

WINNERS

64th SoCal Journalism Awards Contest

A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A1. PRINT, over 50,000 circulation

Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://bit.ly/3v5WLwD> ; <https://bit.ly/3vGwGDu> ; <https://bit.ly/3K9UEwd> ; <https://bit.ly/3K6gTTB>

Judges' comment: Mr. Abramovitch's work exhibits great integrity-- information is organically fused with insight and emotional connection. His finely tuned, sensitive ear clearly inspires trust resulting in his subjects being placed in the most truthful light possible. He makes subjects into honest collaborators.

2nd Jem Aswad, *Variety*

3rd Michael Idato, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *Melbourne Age*

A2. PRINT, under 50,000 circulation Reporter, Columnist or Editor

Isai Rocha, *LA Weekly*

<https://tinyurl.com/3mftcb5> ; <https://tinyurl.com/7ddsrym> ; <https://tinyurl.com/bdf6szr3> ; <https://tinyurl.com/bdf6szr3>

Judges' comment: Whether exploring issues of diversity, pandemic inequities, or homelessness, Rocha delivers the goods by putting into sharp relief situations and issues many—including city officials and politicians—would rather ignore or keep in the dark. His work is commendable and deserving of recognition by both the public and his peers.

2nd Chandra Bozelko, *Victorville Daily Press*

3rd Diana Martinez, *San Fernando Valley Sun/El Sol Newspaper*

A3. TELEVISION JOURNALIST, includes multimedia journalists

David Ono, *KABC*

<https://tinyurl.com/yz76zb9k> ; <https://tinyurl.com/3mrxjzk> ; <https://tinyurl.com/2xjazsm> ; <https://tinyurl.com/2p9xcac2> ; <https://tinyurl.com/3mrxjzk> ; <https://tinyurl.com/y5ceydvq> ; <https://tinyurl.com/2n5staxm> ; <https://tinyurl.com/2p8e6kdx> ; <https://tinyurl.com/5e9kx9xa> ; <https://tinyurl.com/2brdcckk> ; <https://vimeo.com/688479181>

Judges' comment: Ono is a clarion voice in the TV landscape. His probing stories are an examination of the actual world beneath the everyday level of awareness most of us are content with. His work is grounded in an intense sense of observation. The remarkable Bonzai Hill feature was measured, reasoned and objective while being emotionally poetic. His FACEism series compares to the iconic 60 Minutes for depth and immediacy. Count this reviewer as extremely impressed.

2nd Angela Boisvert, *KCET*

3rd Elex Michaelson, *KTTV*

A4. AUDIO JOURNALIST

Caroline Feraday, *KCLU*

<https://bit.ly/3HlHfXE> ; <https://bit.ly/3ph5SYm> ; <https://bit.ly/3M5Tjsn> ; <https://bit.ly/3pjFvg1>

Judges' comment : So alive and vivid are Ms. Feraday's reports that you can hear the beating hearts of her subjects. She has the finely-tuned curiosity to seek out those human interactions that usually fly under the radar. Her audio portraits are poignant, compelling and ultimately inspiring.

2nd Steve Chiotakis, *KCRW*

3rd Robert Scheer, *KCRW/ScheerPost*

A5. ONLINE JOURNALIST

Robin Urevich, *Capital & Main*

<https://bit.ly/36q7oRD> ; <https://bit.ly/3vw2NpD> ; <https://bit.ly/3KX9VS6> ; <https://bit.ly/3JPUCJH>

Judges' comment: One can imagine Urevich getting giddy at the prospect of doing extensive work and mining overlooked details. You can feel the shoe leather being worn down by the intense probing. Nothing less than a full 3 dimensions will do — along with a full accounting of who is winning and who is losing in California's dysfunctional housing market. All the right questions are asked and answers demanded. She knows the streets of Los Angeles because she's immersed in the struggle for the simplest of Life's necessities — a decent place to live. Her work reads like a crusade against injustice!

