

INTERNATIONAL LATINO BOOK AWARDS

2026 Application Form



**2 NEW
CATEGORIES**

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE
December 15, 2025

FINAL DEADLINE
March 15, 2026



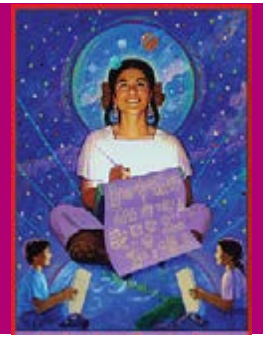
RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE OF BOOKS WRITTEN IN
ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND PORTUGUESE

www.LatinoBooks.org

This year digital books will be accepted for all categories. For all categories upload on our website the PDF of the book AND send TWO (2) printed copies per entry, no matter how many categories you are entering that book into. If you do NOT have a PDF version of the book, send THREE printed copies.



We sincerely invite you to be a part of the International Latino Book Awards



International Latino Book Awards

Since Empowering Latino Futures created the International Latino Book Awards (ILBA) in 1998, the awards has recognized the greatness of magnitudes more books by and about Latinos than all the other book awards in the USA combined. This year it took 222 judges to evaluate all the book entries and help recognize the winners.

The ILBA has grown over the last three decades to become the largest Latino literary and cultural awards in the USA. The 87 categories include Children's, Young Adult, Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry, eBooks, Design, Translation, and Best First Books – and the ILBA is now one of the five biggest book awards in the USA. The books are written in English, Spanish, Portuguese or in bilingual formats.

In 2020 we created special Legend Awards named after literary and community notables. These include Isabel Allende, Rudolfo Anaya, Charlie Ericksen, Alma Flor Ada, Juan Felipe Herrera, Dolores Huerta, Hank Lacayo, Mimi Lozano, Julian Nava, Luis Valdez, Victor Villaseñor, and Raul Yzaguirre.

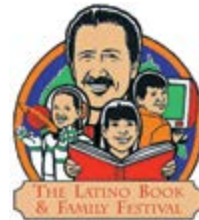
✳ **Why it's important.** The Awards recognize the greatness in books by and about

Latinos around the world. Winners have included the major Latino literary stars and nurtures those starting their writing career and will be the stars of tomorrow. Most of all, the Awards encourage thousands of future authors.

✳ **This is ELF's ONLY Fundraiser.** Please help our programs meet their full potential.

✳ **The Growth.** In 1980, there were less than 300 books published in the USA with a Latino author. By 1997, when the organization started, approximately 4,000 books a year were being published in the USA with Latino authors. Today, that figure is well over 35,000 books per year by Latino authors in the USA. We are very proud of that evolution. This year, Latinos in the USA will spend over \$750 million on books in Spanish and English.

✳ **Media Exposure.** Every year coverage of the Awards has grown. Past national coverage has included American Latino TV, Univision, HiTn, book industry media, and over 245 publications around the USA. Last year our press release about Award Winners was downloaded by 1,200+ media outlets across the USA and around the world.



Empowering Latino Futures

The International Latino Book Awards program is part of Empowering Latino Futures, a 501c3 nonprofit founded in 1997 by Edward James Olmos & Kirk Whisler, with programs like:

Latino Book & Family Festivals. 76 have been held around the USA with a combined attendance of 945,000+. Author, Children's, Community, Education, and Health Villages. Current Festivals are in Oceanside, Sacramento, and San Bernardino.

North County Informador. monthly bilingual magazine and other news outlets serving 37,000 people in North San Diego County;. Has won four key national awards from the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

Education Begins in the Home. Has given 280,000 books to underserved youth in San Diego North County since 2015.

Latino Books into Movies Awards. Honoring 199 books and scripts.

ELF Book Club. Started a year ago with a goal of 4,000+ subscribers today it has over 11,000 librarians, educators, and people who love books by & about Latinos. Book reviews, upcoming books, author events, & more.

ELF is also an Affiliate of the American Library Association, UnidosUS, Somos el Poder, CalNonprofits, North County Philanthropy, and other organizations. Over 350 volunteers contribute over 19,000 hours of time to help ELF achieve it's goals.

Without our partners and volunteers our programs could not exist. Please consider becoming one of our partners.



GUIDELINES

QUALIFICATIONS

- ☑ All books must be published prior to the deadline and carry a publication date of either **2024, 2025, or 2026**. The exceptions are the two new categories, which may be published at any time.
- ☑ Books written in English must be written by a Latino author OR have a Latino theme OR if the book is in Spanish.
- ☑ For Category F, Design & Marketing Awards, only designs and illustrations created by Latinos are acceptable. For Category H, Mariposa, the author must be Latino.

