

SoCal 66th Annual Awards Winners

A. JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR

A1. PRINT, over 50k

Rebecca Keegan, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://tinyurl.com/9u8p9kkh>

<https://tinyurl.com/4tzvr489>

<https://tinyurl.com/mt8jp7mj>

Judges' comment: Keegan's excellent reportorial, analytical and interviewing skills illuminate well her articles about a range of subjects, most recently from San Quentin inmates making films to portraits of Hollywood personalities Fran Drescher and Ben Affleck to the "Jane Doe" in the Harvey Weinstein trial in L.A. Keegan is a terrific journalist deserving to be the Print Journalist of the Year.

2nd: Michael Idato, *The Sydney Morning Herald and The Melbourne Age*

3rd: Brad A. Johnson, *OLTRE Magazine*

A2. PRINT under 50k

Ellen Snortland, *LA Downtown News*

<https://bit.ly/4a7525k>

<https://bit.ly/3IDr6cb>

<https://bit.ly/49WTBgK>

Judges' comment: With a sardonic sense of humor for some articles and poignant observations in others, Snortland's pieces make for compelling reading

2nd: Diana Martinez, *San Fernando Valley Sun/el Sol*

3rd: Isai Rocha, *LA Weekly*

A3. TELEVISION JOURNALIST

David Ono, *KABC-TV*

<https://youtu.be/U5xvSCt4WYw>

https://youtu.be/lhC_yANcsCA

<https://youtu.be/n16vwOngR3w>

Judges' comment: Ono's FACEism series of short stories, such as being an eyewitness to the Lahaina wildfire or profiling black actress Hattie McDaniel, are outstanding pieces demonstrating how to tell a story in five minutes.

2nd: Nic Cha Kim, *PBS SoCal*

3rd: Marla Tellez, *KTTV*

A4. AUDIO JOURNALIST

Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*

<https://bit.ly/48U6UOE>

<https://bit.ly/3UmpWbZ>

<https://bit.ly/3SchRDS>

Judges' comment: Seamlessly weaving her narration with interview clips, Feraday produces wonderful, poignant stories in a few minutes, such as the returning of historical artifacts, grief over the loss of two boys, or an illegal abortion in the film *Dirty Dancing*.

2nd: Robert Scheer, *ScheerPost*

A5A. ONLINE JOURNALIST, tied to an organization

Noah Biesiada, *Voice of OC*

<https://voiceofoc.org/2023/03/somethings-in-the-air-irvine-residents-years-long-battle-for-breathable-air/>

<https://voiceofoc.org/2023/04/when-wildfires-mudslides-hit-orange-countys-canyons-residents-turn-to-this-woman/>

<https://voiceofoc.org/2023/11/tustin-hangar-fell-apart-amidst-decades-of-inaction-from-leaders>

Judges' comment: Biesiada's extensive investigations, from the long effort to close an asphalt company whose smells affected a community to disputes over land use for a burned-out Tustin blimp hangar, are excellent examples of online communications.

2nd: Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*

3rd: Robin Urevich, *Capital & Main, ProPublica*

A5B. ONLINE JOURNALIST, independent

Nico Lang, *Freelance*

<https://bit.ly/4axu79B>

<https://bit.ly/3xdZ58r>

<https://bit.ly/3TLyf0f>

Judges' comment: In covering extensively the lives of trans and gay people who have been discriminated against, harassed and survived mass shootings, Lang brings deep understanding and poignancy to their plights.

2nd: Aitana Vargas, *palabra and La Opinión*

3rd: Daniel Guss, *Substack*

A6. ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST

Brent Lang, *Variety*

<https://bit.ly/49M4mlS>

<https://bit.ly/3wEwGrV>

<https://bit.ly/4bW0ZdO>

Judges' comment: Lang provides many outstanding insights into Hollywood personalities, ranging from actors to CEOs, through his extensive interviews and entertainment analyses.

2nd: Holly Gleason, *Freelance*

3rd: Chris Willman, *Variety*

A7. SPORTS JOURNALIST

John Murphy, *Century Group Media*

<http://tinyurl.com/bdd87667>

<http://tinyurl.com/ycxa69p6>

<http://tinyurl.com/x5ns46z7>

Judges' comment: With a knack for finding non-famous athletes who make a difference in the lives of others, Murphy writes excellent, memorable pieces as a sports journalist.

A8. PHOTOJOURNALIST/VIDEOGRAPHER

Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*

<https://www.ringochiuphotography.com/index/G0000thiLLQwsuXs>

<https://youtu.be/AbUld-PTmxq?si=4MOYivsJkdk9k9e3>

<https://youtu.be/0F9vvIVDbBg?si=w5ZGf4NpNQAIUHV>

Judges' comment: No matter what Chiu covers with his still and video photography, from spot news to sports to funny shots, he provides outstanding and compelling images.

2nd: Francine Orr, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd: Paul Sanchez, *KTLA*

B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS Print, Radio, Podcast, TV or Online

B1. CONSUMER NEWS or FEATURE

Rick Wartzman, *Capital & Main*, "College for All Has Failed America. Can It Be Fixed?"

<https://shorturl.at/CXAcM>

Judges' comment: This eye-opening, detailed report on the structural failures of our system of higher learning is frightening — as well as a call to action.

2nd: Boyce Upholt and Peter Mellgard, *Noema Magazine*, "The Unending Quest to Build a Better Chicken"

3rd: Michael Brownlee and Jeremy Bermudez, *KNBC*, "Brooke's Journey with Juvenile Arthritis"

B2. FAITH/SPIRITUAL REPORTING

Justin Cram, Brendan Bubion, Paula Kiley, Daniel Leonard, *PBS SoCal*, "Weekly Arts: Sisters InfoShop Highlights Nuns' Activism and Aims to Spark Conversation"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhZUfzJqPqI>

Judges' comment: Excellent reporting that shows a fresh perspective on collaborative community engagement events and faith.

2nd: Deepa Bharath, Audrey McAvoy and Jessie Wardarski, *Associated Press*, "A volcano on Hawaii's Big Island is sacred to spiritual practitioners and treasured by astronomers"

3rd: D.J. Waldie, *Alta Journal*, "A Sacred Sycamore's Story Reveals a City's History"

B3. TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Henry Wismayer, Peter Mellgard, *Noema Magazine*, "The Seductive Vision Of Green Aviation"

<https://bit.ly/49DPuGr>

Judges' comment: Excellent job of deep digging on a new and highly complex topic: blue and green hydrogen as aviation fuel. The reporters did a fine job of showing the complexities of developing, introducing and employing a dramatically new technology. Also, their editors should be complimented for giving the team enough time to work through a challenging story and then writing it with style and grace.

2nd: Audrey Carleton, *Capital & Main*, "Crypto Mining at Gas Wells Sparks Regulatory Headaches, Outcry in Northwestern Pennsylvania"

3rd: Jim Lewis, *Alta Journal*, "Accepting AI's Inevitability"

B4. TRAVEL REPORTING

Christina Pascucci, Morgan Martini, *FOX Los Angeles*, "The Mongolian Eagle Hunter"

<https://bit.ly/3V6N1QI>

Judges' comment: A well reported story that showcases the voice of a Mongolian hunter working to continue their nomadic lifestyle on their traditional lands. The storytelling effectively weaves in the culture's current goals and its connection between the eagles and the next generations.

2nd: Chris Reynolds, Lisa McRee and Adam Vandekerchove, *Spectrum News 1*, "The Baja Highway - LA Times Today"

3rd: Gabriel San Roman, *Los Angeles Times*, "Amid crumbling cliffs, Orange County considers moving its famously scenic rail line inland"

B5. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

Michael Nigro, *Truthdig*, "Fragments of Ukraine"

<https://tinyurl.com/4ts4syya>

<https://tinyurl.com/mvtphz5v>

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9uc492>

Judges' comment: Michael Nigro takes readers and viewers on a journey to the war in Ukraine, using words, pictures and video to capture the telling and critical moments of illuminating the human condition during war.

2nd: Ian James, Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Sean Greene, Albert Brave Tiger Lee and Staff, *Los Angeles Times*, "Colorado River in Crisis"

3rd: Stephanie Mendez, *ABC News*, "'I have to cling on': Teacher who survived Uvalde shooting returns to teaching despite trauma endured"

B6. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF FILM

Rance Collins, *Beverly Press*, "'Barbie' takes 'pink' to a whole 'nother level"

<https://bit.ly/4bZDhxn>

Judges' comment: Collins dissects "Barbie" and its deeper meaning way beyond its entertainment value. An interesting read whether you're a woman or a man.

2nd: Lovia Gyarkye, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Notebook: Three Debut Features Give Depth and Dimension to Black Mothers"

3rd: Simi Horwitz, *Forward*, "In a Quartet of Memorable Films, an Acclaimed Israeli Director Navigates Between Hope and Despair"

B7. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF TV

Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, "David Zaslav Likes to Gut Cable Networks. CNN Isn't Easily Remodeled"

<https://bit.ly/49fi7cL>

Judges' comment: Well-researched with a lot of varying perspectives and information, but still including one's own commentary on the state of the industry. Understandable even to those outside the entertainment industry, and speaks to larger problems within well-known networks and companies. Well done.

2nd: Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Notebook: Capitalism and TV Today, a Love/Hate Story"

3rd: Natalie Dowzicky and Regan Taylor, *Reason TV*, "What really happened at Waco"

B8. CRITICISM OF TV

Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://tinyurl.com/mryuufew>

<https://tinyurl.com/yhjyf82r>

<https://tinyurl.com/yc77utkb>

Judges' comment: Very strong hooks to each article. A good blend of observations from individual episodes, the series overall and its narrative themes/character development. Your personal observations and sentiments were also very well-incorporated into each, and your passion for the shows and their characters was clear. Well done.

2nd: Aramide Tinubu, *Variety*

3rd: Ben Travers, *IndieWire*

B9. CRITICISM OF FILM, (Over 1,000 Words; each review)

David Rooney, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/poor-things-review-emma-stone-mark-ruffalo-yorgos-lanthimos-1235579912/>

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/all-of-us-strangers-review-andrew-scott-paul-mescal-andrew-haigh-1235576072/>

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/past-lives-review-greta-lee-celine-song-1235310132/>

Judges' comment: While all entries were high quality, the top five had that special *je ne sais quoi* that brought them out of the pack, and the winner, by a length, is David Rooney of *The Hollywood Reporter*. A dizzying display of verisimilitudinous language managed to evoke the actual experience of watching the fast-paced absurdity of the movie "Poor Things," all without losing sight of the important thread — that of a woman independent and free of constraint.

2nd: Simi Horwitz, *Forward*

3rd: Peter Debruge, *Variety*

B10. CRITICISM OF FILM, (Under 1,000 Words; each review)

Sheri Linden, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://tinyurl.com/3nckv7t3>

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7395pk>

<https://tinyurl.com/mu5f7s2m>

Judges' comment:

2nd: Brent Simon, *A.V. Club*

3rd: Peter Debruge, *Variety*

B11. CRITICISM OF THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS

Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://tinyurl.com/auhffb4>

<https://tinyurl.com/bddnb6z6>

<https://tinyurl.com/yx4tthxm>

Judges' comment: McNulty's criticism shows that, despite the struggles theater faces in America, it remains a vital artform. Likewise, this collection serves as a reminder that the art of criticism is every bit as vital, and necessary, as the work it explores

2nd: Chris Willman, *Variety*

3rd: Anita W. Harris, *LA Theatrical*

B12. CRITICISM OF MUSIC

Marion Hodges, **Andrea Domanick**, *KCRW*

<https://kcrw.co/49pGiEw>

Judges' comment: Excellent storytelling that brings music and culture from the 90s into focus with current times.

2nd: Brett Callwood, *LA Weekly*

3rd: Jem Aswad, *Variety*

B13. CRITICISM OF BOOKS

David L. Ulin, *Alta Journal*

<https://bit.ly/3TOPzI8>

<https://bit.ly/3TpAEMM>

<https://bit.ly/3Tz6uGV>

Judges' comment: The writer brings knowledge, familiarity, and a sense of enthusiastic fascination to the work. Regardless of whether or not the reviews make me want to read the books, they make me want to read more of the reviewer capturing the book in their own unique style. The reviewer brings their literary knowledge and enthusiasm to each review, taking the reader back to precedent and forward to a new direction while always anchored in the text of the work under review.

2nd: Judy Gruen, *Jewish Journal*

B14. CRITICISM OF ART/ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN

Shana Nys Dambrot, *LA Weekly*

<https://bit.ly/464WbQ6>

<https://bit.ly/49eIUGw>

<https://bit.ly/3TWR8NO>

Judges' comment: Dambrot shows her knowledge, versatility and ability to explain somewhat intimidating topics to the LA Weekly readership in terms they can understand.

2nd: Christopher Knight, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd: Tom Teicholz, *Forbes.com*

B15. CRITICISM OF FOOD/CULTURE

Brad A. Johnson, *OLTRE Magazine*

<https://shorturl.at/6grvH>

<https://shorturl.at/0eRxs>

<https://shorturl.at/lx1Fj>

Judges' comment: Johnson has a way of writing about restaurants he reviews that puts the reader in the restaurant trying the food with him. His reticence to try spicy food in Thailand – the way natives would eat it — is humorous and makes you nod your head, understanding his potential pain. He has a knack for describing his experiences in a fun, make-you-want-to-continue-reading manner.

2nd: Lucas Kwan Peterson, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd: Karen Villalpando, *Beverly Press*

C. PRINT/ONLINE – ANY OUTLET, including news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team

C1. EDITORIALS

Tony Barboza, *Los Angeles Times*, "Big Oil is exploiting California's Latinos in its latest climate disinformation push"

<https://tinyurl.com/49zk2ezi>

Judges' comment: Strong, yet concise, this is an example of editorial writing at its finest. The author avoids any attempt to make this piece about himself, and holds government and industry officials accountable for their despicable targeting of one segment of the population.

2nd: Phil Hopkins, *Local News Pasadena*, "The Double-Edged Sword of Transit to Trails"

3rd: Carla Hall, *Los Angeles Times*, "Are L.A. leaders trying to sabotage homeless housing in Venice?"

C2. HEADLINE

Brett Callwood, *LA Weekly*, "Good Golly Ms. Dolly"

<https://bit.ly/49wPW8K>

Judges' comment: Sometimes the story just writes the headline and it is perfect. This is one of those cases. Looking at Dolly Parton's foray into rock music with a wink to a rock'n'roll classic is perfect.

2nd: Blake Hennon, *Los Angeles Times*, "Talk about a Greek dish"

3rd: Sandro Monetti, *Hollywood International Filmmaker Magazine*, "WEST SIDE SNOREY (Bernstein Biopic So Boring)"

C3. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

Yusra Farzan, *The Fuller Project/Guardian US*, "Undocumented and unemployed in pandemic-era California"

<https://bit.ly/3wKKOjx>

Judges' comment: Impactful storytelling on an important issue; fleshed out with strong data points; thoroughly and masterfully reported

2nd: Hosam Elattar and Spencer Custodio, *Voice of OC*, "Pulling Back the Curtain Anaheim Series"

3rd: Robin Urevich and Gabriel Sandoval, *Capital & Main/ProPublica*, "Checked Out: How L.A. Failed to Stop Landlords From Turning Low-Cost Housing Into Tourist Hotels"

C4. MEDICAL/HEALTH REPORTING

Taylor Walker, *WitnessLA*, "Punishing Families: The Need To Reimagine Child Welfare In LA County"

<https://bit.ly/3rCewVd>

<https://bit.ly/3wV7tte>

Judges' comment: Compelling reporting about changes needed in the LA County Child Welfare system through the lens of parents and children impacting certain groups significantly more than others.