2nd Stephanie Mendez, *ABC News/Good Morning America*

3rd Eric Preven, *CityWatchLA*

A6. ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST – any platform

Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*

<https://bit.ly/3afchn0> ; <https://bit.ly/3GHnJ1D> ; <https://bit.ly/3wjnhUq> ; <https://bit.ly/3N3CHC0>

Judges' comment: The naked truth, the lifting of veils requires an unflinching eye that is also both sympathetic and understanding of the creative process. What kind of intellectual symmetry must a perceptive Pop Culture critic have? It is impossible to articulate this unnatural ability except to point to Mr. Gleiberman's reviews as possible clues. In comparing Gaga to Streisand, Mr. Gleiberman excavates the non-obvious and intangible essence of transcendent talent. There are no shortcuts in his observations or in his knowledge of what legendary critics like Pauline Kael have had to say on the matter. One must be defiant of conventional wisdom and, thankfully, he is a rebel in this regard. He does so with an exquisite use of language while never seeming pompous or self-referential — qualities hard to find in most critics. Do we need our own specific understanding of simulation theory to choose what we should see or experience? Not as long as Mr. Gleiberman continues offering his observations.

2nd Rebecca Keegan, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd Chris Willman, *Variety*

A7. SPORTS JOURNALIST – any platform

Ryan Kartje, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://lat.ms/3EoTv2G> ; <https://lat.ms/3KXCVJw> ; <https://lat.ms/3rAXBzs> ; <https://lat.ms/3EtXvul>

Judges' comment: The recounting of wins and losses, performance stats, and standard analysis are the hallmarks of typical sports reporting. They are merely starting points in Kartje's work. He is interested in what makes an athlete tick and what we (the readers) have in common with our heroes. Sports are an essential part of our culture and a reflection of our values. Kartje keeps it real. There is no tiptoeing along the sacred surface. The expressiveness of his writing is equal to his need to peel back the layers of a story. This is the kind of reporting that leads to a deeper understanding of our idols — and of ourselves.

A8. PHOTOJOURNALIST/VIDEOGRAPHER

Marcus Yam, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhpwipw>

Judges' comment: A great photographic eye requires technical excellence to see beneath the clutter of unfolding life — sometimes amid dangerous chaos. Mr. Yam's submitted portfolio exhibits the power of an artistic vision fully realized through a communion of light, color, and composition, all in the service of exposing the humanity in front of his lens. This work achieves the purest form of visual communication.

2nd Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*

3rd Ernesto Torres, *KNBC*

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

B1. CONSUMER NEWS or FEATURE

Aitana Vargas, *Investor News*, "A Special Report: The Harrowing Impunity of White-Collar Crime"

<https://bit.ly/3xU2QOS> ; <https://bit.ly/3EOD9Rd> ; <https://bit.ly/3vgA5dq> ; <https://bit.ly/3vgmnaQ>

Judges' comment: Compelling story of intrigue and vitriol that goes down a trail through international and domestic law, individual broken dreams, and the hard-fought desire to bring a criminal to justice.

2nd Robin Urevich, *Capital & Main*, "The Gatekeepers"

3rd Dan Ross, Steve Appleford and Sasha Abramsky, *Capital & Main*, "Drought Nation"

B2. MEDICAL/HEALTH REPORTING

Esmé E. Deprez, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Hastening Death"

<https://bloom.bg/3vjhc8l> : <https://bloom.bg/3mUNp8>

Judges' comment: This pair of stories was phenomenal. Like the metaphor of the snake eating the person used in the second story, both of those stories make you fall in love with the individual, drawing the reader's attention and making the seriousness of the information more impactful but also more digestible than data alone could. Great work.

2nd Michaela Haas, *Al Jazeera*, "A geneticist's biggest challenge: Curing his own son"

3rd Thomas Curwen, *Los Angeles Times*, "She was dying of COVID-19. Her last hope would save her or kill her"

B3. SCIENCE REPORTING

Jason G. Goldman, *Alta Journal*, "Birdwatching Goes Both Ways"

<https://bit.ly/3Lgp29u>

Judges' comment: Fascinating story that works on many different levels. "It's more coexistence than conservation" really sums up the central theme. After reading it several times, new things kept popping out. Nicely done.