WHAT TO SEND

Complete entries include the following:

- ☐ **Entry Forms:** This contains your contact information and total number of entries for each book entered.
- ☐ **Books.** *This year digital books will be accepted for all categories.* For all categories upload on our website the **PDF of the book AND send TWO (2) printed copies per entry, no matter how many categories you are entering that book into. If you do NOT have a PDF version of the book, send THREE printed copies.** For categories D, F10, F11, J5 and J6 we need the submittal in a different Digital format.
- ☐ **Purely digital categories.** Please follow these guidelines:
 - eBOOKS (D):** For ebooks, submit an .ePUB or .MOBI file format or submit THREE gift codes to access the ebook online. No printed copies required.
 - AUDIO BOOKS (D):** For audiobooks, submit an MP3, AAX, AEF, WAV audio file or submit THREE gift codes to access the audiobook online. No printed copies required.
 - F10. Best Autor Video Promoting a Book.** *Include a link or send video in MP4 format, but no books.*
 - F11. Best Website Promoting a Book.** *Include your website link, but no books.*
 - POETRY (J5) Audio** MUST be submitted as an audio file, such as MP3, AAX, AEF, WAV; or send a link to access the audio. **POETRY (J6) Video** MUST be submitted as an MP4 or send a link to access the video.

- ☐ **Entry fees.** The cost is \$80 per entry before December 15, 2025. \$100 after this date. The easiest way to pay is online at www.LatinoBooks.org; alternately, you can pay by check. **Once everything is received, our team will send you a confirmation email and a receipt.**

***USPS MEDIA MAIL*:** Send us your books at a lower rate using USPS Media Mail when mailing withing the U.S.

LANGUAGE

Bilingual books in all categories must be in English and Spanish. A book where 85% or more of the words are in English and the rest of the words are in Spanish is an English-language book and vice versa.

HOW CATEGORIES ARE DIVIDED BY LANGUAGE

- When a high number of book entries are received in a category, the category divides into English, Spanish & Bilingual books. For most categories, aside from Children's Picture books and Poetry, Bilingual books will be grouped with the Spanish language.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Previous award-winning books can reapply under a different category, with a translated book, or if the book underwent significant changes.
- If a low number of book entries is received for related categories, then the category might be combined into one general category. We reserve the right to move your book to a different category when appropriate.
- An additional \$50-dollar fee applies for the international mailing of your award or other items.

PORTUGUESE (E): Portuguese books must be entirely or partially in Portuguese. Books in Portuguese may only enter Portuguese (E) and Design and Marketing (F) categories.

TRANSLATION (G) For all translation categories, **BOTH the English and Spanish versions of the book ARE REQUIRED** for comparison. Send 2 printed books in EACH language, and a PDF of the book in each language. Bilingual books can be included in the Translation category.

AWARDS TIMELINE

1. All entries **must be paid or post marked by your carrier by March 15, 2026.**
2. **Award Winning Authors** will be announced in **mid Summer 2026.** All Award Winning Authors are medal recipients of Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal that will be announced during the ceremony.
3. The **International Latino Book Awards Ceremony** will most likely take place in North San Diego County, CA. *The exact date has not been confirmed.*
4. Current and past Award Winning Authors will be informed of events like the American Library Association, CABE, Guadalajara FIL, a variety of Latino events around the USA, and the Latino Book & Family Festivals.

BOOKS FROM ALL PUBLISHERS ARE WELCOME

We welcome all books that qualify for the Awards whether these come from large publishers or are self-published. About 40% of our entries come from major publishers. Others come from medium-sized and small publishers or are self-published titles.

RISING STARS AWARDS

The Rising Star is an Award to empower and boost the writing career of uniquely talented authors.

During the Int'l Latino Book Awards Ceremony, four Rising Star Awards are announced. They include the Children's Rising Star, NonFiction Rising Star, Fiction Rising Star, and Poetry Rising Star.

Winners will receive a \$3,500 package, including:

- A check for \$1,000
- An article in Latino media outlets focusing on the four Rising Stars.
- The Rising Stars will be featured as the next generation of must-read authors.

Criterion to be a Rising Star: All Gold-medal winning authors will be eligible for The Rising Stars Awards.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

NOTE: Each section within a category counts as one entry. Review the Guidelines page for more information.

A. CHILDREN BOOK AWARDS

- A1. The Alma Flor Ada Best Latino Focused Children's Picture Book
- A2. Best Children's Fiction Picture Book
- A3. Best Children's Nonfiction Picture Book
- A4. Best Educational Children's Picture Book
- A5. Most Inspirational Children's Picture Book
- A6. Best Board Book

YOUTH CHAPTER BOOK AWARDS

Youth Chapter books are primarily aimed at 6-11 year olds.