2nd: Annakai Geshlider, *Capital & Main*, "No Time for Permission"

3rd: Erich Schwartzel, *The Wall Street Journal*, "The Company That Defined Dieting Is Sorry It Told Us to Have More Willpower"

C5. SCIENCE REPORTING

Denise Hamilton, *Alta Journal*, "P-22's Life in L.A."

<https://bit.ly/3TRyqaf>

Judges' comment: Bold and creative narrative choice that pays off with powerful storytelling. I'll be thinking about this well-written story for a long time.

2nd: Ajay Orona, *Alta Journal*, "The Grizzly Next Door"

3rd: Corinne Purtill, *Los Angeles Times*, "Stanford scientist, after decades of study, concludes: We don't have free will"

C6. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Jill Cowan, Serge F. Kovalski, Leanne Abraham, *The New York Times*, "How a New City Council Map of L.A. Turned Into a Political Brawl"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/03/us/los-angeles-city-council-redistricting.html>

Judges' comment: The writing in this piece is excellent. The lead really draws readers in. The 'nut graph' hones right in on the power of politics, and how it undermined the goals set by the

redistricting efforts. Loved the quote about the "breathtaking bait and switch." Accountability journalism at its finest.

2nd: Tyler Kingkade, *NBC News*, "'Trump was great at this': How conservatives transformed a Colorado school district"

3rd: Rebecca Ellis, *Los Angeles Times*, "L.A. County wanted to help small businesses. Then the scams started"

C7. NATIONAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Nichola Groom, *Reuters*, "Nichola Biden's clean energy factory jobs may elude U.S. union workers"

<https://bit.ly/4cEvxRN>

Judges' comment: This is a great example of the fourth estate's obligation to take promises from politicians and carefully analyze and vet if and how they follow through on those.

2nd: Beau Yarbrough, *San Bernardino Sun*, "How much did your member of Congress get done last term?"

3rd: Lisa Fung, *Blueprint Magazine*, "The Fake Science of White Nationalism"

C8. EDUCATIONAL REPORTING

Cerise Castle, *Capital & Main*, "'The Kids Are Afraid to Be Themselves'"

<https://tinyurl.com/yn8hajxw>

<https://tinyurl.com/46fd287y>

Judges' comment: Great storytelling that helps guide the reader through gnarly politics with real consequences for students.

2nd: Tyler Kingkade, *NBC News*, "'Trump was great at this': How conservatives transformed a Colorado school district"

3rd: Teresa Watanabe, Priscella Vega, Debbie Truong and Jenny Gold, *Los Angeles Times*, "Grief, anger, fear on college campuses as Israel-Hamas war divide comes home"

C9. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

Mark Schiff, *Jewish Journal*, "Here, You Take Her"

<https://bit.ly/3IXIjyj>

Judges' comment: I laughed out loud at "Here, You Take Her." Every passing line added another flair of the unexpected that perfectly encapsulates what it's like to love and care for someone else's kids.

2nd: Ellen Snortland, *LA Downtown News*, "Racing Chihuahuas in Texas"

3rd: Stacey Grenrock Woods, *Alta Journal*, "A City of Dreams"

C10. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION, Film/TV Personalities

Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, "I say a little prayer and a lot of thanks to Burt Bacharach for his music"

<https://bit.ly/3YI2yFm>

Judges' comment: Nepales deftly combines personal remembrance with classic obituary writing. It works with celebrities like Burt Bacharach because his work meant so much to so many readers. His recollections give readers a chance to dig into their memories for their own but also tell readers facts about Bacharach's life they may not have known. What makes this piece stand out is the ending, which ties so nicely to the lead and other themes of the story.

2nd: Emily St. Martin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Richard Roundtree, star of the 1970s 'Shaft' film franchise, has died at 81"

3rd: Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Appreciation: Andre Braugher Was an Intensely Dramatic, Intensely Funny Actor's Actor"

C11. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION, Politics/Business/Arts Personalities

Holly Gleason, *Salvation South*, "Simply The Best: Tina Turner, A Daughter of Nutbush, Always Knew What Love Had To Do With It"

<https://bit.ly/3rCuGy5>

Judges' comment: Vivid storytelling about one of the most iconic women combined with a punch.

2nd: Anne Steele, *The Wall Street Journal*, "Jimmy Buffett, 'Margaritaville' Singer and Beach-Themed Businessman, Dies After Battle With Skin Cancer"

3rd: Emily St. Martin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Cari Beauchamp, L.A. fixture and author who redefined women in Hollywood, dies at 74"

C12. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM

Ethan Ward, *AfroLA*, "Everyone's tired of homelessness in California. Are you willing to rent your extra room to help?"

<https://bit.ly/3TwHEre>

Judges' comment: The piece does an excellent job explaining how shared housing programs could help address homelessness and the housing crisis – a pervasive issue in so many communities across the U.S. The story offers insights into how the programs work and focuses on one that connects housing with formerly incarcerated individuals. The piece has all the pillars of solutions journalism: response, insight, evidence and limitations. It's a well-written, well-reported story that includes interesting characters and important context.

2nd: Michaela Haas, *Reasons to be Cheerful*, "Navigating the Waves"

3rd: Eliza Partika, *AfroLA*, "Street medicine clinics bring much-needed care to L.A.'s unhoused"

C13. IMMIGRATION REPORTING

Gabriel Thompson, *Capital & Main*, "For Many of the Poorest in a Central Valley Community, a Crisis Deepens"

<https://capitalandmain.com/for-many-of-the-poorest-in-a-central-valley-community-a-crisis-deepens>

Judges' comment: A necessary topic to shed light on amid climate change, especially for vulnerable voices with nowhere else to turn for aid. Well written and researched.

2nd: Jeong Park and Cindy Chang, *Los Angeles Times*, "In an L.A. suburb, Chinese 'border crossers' seek a new life after harrowing journey"

3rd: Natalia Molina, *Los Angeles Times*, "Making tamales brings my family together. But can we keep the tradition going?"

C14. CRIME REPORTING

Nick Thompson, *VICE*, "Poison, Bribes, and Murder in the Seedy Underbelly of 90s Heavyweight Boxing"

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7b3mn/tim-anderson-rick-parker-poison-bribes-murder-heavyweight-boxing>

Judges' comment: Excellent reporting and writing made this detailed account of a boxer who murdered the promoter he believes poisoned him stand out. Tim 'Doc' Anderson, who is serving a sentence of life without parole, is seeking clemency now.

2nd: Santi Elijah Holley, *Alta Journal*, "The Cop Watcher"

3rd: Michele McPhee, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "From Ring to Real Estate: Floyd Mayweather Exposes a Possible Megamansion Tax Scam"

C15. SPORTS

Steve Henson, *Los Angeles Times*, "RJ Peete isn't just a clubhouse attendant with autism. He's a central part of the Dodgers family"

<https://tinyurl.com/2ut6smhw>

Judges' comment: Henson's poignant account of a young man with autism and his connection to a Major League team touches all the bases. It's a well-paced, heartwarming tale, but it doesn't shy away from the young man's challenges or his family's early missteps — and even fears — in adapting to his diagnosis. In addition to all that, it effectively informs readers about a much misunderstood condition through a finely crafted narrative. A clear winner in an extremely competitive category.

2nd: Nick Thompson, *VICE*, "Poison, Bribes, and Murder in the Seedy Underbelly of 90s Heavyweight Boxing"

3rd: Nathan Fenno, *Los Angeles Times*, "How an FBI agent's wild Vegas weekend stained an investigation into NCAA basketball corruption"

C16. SPORTS COMMENTARY

Jason Russell, *Reason Magazine*, "Get Your Politics Out of My Pickleball"

<https://bit.ly/43Joa7v>

Judges' comment: Great look at the game, the obsession, the irritating fascination of pickleball. Nice weaving of the game's statistics and history to go along with how the popularity of the sport (activity) has increased scrutiny and oversight.

2nd: Jack Nelson, *Daily Bruin*, "Nelson's Noggin: Having found true star in Fangran Tian, UCLA women's tennis can maximize future"

3rd: Natalia Molina, *Los Angeles Times*, "Opinion: How I learned that the Dodgers are L.A.'s language of love"

D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY All Platforms

D1. NEWS PHOTO

Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*, "The Final Salute for Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer"

<https://www.ringochiuphotography.com/index/G0000thilLQwsuXs/I0000c3VYG8OE7hM>

Judges' comment: A successful news photo is as visually striking as it is informative. Ringo Chiu's photograph of LASD deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer being laid to rest accomplishes just that. Before reading the caption, the somber emotion is clear. Compositionally, Chiu uses every inch of the frame well. Though there is little to no negative space, the photograph doesn't read busy with the neutral uniforms framing the burial flag and selective depth of field. The photo is as beautiful as it is heart wrenching. Chiu's entry stands out for its expertly blended artistry and storytelling.

2nd: Edwin Folven, *Beverly Press*, "Outpouring of support swells for Israel"

3rd: Julie Leopo, *Voice of OC*, "Gentrification is Racism"

D2. FEATURE PHOTO

Francine Orr, *Los Angeles Times*, "Waiting for Lunch"

<https://shorturl.at/Vy7Xo>

Judges' comment: A heartwarming picture of a Mayan woman and her grandson. The single picture reflects current life in Guatemala. Beautiful composition by Orr.

2nd: Alexi Lumbomirski and Jennifer Dorn, *Variety*, "Cate Blanchett Feature Photo"

3rd: Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*, "World Naked Bike Ride"

D3. PORTRAIT PHOTO, Entertainment

Ash Barhamand, Ava Selbach, Peter B. Cury, Lou Escobar, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Ayo Edebiri"
<https://bit.ly/3J4BcTq>

Judges' comment: In a highly competitive category, selection boiled down to creatively recontextualizing familiar faces that we see on screen. The portrait of Ayo Edebiri is a perfect capsule of who the rising star is and how 2023 was truly her year. Though the photograph is taken from an aerial view on a busy street, all attention is on the young actress as she struts confidently down a crosswalk. Edebiri has a look of sureness at something off of frame, as if she is on the right path and there's something she knows that we are yet to see.

2nd: Alexi Lumbomirski and Jennifer Dorn, *Variety*, "Cate Blanchett Portrait"

3rd: Jeff Vespa and Tatiana Leiva, *TheWrap*, "Weird Al Yankovic, Inside Feature"

D4. PORTRAIT PHOTO, Non-Entertainment

Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*, "Theatrical Atomic Bomb Victim"

https://www.ringochiuphotography.com/index/G0000thilLQwsuXs/l0000_WhT7ocnuU

Judges' comment: This is a scary portrait of a fictional atomic bomb victim, made up to show what a victim would, and did, look like. The picture is beautiful and direct.

2nd: Francine Orr, *Los Angeles Times*, "L.A. Fashion Institute students left in lurch after surprise proposed merger with Arizona State"

3rd: Phylicia J. L. Munn, *Rolling Stone*, "Drag Is in Peril. These Red-State Queens Are Fighting Back"

D5. SPORTS PHOTO

Keith Birmingham, *Pasadena Star-News*, "White Abarrio captures \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita"

<https://rb.gy/gl36av>

Judges' comment: Keith Birmingham's photograph of Irad Ortiz Jr. celebrating his win of the Breeders' Cup Classic is successful. Birmingham captures this key moment beautifully, using the rule of thirds to draw the viewer's eye to the subject on the bottom right. He uses a shallow depth of field to keep our focus on the rider. The dark background creates a solid backdrop so the rider's saturated uniform and the neon yellow confetti stands out.

2nd: Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*, "Beach Volleyball"

D6. ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO

Amanda Charchian, *Rolling Stone*, "Paris Hilton Is (Almost) Ready to Get Real"

<https://rb.gy/9pdcja>

Judges' comment: Amanda Charchian's photography of Paris Hilton is a fantastic accompaniment to the Rolling Stone's profile piece. Hilton, framed by lights, cameras and phones, captures her as she reads from her memoir. It's an interesting visual dichotomy between the public persona and her perception of herself. The photographer uses a frame-within-a-frame method, with the objects and people placed around the main subject.

2nd: Ash Barhamand, Ava Selbach, Peter B. Cury and Lou Escobar, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Ayo Edebiri"

3rd: Ada Guerin and Irvin Rivera, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Margaret Cho — Ride or Die Bride"

D7. PHOTO ESSAY (single topic), Culture/Entertainment

Ash Barhamand, Ava Selbach, Peter B. Cury, Obidi Nzeribe, Yotam Schwartz, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The 25 Most Powerful Stylists"

<https://bit.ly/43JfHB6>

Judges' comment: Top nod goes to a collection of supremely polished photos of high-falutin' stylists and their famous clients — lively snaps of people having a good time, and looking beautiful and blessed.

2nd: Victoria Stevens, Jennifer Dorn and Haley Kluge, *Variety*, "Cannes Gallery"

3rd: Ruven Afanador, Jennifer Sargent and Alexis Cook, *Billboard*, "Shakira Cover Story"

D8. PHOTO ESSAY (single topic), News/News Feature

Steven Gute, *Red Canary Magazine*, "Commodifying Nature"

<https://bit.ly/3IHEqwb>

Judges' comment: In tracing the surprising rise and ongoing demise of the Salton Sea, Gute illustrates his excellent essay with troubling, compelling images of its environmental impact.

2nd: Michael Nigro, *Truthdig*, "Two Ukrainian Families: One Fled, One Stayed"

3rd: Sarah Reingewirtz, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "Photos accompanying series on Fentanyl addiction taking its toll on MacArthur Park area"

D9. EDITORIAL CARTOON

Dwayne Booth (Mr. Fish), *ScheerPost*, "Bird in Hand"

<https://bit.ly/4aCJOMK>

Judges' comment: Although it's a disturbing image, it makes its point clearly: Authoritarian regimes are destroying world peace at every chance they get. Not what I expected when I opened this category, but powerful nonetheless

2nd: Samia Saad, *Daily Bruin*, "Carnival house"

D10. ILLUSTRATION

Shawntel Johnson, *AfroLA*, "The rent is too damn high. Should we build housing for L.A. teachers?"

<https://bit.ly/3VA3sF2>

Judges' comment: A beautiful illustration showing the frustration teachers feel with the lack of affordable housing, causing high teacher turnover.

2nd: Haley Kluge and Zohar Lazar, *Variety*, "Streaming Service Progress Report"

3rd: Chris Sickels and Red Nose Studio, *Alta Journal*, "A Sacred Sycamore's Story Reveals a City's History"

D11. GRAPHIC

Neil Jamieson, Ada Guerin, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Operation Johnson"

<https://rb.gy/kc5i41>

Judges' comment: "Creative use of a recognized family game to describe a complex situation. It's humorous and grabs attention and interest. It compelled me to want to read all of them."

2nd: Jimmy Jiang, *Hollywood International Filmmaker Magazine*, "A.I. Gamechanger"

3rd: Kyle Kim, *Bloomberg News*, "Downtown LA's Office Distress Shows the Pain Coming for Cities"

D12. ANIMATION/MOVING GRAPHIC

Myke Allen, Andrew Clippingdale, *Truthdig*, "A Truthdig Carol"

<https://tinyurl.com/2p6d9wba>

Judges' comment: Short, poignant and well executed.

2nd: Jesse Stone, *Noema Magazine*, "Climate Lessons From A Lost Land"

3rd: Ada Guerin and Irvin Rivera, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Margaret Cho — Ride or Die Bride"

D13. COVER ART

Andre Miripolsky, Ada Guerin, Shirley Halperin, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Best of L.A."

<https://rb.gy/x8vfm5>

Judges' comment: A fun, whimsical portrait of the City of Angels. Excellent cover.