2nd John Markoff, *Alta Journal*, "The Butterfly Effect"

3rd Tara Lynn Wagner, *Spectrum News 1*, "Honeybee Hivemind"

B4. TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Eileen Guo and Hikmat Noori, *MIT Technology Review*, "This is the real story of the Afghan biometric databases abandoned to the Taliban"

<https://bit.ly/3umcQ0S>

Judges' comment: Captivating and frightening story about how good intentions for using technology can quickly become Pandora's digital box of horror. Excellent reporting presenting the very human consequences of technology falling into the wrong hands.

2nd Brian Contreras, *Los Angeles Times*, "What Facebook knew about its Latino-aimed disinformation problem"

3rd Susan Karlin, *Air & Space Magazine*, "These College Students Want to Make Sure No Pilot Ever Runs Out of Gas"

B5. TRAVEL REPORTING

Justin Chapman, *Culture Honey Magazine*, "Off-Season in Slab City, USA"

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

Judges' comment: Great descriptive writing, and the character of Jinxy Bonesaw really brings this quirky arts community to life. It allows for readers to become more invested in traveling to this place themselves, which accomplishes the intended goals of a travelogue.

2nd Christopher Reynolds, *Los Angeles Times*, "Paddle Into the Past: I took a rare (and affordable) trip to one of the most scenic parts of the West Coast"

3rd Lila Seidman, *Los Angeles Times*, "Surviving a nighttime visitor and other beginner backpacking adventures on Santa Rosa Island"

B6. RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY REPORTING

Juan Devis, Matthew Crotty, Laura Purdy, Anna Rau and Corbett Jones, *KCET*, "Tending Nature: Indigenous Land Stewardship"

<https://bit.ly/372C5fw>

Judges' comment: Great interviews tell a fascinating narrative. Breathtakingly beautiful shots, good editing, video and sound.

2nd Sarah Parvini, *Los Angeles Times*, "Black Muslims: Finding community and faith in South L.A."

3rd Louis Keene, *The Forward*, "Want to ruin a date? Bring up Israel."

B7. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE - Presentation of any combination of text, graphics, audio, video, etc.

Rosanna Xia, Paul Duginski and Sean Greene, *Los Angeles Times*, "Can reviving beach dunes help California with sea level rise?"

<https://lat.ms/3Md82Rv>

Judges' comment: The content and words drive this beautiful, engaging design that tugs the reader in and teaches a lot about the delicate ecosystem. Aspirational piece.

2nd Melissa Saenz Gordon, Evelyn Spence, Christian Anwander, Rudi Uebelhoer and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Eileen Gu profile"

3rd Liam Dillon, Ben Poston, SzuYu Chen, Aida Ylanan and Rahul Mukherjee, *Los Angeles Times*, "Freeways force out residents in communities of color — again"

B8. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF TV/FILM

Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "It's Time for the Emmys to Give Long-Running Broadcast TV Shows Like 'NCIS' and 'Grey's Anatomy' Their Own Category"

<https://bit.ly/3tq1KYf>

Judges' comment: A really good breakdown of the history of a well-loved property and how changing views affect how it is presented today. The writer argues it may be broken at its source and unfixable, despite good intentions. A good case is made.

2nd Malina Saval, *Variety*, "Too Jewish For Hollywood: As Antisemitism Soars, Hollywood Should Address Its Enduring Hypocrisy In Hyperbolic Caricatures of Jews"

3rd Beatrice Verhoeven, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Will the Academy Keep Up the Forward Momentum for Women Directors?"

B9. CRITICISM OF TV - Up to three samples.

Lorraine Ali, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://lat.ms/3uNPce5> ; <https://lat.ms/3uPGTOE> ; <https://lat.ms/3KUy5gc>

Judges' comment: This collection of reviews did so much more than just criticize characters, camera angles, or plot points. It gave context found in the human condition, watchers' own struggles and a myriad of other pieces not often found in such reviews. As a result, it gives the reader a full viewpoint with which to judge the review, and the work at issue, instead of simply a recap of what happened.

2nd Daniel D'Addario, *Variety*

3rd Caroline Framke, *Variety*

B10. CRITICISM OF FILM - Up to three samples.

Siddhant Adlakha, *IGN*

<https://bit.ly/3KZpUiu> ; <https://bit.ly/3wiXYS0> ; <https://bit.ly/3N0Nugl>

Judges' comment: The best film review doesn't just make you want to see a movie (or avoid it altogether), or put it into context — it makes you eager to experience it and talk about it after. Siddhant Adlakha brings out experience of film in these top-notch critiques.