- A10. Best Latino Focused Chapter Book
- A11. Best Chapter Fiction Book
- A12. Best Chapter Nonfiction Book
- A13. Best Educational Chapter Book

YOUNG ADULT BOOK AWARDS

Young Adult books are aimed at 12-17 year olds.

- A20. Best Young Adult Latino Focused Book
- A21. Best Young Adult Fiction Book
- A22. Best Young Adult Nonfiction Book
- A23. Best Young Adult Fantasy & Adventure
- A24. Best Young Adult Magical Realism **NEW SECTION**
- A25. Best Young Adult Romance Book
- A26. Most Inspirational Young Adult Book
- A27. The Charlie Ericksen Best Book Written by a Youth (Author must be under 18 years old at publication date. One author only. May be a children's, fiction, or nonfiction book)

B. NONFICTION AWARDS

- B1. The Victor Villaseñor Best Latino Focused Nonfiction Book
- B2. Most Inspirational Nonfiction Book
- B3. Best Biography
- B4. Best Autobiography
- B5. The Mimi Lozano Best Family History Book
- B6. The Raul Yzaguirre Best Political/Current Affairs Book
- B7. Best History Book
- B8. Best Business Book (includes Career)
- B9. Best Arts Book (includes Art, Music or Photography)
- B10. Best Gift Book
- B11. Best Cookbook
- B12. Best Reference Book (includes Dictionaries and Directories)
- B13. Best Self Transformation Book
- B14. Best Health & Wellness Book
- B15. Best Parenting/Family Book
- B16. Best Women's Issues Book
- B17. Best Religious Book
- B18. Best Spiritual/New Age Book
- B19. Best Travel Book
- B20. Best Sports/Recreation Book

C. FICTION AWARDS

- C1. The Rudolfo Anaya Best Latino Focused Fiction Book
- C2. The Isabel Allende Most Inspirational Fiction Book
- C3. Best Popular Fiction
- C4. Best Novel - Adventure or Drama
- C5. Best Novel - Historical Fiction
- C6. Best Novel - Mystery
- C7. Best Novel - Fantasy
- C8. Best Novel - Science-Fiction
- C9. Best Novel - Magical Realism **NEW SECTION**
- C10. Best Novel - Romance
- C11. Best Novel - Horror
- C12. Best Graphic Novel
- C13. Best Collection of Short Stories

D. eBooks & AUDIOBOOK AWARDS

- D1. Best eBook For ebooks, submit an .ePUB or .MOBI file format or submit THREE gift codes to access the ebook online. No book copies required.
- D2. Best Audiobook For audiobooks, submit MP3, AAX, AEFF, WAV audio file or submit THREE gift codes to access the audiobook online. No book copies required.

E. PORTUGUESE AWARDS

Only book written in Portuguese.

- E1. Best Children's Picture Book
- E2. Best Young Adult Book
- E3. Best Book - Nonfiction
- E4. Best Book - Fiction

F. DESIGN & MARKETING AWARDS

In this category, entries are open only to works by Latino designers, artists, photographers, or marketing professionals. Printed copies ARE REQUIRED for design categories.

- F1. Best Cover Design
- F2. Best Cover Illustration or Photo
- F3. Best Interior Design
- F4. Best Use of Photos or Illustrations Inside the Book
- F10. Best Autor Video Promoting a Book. Include a link or send video in MP4 format, but no books.
- F11. Best Website Promoting a Book. Include your website link, but no books.

G. TRANSLATION AWARDS

For all translation categories, BOTH the English and Spanish version of the book ARE REQUIRED.

- G1. Best Children's Picture Book Translation – Spanish to English
- G2. Best Children's Picture Book Translation – English to Spanish
- G3. Best Chapter/Young Adult Book Translation – Spanish to English
- G4. Best Chapter/Young Adult Book Translation – English to Spanish

- G5. Best Nonfiction Book Translation – Spanish to English
- G6. Best Nonfiction Book Translation – English to Spanish
- G7. Best Fiction Book Translation – Spanish to English
- G8. Best Fiction Book Translation – English to Spanish

H. THE MARIPOSA AWARDS

Given to writers who have achieved excellence with their first book. Entries are only open to Latino writers.

- H1. Best First Book – Children & Youth
- H2. Best First Book – Nonfiction
- H3. Nora de Hoyos Comstock Best First Book – Fiction

I. BEST THEMED BOOK AWARDS

Themed books can be Fiction, NonFiction or Children's books within each of these themes.

