

Journalism *Awards*

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY HERE

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

To enter work published between November 30–December 31, 2024 please email awards@jamesbeard.org before the deadline.

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?

- Work published—or self-published—in 2024.
- Entries must cover food- or beverage-related topics.
- Entries must be published in the United States by a media organization, institution, or self-publication.
- Entries must be submitted in English. If the submission is in a different language, an English translation must be provided.
- All entries must be the original work of the journalist(s).
- Submissions composed in whole or in part by generative artificial intelligence tools are ineligible.

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- Radio, television broadcasts, podcasts, webcasts, and documentaries should be submitted for a Broadcast Media award.
- Book excerpts are not eligible for a Journalism Award.
- The subcommittee reserves the right to disqualify work that falls outside of the journalism criteria.

Who may enter?

- Entries must be submitted by the journalist, agent, editor, or publisher. Each entry must include the journalist's address, phone number, and email address, as well as a mailing address and phone number for the publication, if applicable.
- Publications may submit entries for multiple journalists.
- List the names of each participating organization for entries produced in partnership. Indicate if the partner was an equal collaborator of the work submitted or a contributor. Please explain the details of the collaboration as part of the entry. Equal partners are awarded medallions. Contributors receive certificates.

How do I enter?

- To enter, complete an application through the online portal.
- The application form will prompt you to submit the piece(s) either by uploading a PDF (preferred) or providing a URL. If the PDF does not contain proof of publication, you will need to upload this separately (e.g., screenshot of digital work, photo of printed work). If you are unable to submit a PDF, you may provide a link to the article. If there is a paywall, please provide credentials. Usernames and passwords must be valid through June 30, 2025.
- The Narrative Photography Award requires images to be collated and uploaded as a single file along with captions. A link, PDF, or screenshot will also be required to show proof of publication.
- All entrants to the James Beard Awards® are required to submit an impact statement. See below for further information.
- 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.

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Which category should I enter?

- Review the category descriptions below and enter the category you believe best fits the piece.
- The Journalism Subcommittee reserves the right to reassign any entry to a more appropriate category.

How many entries may I submit?

- A journalist who self-submits is limited to three categories. Each entry may only be submitted once. However, there is an exception for the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award, which will accept a duplicate entry.
- A publication may submit on behalf of multiple journalists and may submit up to three entries for each journalist. The journalist may also submit up to three additional entries. We strongly encourage publications and writers to communicate before entering to avoid duplicate entries.
- Each submission requires a separate entry form and a non-refundable entry fee.

Can my entry be disqualified?

The committee reserves the right to remove, regroup, or redistribute and/or reassign categories; and may disqualify entries due to ineligibility, conflicts of interest, and/or ethical violations.

Who receives the Award?

- Each winning journalist receives a medallion inscribed with the award category and a certificate.
- The award is given to the winning journalist(s) in all categories, except for Food Coverage in a General Interest Publication, which is given to the publication.
- **List the journalists to be awarded clearly on the online entry form.** Up to three names may be listed.
- One medallion is given to each journalist listed on the entry form.
- The certificate is printed with the winning journalists' names and publication. One certificate is given to each journalist listed on the entry form.
- No additional medallions will be issued. Additional certificates may be ordered after the awards ceremony.
- When a winning entry is produced through an equal partnership, both partners are awarded a medallion. A contributor will receive a certificate but not a medallion.

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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 journalist. *We require that the journalist (author/writer/photographer 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 piece 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.

Categories

Beverage

Recognizes distinctive style, thorough knowledge, plainspoken prose, and innovative approach in a single article on alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages.

Columns and Newsletters

Recognizes the work of an individual or team/group that demonstrates thought-provoking opinion and a compelling style on food- or drink-related topics. An entry consists of three examples of a regularly published column or newsletter, in print or online.

Craig Claiborne Distinguished Criticism Award

Recognizes discerning criticism or commentary that contributes to the larger discourse on food, drink, and related topics. An entry consists of three pieces that can include restaurant reviews, cultural critiques, or analyses that demonstrate thought-provoking opinion and compelling style.

Dining and Travel

Recognizes exemplary and comprehensive service journalism that relies on both critical voice and thorough research to bring a variety of dining options into perspective, whether in a single city, a region, or a country. An entry consists of a single piece, or a package of related components published in any combination of media.

Feature Reporting

Recognizes excellence for engaging writing and in-depth reporting in food and/or drink features. An entry consists of a single piece or a series by a single writer of up to three related pieces.

Food Coverage in a General Interest Publication

Recognizes excellence in food and/or drink writing, reporting, and presentation in a general interest site or print publication. Judges will evaluate each entry for overall breadth and depth of coverage. An entry consists of three exemplary pieces, plus a URL to the website's food landing page or PDFs of three print sections in their entirety.

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Foodways

Recognizes the importance of culture and history in food journalism. Entries in this category explore the connection between what we eat and who we are, with an emphasis on reporting. An entry consists of a single piece.

Health and Wellness

Recognizes excellence in food- and/or drink-related health and wellness coverage. Entries explore a variety of topics that may include (but are not limited to) addiction, aging, chronic disease, diet, mental health, mind-body connection, nutrition, and reproductive health. An entry consists of one definitive article or a series of up to three related pieces.

Home Cooking

Recognizes excellence in service journalism with a practical focus for the home cook. The award honors imaginative and substantive entries that use fresh, innovative approaches—both written and visual—to illuminate cooking methods, ingredients, and recipes. An entry consists of a single piece with at least one recipe.

Investigative Reporting

Recognizes excellence in investigative reporting on environmental, political, business, or policy issues regarding food and/or drink. An entry consists of a single piece or a series of up to three related pieces.

Jonathan Gold Local Voice Award

Recognizes the work of an individual who engages readers through enterprising food and dining coverage in a specific region. Submissions must consist of three pieces that display versatility in form, such as reviews, profiles, cooking, quick hits, and hard news reporting. Pieces may be from different publications.

MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award

Recognizes a single article of exceptional literary merit on the subject of food and/or drink published in any medium. Entries for the MFK Fisher Award category can also be entered in another Award category.

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Narrative Photography

Recognizes exemplary storytelling through the use of photography within food culture. An entry is composed of images from one published piece that captures a visual narrative with skill, perspective, and style.

Personal Essay

Recognizes excellence in an essay on any food- and/or drink-related topic without recipes. An entry consists of one piece that demonstrates a distinctive voice, point of view, and style.

Personal Essay with Recipes

Recognizes excellence in an essay on any food and/or drink-related topic with recipes. An entry consists of one piece that demonstrates a distinctive voice, point of view, and style.

Profile

Recognizes a single distinctive piece that brings to life the world of a chef, restaurateur, grower, producer, or other figure or group of significance to food and/or drink.

Emerging Voice

The Journalism Subcommittee selects the Emerging Voice award winner, and the winner does not have to come from entries. This award recognizes a journalist or media outlet whose excellent work brings a fresh perspective to an important aspect of food culture.