2nd David Ehrlich, *IndieWire*

3rd Carlos Aguilar, A.V. *Club/RogerEbert.com/TheWrap*

B11. CRITICISM OF THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS - Up to three samples.

Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://lat.ms/3MeeVIR> ; <https://lat.ms/3vj4R42> ; <https://lat.ms/37pE6D5>

Judges' comment: This Sondheim piece captures a critic's knowledge and experience across decades.

2nd David Rooney, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd Thom Geier, *TheWrap*

B12. CRITICISM OF MUSIC - Up to three samples.

Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*

<https://bit.ly/3o4DVbu> ; <https://bit.ly/3MY08wl> ; <https://bit.ly/3tkBVJf>

Judges' comment: Among a good selection of entries, this writer gets the edge because of his willingness to acknowledge the flaws in his subject matter. There's an element of "what if" to his writing that is particularly appealing. What if the musicians in the documentary made better music? What if this documentary focused more the great music? It's possible to like something but not love it. But when this writer does love something, he knows how to write a love letter. Enjoyable work.

2nd Jem Aswad, *Variety*

3rd Steven Gaydos, *Variety*

B13. CRITICISM OF BOOKS - Up to three samples.

John Freeman, *Alta Journal*

<https://bit.ly/3Kk6FID>

Judges' comment: Not only does this review prepare expectations for Myriam Gurba's 'Mean,' but it also presented the style of the writing in a unique manner. This review didn't require the reader to come in with previous knowledge about the book's author or subject. But the reader leaves with all the information they need to decide whether to read 'Mean' or not.

2nd David L. Ulin, *Alta Journal*

3rd M.G. Lord, *Los Angeles Times*

B14. CRITICISM OF ART/ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN - Up to three samples.

Christopher Knight, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://lat.ms/3jM25iq> ; <https://lat.ms/3uPlzHW> ; <https://lat.ms/3uXydGp>

Judges' comment: Terrific writing. There is a fine balance between bringing insightful artistic criticism and still being accessible to the non-critic. This work walks the line perfectly.

2nd Lydia Lee, *Alta Journal*

3rd Dylan Robertson, Zoe Lukov, David Markun and R. Brett Thomas, *KCET*

B15. CRITICISM OF FOOD/CULTURE - Up to three samples.

Brad A. Johnson, *Orange County Register*

<https://bit.ly/3jXoUA4> ; <https://bit.ly/3xCJ08g> ; <https://bit.ly/3C72dS7>

Judges' comment: Witty and delicious prose that is imaginative and descriptive, just like the restaurants, food and chefs Johnson writes about.

2nd Bill Addison, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd Lucas Kwan Peterson, *Los Angeles Times*

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

C1. EDITORIALS

Kerry Cavanaugh, *Los Angeles Times*, "To save California, sacrifice single-family zoning"

<https://lat.ms/3jN5bCY>

Judges' comment: A strong position on an important statewide issue. This is the type of firm, well-researched editorial serious readers deserve.

2nd David Kipen, *Libros Schmibros Lending Library*, "Why We Need a New Federal Writers' Project"

3rd Mariel Garza, *Los Angeles Times*, "Newsom could be replaced by someone with a tiny fraction of the vote. That's nuts"

C2. HEADLINE - A single headline (may include a dek) that is dramatic/witty/smart.

Daryl H. Miller, *Los Angeles Times*, "A city looks up Marilyn Monroe's dress"

<https://bit.ly/3xQ5ovH>

Judges' comment: A slightly tawdry headline — but not too much — for a story that reveals an artistic and misogynistic folly.

2nd Jim Barrero, *Los Angeles Times*, "Wince and repeat"

3rd Dave Bowman, *Los Angeles Times*, "Thin Mints on your phone? Enable those cookies"

C3. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

Alexandria Herr and Clayton Aldern, *Capital & Main* and *Grist*, "California's Dirty Little Secret: Oil Wells in the Backyard"

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

Judges' comment: This story portrays the life and death impact of oil wells in certain communities. It uses vivid descriptions and compelling examples of the price some people are paying for this country's addiction to oil.

