Book Award,” said David Steinberger, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Book Foundation. “Judging is hard and important work, and with an increasing number of books submitted by publishers, we are happy to provide as much assistance as possible to the judges.”

“We are thrilled about the enormous scope of talent reflected by this year’s National Book Award judges, which includes booksellers and writers from around the country,” said Lisa Lucas, the Executive Director of the National Book Foundation. “We are all looking forward to celebrating the next set of longlist, finalist, and winning titles selected by our esteemed judges.”

The judging panels for Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People’s Literature include booksellers, academics, editors, essayists, and critics. The writers on the panels include a National Book Award Winner, National Book Award Finalists, and National Book Award Longlisted authors, as well as Winners of the Coretta Scott King Award, Lambda Literary Award, Pulitzer Prize, Pura Belpré Award, and Whiting Writers Award. There are also recipients of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, writers who publish in more than one genre, and the founder of an independent publishing company.

The Judges for the 2017 National Book Awards (*bios are at the bottom of the release*):

Fiction panel: Alexander Chee, Dave Eggers, Annie Philbrick, Karolina Waclawiak, and Jacqueline Woodson (*Chair*)

Nonfiction panel: Steve Bercu, Jeff Chang, Ruth Franklin, Paula J. Giddings (*Chair*), and Valeria Luiselli

Poetry panel: Nick Flynn, Jane Mead, Gregory Pardlo, Richard Siken, and Monica Youn (*Chair*)

Young People's Literature panel: Suzanna Hermans, Brendan Kiely, Kekla Magoon, Meg Medina (*Chair*), and Alex Sanchez

The judges for this year's National Book Awards in Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Young People's Literature will select a Longlist of ten titles in each of the four categories, to be announced in mid-September (40 titles). Twenty Finalists from the Longlist will be announced on October 4, 2017.

The Winner in each of the four categories will be announced at the 68th National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City on Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

Dates for 2017 National Book Awards

March 6: Entry form opens & judges announced

May 17 (12 midnight, Pacific): Deadline for entry form submission

June 30: Books due to judges and NBF office

September 12 - September 16: Longlists announced

October 4: Finalists announced

November 15: National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner (Winners announced)

Judge Bios:

Fiction

Alexander Chee is the author of the novels *The Queen of the Night* and *Edinburgh*. He is a contributing editor at *The New Republic*, an editor at large at *VQR*, and a critic at large at the *Los Angeles Times*. His work has appeared in *Best American Essays 2016*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *Tin House*, among others. He is an associate professor of English at Dartmouth College.

Dave Eggers is the author of many books, including *Heroes of the Frontier*, *The Circle*, and *A Hologram for the King*, which was a finalist for the 2012 National Book Award. He is the founder of McSweeney's, an independent publishing company based in San Francisco. McSweeney's also publishes Voice of Witness, a nonprofit book series that uses oral history to illuminate human rights crises around the world. Eggers is the co-founder of 826 National, a network of seven tutoring centers around the country and ScholarMatch, a nonprofit organization designed to connect students with resources, schools, and donors to make college possible.

Annie Philbrick is the owner of independent bookstores Bank Square Books in Mystic, Connecticut and Savoy Bookshop & Café in Westerly, Rhode Island. She serves on the board of the American Booksellers Association (ABA), has twice chaired the ABA's Indies Introduce program that highlights debut authors, and last year was a judge for the prestigious Kirkus Prize for Fiction.

Karolina Waclawiak is a screenwriter and author of two critically acclaimed novels, *How to Get into the Twin Palms* and *The Invaders*. Her writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *VQR*, and other notable publications. Formerly an editor of the *Believer*, she is now Deputy Culture Editor at BuzzFeed News.

Jacqueline Woodson is *The New York Times* bestselling author of *Another Brooklyn*, which was a 2016 fiction finalist for the National Book Award, NAACP Image Award, a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and was a #1 Indie Pick. Her 2014 bestseller, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, won the National Book Award in Young People's Literature and was the recipient of the Coretta Scott King Award, a Newbery Honor Award, the NAACP Image Award, and the Sibert Honor Award. Woodson was named Young People's Poet Laureate (2015-2017) by the Poetry Foundation. She is the author of more than two dozen award-winning books for young adults, middle graders, and children; among her

many accolades, she is a four-time Newbery Honor winner, a three-time National Book Award finalist, and a two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner.

Nonfiction

Steve Bercu is co-owner of BookPeople in Austin, Texas. He began his retail life at the age of five in his family's toy store (the first in Dallas) where he worked until he went to college. Every single store in the shopping area was locally owned then. Customers knew the owners of the stores and knew they were their neighbors. That experience has been the strongest influence on his sense of retail. He is committed to local, independent business and seeing that it play an important role in future retail. He has served on ABA's Board of Directors where he was its immediate past President. He has kept his focus on non-fiction literature since his days as a history major in college.

Jeff Chang is the Executive Director of the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University. His books include *Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation*, *Total Chaos: The Art and Aesthetics of Hip-Hop*, and *Who We Be: The Colorization of America* (published in paperback in January 2016 under the new title, *Who We Be: A Cultural History of Race in Post Civil Rights America*). His latest, *We Gon' Be Alright: Notes On Race and Resegregation*, was published in September 2016. His next book will be a biography of Bruce Lee. Jeff co-founded [CultureStrike](#) and [ColorLines](#). He was named by *The Utne Reader* as one of "50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World" and by KQED as an Asian Pacific American Local Hero. He has been a USA Ford Fellow in Literature and the winner of the Asian American Literary Award.

