

Book *Awards*

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY HERE

Entry Deadline:
11.29.2024
11:59 P.M.
Eastern Time

Work published between
November 30–December 31, 2024
may be eligible for the 2026 Awards.
Please email awards@jamesbeard.org
before the deadline to be considered
in 2026.

Eligibility Criteria

Entries must be submitted for consideration during the online open call for entries from October 1, 2024 through November 29, 2024.

What may be entered?

- Cookbooks and other nonfiction food or beverage-related books published in the U.S. in 2024 are eligible to enter the 2025 James Beard Book Awards.
- Books from foreign publishers must bear a 2024 U.S. copyright date and/or must have been distributed in the U.S. during 2024.
- If a book was published between December 1–December 31, 2023 and the entrant notified the Foundation during last year’s open entry period (October 1–November 30, 2023), the book may be eligible for the 2025 Awards.

Format

- Books may be hardcover, softcover, or digital.
- Digital-only books must be viewable across all devices, using widely available downloadable software.
- Books that are available in soft or hardcover must also be submitted by mail (see Entry Submission Guidelines below).

Language

Books must be published in English or multilingual, with English being one of the languages.

Content

- All content must be original. Any quoted or compiled material must be properly attributed to the original source.
- Revised editions of previously published books must contain at least 50 percent new material. (When entering, please include a statement describing new content.)

Which category should I enter?

Review the category descriptions below and enter the one category you believe best fits the work. The Book Subcommittee reserves the right to re-assign an entry to a more appropriate category.

Can I enter more than one category?

Entrants submitting a book in the Visuals category may enter this book in another category. Visuals is the only category where submitting a book in two categories is permitted.

Can my entry be disqualified?

- Books that are too commercial, fiction books, cards, and other novelties are not eligible. An entry is too commercial and therefore not eligible for entry if the principal purpose of the piece is to market a product or service.
- The committee reserves the right to remove, combine, or separate categories; re-assign categories as appropriate; and may disqualify entries due to ineligibility, conflicts of interest, or other ethical violations.
- Additionally, all entries must include an Impact Statement (for more information on the Impact Statement, see below).

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Who receives the award?

- Each winning author receives a medallion inscribed with the award category and a certificate. Contributors receive a certificate but **do not receive a medallion**.
- **Authors and contributors are determined by the entrant** and specified on the online entry form.
- A book with multiple authors may receive up to three medallions for the first three authors listed on the entry form.
- Up to six combined authors and contributors may be listed on the entry form.
- A medallion and certificate for the Visuals category are given to the winning designer, photographer or, in the case of a team collaboration, up to three designers, photographers, authors or editors at the discretion of the publication. These individuals must be specified in the entry form. Contributors in the Visuals category receive a certificate but **do not receive a medallion**.

*Additional certificates may be ordered after the awards ceremony.

*No additional medallions will be given.

Impact Statement

The James Beard Awards® honor those who are creating exceptional food, food media content and better food systems while demonstrating a commitment to equity, community, sustainability, and a culture where all can thrive.

The application process requires a short statement, **written (150-300 words) or recorded (audio or video, 1-2 minutes)** by the author. *We require that the entrant (author/writer that is being considered for an award) submit an impact statement. We will not accept impact statements from publishers or publications that are not specific to the work being submitted.*

The statement should describe the impact of the book and how the work aligns with the Foundation's **values**: equity, transparency, respect, integrity, and community. This is a chance to share what this work means to you and the community in your own words.

Please write or speak in the first-person, be specific, and use clear, pertinent examples when possible.

The statement will be reviewed for content and not for language fluency, video quality, or production value. It does not need to be long. It is not a writing or video contest.

More information is available on the entry form.

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Submission Guidelines

Enter the hard copy of the book

- Entrants are **required to send eight hard copies of each book.**
*If you are submitting a book in the **Visuals** category and **another category**, you must send eight books for each category: sixteen books in total.
- Print your online entry confirmation and include it with your book shipment. If you are unable to print your confirmation, please include a handwritten page that includes the entrant's name, book name, and category for entry.
- If the book is only available digitally, please indicate this on the entry form.
- Books cannot be returned.
- If you are a self-published author and the cost of shipping presents a hardship, please contact us at awards@jamesbeard.org before the deadline.
- Books must be shipped to the address above.