2nd: Mary Ellen Matthews, Jennifer Dorn and Haley Kluge, *Variety*, "Scarlett Johansson Cannes Issue Cover"

3rd: Jonathan Fong, *Jewish Journal*, "Helping Israel Cover"

D14. PAGE DESIGN

Shirley Halperin, Ada Guerin, Neil Jamieson, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "How to Survive in L.A. on \$100k"

<https://rb.gy/j3riu8>

Judges' comment: Very creative, good use of colors, graphics and text. Far and away the best in the category.

2nd: Haley Kluge, *Variety*, "No Words (WGA Strike Issue)"

3rd: Helen Quach, *Daily Bruin*, "Rivalry Issue Spread"

D15. BEST ISSUE

John Goecke, Brent Hatcher, *Alta Journal*, "Issue 22 - The Desert Issue"

<https://shorturl.at/cdzPK>

Judges' comment: Excellent use of photography throughout, strong environmental portraits mixed with sense of place imagery. Nice mix of illustration and photography carries page layout & design. Broad representation of desert culture and important issues such as drought in the West.

2nd: Variety Team, *Variety*, "Variety's Hitmakers Issue"

3rd: Los Angeles Magazine Team, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Los Angeles Magazine November 2023 issue"

E. PRINT – ANY OUTLET

E1. HARD NEWS

San Gabriel Valley Tribune Staff, *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, "10 killed in Monterey Park mass shooting as Lunar New Year is celebrated"

<https://tinyurl.com/vauv46mp>

Judges' comment: Strong all-hands-on-deck coverage of a mass shooting; thoroughly reported; a great example of how a community newspaper can actively keep a community informed

and not panicked when public safety is an issue (the shooter was still at large when the first reporting began).

2nd: Scott Schwebke, *Southern California News Group*, "Suspect confesses in exclusive jailhouse interview to killing bicycling doctor"

3rd: Ana Figueroa, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "Hostage Families Tell Their Stories in Beverly Hills"

E2. BUSINESS REPORTING

Bernard J. Wolfson, Melissa Montalvo, *KFF Health News/The Fresno Bee*, "Giant Health System Almost Saved a Community Hospital. Now, It Wants to 'Extract Every Dollar.'"

<https://bit.ly/48BE6cw>

Judges' comment: The sort of story that leaves you fearful of the future of healthcare. The fear is justified. This story is a nightmare come true for any news audience.

2nd: John Gittelsohn, *Bloomberg News*, "Downtown LA's Office Distress Shows the Pain Coming for Cities"

3rd: Silas Brown and Davide Scigliuzzo, *Bloomberg News*, "Banking Escapees Make Billions from Private Credit Boom"

E3. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Santi Elijah Holley, *Alta Journal*, "The Cop Watcher"

<https://bit.ly/3TUkexy>

Judges' comment: A well researched and highly readable profile of an activist who seemed to stumble into the business of observing cops in action — and whose vigilantism is actually serving as a model for deterring racial profiling and bad cop behavior beyond L.A. The writer really captures the personality of the subject.

2nd: Stephen Daw, *Billboard*, "A Kiki For Change"

E4. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Jon Regardie, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "How to Survive L.A. on Just \$100K"

<https://shorturl.at/x7F2y>

Judges' comment: This story was deceptive. A fun, graphically presented read, it was also one of the most deeply reported. A LOT went into telling this story, but it was a great read, with tons of information that could have been dry, instead presented in a clever format. And the writing was simply great. Nice, distinctive voice.

2nd: Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Succession, With Smoothies: Inside the Erehon Dynasty"

3rd: Lisa Boone, *Los Angeles Times*, "'All the neighbors know who she is': How one woman built a flower farm across eight yards"

E5. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Tyrone Beason, *Los Angeles Times*, "A Black astronaut's moon shot uplifts a people who've long found hope in the cosmos"

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-04-13/a-black-californian-headed-to-the-moon-sparks-pride-and-reflection>

Judges' comment: A masterful story that weaves together history, sociology, and the present to illuminate deep cultural anxieties overlooked by space exploration.

2nd: Deepa Bharath, *Associated Press*, "Casteless utopia: California religious group backs bill to ban caste discrimination"

3rd: Natalia Molina, *Los Angeles Times*, "Making tamales brings my family together. But can we keep the tradition going?"

E6. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Olga Grigoryants, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "LGBTQ+ Russians fleeing Kremlin's anti-gay propaganda seek safe haven in LA"

<https://bit.ly/4agQKzm>

Judges' comment: Olga Grigoryants' story on LGBTQ+ Russians finding refuge in Los Angeles is a powerful snapshot on the impact of war, politics and ideology on vulnerable groups and the relief of starting a new life. Grigoryants writes with empathy, tackling a sensitive local story that began outside of U.S. borders. It is also an unlikely story to uncover, or at least at the intimate level the writer achieved. This is a moving piece on fear and joy.

2nd: Adam B. Vary, *Variety*, "Queer Stories Strike Back! 'Heartstopper,' 'Red, White & Royal Blue' and 'Bottoms' Lead a New Surge of LGBTQ Content"

3rd: Jaweed Kaleem, *Los Angeles Times*, "In the war over transgender rights, Florida is ground zero. One woman's battle to survive"

E7. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Ian James, Brian van der Brug, Albert Brave Tiger Lee, *Los Angeles Times*, "The largest dam removal in history stirs hopes of restoring California tribes' way of life"

<https://tinyurl.com/5ywapfvu>

Judges' comment: The *Los Angeles Times*' story on the monumental Klamath River Hydroelectric Project dam removal and the lives it affects for better or for worse is environmental reporting at its best. The writer, Ian James, writes in depth but succinctly, weaving many elements together. The article is accompanied by well crafted video and photography by Brian van der Brug and Albert Brave Tiger Lee.

2nd: Alex Wigglesworth, *Los Angeles Times*, "This tribe was barred from cultural burning for decades — then a fire hit their community"

3rd: Steve Scauzillo, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "Biologists discover thousands of migrating songbirds in Angeles National Forest"

F. NEWSPAPERS Over 50k Includes news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team.

F1. NEWS FEATURE, General News/Hard News

Thomas Curwen, *Los Angeles Times*, "Seeking redemption: A death row inmate's journey into L.A. County's largest psych ward"

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-12-13/12-years-on-death-row-now-county-jail-helping-inmates-with-mental-illness>

Judges' comment: Engaging trip into the correctional system and a program that is only working because of inmate action. Great details and writing that flows from section to section characterized this entry. Hope pervades the work even in the midst of darkness.

2nd: Hannah Wiley, *Los Angeles Times*, "He was sentenced to 162 years in prison. Now he's free and working at the California Capitol"

3rd: Jeff Collins, *Orange County Register/Southern California News Group*, "Goodbye starter home: First-time buyers struggle with Southern California prices, lack of inventory"

F2. NEWS FEATURE, Society/Culture/History

Deborah Vankin, *Los Angeles Times*, “Timelier than ever, Keith Haring's first L.A. museum show shines a neon-bright light on his art and activism”

<https://bit.ly/3EwdGfR>

Judges' comment: The standout in a very competitive category. The story is elegantly written, poignant, a moving tribute to a prolific artist and his work. It is also an important reminder of the cruelty and the toll of AIDS in the arts community in the 1980s and 1990s.

2nd: Daniel Miller, *Los Angeles Times*, “How two friends sparked L.A.'s sushi obsession — and changed the way America eats”

3rd: Erin Osmon, *Los Angeles Times*, “Source Family and Cult Resurgence”

F3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

Jessica Gelf, *Los Angeles Times*, “Sexual harassment allegations, infighting, labor unrest: The unraveling of Hollywood Legion Theater”

<https://rb.gy/39slf4>

Judges' comment: In a category with thoughtful entries, the reporting in this piece pushed it over the edge. The writing is crisp and the author went to great lengths to tell an important story.

2nd: Jen Yamato and Helen Li, *Los Angeles Times*, “‘RRR’s’ ‘Naatu Naatu’ made Oscars history. But South Asian dancers feel betrayed”

3rd: Erich Schwartzel and Joe Flint, *The Wall Street Journal*, “Paramount Can't Say No to the Man Behind ‘Yellowstone’: \$50,000 a Week for His Ranch, \$25 Per Cow”

F4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Erin Osmon, *Los Angeles Times*, “John Mellencamp shows no signs of cheering up”

<https://bit.ly/johnmellencamp2023>

Judges' comment: A splendid look at an aging rock star. The vivid storytelling really brings this story to life and gives the reader an intriguing look at a man, his music and his vices.

2nd: Andrea Chang, *Los Angeles Times*, “He hosted Hollywood's most elite sex parties. Now he's opening an erotic dinner club where anything goes.”

3rd: Pamela Chelin, *Los Angeles Times*, “The architect of L.A.'s iconic Capitol Records building sets the record straight — again — on that needle”

F5. INVESTIGATIVE

Melody Gutierrez, *Los Angeles Times*, “Boxer Pensions on the Ropes”

<https://tinyurl.com/cf4r3xk3>

<https://tinyurl.com/2s38n7hu>

<https://tinyurl.com/2x9wzu24>

Judges' comment: An astonishing story about California's badly managed program to provide pensions to retired boxers. The pieces had colorful personal stories as well as shake-your-head reporting about the negligence of the state agency tasked with finding and paying these fighters. The final two stories show that the state is starting to make broad changes based on Gutierrez's reporting. Great work.

2nd: Connor Sheets, Keri Blakinger and Brittny Mejia, *Los Angeles Times*, “Peddling Death: Fentanyl in Mexican Pharmacies”

F6. COMMENTARY

Natalia Molina, *Los Angeles Times*, “Opinion: How I learned that the Dodgers are L.A.'s language of love”

<https://lat.ms/48zJTQa>

Judges' comment: How I learned that the Dodgers are LA's love language. This column is more than a sentimental look at the loss of a brother and the people who offer comfort. It explores community – how we forge it, what unites us and the unusual ties – like a baseball team – that can tie us together.

2nd: Erika D. Smith, *Los Angeles Times*, "Columns by Erika D. Smith"

3rd: Meredith Blake, *Los Angeles Times*, "Commentary: Prince Harry's memoir mercilessly trashes the royal family. He didn't go far enough"

F7. COLUMNIST

LZ Granderson, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://tinyurl.com/2fc6w8yj>

<https://tinyurl.com/3x789z4a>

<https://tinyurl.com/mmps8svh>

Judges' comment: LZ Granderson's column is a reader's delight. Whether the topic is the power of hip-hop, or LGBTQ+ people being targeted with hatred or violence, or the evolution of the NFL, Granderson writes with compassion and grace — a persuasive style that beckons readers into thought and conversation.

2nd: Amy Kaufman, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd: Chandra Bozelko, *USA Today*

G. NEWSPAPERS Under 50k circulation Includes news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team

G1. NEWS FEATURE

Maria Luisa Torres, Diana Martinez, *San Fernando Valley Sun Newspaper*, "Organ Donor from Pacoima Saved and Touched the Lives of Many"

<https://bit.ly/4aFDeFm>

Judges' comment: Excellent writing ultimately is storytelling and feature stories range from the fun to the whimsical to the tragic. The reporters weaved a story of a beloved son, his mother's grief and his gift to another woman. The tribute that the organ recipient saw, unaware of the grieving people on the other end, was an especially poignant detail.

2nd: Isai Rocha, *LA Weekly*, "Flying to Dodger Stadium"

3rd: Theresa Marie Moreau, *The Remnant Newspaper*, "The Execution of Blessed Miguel Pro"

G2. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

Semantha Raquel Norris, *San Fernando Valley Sun/el Sol*, "Jewish Punk Band Plays in San Fernando Raising Funds for Gaza"

<http://bit.ly/4aJmcq4>

Judges' comment: "Jewish Punk Band Plays in San Fernando..." goes deeper than concert coverage to demonstrate how the Israel-Hamas conflict over 7,500 miles away sparked disparate punk rock bands to come together for a cause. The piece not only localizes the issue for the audience, but thoughtfully shares the stories and backgrounds of the concert organizers, performers and attendees. The storytelling emotionally grabs readers through powerful quotes and descriptive imagery, placing the reader inside the venue. It's an exemplary way of sharing cultural significance and historical importance through short form entertainment reporting.

2nd: Isai Rocha, *LA Weekly*, "Once Upon A Time In Hollywood Park"

3rd: Holly Gleason, *Vineyard Gazette*, "Mary Chapin Carpenter Brings A Hopeful Yearning"

G3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Lisa Bloch, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "Mike Amiri: Building a Modern Luxury House on His Own Terms"
<https://bit.ly/49FvFyv>

Judges' comment: Amazing story of an amazing entrepreneur. Lisa Bloch does a good job of weaving his life, his business and his philosophy together for a great read.

2nd: John Murphy, *Redlands Community News*, "Kris Stevens' tough road from Fontana to Yucaipa"

3rd: Kristy Hutchings, *Long Beach Press Telegram*, "A WWII bride, now a Seal Beach resident, recalls Queen Mary trip, other adventures"

G4. INVESTIGATIVE

Clara Harter, Sarah Reingewirtz, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "Fentanyl addiction fuels underground shoplifting economy in LA's MacArthur Park"

<https://bit.ly/4aAyoJr>

<https://bit.ly/4cE4s0N>

<https://bit.ly/43ERBYa>

Judges' comment: Through courageous, on-the-streets investigation, these Los Angeles Daily News journalists vividly documented the underground world of addiction and thievery surrounding LA's famous MacArthur Park. The stories and pictures starkly showed the horrors the fentanyl plague had wrought while at the same time sensitively portraying the people caught up in the tragedy. A laudable attempt also was made to provide hope by pointing to possible solutions to this thorny problem.

2nd: Jason Henry, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "Aftermath of the inferno that shut down the 405 Freeway"

3rd: Scott Schwebke, *Southern California News Group*, "VA Loma Linda Whistleblower Retaliation Sparks Federal Legislation"

G5. COMMENTARY

Monica Osborne, *Jewish Journal*, "There Are Wolves in My House"

<https://bit.ly/3lnX4ZS>

Judges' comment: Good job in explaining rising antisemitism not as a nameless, faceless trend, but as people in her personal sphere; people she regarded as friends, colleagues, professional acquaintances. When you think about it, that's more scary and shocking.

2nd: David Suissa, *Jewish Journal*, "A Tiny Lesson from a Titanic Blunder"

3rd: Delilah Brumer, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "The Class of 2023 at Daniel Pearl Magnet High School has a few things to say"

G6. COLUMNIST

Ellen Snortland, *LA Downtown News/The Argonaut*

<https://bit.ly/48XTCj6>

<https://bit.ly/4cx7xA3>

<https://bit.ly/3TDrwVY>

Judges' comment: Columnists have to engage a reader no matter the topic and also grant access to their own lives in ways that are not always easy. These columns, ranging from trans children telling their parents to Barbie through the eyes of an older woman to the awkward and hilarious family holidays, Ellen Snortland engaged and granted access with excellence. I finished reading her columns and felt like I had just talked to an old friend.

2nd: Rich Archbold, *Long Beach Press Telegram*
3rd: John Murphy, *Record Gazette*

H. MAGAZINES

Includes magazines with L.A. bureaus

H1. INVESTIGATIVE

C.J. Ciaramella, *Reason Magazine*, "I Knew They Were Scumbags"

<https://bit.ly/4cDNakF>

Judges' comment: This story broke my heart - and it filled me with hope. It tells the story of a nightmare too many people know. And it reminds us of investigative journalism's role in bringing hidden things into the light.

2nd: Heather Perlberg, Ann Choi, Noah Buhayar, Tom Schoenberg, Kara Wetzel, David Scheer and Austin Weinstein, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Wall Street's Housing Hustle"

3rd: Gary Baum, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Brad Pitt and the Bizarre Charity Mess That's Left Katrina Victims Stranded Again"

H2. COMMENTARY

Laura Hartenberger, Tami Abdollah, *Noema Magazine*, "What AI Teaches Us About Good Writing"

<https://bit.ly/4a9W73z>

Judges' comment: This is a deep and richly thought-out essay that is remarkably perceptive and useful. The authors -- writers of much experience -- clearly spent many hours in the literal and digital library stacks to understand the concept and reality of algorithms and data that drive Artificial Intelligence. They were able to translate that knowledge and understanding to a level of theoretical comprehension that, with careful and intensive reading, is informative for curious and educated individuals and groups. That is a true service to a worldwide community.