- I1. The Dolores Huerta Best Community or Culturally Themed Book
- I2. The Hank Lacayo Best Labor Themed Book
- I3. Best LGBTQ Themed Book
- I4. The Ambassador Julian Nava Best Ethnic Studies Book (9-12) California now requires High Schools students to take an Ethnic Studies course before graduating.
- I5. Best Academic Themed Book (College)
- I6. Best Book About Military Service
- I7. Best Latina Themed Book
- I8. Luis Valdez Best Play or Collection of Plays
- I9. Best Environmental Awareness Themed Book
- I10. Best Immigration Themed Book

J. POETRY AWARDS

- J1. Best Children's & Youth Poetry Book
- J2. The Juan Felipe Herrera Best Poetry Book – One author
- J3. Best Poetry Book – Multi-Author
- J4. Best Poetry Anthology Book
- J5. Best Audio Presentation of One or More Poems. Audio MUST be submitted as an audio file, such as MP3, AAX, AEFF, WAV, or send a link to access the audio.
- J6. Best Video Presentation of One or More Poems. Video MUST be submitted as an MP4, or send a link to access the video.

Entries into the TWO new categories may be from ANY YEAR for this year only.



• ENTRY FORM: PART ONE - TOTAL ENTRIES & PUBLISHER •

ILBA 2026

MAIN CONTACT FOR ENTRIES

Publisher: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

This application is being submitted by:

___ Publisher ___ Author ___ Agent ___ Press Contact ___ Other

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Country: _____

For Office Use Only

Pub Code: _____

Indv Code: _____

of Books: _____

Circle: Print / PDF / Audio

Payment: _____

ENTRY FEE FOR TOTAL DUE

Fee per entry:

Before **December 15, 2025**, the early bird cost is **\$80 per entry**. After this date, the regular cost is **\$100 per entry**.

International Society of Latino Author / ISLA Members Only

ISLA Author members get one FREE entry for every 2 paid ones. Publisher members get one FREE entry for every 4 paid entries.

Are you an ISLA Member? Yes ___ No ___.

If you are NOT an ISLA member and are an Author, Illustrator, Editor, or Translator you can join ISLA for a one time payment of \$150 for a LIFE TIME membership. See more on page 6.

Join ISLA now? ___ Bill me for the \$150

Total free entries with ISLA member discount: _____

Join **ISLA NOW**
and save on
your entry fees

Total Entries: _____

Total owed. Multiply the number of entries by the fee per entry (ie: 3 entries times \$80 equals \$240).

Amount Due: \$ _____

Payment method: Check. Make checks payable to "Empowering Latino Futures"

Charge credit card (MC, Visa, Discover, Amex only)

Online at www.LatinoBooks.org

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ ZIP code of this credit card: _____

Signature: _____ Card Verification Value CVV*: _____

**CVV: The 3-digit number on the back of your Master Card and Visa Card, or the 4-digit number on the front of your American Express card.*

Fill in Individual Book Forms. Fill in one Individual Book Form for each book being entered.

Mail this form, checks, the Individual Book Forms, and the copies of each title to:

Empowering Latino Futures

Attn: ILBA Awards

624 Hillcrest Lane

Fallbrook, CA 92028

USPS MEDIA MAIL: Send us your books at a lower rate using USPS Media Mail Service.

NOTE: Entries not properly labeled will delay processing time. Each subcategory counts as one entry. For more details, review the guidelines page.

****This year only physical books will be accepted, except for eBook category and audiobooks.** Confirmation emails will be sent for your entries.

Awards@ELFusa.org | Phone: 760-645-3455 | Cell Phone: 760 450 3890 | www.LatinoBookAwards.org

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2026

• INDIVIDUAL BOOK FORM •

ILBA 2026

Publisher: _____

Book Title: _____

Author #1: _____

Author's email: _____ Phone: _____

Publisher's Contact: _____ Position Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The person below: ___ Illustrator (especially key for Children's books) ___ Translator (For Category G) ___ Designer (For category F) ___ Other: _____

Name #3: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The person below: ___ Illustrator (especially key for Children's books) ___ Translator (For Category G) ___ Designer (For category F) ___ Other: _____

Name #4: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Category (ie. A1) _____ Category Name _____

List additional categories for the same book. Each category counts as one entry:

Category (ie. A4) _____ Category Name _____

Category (ie. H1) _____ Category Name _____

Language of the book see page 4 for definition English Spanish Bilingual (English & Spanish) Portuguese Year Published: _____

FOR MARKETING PURPOSES Country of origin of the Author (include country of birth AND your ancestry) _____