2nd Dean Kuipers, *Alta Journal*, "California's Farms: Drought, Depression, and Suicide"

3rd Isabella Zavarise, *Crosstown*, "For domestic violence survivors, restraining orders offer little protection"

C4. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Angelika Albaladejo, *Capital & Main* and *USA Today*, "A Drunk Mechanic, Shackled Immigrants, a Crash Landing: The Dangers of ICE Flights"

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

Judges' comment: The classic example of an investigative story that sheds light on a little-known problem, which, with every next flight, could become a headline-making disaster. Rich anecdotes — such as shackled immigrants being read the traditional safety measures before takeoff, often in a language they don't understand — help underscore the absurdity and danger.

2nd Michaela Haas, *Reasons to Be Cheerful*, "How One Woman Protected Millions of Acres"

3rd Evelyn McDonnell, *LMU Magazine*, "Cougar Town"

C5. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Lisa Fung, *Blueprint Magazine*, "Designs for the Future"

<https://bit.ly/3xeOR3r>

Judges' comment: This is a detailed look at how local government, residents, and experts can work together to creatively solve a problem, if they just make the effort.

2nd Adam Elmahrek, *Los Angeles Times*, "'They thought I was so low': Women say they were harassed, bullied, ignored at powerful water agency"

3rd Sahra Sulaiman, *Streetsblog Los Angeles*, "Anatomy of an Officer-Involved Explosion: A Post-Mortem on LAPD's E. 27th Street Fireworks Blast"

C6. NATIONAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Tyler Kingkade, Ben Collins and Brandy Zadrozny, *NBC News Digital*, "Critical race theory battle invades school boards — with help from conservative groups"

<https://nbcnews.to/3vfyEF>

Judges' comment: The battle lines of America's New Civil War are clearly exposed in this excellent, well-researched report. This is important work!

2nd Shirley Halperin and Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "Why Did Roc Nation CEO Desiree Perez Receive a Trump Pardon?"

3rd Nichola Groom, *Reuters*, "How a Burmese immigrant profited by flipping cheap oil leases from Trump auctions"

C7. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Evan Halper, Carolyn Cole and Jackeline Luna, *Los Angeles Times*, "California's electric car revolution, designed to save the planet, also unleashes a toll on it"

<https://lat.ms/38lO7e3>

Judges' comment: In a very competitive category, this story stood out thanks to its extremely deep reporting and Halper's easy-to-understand writing style. As is often the case, the solution to one environmental problem yields a subset of other concerns. There are no easy answers, and Halper's nuanced story covers all angles of the lithium battery/EV debate.

2nd Anna M. Phillips, Tony Barboza, Ruben Vives, Sean Greene and Genaro Molina, *Los Angeles Times*, "Heat waves are far deadlier than we think. How California neglects this climate threat"

3rd Joy Lanzendorfer, *Alta Journal*, "Flight of the Condors"

C8. EDUCATIONAL REPORTING

Nicole Einbinder, *Insider*, "Insider investigation reveals officials helped sell access to California public school to Chinese elite"

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

Judges' comment: In a brilliant, exhaustive examination with documentation of the quizzical ties between the Val Verde School District and an entrepreneur setting up a California high school in China, Einbinder unveils the machinations of numerous individuals to promote a scheme to guarantee students entrance to the University of California system.

2nd Jamie Coronado, Jericho Dancel, Briana Munoz, Martha Nerio, Julie Patel Liss and Catherine Valdez, *KCET*, "Professors in Peril: Adjuncts in California Face Uncertainty and Financial Insecurity"

3rd Nadra Nittle, *The 19th News*, "Librarians are resisting censorship of children's books by LGBTQ+ and Black authors"

C9. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

Adam Tschorn, *Los Angeles Times*, "My dad was dying, but a goofy Thanksgiving hat helped my family cope"

<https://lat.ms/3xRlmX1>

Judges' comment: This wonderfully reminiscent piece about an act that brought others joy picks up where the author's beloved turkey hat left off.