2nd: Sara Walker and Peter Mellgard, *Noema Magazine*, "AI Is Life"

3rd: J.B. Ruhl and James Salzman, *Noema Magazine*, "How To Fix Our Green Infrastructure Problem"

H3. COLUMNIST

Katherine Mangu-Ward, *Reason Magazine*

<https://bit.ly/3xlp9yG>

<https://bit.ly/3VJFgA4>

<https://bit.ly/4am8sSh>

Judges' comment: Deeply insightful commentary in a relatively short column. Mangu-Ward knows what she's talking about and isn't afraid to say what needs to be said.

2nd: Clayton Davis, *Variety*

3rd: Chris Willman, *Variety*

H4. FEATURE, Business/Government (Over 1,000 Words)

Jason Leopold, Matthew Campbell, Anthony Cormier, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "The Fugee, the Fugitive and the FBI"

<https://tinyurl.com/3w24wnhd>

Judges' comment: The authors take readers inside the sordid connections between celebrities and foreign governments when it comes to global influence campaigns.

2nd: Alexandra S. Levine, *Forbes*, "'Fake It 'Til You Make It': Meet Charlie Javice, The Startup Founder Who Fooled JP Morgan"

3rd: Alan Ohnsman, *Forbes*, "Bill Gates Is Backing A Secret Startup Drilling For Limitless Clean Energy"

H5. FEATURE, Culture/Arts, (Over 1,000 Words)

Rebecca Keegan, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Auteurs of San Quentin"

<https://tinyurl.com/3n4jp64h>

Judges' comment: This article exemplified exploring modern incarceration life, as well as a unique film and Hollywood tie into the system. The writing was vivid and catchy and kept me reading the whole time.

2nd: Peter Fish, *Alta Journal*, "The Most Famous California Novel You've Never Heard Of"

3rd: Erich Schwartzel, *The Wall Street Journal*, "Behind the Tragic, Instagram-Perfect Life of an Ex-Disney Executive"

H6. FEATURE (Under 1,000 Words)

Gary Baum, Ryan Gajewski, Winston Cho, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "How TMZ Became Hollywood's Grim Reaper"

<https://tinyurl.com/4hn96v6v>

Judges' comment: A serious, important (and highly readable) inquiry into how TMZ has built and maintains a ghoulish machine of reporting celebrity deaths, sometimes even before families have learned the news about the demise of their loved one.

2nd: Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Anatomy of a Megadeal: How Flight Attendant-Turned-Novelist T.J. Newman Sparked a Hollywood Bidding War for 'Drowning'"

3rd: Jason Lipshutz, *Billboard*, "The GOAT Whisperer"

H7. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE, TV/Streaming Related

Brent Lang, Tatiana Siegel, Matt Donnelly, *Variety*, "Showstopper! Strikes Plunge Hollywood Into Chaos With Pricy Movie Delays, Pay Battles and AI Anxiety"

<https://bit.ly/49TIFjB>

Judges' comment: This is extensively reported with a fantastic antidote to kick things off that gives the story a "you are there" quality that didn't come out in many other stories about the strike.

2nd: Sharareh Drury, *Variety*, "How 'House of the Dragon' and 'The Handmaid's Tale' Made Me a More Resilient Mother"

3rd: Borys Kit, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Daredevil' Hits Reset Button as Marvel Overhauls Its TV Business"

H8. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE, Film Related

Katie Grant, *Produced By Magazine*, "Now Hear This: It's time to give Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing creatives complete access to Hollywood. The Deaf community has much to say about how that can happen."

<https://shorturl.at/N7cla>

Judges' comment: Thorough reporting and plenty of interviews.

2nd: Rebecca Rubin, *Variety*, "What's in a Name? Inside the Art and Science of Crafting the Perfect Movie Title"

3rd: Zoe Hewitt, *Variety*, "From Dave Bautista Collapsing in 'Glass Onion' to Military Marches in 'All Quiet on the Western Front,' Stunt C"

H9. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE, Music/Performing Arts Related

Angie Martoccio, *Rolling Stone*, "How boygenius Became the World's Most Exciting Supergroup"
<https://bit.ly/3VHlMMz>

Judges' comment: Great job of blending really interesting interviews with prose descriptions that captivate the reader on their own. We come to know the band as individuals and as a band, and we get a wonderful snapshot of this interesting stage in their career, on the cusp of their first full album release. The writing echoes the voice of its subject, and it is a great read regardless of one's familiarity with the artists.

2nd: Chris Willman, *Variety*, "U2 Goes Sphere-ical: Behind the Band's Part in a Bet on a \$2 Billion Dome That Could Change Live Music"

3rd: Katie Bain, *Billboard*, "Finding Harmony"

H10. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Tatiana Siegel, *Variety*, "A Fired 'Scream' Star, Clients Booted From Agencies and a Secret Tom Cruise Meeting: Inside Hollywood's Divide Over Israel"

<https://bit.ly/42ZEws5>

Judges' comment: Inside Hollywood's Divide Over Israel: made me stop and think. It wasn't just about entertainment. It addressed how entertainment can help others. It also showed that sometimes helping others is frowned upon by those that don't agree with your philosophies. It was multiple sides of a complex subject.

2nd: Holly Gleason, *POLLSTAR*, "SUPA DUPA FLY ALWAYS: How Missy Elliott Fearlessly Made Her Way Into The Rock Hall"

3rd: Gary Baum, Katie Kilkeny and Lesley Goldberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Writers' Shut-It-Down Strategy Has Been Effective, Executives Privately Concede"

H11. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Film Personalities

Selome Hailu, *Variety*, "Lily Gladstone on Welcoming 'Flower Moon' Criticism, Mollie's Agency and Scorsese's Limitations While Telling an Osage Story"

<https://wp.me/pc8uak-1lDfBx>

Judges' comment: I loved the lead and how the writer returned to that theme throughout the whole piece. Great storytelling.

2nd: James Hibberd, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Harrison Ford: 'I Know Who the F*** I Am'"

3rd: Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Ailing 'Superman' Star Valerie Perrine Finally Finds Her Hero: 'The Guy Should Be Sainted'"

H12. PERSONALITY PROFILE, TV Personalities

Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Michael J. Fox Looks Back on Hollywood Triumphs, Setbacks and Why 'Parkinson's Is the Gift That Keeps on Taking'"

<https://bit.ly/49M4mIS>

Judges' comment: This well-written story captures how Michael J. Fox has handled losses and medical setbacks with resilience and optimism in the years since his Parkinson's diagnosis. He found inner peace after going public with his disease, launched the Michael J. Fox Foundation and helped raise more than \$1 billion to fund Parkinson's research.

2nd: Rebecca Sun, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Ali Wong Gets Dramatic"

3rd: Katcy Stephan, *Variety*, "Lizzy Caplan Faces Down Fame: How She Hit Her Stride With 'Fatal Attraction' and 'Fleishman Is in Trouble'"

H13. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Politics/Business/Arts Personalities

Michael Slenske, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Henry Taylor, L.A.'s Favorite Painter, Flips the Retrospective"

<https://lamag.com/art/henry-taylor-moca-los-angeles-flips-the-retrospective>

Judges' comment: After reading this wonderful profile, I feel as though I know Mr. Taylor. I also know the constellation of characters, objects and places through which he moves.

2nd: Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "A Pellicano Targer's Second Act"

3rd: Kristin Robinson, *Billboard*, "Dean of Production"

H14. IN-HOUSE or CORPORATE PUBLICATION

Joseph Wakelee-Lynch, Maureen Pacino, Jon Rou, *Loyola Marymount University*, "LMU Magazine Winter 2023"

<https://bit.ly/4aJDseM>

Judges' comment: Well written, well designed with a variety of stories.

2nd: Susan Bell and Letty Avila, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*, "USC Dornsife Magazine, The Energy Issue, Spring / Summer 2023"

3rd: Variety Staff, *Variety*, "Variety's No Words Issue"

I. BROADCAST – ANY OUTLET TV/Film/Radio/Podcast

I1. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

Andrew Heaton, Austin Bragg, John Carter, Meredith Bragg, *Reason TV*, "Everything is political: board games"

<https://bit.ly/3VMzZYH>

Judges' comment: This Satire piece cleverly combines board game with political humor in a savvy advertising humor format. The production quality was high and it was fast paced in the best way possible. Great work!

2nd: Patt Morrison, *LA Times Today*, "Robot Lawyers!"

3rd: Andy Riesmeyer, *KTLA*, "Summer of Funny host Andy Riesmeyer roasts his coworkers"

I2. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION

Tracy Smith, John Damelio, Steven Tyler, Rand Morrison, *CBS News*, "CBS Sunday Morning: Henry Mancini"

<https://app.cimediacloud.com/mediaboxes/47b3b4713e614e13a6d3f23917d2bec0>

Judges' comment: Lots of different perspectives given in this tribute to Henry Mancini's works. Technically well-produced, polished and good use of sound and interviews.

2nd: Kelvin Washington, Brian DeCloux, Mason Jurchisin, *The SoCal Scene*, *Spectrum News 1 Team*, *Spectrum News 1*, "Mayor Riordan's Los Angeles"

3rd: Laura Diaz, *KTTV*, "An Appreciation of Gloria Molina"

I3. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

Raphael Sbage, Saga Elmohtaseb, Rick Pratt, Jenna DeAngeles, Felipe Vara De Rey, *PBS SoCal*, "10 Days in Watts: Legacy"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qx5ygM6De38>

Judges' comment: This entry had a comprehensive story about the community of Watts and the legacy of organizers that continues on through their children and the people they inspired, which really connected me as the viewer to the characters. The production quality was top

notch. It was clear how this community garden was creating a space for positive social change, improving access to healthy food in a food desert, and bringing people together.

2nd: Bonnie Boswell, Angela Boisvert, Phil Hughes, Taylor Hamilton and Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Bonnie Boswell Presents: Saving Moms"

3rd: Karen Foshay, Keith Bedford and Andy Viner, *Los Angeles Times*, "Surviving a Mass Shooting"

14. BUSINESS REPORTING

Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team, Spectrum News 1 SoCal, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez 'Ted Sarandos'"

<https://vimeo.com/796501651/ad21f0a982?share=copy>

Judges' comment: In-depth interview with insightful reporting. An expansive look at the co-founder of Netflix and his story as well as the business. Well-produced, polished.

2nd: Tracy Smith, John D'Amelio, Michael Levine and Rand Morrison, *CBS News Sunday Morning*, "CBS Sunday Morning: Strike!"

3rd: Renee Eng, *Spectrum News 1*, "Stolen Wages"

15. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Jeremy Linderfeld, Spectrum News 1, "Farmworkers braving rising temperatures seek better heat protections"

<https://bit.ly/49OZgp9>

Judges' comment: This engaging story offers a clearly defined angle for addressing a needed change to help protect immigrant workers from soaring summer heat temperatures. Great production value, pacing, and I also felt like you brought answers to your investigative question.

2nd: Christine Devine, Steve Thorpe and Tony Davis, *KTTV Fox 11*, "Foster Care Tiffany Haddish"

3rd: Raphael Sbarge, Saga Elmohaseb, Rick Pratt, Jenna DeAngeles and Felipe Vara De Rey, *PBS SoCal*, "10 Days in Watts: A Garden Grows in Watts"

16. MEDICAL/HEALTH REPORTING

Steve Ecclesine, KCET, "Have You Heard About Greg? A Journey Through Alzheimer's"

<https://bit.ly/49Ub5fT>

Judges' comment: The story of Greg O'Brien, a thoughtful, lively man who began losing bits of himself to Alzheimer's at age 59, is told with a surprisingly light touch: No drama, no violins. That straightforward presentation makes the exposition and the tragedy of what's happening more stark and keenly felt. Simply a beautiful job with a complex issue. Ecclesine takes full advantage of the chance to tell a complex story from the inside, which is a very unusual vantage point with Alzheimer's.

2nd: Bonnie Boswell, Angela Boisvert, Phil Hughes, Taylor Hamilton and Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Bonnie Boswell Presents: Saving Moms"

3rd: Daisy Espinoza, Alex Cohen, Crystal Goss, David Pircher and Carla Conrad, *Spectrum News 1*, "Inside the Issues: Youth Mental Health"

17. SCIENCE REPORTING

Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team, Spectrum News 1 SoCal, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez 'Dr. Jeannie Fontana'"

<https://vimeo.com/826388703?share=copy>

Judges' comment: This was my favorite science reporting for many reasons. The B-roll and the V/O's were seamless with the story. The host asked well-thought-out questions that helped the story along. Each segment gave good information and graphics that aided the topics.

2nd: Phillip Palmer, ABC7 LA, "Frozen Zoo"

3rd: Christina Pascucci and Luc Nixon, FOX Los Angeles, "Alone in the Arctic"

18. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Elex Michaelson, Debbie Kim, Rudy Leiva, KTTV, "Newsom's Push for Mental Health Treatment"

<https://bit.ly/3xsyPHm>

Judges' comment: Solid reporting, good blend of human perspectives and nuts and bolts policy considerations.

2nd: Karen Foshay, Andy Viner, Ricky Dorns, Paul Thronton and Terry Tang, *Los Angeles Times*, "Searching for Homeless Housing"

3rd: Tanya McRae, Jenni Kim, Bobbie Eng, Nate Leathers and Brianna Estrada, *Spectrum News 1*, "The Need for Foster Care Reform Legislation"

19. NATIONAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Greg Mitchell, Lyn Goldfarb, Michelle Merker, KCET, "Memorial Day Massacre: Workers Die, Film Buried"

<https://bit.ly/49BgrdE>

Judges' comment: Powerful look at history and how news media can effect change. Fascinating history of unions, and how we got to where we are.

2nd: Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez 'Ambassador Eric Garcetti'"

3rd: Carlos Saucedo and Jose Alvarado, KTLA, "Feinstein Funeral"

110. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Angela Chen, Kent Kay, Tim Kiley, Rebecca Johnson, KESQ, "Troubled Waters: Colorado River Crisis"

<https://kesq.com/news/2023/10/30/colorado-river-crisis-into-the-wild-west/>

<https://kesq.com/news/2023/11/03/troubled-waters-the-colorado-river-crisis-water-rights/>

<https://kesq.com/top-stories/2023/11/10/troubled-waters-colorado-river-crisis-on-the-table/>

Judges' comment: This ambitious project was executed perfectly. Water law is tough and complicated, not usually fodder for television news. Very well researched and the video and graphics told the story well. Appreciated the little touches like Chen hand swipe triggering transition. Bravo.

2nd: Leanne Suter and Jennifer Moya, KABC, "Sea of Change: The New Sharks of SoCal"

3rd: Andres Pruna, KMEX, "Nuestro Planeta-El Fin del Mundo"

111. EDUCATIONAL REPORTING

David Ono, KABC-TV, "FACEism: The Grinch"

<https://youtu.be/U5xvSCt4WYw>

Judges' comment: Interesting examination of hot-button issue with effective use of B-role, video and interview.