Ruth Franklin is a book critic and biographer. Her most recent book, *Shirley Jackson: A Rather Haunted Life*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2016 and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for Biography, and the Plutarch Award. Her reviews and essays appear often in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, and elsewhere. Her first book, *A Thousand Darknesses: Lies and Truth in Holocaust Fiction*, was a finalist for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature.

Paula J. Giddings is the Elizabeth A. Woodson Professor, Africana Studies, at Smith College. She has published four books, including *Ida, A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*—winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Prize in Biography and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She is a member of PEN and serves on the board of the Authors League Fund and the Nation Institute.

Valeria Luiselli Valeria Luiselli was born in Mexico City in 1983 and grew up in South Africa. A novelist (*Faces in the Crowd* and *The Story of My Teeth*) and essayist

(*Sidewalks*), her work has been translated into many languages. In 2014, *Faces in the Crowd* was the recipient of the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction and the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 award. *The Story of My Teeth* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and won the 2015 Los Angeles Times Prize for Best Fiction.

Poetry

Nick Flynn is the recipient of fellowships and awards from organizations, including the Guggenheim Foundation, PEN, and The Library of Congress. His poems, essays and non-fiction have appeared in many venues, including *The New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, and National Public Radio's "This American Life". He is currently a professor on the creative writing faculty at the University of Houston, where he is in residence each spring. In 2015 he published his ninth book, *My Feelings* (Graywolf), a collection of poems. His work has been translated into fifteen languages.

Jane Mead is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently *World of Made And Unmade* (Alice James). She's the recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Whiting Writers Award, and a Lannan Foundation Completion Grant. For many years Poet-in-Residence at Wake Forest University, she now manages her family's ranch in northern California and teaches as a visiting writer on occasion, most recently at The University of Iowa Writers Workshop.

Gregory Pardlo's *Digest* (Four Way Books) won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. His first collection, *Totem*, won the *American Poetry Review*/Honickman Prize in 2007. He is also the author of a memoir in essays forthcoming from Knopf. Pardlo is on the faculty of the M.F.A. program in creative writing at Rutgers University-Camden. He lives with his family in Brooklyn.

Richard Siken is a poet, painter, filmmaker, and an editor at Spork Press. His book *Crush* won the 2004 Yale Series of Younger Poets prize, selected by Louise Glück. It was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Thom Gunn Award. His most recent book is *War of the Foxes* (Copper Canyon Press).

Monica Youn is the author of *Blackacre* (Graywolf Press), which was longlisted for the National Book Award; *Barter* (Graywolf Press); and *Ignatz* (Four Way Books), which was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, and she has been awarded fellowships from the

Library of Congress and Stanford University, among other awards. A former attorney, she now teaches poetry at Princeton University.

Young People's Literature

Suzanna Hermans is a second generation bookseller and co-owner of Oblong Books and Music in Millerton and Rhinebeck, NY. She currently sits on the Advisory Council of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and is past president of the New England Independent Booksellers Association. She has served on the American Booksellers Association's Advisory Council, as well as their Children's Advisory Council and New Voices Committee.

Brendan Kiely is *The New York Times* bestselling author of *All American Boys* (with Jason Reynolds), *The Last True Love Story*, and *The Gospel of Winter*. His work has been published in ten languages, received a Coretta Scott King Author Honor Award, the Walter Dean Myers Award, the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, and was twice selected as one of the year's Best Fiction for Young Adults by the American Library Association.

Kekla Magoon writes middle grade and YA novels, including *The Rock and the River*, *How It Went Down*, *X: A Novel* (with Ilyasah Shabazz), and the Robyn Hoodlum Adventures series. She has received an NAACP Image Award, the John Steptoe Award, two Coretta Scott King Honors, The Walter Award Honor, and was longlisted for the National Book Award. Kekla holds an M.F.A. from Vermont College of Fine Arts, where she now serves on the faculty.

Meg Medina is the 2012 Ezra Jack Keats New Writers medal winner for *Tía Isa Wants a Car*, and a Pura Belpré winner for *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass*, and *Mango, Abuela and Me*. Her novel, *Burn Baby Burn*, named NAIBA's 2016 YA Book of the Year, was longlisted for the 2016 National Book Award and was a finalist for both the Kirkus Prize and *the Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. In 2014 she was one of the CNN's 10 Visionary Women in America.

Alex Sanchez has written eight novels for young people, including the groundbreaking American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults *Rainbow Boys* and Lambda Award-winning *So Hard to Say*. His novel *Bait* won the 2009 Florida Book Award Gold Medal for Young Adult fiction. Alex received his master's in guidance and counseling from Old Dominion University and worked for many years as a youth and family

counselor. Born in Mexico to parents of German and Cuban heritage, he now resides in Florida and on the web at www.AlexSanchez.com.

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The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings current National Book Award authors to college campuses; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading club for middle- and high-school students, run in Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, and Texas.

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, such as Sherman Alexie, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich. On November 16, 2016, the Winners of the 67th National Book Awards were announced: Colson Whitehead for Fiction, Ibram X. Kendi for Nonfiction, Daniel Borzutzky for Poetry, and John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell for Young People's Literature.