2nd Tabby Refael, *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, "Beverly Hills, What a Thrill"

3rd Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "The Brilliant Stupidity of Robert Palmer's 1986 No. 1 Hit, 'Addicted to Love'"

C10. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION – Film/TV Personalities

Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*, "Lina Wertmüller: A Trailblazer Whose Best Films, Like 'Seven Beauties,' Swept You Away"

<https://bit.ly/3N4Ut8i>

Judges' comment: Even if the name Lina Wertmuller felt unfamiliar previously, reading her obituary sure changed that. Instead of simply recounting the bullet points of her life, Gleiberman put her work and life into context and told readers why her audience should care about her. This piece explores not only what she accomplished, but her place in the broader world. Excellent job.

2nd Tim Gray, *Variety*, "Sidney Poitier: A Living Legend Who Changed Hollywood"

3rd Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Appreciation: Betty White Was as Important as She Was Beloved"

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

Jon Regardie, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "No One Loved Los Angeles Like Tom LaBonge Loved Los Angeles"

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

Judges' comment: Every city should have a Jon Regardie, who brings his audience into the life of a late politician by delightfully retelling the day the councilman got his shovel from his trunk, then "with his tie still on, he unclogged a flooded storm drain."

2nd Bill Donahue, Nora O'Donnell and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Jake Burton Carpenter's Life and Death"
3rd Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Phil Spector: When a Musical Hero Is a Moral Monster"

C12. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM - Rigorous reporting on a response to a problem and its associated evidence. Series or single story.

Taylor Walker, *Witness LA*, "Pregnant Behind Bars"

<https://bit.ly/3zLCFXC> ; <https://bit.ly/3mqPATp> ; <https://bit.ly/3uTbQ4l> ; <https://bit.ly/3Mdtshp> ; <https://bit.ly/3jSrSFy>

Judges' comment: This series is exemplary as solutions journalism and as all-around great journalism. It portrays the featured individuals as mothers with goals rather than solely incarcerated people; it is candid and thorough with shortcomings; and it embraces the complexity around what it takes to make programs like this work over time.

2nd Leila Miller, *Los Angeles Times*, "He befriended his brother's murderer. In each other, they found healing"

3rd Francine Kiefer, *Christian Science Monitor*, "From LA Jail, Two Inmates Pioneer Care for Mentally Ill Peers"

C13. IMMIGRATION REPORTING (includes Dreamers)

Sam Slovick, *Red Canary Magazine*, "At the Border"

<https://bit.ly/3MSZ39g>

Judges' comment: Sam Slovick draws his readers in through the stories surrounding the Tijuana areas and allows the space for them to connect personally with both the setting and its characters. After reading this piece, his audience is able to better understand the plight of the immigrants at the border, yet also understand the implications left by bureaucratic policy that prevented an easy ingress from Nueva Aurora, past Zona Norte and into "el norte." This was a well-articulated and balanced article that leaves readers hungry to continue probing the struggles of immigrants.

2nd Héctor Tobar, *Alta Journal*, "Why I Write: To Be Tall"

3rd Molly Hennessy-Fiske, *Los Angeles Times*, "Losing Rosario: A mother sent her daughter across the border. Before they could reunite, one died"

C14. GENDER AND SOCIETY (includes LGBTQ reporting)

Lee Nxumalo, Peter Flax and Nora O'Donnell, *The Red Bulletin*, "The Fastest Girl in the Village"

<https://win.gs/3vfQxum>

Judges' comment: Top-notch reporting, clear, concise story reels in the reader to consider a whole new world. Beautiful images enhance the narrative.

2nd Tyler Coates, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Welcome to Chechnya' Director on Doc's Impact"

3rd Randy Dofinga, *Noir City Magazine*, "Lavender Noir"

C15. CRIME REPORTING

Julia Flynn Siler, *Alta Journal*, "A Horrible Death To Die"

<https://bit.ly/3vJY9nR>

Judges' comment: Julia Flynn Siler focused on an oft-overlooked, and sometimes whitewashed, event in history. She told the story of a posthumous investigation by painting an image of the life and personality, often misunderstood, of the focus of her story. What was completed was an empathetic look back at a woman whose leadership was ignored and whose death was overlooked.