2nd: Elex Michaelson, Debbie Kim, Sam Dubin, Nick Greitzer and Greg Lindsay, KTTV, "George Clooney's Revolutionary Public School"

3rd: Kitty Hu, Nic Cha Kim, Shannon Sun-Higginson, Carol Paik and Bryant Griffin, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: L.A. Rebellion: A Cinematic Movement"

112. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM

Liz Wolfe, Zach Weissmueller, Danielle Thompson, Isaac Reese, Justin Zuckerman, *Reason TV*, "Why homelessness is worse in California than Texas"

<https://bit.ly/3PRyPXM>

Judges' comment: This news report is a good example of solution journalism. It focuses on the problem of homelessness and offers a comprehensive range of solutions based on thorough research, data, and sources. It highlights the efforts of cities in California and Texas to combat homelessness while acknowledging the limitations of these solutions, providing a well-rounded understanding of the issue.

2nd: Raphael Sbarge, Saga Elmohtaseb, Rick Pratt, Jenna DeAngeles and Angela Boisvert, *PBS SoCal*, "10 Days in Watts"

3rd: Mark Horvath and Alex Gasaway, *Invisible People*, "Finland Solved Homelessness: Here's How (Spoiler: It's More Than Housing First)"

I13. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Leslie Berestein Rojas, *LAist 89.3*, "The Palm Springs Government Burned Down Their Neighborhood — Now They're Seeking Reparations"

<https://bit.ly/3J8Onmc>

Judges' comment: This powerful piece looks at the history of a square mile in Palm Springs called Section 14, once home to a working-class community of about 1,000 people, mostly Black and Latino families who worked in Palm Springs' service sector. The artful storytelling weaves together history and the current ongoing case to address abrupt evictions and later the burning of that part of the city. The story is riveting and raises many important racial discussions. Masterful reporting.

2nd: Cher Calvin, Frank Buckley, Kimberly Cheng, Ginger Chan, Gene Kang, Jennifer Thang, Tammy Chan, *KTLA 5 News*, "KTLA 5 News celebrates Asian American & Pacific Islander Month"

3rd: Bonnie Boswell, Angela Boisvert, Phil Hughes, Taylor Hamilton and Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Bonnie Boswell Presents: Saving Moms"

I14. IMMIGRATION REPORTING

Pedro Rivera, Paul Sanchez, *KTLA*, "A Day in the Life of California's Street Vendors"

<https://bit.ly/3xgyzv5>

Judges' comment: In an enlightening report on the hard work and dangers faced by Hispanic street vendors, Rivera and Sanchez highlight the life of one vendor.

2nd: David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: The Dancer"

3rd: Zócalo Public Square staff, *Zócalo Public Square*, "Do We Need More Food Fights?"

I15. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Gregorio Dávila, Roland Palencia, Mario J. Novoa, Michelle Merker, *PBS SoCal*, "UNIDAD: Gay & Lesbian Latinos Unidos"

<https://bit.ly/48lc5jz>

Judges' comment: The discussion of both gender and LGBTQ+ issues is the strongest in this entry. The archival material is really fantastic, and the music is amazing. The production value is extremely high. The people who were interviewed are very diverse coming from all over the Latin@ community (immigrants, Chicanos, South and North Americans), and each of the characters brings so much nuance to the story. I really learned a lot from this video.

2nd: Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez 'Rachael Worby'"

3rd: Brendan Bubion and Paula Kiley, *PBS SoCal*, "Weekly Arts: Michael Shayan Reclaims His Iranian American Identity in New Play 'avaaz'"

I16. CRIME REPORTING

Christopher Lambert, *Your Own Backyard Podcast*, "People vs. Flores: The Conclusion"

<https://bit.ly/43DBM48>

<https://bit.ly/4cwLljr>

<https://bit.ly/43Dhojq>

Judges' comment: In a category with many outstanding entries, Lambert's "conclusion series" podcasts on Kristin Smart covered every angle with extensive reporting, bringing closure to the public that followed the years-long case.

2nd: Yeardeley Smith, Detective Dan, Detective Dave and Paul Holes, *Small Town Dicks Podcast*, "The Weight Parts 1 and 2"

3rd: Lisa McRee and LZ Granderson, *Spectrum News 1*, "After Monterey Park: The Impact of Gun Violence on Our Communities"

I17. SPORTS

Elex Michaelson, Debbie Kim, Steve Thorp, James Wulff, Ollin Martinez, Nick Greitzer, Greg Lindsay, *KTTV*, "The Issue Is: Athletes Who Serve with Clayton & Ellen Kershaw & Juju Smith-Schuster"

<https://bit.ly/3vw948K>

Judges' comment: Good in-depth look at athletes who take service in their community seriously. The extended feature gets below the surface to give the viewers real insight into the charitable work of the athletes and the ability to inspire others to act.

2nd: David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: Taking a Knee"

3rd: Carlos Saucedo and Ken Koller, *KTLA*, "Dodgers Drag"

I18. WEATHER or TRAFFIC REPORT

John Fenoglio, *KTLA 5 News*, "San Bernardino mountain residents trapped by snowfall"

<https://bit.ly/4cMGd0z>

Judges' comment: I applaud KTLA 5 for the creative use of video chat via computer and phone to gather on-scene interviews with people stranded by the blizzard.

2nd: Jorge Garcia and Sandra Stojanovic, *Reuters TV*, "'In an oven': visitors react to Death Valley heat"

3rd: John Fenoglio, *KTLA 5 News*, "Tropical Storm Hilary Slams Antelope, Coachella Valley"

J. TELEVISION/FILM Broadcast, including online and cable TV, produced in SoCal

J1. REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST

Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Your Evening on Spectrum News 1"

<https://bit.ly/3V9gwkm>

Judges' comment: Great breaking new coverage with extra context and perspective.

2nd: Eric Yeh, Eli Masket, Veronica Sierra and Avery Goodman, *USC Annenberg Media*, "USC Professor Strauss on leave after comments at pro-Palestinian protest"

J2. ANCHOR/HOST

Marla Tellez, *KTTV*

<https://bit.ly/43BsrKd>

Judges' comment: Marla has great poise as an anchor. She can deliver with a direct firmness on hard or breaking news stories, while adjusting to a softer approach for lighter stories or community interviews.

2nd: Lisa McRee, *Spectrum News 1*

3rd: Robeson Taj Frazier, *PBS SoCal*

J3. VIDEOGRAPHER

Vincent Venturella, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Artists-In-Residence"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QGnBhC5nq0>

Judges' comment :Refreshing creative photography. Outside the box and exceptional framing and editing. Should be studied in photojournalism seminars everywhere.

2nd: Sandra Stojanovic, *Reuters TV*, "Californians forced into floodwaters to feed pets"

3rd: Gionatan Teclé, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: L.A. Rebellion: A Cinematic Movement"

J4. BREAKING NEWS

David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "Paradise Lost: Lahaina Wildfire"

https://youtu.be/lhC_yANcsCA

Judges' comment: David told a compelling story just hours after the fires in Hawaii. His first person documenting of the scene was riveting and the dramatic interview with the resident was powerful.

2nd: Lauren Lyster and Matt Spinelli, *KTLA-TV*, "Hilary Aftermath"

3rd: Samantha Cortese and Tom Mecozzi, *KTLA*, "Flare-up reignites at historic hangar in Orange County"

J5. INVESTIGATIVE

David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: Love Stanley"

<https://youtu.be/n16vwOngR3w>

Judges' comment: A beautiful story and twist at the end about believing to find his helmet. Wonderful characters and storytelling from beginning to end.

2nd: Martha Kelner, Christopher Pearson and Sarah Gough, *Sky News UK*, "Troubled Teen Industry"

3rd: Juliet Lemar, *KSBY*, "Sex trafficking of minors in Santa Barbara: a survivor's story"

J6. NEWS FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

Bonnie Boswell, Angela Boisvert, Phil Hughes, Taylor Hamilton, Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Bonnie Boswell Presents: Saving Moms"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgyJwdeCJew>

Judges' comment: Bonnie Boswell intertwines the story of a man who lost his wife during childbirth and her own recollections of pregnancy with statistics and interviews with experts on the number of women who lose their lives during childbirth.

2nd: David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: Love Stanley"

3rd: Andres F Pruna, William Negron and Octavio Valdez, *KMEX*, "DDT Herencia Tóxica/DDT Toxic Legacy"

J7. NEWS FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

Marla Tellez, Debbie Kim, *KTTV*, "Charity Skydiving with Navy Heroes"

<https://bit.ly/49h8F7O>

Judges' comment: Great job taking the viewer into the skydive and capturing your reporter's emotion on the plane and throughout the whole story.

2nd: John Fenoglio, *KTLA 5 News*, "Potholes again causing problems for drivers across Southern California"

3rd: Gadi Schwartz, Aarne Heikkila, Andrew Blankstein and Betsy Korona, *NBC News Now*, "Illegal Gambling Dens"

J8. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

Nic Cha Kim, Tamara Gould, Angela Boisvert, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Marley Lister, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Little Amal"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDD5LRvHrcc>

Judges' comment: A fascinating story about Little Amal, a 12-foot-tall puppet, and the impact she has, especially with her latest ability to communicate with sign language. The story is expertly told with footage that really tells the story.

2nd: David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: The Grinch"

3rd: Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein, Mark Potts and Cody Long, *Los Angeles Times*, "A deaf and autistic kid's hoop dreams and the coach who made them come true"

J9. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

Stephanie Mendez, Maria Elena Salinas, *ABC News, GMA3*, "Survivors of Uvalde school shooting honored"

<https://bit.ly/4bFevCh>

Judges' comment: Heart-wrenching story about two girls who survived the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School, their heroism and their healing after witnessing such an awful event. The reporter tells the story with heart and with sensitivity to the girls, their families and other survivors.

2nd: Carlos Saucedo and Christian Grow, *KTLA*, "Labor of Love"

3rd: Marla Tellez, Ollin Martinez and Jake Frahm, *KTTV*, "Running Scared: A Lesson in Self Defense"

J10. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Gene Kang, Tammy Chan, Kris Arciaga, *KTLA 5 News*, "Los Angeles dance studio brings K-pop's hottest moves to the masses"

<https://bit.ly/3J8BjgT>

Judges' comment: This story was entertaining, involved in the community, and unique. The participation of the reporter in learning how to dance K-pop style was excellent. It made you feel like he really got embedded in what he was reporting on. The background information on the sisters who started the dance studio was interesting as well. This piece is a good example of telling a succinct story that still feels complete.

2nd: Rosey Alvero, Jaime Morgan Munoz, Marley Lister, Angela Boisvert and Robert McDonnell, *PBS SoCal*, "SoCal Wanderer: Alchemy Craft: Beers and Wine in Montebello"

3rd: Andy Riesmeyer, *KTLA*, "Hometown Pride: Malibu Isn't just for the rich and famous"

J11. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein, Steve Saldivar, Mark Potts, Cody Long, Yadira Flores, *Los Angeles Times*, "The roots of L.A. hip-hop"

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/hip-hop-50-1580-kday-run-dmc-123>

Judges' comment: A fascinating, comprehensive look at the history of hip-hop.

2nd: Yu Gu, Tamara Gould, Angela Boisvert and Nic Cha Kim, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: East West Players: A Home on Stage"

3rd: David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: The Grinch"

J12. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: Mammy's Grave"

<https://youtu.be/RfHg0mY18dg>

Judges' comment: A unique and compelling story told with masterful storytelling and noteworthy videography.

2nd: Tara Lynn Wagner, *Spectrum News 1*, "The Stage Whisperer"

3rd: Brendan Bubion, Paula Kiley, Sarah Quinones Wolfson and Dan Leonard, *PBS SoCal*, "Weekly Arts: Funk Freaks is Keeping Funk Alive in Orange County"

J13. ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

Thadd Williams, Jeff Vespa, *TheWrap*, "John Waters Dishes on 'Hairspray' at 35"

<https://bit.ly/43PafwP>

Judges' comment: What a unique profile of John Waters being interviewed about the 35th anniversary of "Hairspray" by *TheWrap's* creative director Jeff Vespa, who was cast in the first show. Vespa's history with the show added so much to the give-and-take of the interview.

2nd: Cheryl L. Diano and Coleen Sullivan, *ABC7*, "Breaking Barriers in Animation"

3rd: Clayton Davis, *Variety*, "Pedro Pascal on 'The Last of Us' Season 2, Filming 'Gladiator 2' and Blind Casting in Hollywood: 'People Get So Butthurt'"

J14. NON-ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

Brendan Bubion, Paula Kiley, Justin Cram, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Noah Gutteriez, *PBS SoCal*, "Weekly Arts: Ramses' Portraits Honor Historic Figures in Black History"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tv9ivLR2jP4>

Judges' comment: The videography for this story was absolutely beautiful. The deep look into the variety of media of Ramses's body of work was extensive even for a piece this short. The music felt like it was a good match for the stunning visuals. A wonderful tribute to a clearly very gifted artist.

2nd: Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, *Spectrum News 1 Staff*, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez 'Dr. Kwane Stewart'"

3rd: Kareen Wynter, Paul Sanchez and Elyse Madison, *KTLA*, "Chef Keith Corbin's journey from streets to stoves"

J15. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tanya McRae, Jenni Kim, Bobbie Eng, Nate Leathers, Brianna Estrada, *Spectrum News 1*, "Protecting our Children"

<https://bit.ly/3USnVog>

Judges' comment: "Protecting Our Children" sheds light on the foster-child system, beginning the story of a family with foster daughters, then looking at some of the issues with the system. Weaving the family's story into the piece made it that much more compelling.

2nd: Dr. Angela Sadler Williamson, *KLCS PBS*, "Advocating for Musicians and Financial Literacy with 'Wil-Dog' Abers"

3rd: Justin Chapman, *Pasadena Media*, "Pasadena Monthly with Justin Chapman"

J16. FEATURE DOCUMENTARY (Over 25 Minutes)

Steven Kochones, Daniel Sollinger, Tamara Gould, Angela Boisvert, Nic Cha Kim, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Chinatown Punk Wars"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKa3g_I78wY

Judges' comment: This film definitely held my attention the longest. The beautiful shots of LA Chinatown, the dynamic editing, and the punk rock music were really mesmerizing. The facts kept defying my expectations, and I just wanted to know more and more. It's just a fascinating topic that I never expected to learn about. So cool!

2nd: Albert Brave Tiger Lee, Ian James, Maggie Beidelman, Robert Meeks and Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein, *Los Angeles Times*, "Colorado River in Crisis: A Los Angeles Times documentary"

3rd: Ana Paola Rodriguez, Jose Luis Figueroa, Omar Foglio, Angela Boisvert and Nic Cha Kim, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: América Tropical: The Martyr Mural of Siqueiros"

J17. DOCUMENTARY SHORT (Under 25 Minutes)

Jacob Soboroff, Aarne Heikkila, Mitch Koss, Danielle Dellorto, *NBC News Now*, "Captives of Cannabis Part II 'Mass Murder, Migrants and Money Laundering'"

<https://shorturl.at/djp67>

Judges' comment: The winner takes a multi-state look at trafficked Chinese in pot growing operations. The pacing is tight, there is actual action, the interviews are brisk and there's a lot of information that they cram into a 20 minute special.

2nd: Seth Katz, Nathalie Basha, Andy Schlachtenhaufen, Marie Targonski-O'Brien and Jose Guzman, *Spectrum News 1*, "Searching the Streets"

3rd: Raphael Sbarge, Saga Elmohtaseb, Rick Pratt, Jenna DeAngeles and Angela Boisvert, *PBS SoCal*, "10 Days in Watts"

K. AUDIO JOURNALISM

Radio broadcast, podcast or stream produced in Southern California

K1. ANCHOR/HOST

Ana Garcia, *True Crime Daily The Podcast*

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/woman-clings-to-hood-of-speeding-car-to-save-stolen/id1451999167?i=1000645551933>

Judges' comment: Ana Garcia brings you into her home to talk about the most horrible of crimes. It sounds macabre and many of the cases featured certainly are, but she does it with an empathy for victims and a blood-boiling outrage when the justice system doesn't work. The specific podcast in this entry is a powerful tale of abuse and rape inside an Amish family that Garcia followed closely, including drips to Amish communities and multiple interviews.