Major city nearest to where the Author lives _____

Send your 5 books and 3 books for each additional category section. *This year only physical books will be accepted, except for eBook category and audiobooks.*

• INDIVIDUAL BOOK FORM •

ILBA 2026

Publisher: _____

Book Title: _____

Author #1: _____

Author's email: _____ Phone: _____

Publisher's Contact: _____ Position Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The person below: ___ Illustrator (especially key for Children's books) ___ Translator (For Category G) ___ Designer (For category F) ___ Other: _____

Name #3: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

The person below: ___ Illustrator (especially key for Children's books) ___ Translator (For Category G) ___ Designer (For category F) ___ Other: _____

Name #4: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Category (ie. A1) _____ Category Name _____

List additional categories for the same book. Each category counts as one entry:

Category (ie. A4) _____ Category Name _____

Category (ie. H1) _____ Category Name _____

Language of the book see page 4 for definition English Spanish Bilingual (English & Spanish) Portuguese Year Published: _____

FOR MARKETING PURPOSES Country of origin of the Author (include country of birth AND your ancestry) _____

Major city nearest to where the Author lives _____

Send your 5 books and 3 books for each additional category section. *This year only physical books will be accepted, except for eBook category and audiobooks.*

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2026

A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION

In 1980, fewer than 500 books with a Latino author were published in the USA. This year, Latinos will publish 25,000 to 30,000 books. We feel strongly that, after decades of being on the fringe of mainstream publishing, books *by* and *about* Latinos should finally get the attention they deserve. Empowering Latino Futures is adding an important new program to its offerings—the **International Society of Latino Authors (ISLA)**—for us to work together and present a united front. Learn more at www.ISLA.news

**FIVE REASONS TO
BECOME A MEMBER**

- 1. Benefits on our NEW website.** These include: Special listings for all your books, Speaker Bureau services, and more.
- 2. Our ISLA Latino Publishing University Webinars.** We hold at least 8 webinars a year to help authors and publishers grow in this profession with helpful information in areas such as marketing, getting an agent, and editing.
- 3. Increase Sales.** The awards bring visibility for the authors and their books. Latinos in the USA spend hundreds of millions for books a year. We need to see more of these purchases going to books by and about Latinos.
- 4. Improve Distribution.** We need to work together to increase distribution to libraries, bookstores, schools, and consumers.
- 5. Have a United Voice.** We must work together to grow our industry segments. We can encourage recognition within the publishing industry for Latino authors and books by and about Latinos.

AUTHOR MEMBERSHIPS

Lifetime membership in the society is open to published and unpublished Latino authors or anyone else writing about the Latino experience .

Basic Author Lifetime Membership

A LIFETIME membership is \$150. Benefits Include:

- ✓ One free entry in the ILBA for every 2 paid ones in the same year from the same author.
- ✓ Access to ISLA webinar. Recorded for those that can't attend.
- ✓ Video of author on ISLA website. (Video provided by author). www.ISLA.news

Gold Author Lifetime Membership

A LIFETIME membership is only \$1,500.

Gold Level Additional Benefits:

- ✓ All the benefits offered to Basic Members. **PLUS:**
- ✓ Deliver your press release to 625+ Latino media outlets with a combined readership of 16 million in the USA. This is a \$1,200 value per press release.
- ✓ One complimentary ticket each year to the ILBA Awards Ceremony.
- ✓ Video of author on website. www.ISLA.news
- ✓ Author listed in the Empowering Latino Futures newsletters & ISLA website.

PUBLISHER MEMBERSHIPS

All publishers who support Latino literacy—nationally or internationally—are invited to become members of ISLA and participate in the International Latino Book Awards.

Basic Publisher Annual Membership

An annual fee of \$500. Benefits Include:

- ✓ One free entry in the ILBA for every 4 paid entries in the same year for any books by the publisher.
- ✓ One complimentary ticket each year to the International Latino Book Awards (ILBA) Ceremony.

ISLA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

More Information at www.ISLA.news

Name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 City/St/Zip _____
 Country _____
 Email _____
 Phone _____

SIGN UP NOW & SAVE

What category of Membership do you want?

For Authors, Lifetime Membership (you only pay once)

_____ Basic Author Membership **\$150**

_____ Gold Author Membership **\$1,500**

For Publishers, Annual Fee

_____ Basic Publisher Membership, \$500

PAYMENT

ONLINE: www.LatinoBookAwards.org

CHECKS: Make checks payable to **Empowering Latino Futures**

CREDIT CARD:

Name _____

Number _____

Expires _____ CV code _____

Credit card ZIP code: _____