2nd Alene Tchekmedyan and James Queally, *Los Angeles Times*, "L.A. County sheriff refuses to name deputies who open fire, defying state's high court"

3rd Doug Smith, James Queally and Genaro Molina, *Los Angeles Times*, "24 fires a day: Surge in flames at L.A. homeless encampments a growing crisis"

C16. SPORTS - Any News or Feature on sports

Steve Henson, *Los Angeles Times*, "Signed, sealed, delivered: How the gift of a 1963 baseball connected two Oxnard men"

<https://lat.ms/3vqckhN>

Judges' comment: The subject matter is amazing and moving, and the author's well-crafted, wonderfully written story does it proper justice.

2nd Louise Farr, *Alta Journal*, "The Accident on the Pacific Coast Trail"

3rd Dan Woike, *Los Angeles Times*, "Just a kid from Hawthorne: The high stakes of Russell Westbrook's homecoming"

C17. SPORTS COMMENTARY

Matt Welch, *Reason*, "How Government Devastated Minor League Baseball"

<https://bit.ly/3L16fPw>

Judges' comment: It's long, but it's well-done. Insightful commentary and analysis that also serves as an explainer.

2nd Bill Shaikin, *Los Angeles Times*, "MLB should consider moving 2021 All-Star game from Atlanta"

3rd Dylan Hernandez, *Los Angeles Times*, "Do allegations of harassment, bullying make Trevor Bauer a risk for Dodgers?"

D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY All Platforms

D1. NEWS PHOTO - A single image relating to a breaking story.

Marcus Yam, *Los Angeles Times*, "Gaza in Ruin"

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

Judges' comment: The beauty of this image refutes the tragic destruction that created it by also embodying a glimmer of hope.

2nd Ringo Chiu, *Associated Press*, "Wildfire Victims"

3rd Ted Soqui, *Capital & Main*, "Troy the Cat-Man"

D2. FEATURE PHOTO - A single image created for a feature story, or as a stand-alone.

Allen J. Schaben, *Los Angeles Times*, "Surfing with goats at the San Clemente Pier"

<https://lat.ms/3EF4aGr>

Judges' comment: Can Schaben's readers all go to Pismo Beach just once to see the regal Pismo the Goat leading six surfers through crashing waves?

2nd Corina Marie and Ada Guerin, *TheWrap*, "Ted Lasso feature"

3rd Joe Pugliese, Rudi Uebelhoer, Tara Thompson and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Justin Williams in Malibu"

D3. PORTRAIT PHOTO - Entertainment

Ash Barhamand, Jenny Sargent, Kayla Landrum and Lia Clay Miller, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Billy Porter: This is What HIV-Positive Looks Like Now"

<https://rb.gy/1qjad0>

Judges' comment: Beautiful, celebratory, fearless, and filled with something else – calm.

2nd Jill Greenberg and Ada Guerin, *TheWrap*, "Tilda Swinton Portraits"

3rd Jill Greenberg and Ada Guerin, *TheWrap*, "MJ Rodriguez Portraits"

D4. PORTRAIT PHOTO - Non-Entertainment

Ringo Chiu, *ZUMA Press*, "Homelesswoman Valerie Zeller"

<https://bit.ly/3rtzBb3>

Judges' comment: The human beauty and honesty found in the reflection from a mirror at the Echo Park homeless encampment is nothing short of profound.

2nd Penni Gladstone, *Alta Journal*, "The Mushroom Man's Magic"

3rd Steven Lippoman, Rudi Uebelhoer, Tara Thompson and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Carissa Moore"

D5. SPORTS PHOTO - A single sports image.

Michael Muller, Rudi Uebelhoer, Tara Thompson and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Matisse Thybulle: Above and Beyond"

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

Judges' comment: NBA guard Matisse Thybulle lifts himself over Philadelphia. A powerful shot of a powerful player.

2nd Ringo Chiu, *Associated Press*, "Cutout Fans"

D6. ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO - A single entertainment image.

Ash Barhamand, Kayla Landrum, AB+DM Studio, Ahmad Barber and Donte Maurice, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "House of Gaga"

<https://rb.gv/kqa09v>

Judges' comment: An iconic photo of a modern icon, the House of Gaga star poses as the Queen of Spades. Full House for this picture, from idea to execution. Perfection.

2nd Donna Balancia, *US Rocker*, "Julian Marley, Son of Legendary Bob Marley, Brings 'Straighter Roads' Tour to U.S."