2nd: Susan Valot, *Quanta Magazine Science Podcast*

3rd: Michael Schneider, Clayton Davis, Jazz Tangcay, Jenelle Riley and Emily Longoretta, *Variety*

K2. NEWS or BREAKING NEWS

KNX News Team, *KNX*, "Hurricane Hilary"

<https://bit.ly/3PdRE7m>

Judges' comment: Comprehensive coverage of a massive tropical storm and a major earthquake. A steady stream of reporter, public official and citizen reports map out the scale and effects of these twin events in real time. Great work managing, organizing and presenting the myriad audio nuggets of information flowing in.

2nd: KNX News Team, KNX, "Lunar New Year Shooting"

3rd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Two of her sons were killed in a hit and run, now, she's putting her grief aside to help foster families"

K3. NEWS FEATURE

Susan Valot, *KCRW*, "LA's Japanese Americans converge on Manzanar to recall internment"

<https://kcrw.co/3T00vMm>

Judges' comment: A sensitively-written script and fantastic audio editing transported me to the site of Manzanar, illuminating the faces and stories of the people there for the pilgrimage and pulling all of the stories together to form a vivid portrait of the place and its impact on those people. I really felt like I was there with them. Great job.

2nd: Gustavo Arellano, Denise Guerra, Kasia Broussalian and Ian James, *Los Angeles Times*, "Colorado River in Crisis, The Times podcast"

3rd: Megan Jamerson, *KCRW*, "Catalytic converter thefts make LA County 'a hotspot'"

K4. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Giuliana Mayo, *KCRW*, "This fish traveled over 5000 miles to be on LA plates"

<http://bit.ly/48P2R5I>

Judges' comment: A world traveling fish tale that spans in just 60 to 72 hours from a fresh catch in a small port town in Japan to an exclusive underground supper club in East Hollywood. A well-reported and put together story on how global the food we eat is.

2nd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Rare chance to fly in an historic aircraft which played a critical role in World War 2"

3rd: Robin Estrin, *KCRW*, "A Hanukkah miracle at Fairfax District's Diamond Bakery"

K5. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW, Entertainment Personalities (Over 10 Minutes)

Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Awards Chatter' Podcast — 'The Three Amigos':

Alfonso Cuarón ('Le Pupille'), Guillermo del Toro ('Pinocchio') and Alejandro González Iñárritu ('Bardo')"

<https://bit.ly/46mcwzB>

Judges' comment: The host conducted a conversation with three renown Mexican directors that not only talked about their careers in cinema, but also the discrimination they faced in America. The strength of this program is that it was a "conversation" rather than an "interview." As a listener I felt that I was sitting at the table with them.

2nd: Angelique Jackson, *Variety*, "Alex Borstein on the Legacy of 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' as It Ends: 'We Launched in Such a Perfect Moment'"

3rd: Lyndsey Parker, *Totally '80s*, "Rebel Soul: An '80s Conversation with Bebe Buell"

K6. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW, Non-Entertainment Personalities (Over 10 Minutes)

Debra Eckerling, *Jewish Journal*, "Chef Susan Feniger and Liz Lachman: 'Forked,' Food and Spiced Millet Puffs"

<https://bit.ly/3J1zRNo>

Judges' comment: This conversation with restaurateur Susan Feniger and filmmaker partner Liz Lachman draws you into their lives and is an intimate peek into their personalities and lives.

2nd: Lisa Niver, *We Said Go Travel*, "Journey into the World of Wanderlust: Samantha Brown, Travel Goddess"

3rd: Alex Cohen, Sara Sadhwani, Crystal Goss, Yazmin Cruz and Nathaniel Leathers, *Spectrum News 1*, "Inside the Issues: The Podcast 'Marqueece Harris-Dawson'"

K7. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW (Under 10 Minutes)

Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Two of her sons were killed in a hit and run, now, she's putting her grief aside to help foster Culture Club: One of the most influential bands of the 1980s play live"

<https://bit.ly/3rYNcQZ>

Judges' comment: Good storytelling with a combination of background context, music snatches and interview clips. Caroline Feraday put in some effort to prepare for her interview and to create a nice munchable piece with a cultural icon who is still engaging.

2nd: Jonathan Bastian and Andrea Brody, *KCRW*, "Creativity has no age limit w/Albert-László Barabási"

K8. INVESTIGATIVE

Adriana Cargill, Sasa Woodruff, Adam Whitney Nichols, Marcelo de Oliveria, Kathleen Yore, *Wave Maker Media*, "Sandcastles Podcast"

<http://bit.ly/47YDKMQ>

Judges' comment: A riveting, honest, and sensitively-told story about home, community, devastation, and resilience. First-class audio allowed this judge (who has never been to Malibu) to clearly picture the landscape and the people in this story, the history of the place, and the devastation of the wildfires that decimated the area. This is a fantastic example of investigative reporting and audio-editing that is definitely worthy of the top prize in this category.

2nd: Christopher Lambert, *Your Own Backyard Podcast*, "People vs. Flores: The Conclusion"

K9. ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

KNX News Team, *KNX*, "Hollywood on Strike"

<https://bit.ly/3ly67ax>

Judges' comment: Great coverage of the Writers Guild of America strike with a lot of sources and a comprehensive look at the issues involved.

2nd: Jim Hemphill, Trevor Wallace and Chris O'Falt, *IndieWire*, "Deep Dive: 'George & Tammy'"

3rd: Susan Valot, *KCRW*, "Terrible Christmas movie is now cult classic campy theater"

K10. USE OF SOUND

Kyle Murdock, Janice Llamoca, Sophia Paliza-Carre, Antonia Cerejido, *VICE, LAist Studios*, "Party Crews: The Untold Story"

<https://bit.ly/PartyCrewsEp1>

<https://bit.ly/PartyCrewsEp2>

<https://bit.ly/PartyCrewsEp3>

Judges' comment: It was clear throughout this podcast that the creators carefully considered how use of sound could enrich and better tell this story. This is best listened to with headphones for full sonic immersion.

2nd: Susan Valot, *KCRW*, "Citizen scientists count bumble bees to save them"

3rd: Susan Valot, *KCRW*, "Terrible Christmas movie is now cult classic campy theater"

K11. REGULAR PODCAST

Chris Greenspon, Damien Newton, Joe Linton, *Streetsblog LA*, "SGV Connect 120: Basking in the Afterglow of Arroyo Fest"

<https://bit.ly/3wSaSJh>

Judges' comment: This podcast makes listeners feel as if they are at Arroyo Fest with in-studio commentary interspersed with on-the-scene reporting providing a variety of perspectives of the event.

2nd: Lisa Niver, *Make Your Own Map*, "Heroes of the Holocaust: A Small Light"

3rd: Jonathan Bastian and Andrea Brody, *KCRW*, "Wintering and enchantment: A pathway to healing and happiness with Katherine May"

K12. LIMITED SERIES PODCAST

Anna Scott, Audrey Quinn, Sonya Geis, *KCRW*, "City of Tents: Veterans Row"

<https://bit.ly/3uWIEOi>

Judges' comment: Homelessness is a complicated and divisive issue to unpack and too often the stories of people who are unhoused are used to make a political point rather than to understand the experience of those living without a home first-hand. This podcast did a good job of breaking through the chatter and centering the stories of a group of veterans in a single camp in LA, while also bringing in perspectives and responses from outside the camp. In addition to the way the topic was approached, its narrative driven, sound-rich style made it a compelling story to listen to.

2nd: Ethan Ward, Jaeha Joshua Chang, James Ingram and Kelly Bernard, *HEATDRAWN Media*, "'Reputation' Podcast"

3rd: Adriana Cargill, Sasa Woodruff, Adam Whitney, Marcelo de Oliveria and Kathleen Yore, *Wave Maker Media*, "Sandcastles Podcast"

K13. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Charles Feldman, Rob Archer, Donald Morrison, *KNX*, "KNX Indepth: Hollywood on Strike"

<https://bit.ly/49L3E8x>

Judges' comment: This was a highly informative and entertaining show with key voices bringing important perspectives just as the SAG strike was getting started. You had a lot of guests for one hour but you did a good job balancing them all and bringing in their points of view. It gives a really good overview of how many sectors will be affected by this strike.

2nd: Beth Spotswood and Jessica Blough, *Alta Journal*, "Alta Live"

3rd: Robert Scheer, *ScheerPost*, "The Four Billionaires Who Want to Control the Universe"

K14. DOCUMENTARY

Adriana Cargill, Sasa Woodruff, Adam Whitney, Marcelo de Oliveria, Kathleen Yore, *Wave Maker Media*, "Sandcastles Podcast"

<http://bit.ly/47YDKMQ>

Judges' comment: A fantastic production about a community I'm sure most of us, even most Californians I would wager, know little to nothing about. You really brought us there and gave us a grounding in its history and people. It would not be possible to understand why they stayed to fight the fires without that context. You also did some really creative things with audio from cell phone video, newscasts, ambient sound, etc. And I liked how you did follow up to show the complicated reality of where things stand now.

2nd: Rico Gagliano, *MUBI, Inc.*, "CHUNGKING EXPRESS: Wong Kar-Wai puts dream-pop on the menu"

3rd: Christopher Lambert, *Your Own Backyard Podcast*, "People vs. Flores: The Conclusion"

L. ONLINE

Exclusively published on the Internet

L1. HARD NEWS

Nico Lang, *HuffPost*, "Some Trans Kids Are Being Forced To Flee America For Their Safety"
<http://bit.ly/4axu79B>

Judges' comment: In a very strong field of excellent reporting, Nico Lang's portrayal of families of transgender children seeking refuge in other countries. Lang's reporting makes vivid the difficult personal decisions faced by families afraid for their children and their own safety. It also puts the issue in detailed political context, as anti-trans legislation passes state after state.

2nd: Jessica Goodheart, *Capital & Main*, "One of the Largest Evictions in Los Angeles History is Based on Claims the City Denies"

3rd: Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Gruesome Footage of Oct. 7 Atrocities Screens in Hollywood Under Heavy Guard"

L2. GENERAL NEWS

Noah Biesiada, *Voice of OC*, "Orange County's 911 Dispatchers Are Chronically Overworked; Can They Handle the Next Disaster?"

<https://voiceofoc.org/2023/10/orange-countys-911-dispatchers-are-chronically-overworked-can-they-handle-the-next-disaster/>

Judges' comment: In an eye-opening news report about ongoing Orange County 911 staffing issues. Biesiada shows that such problems are not only faced there but elsewhere in the country now and in the future.

2nd: Aaron Cantú, *Capital & Main*, "California Lets Companies Keep 'Dangerous' Oil Wells Unplugged Forever"

3rd: Meghann Cuniff, *LegalAffairsandTrials.com*, "Video of fire victims' final moments is key in Conception boat captain's manslaughter trial"

L3. CULTURE NEWS

Robin Urevich, Gabriel Sandoval, *Capital & Main, ProPublica*, "L.A. Promised to Preserve Low-Cost Housing. These Tenants' Homes Were Turned Into Hotel Rooms Anyway."

<https://bit.ly/3TKYO5c>

Judges' comment: This poignantly written and well researched story illuminates what is at stake in the displacement of affordable housing — not just roofs over people's heads, but the loss of entire supportive and creative communities.

2nd: Brock Keeling, *Bloomberg*, "The Case for Saving Postmodernism, Architecture's Wildest Buildings"

3rd: Emily St. Martin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Amanda Gorman on her inauguration poem being banned at Miami school: 'I am gutted'"

L4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, Film/Broadcast

Jessica Goodheart, *Capital & Main*, "Background Actors Say Fears of Being Replaced by AI Come From Their Experiences"

<https://capitalandmain.com/background-actors-say-fears-of-being-replaced-by-ai-come-from-their-experiences>

Judges' comment: Good explainer fleshed out with examples on why AI has become a flash point for actors. Extras have very little leverage on whether they are scanned or how those scans might be used in the future. There's a fear the digital self could put the real self out of work.

2nd: Ellise Shafer, *Variety*, "Priscilla Presley on 'Priscilla's' Portrayal of Her Age Difference With Elvis: 'He Respected the Fact I Was Only 14 Years Old'"

3rd: Tony Maglio, *IndieWire*, "Nobody Thought to Update the 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' Rights for the Streaming Age"

L5. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, Music/Performing Arts

Ethan Millman, *Rolling Stone*, "Danny Elfman Settled a Sexual-Harassment Allegation for \$830,000"

<https://bit.ly/49s4W7t>

Judges' comment: With good research and context, the article provides interesting perspectives on hard-hitting news in the music industry.

2nd: Rebecca Rubin, *Variety*, "Inside the Tony Awards: From Air Conditioning Mishaps to Free Shake Shack, Here's What You Didn't See on TV"

3rd: John Lavitt, *The Hollywood Times*, "The Intersection Between Trauma and Fame in Naomi Grossman's American Whore Story"

L6A. INVESTIGATIVE, entertainment or business related

Ann Choi, Caleb Melby, Raeedah Wahid, Polly Mosendz and Nadia Lopez, *Bloomberg News*, "Borrowers Turned to Nonbank Lenders for Mortgages – And it's Costing Them"

<https://tinyurl.com/39dyn4eh>

Judges' comment: This is a masterclass of investigative reporting. This team took something obtuse like a nonbank lender and made it relatable and easily digestible for a general audience. On top of that, the team showed the harmful impacts that nonbank lenders can have on everyday working people.

2nd: Tatiana Siegel, *Variety*, "Inside the Fashion World's Dark Underbelly of Sexual and Financial Exploitation: 'Modeling Agencies Are Like Pimps For Rich People'"

3rd: Albert Serna Jr., Caitlin Thompson and Morgan Casey, *Cronkite News/Howard Center for Investigative Journalism*, "Arizona dental board fails to protect public, hold dentists accountable"

L6B. INVESTIGATIVE, government related

Jack Ross, *Los Angeles Public Press*, "'Relocating' rent-controlled tenants in LA is a lucrative business"

<https://bit.ly/43MPRw4>

Judges' comment: A unique angle into a topic that affects every corner of the nation, this story sheds light on a little-known business practice that is probably making some rich while potentially harming others. That's exactly the kind of premise a traditional investigative story explores, but this doesn't feel like a traditional story. It feels perfectly modern and timely.

2nd: Robin Urevich and Gabriel Sandoval, *Capital & Main, ProPublica*, "Checked Out: How L.A. Failed to Stop Landlords From Turning Low-Cost Housing Into Tourist Hotels"

3rd: Cerise Castle, *Capital & Main*, "Los Angeles Sheriff's Second-In-Command Has Alleged Gang Tattoo"

L6C. INVESTIGATIVE, crime related

Nico Lang, *BuzzFeed News*, "A 30-Year-Old Native American Trans Woman Was Killed After Meeting Up With A Man From A Dating App, Her Family Says. Almost Six Months Later, No One Has Been Arrested."

<http://bit.ly/3TLyfOf>

Judges' comment: What a story. Lots of digging, follow-up and interviews here to make this story come together. Extra points for determination to keep this story alive, though it's based in South Dakota.

2nd: Jessica Schulberg, *HuffPost*, "Inside The Brutal Struggle For Trans Care In Prison"
3rd: Kimmy Yam, *NBC News Digital*, "Exclusive series on the disappearance of Nancy Ng"

L7. BUSINESS REPORTING

Silas Brown, Davide Scigliuzzo, *Bloomberg News*, "Banking Escapees Make Billions from Private Credit Boom"

<https://tinyurl.com/4x2d6np2>

Judges' comment: This was a really competitive category, but the first-place winner edged out the competition based on the originality and scope of reporting. On any other day, several other entries from the category could have placed or ranked higher in the competition. Well done everyone who entered.