Shipping Address:

Quick International Courier
C/O James Beard Books
200 Robbins Lane, Suite E
Jericho, NY 11753
Attn: Kathy Canarte

Enter the electronic copy of the book

- Entrants are required to upload the final PDF of the book through the online entry portal.
- Electronic files must not exceed 500 MB in size and **must be free of watermarks.**
- An electronic copy of the book must be submitted in order for the book to be considered for the Awards.

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Entry Deadline

- Entries (with book PDFs) must be submitted and **books must be shipped by November 29, 2024**. Book shipments **must arrive by December 6, 2024**.
- If your book is published in 2024 but will not be available for shipping until after November 29, 2024, please contact awards@jamesbeard.org before the deadline to be considered for the 2026 Awards.

Entry Fee

There is a non-refundable fee of \$85 per entry. The James Beard Foundation is committed to making the application process accessible for all. You may request a waiver if the entry fee presents hardship. Your application will not be penalized if you select this option.

Categories

Baking and Desserts

Books with recipes focused on the art and craft of baking, pastries, and desserts, both sweet and savory items, including ingredients, techniques, equipment, and traditions.

Beverage with Recipes

Books with recipes focused on beverages, such as cocktails, beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, or juices.

Beverage without Recipes

Books without recipes that focus on beverages, such as cocktails, beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, or juices; or books that cover these subject areas where recipes are not the focus of cooking, not just a single topic, technique, or region. Should be no more than 20 percent recipes.

Bread

Books with recipes focused on the art and craft of making bread, including ingredients, techniques, equipment, and traditions.

Food Issues and Advocacy

Books that focus on investigative journalism, food policy, food advocacy, deep dives, and critical analysis of the changing social landscape around food. Should be no more than 20 percent recipes.

General

Books with recipes that address a broad scope of cooking, not just a single topic, technique, or region, and are accessible to a general audience.

International

Books with recipes focused on presenting cuisines of the world in their cultural context: their history, distinctive characteristics, and techniques.

Literary Writing

Narrative nonfiction books, including memoirs, culinary travel, culinary tourism, biography, reflections on food in a cultural context, and personal essays. Should be no more than 20 percent recipes.

Reference, History, and Scholarship

Includes manuals, guides, encyclopedias, and books that present research related to food or foodways. Should be no more than 20 percent recipes.

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Professional and Restaurant

Books written by a culinary professional or restaurant chef with recipes that may include advanced cooking techniques, the use of specialty ingredients and professional equipment, including culinary arts textbooks.

Single Subject

Books with recipes focused on a single ingredient, dish, or method of cooking. Examples include seafood, grains, pasta, burgers, or canning. Exceptions are baking and desserts books, vegetable-focused books, professional and restaurant books, and beverage books—which should be entered in their respective categories.

U.S. Foodways

Books with recipes focused on the cooking or foodways of regions or communities located within the United States.

Vegetable-Focused Cooking

Books on vegetable cookery with recipes that are meatless, vegetarian, or vegan.

Visuals

Books on food or beverage with exceptional graphic design, art, or photography. Should be no more than 20 percent recipes.

Cookbook Hall of Fame

The Book Committee selects the honoree for this category. No entries will be accepted for this category. This award is given to either a cookbook that has significantly influenced the way we think about food, honoring authors who possess an exceptional ability to communicate their gastronomic vision via the printed page; or an author whose cookbooks and other culinary books and work, taken together, make a difference in the world of food and cooking.

Emerging Voice

The Book Committee selects the Emerging Voice Award winner, and the winner does not have to come from entries. This award recognizes work of immediate impact and lasting significance by a first-time published author whose unique perspective expands the reach of the subject matter. The medallion and a certificate are given to the winning author.