2nd: Alexandra S. Levine, *Forbes*, "'Fake It 'Til You Make It': Meet Charlie Javice, The Startup Founder Who Fooled JP Morgan"

3rd: Mark Gurman, *Bloomberg News*, "Coverage of Apple"

L8. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Jack Ross, *Capital & Main*, "In Los Angeles, a Friendship Grows Out of Housing Strife"

<https://bit.ly/43OvGOf>

Judges' comment: Very insightful reporting about the impact of rent/housing and investment corporations in the LA market. The work shared by unlikely but new friends advocating for change gave the piece depth and great perspective.

2nd: Erin Aubry Kaplan, *Truthdig*, "A Decade of Black Lives Matter"

3rd: Billy Binion, *Reason Magazine*, "They Fell Behind on Their Property Taxes. So the Government Sold Their Homes—and Kept the Profits."

L9. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Eliza Partika, *AfroLA*, "Combating racist tropes and trauma surrounding Blacks in the water"

<https://bit.ly/3TTLs7f>

Judges' comment: A not-often-reported look at race as it pertains to Blacks learning to swim.

2nd: Ethan Ward, *AfroLA*, "Racial Bias in Charitable Giving"

3rd: Aitana Vargas, *palabra*, "Safe to Learn"

L10. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Aitana Vargas, *palabra*, "Trans in High School"

<https://www.palabranahj.org/archive/trans-in-high-school>

Judges' comment:

2nd: Nico Lang, *HuffPost*, "Some Trans Kids Are Being Forced To Flee America For Their Safety"

3rd: Louis Keene, *The Forward*, "Orthodox Judaism has its first openly gay congregational rabbi. This is his story."

L11. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Aaron Gilbreath, *Red Canary Magazine*, "A Fabled Lake Returns, But Can Its People Do The Same?"

<https://bit.ly/43pLAI0>

Judges' comment: This story does a great job crossing time and genres to tell the story of a location and the way people interact with it. But more than just the story of a lake, the story is a case study that can be extrapolated to communities across the world. Everyone has a special

connection with some place and this story does a great job highlighting that while weighing serious environmental issues.

2nd: Jerry Redfern, *Capital & Main*, "After a Century, Oil and Gas Problems Persist on Navajo Lands"

3rd: Sammy Roth, Robert Gauthier, Jessica Q. Chen, Jackeline Luna, Maggie Beidelman, Paul Duginski, *Los Angeles Times*, "Want to solve climate change? This California farm kingdom holds a key"

L12. NEWS FEATURE, Music/Culture/Performing Arts

Ethan Millman, *Rolling Stone*, "Jane Wiedlin Claims Influential Rock DJ Sexually Abused Her as a Teen"

<https://bit.ly/3PPediT>

Judges' comment: A deeply-reported, unsettling and much-needed exposé on sexual assault in the music industry. Millman amplifies the voices of women who have long been silenced, finally shining a light on the true nature of an industry veteran.

2nd: Alexei Barrionuevo and Natalie Korach, *TheWrap*, "Death in the Desert: When Hamas Came to an Israeli Rave, Friends Perished"

3rd: Cynthia Rebolledo, *KCRW*, "The man who makes LA's best tortilla-making machines"

L13. NEWS FEATURE, Film/Broadcast

Krystie Lee Yandoli, *Rolling Stone*, "Chaos, Comedy, and 'Crying Rooms': Inside Jimmy Fallon's 'Tonight Show'"

<https://bit.ly/3vIVezM>

Judges' comment: A damning look behind the scenes at the toxic culture pervading one of the world's most beloved late-night shows. Deeply reported and expertly written.

2nd: Jessica Goodheart, *Capital & Main*, "Background Actors Say Fears of Being Replaced by AI Come From Their Experiences"

3rd: Jeremy Fuster, Loree Seitz and Lucas Manfredi, *TheWrap*, "'Fair Contract or We Spoil 'Succession': Angry and United, Hollywood Writers Hit the Picket Line"

L14. HARD NEWS FEATURE, General News

Aitana Vargas, *La Opinión & HispanicLA*, "El impacto comunitario de la policía predictiva"

<https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/our-work/reporting/el-impacto-comunitario-de-la-policia-predictiva>

Judges' comment: A powerful story with a great lead.

2nd: Jared Olson, *Truthdig*, "The Deadly Battle Over Land and Water in Honduras"

3rd: Jack Ross, *Capital & Main*, "In Los Angeles, a Friendship Grows Out of Housing Strife"

L15. SOFT NEWS FEATURE, General News

Stephanie Mendez, *ABC News*, "Family of Uvalde student survivor documents healing process, challenges: Reporter's notebook"

<https://bit.ly/3ST7pmg>

Judges' comment: If you want a story that will pull on the heartstrings, this will do it. Best of the best in a category that was loaded with top-notch writing.

2nd: Sonya Singh, *The Guardian*, "'If you ain't got love, you've just got chicken wings': how food helped three chefs start again after prison"

3rd: Jack Ross, *Capital & Main*, “‘There’s Just No Hiding’: Inside the Self-Defense Class for Landlords”

L16. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Jeremy Lindenfeld, *Alta Journal*, “Bitter Medicine”

<https://bit.ly/4cJiSx0>

Judges’ comment: Compelling lead; high interest/relevant topic; solid writing with colorful details that draw the reader into the story

2nd: Jeremy Fuster, *TheWrap*, “‘Therapy Can Be a Luxury’: The Strikes and Hollywood Workers’ Mental Health”

3rd: Beatrice Verhoeven, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Flea-Market Treasure Hunt: Turning Old Film Reels Into Art Objects”

L17. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE, Film

Tony Castro, *LAMonthly.org*, “If Marilyn Had Been a Car, She Would Have Been a Ferrari”

<https://bit.ly/49Z07Bq>

Judges’ comment: What an entertaining story about the Ferrari and America’s intrigue with the car in television and movies throughout the decades.

2nd: Lauren Huff, *Entertainment Weekly*, “Turning back the ‘Dial’: Harrison Ford examines the legacy of Indiana Jones as he caps a historic run”

3rd: Rebecca Rubin and Brent Lang, *Variety*, “Disney’s Harsh New Reality: Costly Film Flops, Creative Struggles and a Shrinking Global Box Office”

L18. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE, TV/Radio

Jose Alejandro Bastidas, **Lucas Manfredi**, *TheWrap*, “Inside the Turmoil at TCM After Executive Exodus: ‘They’re Farming Most People Out’”

<https://bit.ly/4cOo5mY>

Judges’ comment: Strong reporting sheds light on changes at TCM amid layoffs and high-level exoduses.

2nd: Jazz Tangcay, *Variety*, “Building the ‘Star Wars’ Universe on TV: Inside the Making of ‘Obi-Wan Kenobi,’ ‘Andor’ and ‘The Mandalorian’”

3rd: Michael Schneider, *Variety*, “Inside ‘The Amazing Race’ High-Wire Act and the Scramble Behind the Scenes Making TV’s Most Ambitious Competition Show”

L19A. MUSIC FEATURE

Lisa Fung, *Los Angeles Times*, “Conducting has long been a male-dominated field. A new documentary aims to change that”

<http://bit.ly/3r0KHxh>

Judges’ comment: Fascinating story about female orchestra conductors and Maggie Contreras’ documentary “Maestra.” Fung intertwines interviews with female conductors with vignettes from La Maestra, the first international conducting competition solely for women. The story was a fun, interesting read.

2nd: Brett Callwood, *LA Weekly*, “A Life Less Ordinary: Tegan & Sara Are All About The Music”

3rd: Leena Tailor, *Rolling Stone*, “Tequila Toasts and Manicures: The Wild New Landscape of Music VIP Packages”

L19B. THEATER, ARTS FEATURE

Esther D. Kustanowitz, *LAist*, “Transparent Musical’: A Disco Ball Glitter Party Of Intersectional Self-Discovery As The Pfeffermans Take To The Stage”

<http://bit.ly/3sE9yrA>

Judges’ comment: A great in-depth look at a new musical. The feature combines some critique of the new production with a lot of behind the scenes detail on the creation of the musical, the sociological-political environment that inspires it, and the long personal and professional history of the creators in dealing with the subject matter. It goes well beyond the surface with wonderfully satisfying results for the readers.

2nd: Victoria Thomas, *Local News Pasadena*, “Banned ‘Bluest Eye’ is Anything but Bland at A Noise Within”

3rd: Abbey White, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “‘Dark Disabled Stories’ Invites Audiences to an Experiment in Unapologetically Accessible Theater”

L20. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Film/TV Personalities

Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, “Streaming News Threw Kasie Hunt Some Curves. Now She’s Straightening Them Out”

<https://bit.ly/3T45fRb>

Judges’ comment: Every word in this story is impactful — the quotes drive the narrative and it’s clear that it’s not just a story about Kasie Hunt. It makes larger issues accessible. Excellent.

2nd: Ky Henderson, *Men’s Journal*, “The Enduring Appeal of Keanu Reeves”

3rd: Suzy Exposito, *Los Angeles Times*, “‘Drag Race’ star Valentina opens up about fame, gender fluidity and her love of L.A.”

L21. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Music/Art/Society Personalities

Cynthia Rebolledo, *KCRW*, “The man who makes LA’s best tortilla-making machines”

<https://bit.ly/3vG7Xn2>

Judges’ comment: Sometimes great personalities are found where you least expect them. Rebolledo’s story about a man who creates custom-made tortilla machines is brilliantly told.

2nd: Tom Teicholz, *Forbes.com*, “Like a Butterfly: The Artistry of Gary Tyler”

3rd: Ellise Shafer, *Variety*, “Peter Doherty and Katia deVidas on Making Doc ‘Stranger in My Own Skin’ About the ‘Terror and Danger’ of Drug Addiction — and Falling in Love in the Process”

L22. COLUMNIST

Rob Eshman, *The Forward*

<https://forward.com/opinion/569520/how-to-talk-to-people-who-hate-israel/>

<https://forward.com/opinion/566953/many-universities-fumbled-reactions-to-hamas-attack-heres-how-dartmouth-got-it-right/>

<https://forward.com/opinion/563649/jewish-left-palestinian-resistance/>

Judges’ comment: These are difficult times for anyone trying to remain clear-headed. In terms of the Israel-Hamas War and its implications for the Middle East and beyond—a clear head seems nearly impossible. Not so for Mr. Eshman whose columns are balanced arguments forcing his readers toward logic and introspection. Thankfully, his voice rises above the din of condemnation and recrimination coming from those who believe death and destruction are the answer. For him, education and reason are the only possible ways to a hopeful future.

2nd: Erin Aubry Kaplan, *Truthdig*

3rd: George B. Sánchez-Tello, *Capital & Main*

L23. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, National

Norberto Santana, Jr., *Voice of OC*, "Santana: Washington Warned Us To Skate Through The National Political Fracas"

<https://voiceofoc.org/2023/02/santana-washington-warned-us-to-skate-through-the-national-political-fracas/>

Judges' comment: Offers a reminder that our partisan divides are corrupting politics at all levels, even down to municipal governments in Orange County. Strong local focus and a nice addition in the on-the-scene reporting from the RNC meeting. The combination of persuasive opinion, live reporting and historical context put this piece in first place.

2nd: Phil Hopkins, *Local News Pasadena*, "How the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Can Get Off Fodor's Trash Bucket List"

3rd: Chris Hedges, *ScheerPost*, "They Lied About Afghanistan. They Lied About Iraq. And They Are Lying About Ukraine."

L24. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, Local

Damien Newton, *Santa Monica Next*, "Behind the Imaginary Plot to Keep Phil Brock from Becoming Mayor"

<http://tinyurl.com/brockspiracy>

Judges' comment: An enlightening piece about the inside politics of a city council.

2nd: Norberto Santana, Jr., *Voice of OC*, "Santana: Anaheim Offers Key Lessons on How To Clean Up a City Hall"

3rd: Sharon Waxman, *TheWrap*, "The Liars of Media: Carlos Watson, Rupert Murdoch and Fox News"

L25. NON-POLITICAL COMMENTARY

Daniel Guss, *Substack*, "Does 99% of LA Have Any Remaining Rights?"

<https://bit.ly/48LpDeh>

Judges' comment: A courageous look at the effects of the LA homeless population on residents trying to simply go about their lives, and an indictment of officials who ignore the situation. Won't be popular with the woke crowd, but raises issues that should be confronted, and does it in a compelling way.

2nd: Hannah Joy, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "Opinion: Show USC some love, Rick Caruso"

3rd: Angel Gilbert, *Zócalo Public Square*, "My Mom Is Out of Prison, But I'm Still Not Free"

L26. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY, Film/TV

Julia Bricklin, *Zócalo Public Square*, "When Screenwriters Won an Uncredited Victory"

<https://zps.la/46CfQ9D>

Judges' comment: A fascinating essay about Hannah Weinstein, who used blacklisted writers in secret on a joint U.S.-British production of "Robin Hood" as a TV series. The writer skillfully describes the methods Weinstein used to make this work in the face of the Red Scare. Well researched and informative. A fascinating look at this little-known woman and her crusade to help writers who'd been stripped of their ability to earn a living.

2nd: Miles Klee, *Rolling Stone*, "The 'Barbie' and 'Oppenheimer' Double Feature Left Me Questioning Reality Itself"

3rd: Daniel D'Addario, *Variety*, "Fran Drescher Delivered the Performance of a Lifetime as SAG-AFTRA President"

L27. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY, Arts

Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Jason Aldean Already Had the Most Contemptible Country Song of the Decade. The Video Is Worse"

<https://bit.ly/4bXq5sl>

Judges' comment: Willman takes a deep dive into country singer Jason Aldean's "Try That in a Small Town" and its meaning beyond simple country lyrics.

2nd: Thom Geier, *AARP.org*, "Opinion: The Case Against Resurrecting Deceased Celebrities via AI"

3rd: Daniel D'Addario, *Variety*, "Michelle Williams as Britney Spears: 'The Woman in Me' Audiobook Is the Actor's Latest Brilliant Performance"

L28. BLOG, INDIVIDUAL

Richard Stellar, *TheWrap*, "AI Imagines a Lennon-McCartney Reunion"

<https://bit.ly/3Q73Uar>

Judges' comment: What an interesting use of ChatGPT: allowing it to create a conversation between Beatles Paul McCartney and John Lennon in the afterlife.

2nd: Mimi Balancia, *US Rocker*, "Elliot Easton Lets the Good Times Roll"

3rd: Daniel Guss, *Substack*, "Still Petty After All These Years"

L29. BLOG, GROUP

Tana Ganeva, Alexander Zaitchik, Christopher Ketcham, *Truthdig*, "Ear to the Ground"

<https://tinyurl.com/3sea353u>

Judges' comment: A riveting blog about inmates in prisons without air conditioning, especially as summers are getting hotter.

2nd: Borys Kit and Aaron Couch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Heat Vision"

3rd: Luis Moreno, *US Rocker*, "Sparks and They Might Be Giants Light it Up at Hollywood Bowl"

L30. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION EXCLUSIVE TO THE INTERNET

Capital & Main Staff, *Capital & Main*, "capitalandmain.com"

<https://capitalandmain.com/>

Judges' comment: Website has excellent flow, clean presentation of individual article design/layout. Strong visuals carry the feature stories.

2nd: Truthdig Staff, *Truthdig*, "truthdig.com"

3rd: Red Canary Magazine Staff, *Red Canary Magazine*,
"https://redcanarycollective.org/magazine"

L31. WEBSITE, TRADITIONAL NEWS ORGANIZATION

The Hollywood Reporter Staff, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "THR.com"

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/>

Judges' comment: The website has a very nice flow between sections top to bottom, strong overall visual layout. Clean footer with a magazine cover brings you back to print.

2nd: Variety Staff, *Variety*, "Variety.com"

3rd: Daimler Koch, Angelina Gevorgyan, Maya Diaz and Haik Ushaglyan, *The Mirror*,
"vnhsmirror.com"

M. SOCIAL MEDIA

Judged on content, creativity and engagement

M1. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By an Independent Journalist

Meghann Cuniff, *LegalAffairsAndTrials.com*, "Twitter/X coverage of Tory Lanez's sentencing for shooting Megan Thee Stallion"

<https://bit.ly/3xePH4I>

Judges' comment: Her use of Twitter, YouTube and Substack to cover a court trial was innovative and it played to the strengths of social media. She didn't overdo the ability to reach users on social media, was to-the-point and reported very efficiently. I especially loved her DocumentCloud links summarizing tweet threads and that's something I will be copying in my own work!

2nd: Nachele Davis, *TikTok*, "The lioness of the Senate and her 83 pieces of legislation that mean not a thing."

3rd: Daniel Guss, *Substack*, "Anti-Semitic Attack on @CantersDeli"

M2. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a Journalist Tied to an Organization

Anaja Smith, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "2023 Beauty Issue"

<http://thr.cm/smHs7xZ>

Judges' comment: Excellent use of social media as part of an overall content strategy for a special feature. Works both as complementary and standalone content.

2nd: Nicholas Ducassi, *Los Angeles Times*, "Nicholas Just One Question: If Women Ran Hollywood"

3rd: Jacqueline Cao and Johnny Neville, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "Students demand Gaza ceasefire during university walkout"

M3. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a Group

Veronica Flores, Vincent Perella, *IndieWire*, "How 'Barbie' Became Real"

<https://bit.ly/48JRUBW>

<https://bit.ly/490Ea6d>

<https://bit.ly/3T6r7tU>

Judges' comment: Well put together, clean editing, snappy and just right for social media. Great job!

2nd: Mark Horvath, *Invisible People*, "This Week In Invisible People's Homelessness News"

3rd: Ryan Fish, Anaja Smith, Dominoe Ibarra, Lesley Goldberg, Katie Kilkenny, Tiffany Taylor, Caitlin Huston, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Strike Coverage"

N. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS based in Southern California. Print, radio, TV or online. An English translation must be submitted along with the original work

N1. NEWS

Keiran Southern, *The Times/The Sunday Times of London*, "'My sister was last seen going into her home. I hope God is taking care of her'"

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/my-sister-was-last-seen-going-into-her-home-i-hope-god-is-taking-care-of-her-2khpjtcg6>

Judges' comment: Keiran Southern tells a compelling story of loss and resilience of the victims of the wildfires in Lahaina, Hawaii.

2nd: Roberto Croci, *D'Repubblica Icon Elle Venerdì*, "Things Learned In...Russia"

3rd: Michael Idato, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, "Zelensky v Eurovision: A political song and dance over the future of Europe"

N2. FEATURE

Katharina Wilhelm, *ARD German Public Radio*, "Hawaii: Paradise in peril"

<https://www.dw.com/en/hawaii-paradise-in-peril/audio-65302237>

Judges' comment: An eye-opening, disturbing audio feature about the dual pressures of tourism and climate warming on natural resources in Hawaii.

2nd: Marc Cooper, *Truthdig*, "Chile's Utopia Has Been Postponed"

3rd: Natasha Hakimi Zapata, *The Nation*, "The Progressive Refugee Policy That Puts the West to Shame"

N3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Michael Idato, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Melbourne Age*, "House of Tucci: Stanley Tucci is perfectly cast as a metrosexual James Bond in Citadel"

<https://shorturl.at/6bB7P>

Judges' comment: Idato's profile of Stanley Tucci is an excellent deep dive into what makes him tick.

2nd: Janet R. Nepales, *GMA-7*, "Filmmaker Ma-an Asuncion-Dagñalan on her debut film 'Blue Room'"

3rd: Roberto Croci, *Icon*, "Schwarzenegger"

N4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

Luca Celada, *il Manifesto*, "All That Glitter Is Not Globes"

<https://shorturl.at/VjjJY>

<https://shorturl.at/EAE1v>

<https://shorturl.at/4MIRk>

Judges' comment: This piece is a fascinating look into the privatization of The Golden Globe Awards. An interesting read whether you are a huge movie fan or not.

2nd: Janet R. Nepales, *GMA-7*, "Golden Globes, Variety host joint party in Cannes; Filipinos represent at the festival"

3rd: Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, "'The Color Purple' Q&A, led by Oprah, was as moving as the stunning film"

N5. COLUMNIST or CRITIC

Mary O'Hara, *Community Living Magazine*

<https://communitylivingmagazine.com/mary-ohara-vigilance-needed-to-maintain-disability-funding/>

Judge's Comment: O'Hara demonstrates a strong voice when tackling important issues, such as arguing for maintaining health funding for the poor and disabled in the United Kingdom and the U.S.

2nd: Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*

3rd: Roberto Croci, *Icon*

O. STUDENT MEDIA

Student media includes groups with students in charge, including school newspapers and/or online publishing. Student media: high school, local college, university undergraduate or graduate publications or news websites

O1. BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

The Union Staff, *The Union*

<http://tinyurl.com/wc47yvrh>

Judges' comment: Tons of solid news reporting, including an impressive investigative piece; powerful editorial; good mix of news, features and sports.

2nd: el Don Staff, *el Don*

3rd: L.A. City College Collegian Staff, *L.A. City College Collegian*

O2. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Angelina Gevorgyan, *The Mirror*, "The Mirror FALL 2023 issue"

<https://bit.ly/3ViRoro>

Judges' comment: An awesome paper with good use of art, illustrations and fonts.

2nd: Jaimie Chun, *The Accolade Specialty News Magazine*, "Recovery"

3rd: Kate Yang, *The Accolade*, "Marketing Makeover"

O3. BEST COLLEGE NEWS WEBSITE

Daily Bruin Staff, *Daily Bruin*, "DailyBruin.com"

<https://dailybruin.com/>

Judges' comment: This has the feel of a newspaper home page with categories to point you in the right direction, a lead story and even a breaking news bar.

2nd: The Union Staff, *The Union*, "ECCUnion.com"

3rd: The Los Angeles Loyolan Staff, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "LALoyolan.com"

O4. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWS WEBSITE

Daimler Koch, Angelina Gevorgyan, Maya Diaz, Haik Ushaglyan, *The Mirror*, "VNHSMirror.com"

<http://vnhsmirror.com/>

Judges' comment: For a high school newspaper website, I'd put this up against any professional newspaper site in the country. It's clean. It provides news from all spectrums of the high school.

2nd: Reagan Glidewell and Katherine Martinez, *Fullerton High School's Tribe Tribune*, "TribeTribune.com"

3rd: Susie Kim, *The Accolade*, "Shhsacolade.com"

O5. BEST NEWS PHOTO

Draco Guan, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "PHOTOS: Faces in the aftermath of Monterey Park mass shooting"

<https://bit.ly/3vYoouH>

Judges' comment: Draco Guan's photograph of a mother looking at her young son at a vigil for the victims of the Monterey Park shooting is selected as the top student news photograph. While the boy's expression is neutral, the vigil candle he holds illuminates the grief and concern on his mother's face. Guan's photograph is a zoomed in depiction of the fallout of mass violence, and captures how massacres impact individuals.

2nd: Caylo Seals, *The Corsair*, *Santa Monica College*, "Abortion Rights Protester"

3rd: Shengfeng Chien, *Daily Bruin*, "Angelenos take to streets of downtown Los Angeles in May Day march to City Hall"

O6. BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Caylo Seals, *The Corsair*, "Gone AWOL: Living in an RV Dwelling in Los Angeles"

<https://www.thecorsaironline.com/corsair/2023/11/17/gone-awol-living-in-an-rv-dwelling-in-los-angeles>

Judges' comment: To be able to enter someone's world and illustrate it like you did takes a good eye, creativity, patience and the ability to connect with people and gain their trust. These are all crucial things for a photojournalist. You also covered a very sensitive topic with humanity, which is a beautiful thing. The first photo drew me in immediately and made me want to read this woman's story.

2nd: Tom Fathi, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "Photo Feature: Rock the CASA"

3rd: Danha Sanchez, *el Don*, "La Santa hosted comedy rock band Green Jelly, and other local punk bands"

O7. BEST SPORTS WRITING

Braylin Collins, *CSULA University Times*, "Golden Eagles fight to the finish in final home series opener"

<https://bit.ly/43WgaAh>

Judges' comment: This article was very well written from the lead to the last sentence. I enjoyed the recap of the game and I wanted more at the end of the story.

2nd: David Padgett and Dante Diaz, *Fullerton High School's Tribe Tribune*, "Baseball players add boost to football season"

3rd: Will Simonds, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "What is the transfer portal process like as a women's basketball player?"

O8. BEST ARTS WRITING

Kim McGill, *Warrior Life*, "The naked truth: Art models inspire students to portray humanity in all its forms"

<https://tinyurl.com/ms76snmd>

Judges' comment: This is a deeply reported story on a part of the art world rarely highlighted: the art models behind artwork. It delves both into the professional side, historic side and education side, which makes it a story for this student media outlet. The author did a great job organizing so much information and continuing to report even when she had all perspectives represented.

2nd: Taylor Parise, *The Corsair*, "From Picket Lines Back to the Grind"

3rd: Adrianna Bean, *The Mirror*, "It's been a long time coming: The Eras Tour film is finally here"

O9. BEST NEWS WRITING, Campus Issues

Ma. Gisela Ordenes, *The Union*, "Human trafficking, fake students suspected in financial aid and enrollment scams"

<https://tinyurl.com/4rds2zhm>

Judges' comment: This story exposes a disturbing trend of fraud related to human trafficking that is occurring at college campuses across the country and sheds light on how it has impacted student life.

2nd: Shaanth Kodialam Nanguneri, *Daily Bruin*, "UC community members call for systemic change, action against caste discrimination"

3rd: Cebelihle Hlatshwayo, Renee Barlett-Webber, Samayia Kirby and Victor Chambers, *The Corsair*, "Play Right or Wrong"

O10. BEST NEWS WRITING, Off Campus issues

Katherine Martinez, *Fullerton High School's Tribe Tribune*, "Workshop advocates for drug awareness"

<https://bit.ly/43Kbc9j>

Judges' comment: You are a very strong writer. The amount of passion and personality that shone through during this article was incredible. You chose very strong sources and quotes that only elevated the emotion of the piece. You told the story very well, in a way that will pull readers in and make them want to read more. Fantastic work!

2nd: Ethan Huang and Grant Oh, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "The Los Angeles Korean Festival celebrates 50 years"

3rd: Jules Feeney, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "Prosecutor drops charges filed against the Annenberg students covering NFL draft in Kansas City"

O11. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Campus Issues

Dylan Winward, *Daily Bruin*, "In Plain Sight: As students sleep, UCLA bakeries turn on the ovens"

<http://bit.ly/4cvNlyn>

Judges' comment: A fun, informative article that paints a photo of behind-the-scenes campus many wouldn't think of.

2nd: Skyliie Molina, *The Mirror*, "Checkmate: Mastering a sport that's all in the mind"

3rd: Soleyana Shiferaw, *The Lion*, "'LMU has responded poorly': Arab students say they lack support amid Gaza war"

O12. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Off Campus Issues

Kim McGill, *Warrior Life*, "Justice for Cookie"

<https://tinyurl.com/3pjhfb7s>

Judges' comment: In a very competitive field, McGill's story about the killing of Juan "Cookie" Hernandez stands out not just for its exhaustive reporting but because of how well it is organized to lead readers through the pieces of the story.

2nd: Madison Thacker, *The Mirror*, "Lights, camera, hope: Kids in the Spotlight inspires foster youth to tell their stories"

3rd: Ethan Huang, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "How Asian American communities move forward after violence"

O13. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Campus Personalities

Jaimie Chun, *The Accolade*, "Uphill Journey: Sophomore with muscular myopathy advocates for herself"

<https://bit.ly/3Tu7QDI>

Judges' comment: This story combined all the elements of in-depth work in addition to finding a person who's interesting and has a good story to tell. Jaimie Chun included numbers that show that, while this one person seemed unusual, she wasn't, actually. And she found someone who had been temporarily disabled to provide a voice of empathy. The multiple sourcing made this article a winner.

2nd: Tanisha Bucad, *Daily Forty-Niner*, "The man behind 'the sign'"

3rd: Erica Lee, *Warrior Life*, "Carl Turano: a story of a cat caretaker looking after 9 lives"

O14. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Off Campus Personalities

Sasha Funes, *CSULA UT Community News*, "Her love for her family and community fueled her bakery"

<https://bit.ly/49yl3j3>

Judges' comment: Her love for her family and community fueled her bakery, A fun personality profile that starts with a catchy lead and takes readers through the life of a woman who started a bakery and gives back to her community.

2nd: Draco Guan, *USCAnnenbergMedia-elevASIAN*, "Gunfire not firecrackers – A survivor's Chinese New Year turns into an American horror story"

3rd: Will Bitting, *Fullerton High School's Tribe Tribune*, "Former addict tells his story to save lives"

O15. BEST TV or STREAM REPORTING

Hannah Medvene, Jo Moses, *The Lion*, "Eckankar: The Local Cult You've Never Heard Of"

<https://bit.ly/3U3lugB>

Judges' comment: A fascinating piece looking at Eckankar, a religious organization with cult leanings that most people have not heard of. Medvene and Moses look at its history – started by a journalist, no less – and its impact. An interesting topic to learn about.

2nd: Nathan Kuczmariski, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "Life of the Letters"

3rd: Kylee Warden, Narayan Pareda and Skye Lee, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "USC Graduate Students for Palestine hold a silent protest"

O16. BEST RADIO or PODCAST REPORTING

Anne To, Erik Adams, Anthony Aguilar, Oscar Beltran, Trevor Megginson, *UT Community News*, "Hurt but Hopeful"

<https://csulauniversitytimes.com/hurtbuthopeful/>

Judges' comment: Comprehensive series of short podcasts about different negative aspects of life such as bullying, body shaming, color shaming and more. The podcasts were interesting, heartbreaking and hopeful.

2nd: Olivia Rose, *The Lion*, "Sober and stoked in surf therapy"

3rd: Thomas Legrand, *USCAnnenbergMedia*, "How tall does a presidential candidate need to be to win the elections?"

P. A-MARK PRIZE FOR REPORTING ON MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Albert Serna Jr., TJ L'Heureux, Adrienne Washington, Anisa Shabir, Isaac Stone Simonelli, *Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting, Howard Center for Investigative Journalism*, "In the Sheriff We Trust"

<https://bit.ly/3xnQEHC>

<https://bit.ly/4aDmQFz>

<https://bit.ly/4czEziO>

Judges' comment: This package is a public service, using thoroughly reported stories and a strong video to expose a growing group of sheriffs nationwide - who are paid by taxpayers - interpreting and enforcing the law as it suits them. The reporting led to changes in taxpayer-funded sheriff training programs and spotlights a gross abuse of power and the spreading of misinformation by those the public trusts to uphold the law. This is excellent journalism. It's not "traditional" mis/disinfo reporting. What makes it so good/important as reporting goes is that it exposes the methods and mechanisms used by people trying to give extremist views an air of legitimacy by sneaking it into government functions.

Comment on category as a whole: Judges were impressed by a variety of approaches that included insightful spot reporting and deep investigative work. Some top entries pushed the boundary of "traditional" misinformation and disinformation reporting, digging into related methods used to lend authority to false claims or suppress true narratives."

2nd: Greg Mitchell, Lyn Goldfarb and Michelle Merker, *KCET*, "Memorial Day Massacre: Workers Die, Film Buried"

3rd: Alexandra Barinka, *Bloomberg News*, "TikTok Struggles to Take Down Deepfake Videos of Hamas' Victims"