3rd Kimberly Jarvis, *ESPN*, "The Undeclared and Getty Images Launch Exclusive Photo Series Showcasing Black Culture"

D7. PHOTO ESSAY (single topic) Culture/Entertainment - At least two images published the same day, or as a series.

Jay L. Clendenin, *Los Angeles Times*, "A year in film"

<https://tinyurl.com/ybjhjc7x> ; <https://lat.ms/38cu2NZ> ; <https://lat.ms/3rHWbDn> ; <https://lat.ms/3k2pb4w> ; <https://lat.ms/3v6aqwB> ; <https://lat.ms/37CcbQl> ; <https://lat.ms/38bRwT6> ; <https://lat.ms/3vCUoAy>

Judges' comment: This was an especially hard contest to judge because so many of the images were evocative and poignant, but this particular essay worked so well to illustrate its subject in a beautiful way.

2nd David Bacon, *Capital & Main*, "California Farmworkers Still Tending Fields in 114-Degree Heat"

3rd Jon Rou, *LMU Magazine*, "Crowns Feature Photography"

D8. PHOTO ESSAY (single topic) News/News Feature - At least two images published the same day, or as a series.

Gina Ferazzi, *Los Angeles Times*, "California's climate nomads: The 2018 Camp fire left them homeless, struggling to survive"

<https://tinyurl.com/mwhr958j> ; <https://lat.ms/3vAtWri>

Judges' comment: There were some incredible images to judge, but the story of California's climate nomads was absolutely striking.

2nd Marcus Yam, *Los Angeles Times*, "Sorrow and Defiance"

3rd Yannick Peterhans, *USC Annenberg Media*, "USC Olympian swims for the podium"

D9. EDITORIAL CARTOON

Mr. Fish (Dwayne Booth), *ScheerPost*, "Happy Indigenous People's Day From Those Who Made It Possible"

<https://bit.ly/3jhu6OH>

Judges' comment: Mr. Fish reinvigorated a familiar parallel with an artful and heavy, but not heavy-handed, rendering.

2nd Steve Greenberg, *CrooksandLiar.com*, "Nuke Capitol Defense"

D10. ILLUSTRATION

Mark Smith, *Alfa Journal*, "The Search of a Lifetime"

<https://bit.ly/3NjoiH9>

Judges' comment: This category was full of amazing works of art. This one stood out because of how much each image tells a story. The scenes are presented in a way that is visually unique and full of intrigue and foreboding.

2nd Chris Sickels and Red Nose Studio, *Alfa Journal*, "The Next West, Issue 15"

3rd James Ransome, *Alfa Journal*, "Biddy Mason and Hannah Embers Were Here"

D11. GRAPHIC

Vera Valentine, *KCET*, "The Curiously Magical Air of Los Angeles"

<https://bit.ly/3DSv4Ky>

Judges' comment: What could seemingly be more evanescent and formless than air? Yet, Vera Valentine's illustrations brightly and concretely establish themselves as necessary elements of this essay on the "magical air" of Los Angeles.

2nd Matt Twombly and Michael Schwab, *Alfa Journal*, "A Guide + Map to California"

D12. ANIMATION/MOVING GRAPHIC

Shideh Ghandeharizadeh and Kiera Smith, *Crosstown*, "They were homeless. Now they're dead."

<https://bit.ly/3x6w7q>

Judges' comment: Shideh Ghandeharizadeh and Kiera Smith ably showed how animation can serve to not just amuse and invigorate, but prompt interest in pressing news with an appropriately respectful tone.

2nd Jon San, Tim Chaffee and Quinn Lemmers, *Yahoo Life*, "The Edmund Pettus Bridge"

3rd Amun Levy, *KCET*, "Endless Summer"

D13. COVER ART

Peter Cury, Kelsey Stefanson and Eric Heintz, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Everyone Just Knows He's an Absolute Monster: Scott Rudin's Ex-Staffers Speak Out on Abusive Behavior"

<https://rb.gy/jdzeib>

Judges' comment: The "bully," depicted as finally getting payback, offers a stark and unapologetic portrait. What retribution looks like.

2nd Corina Marie and Ada Guerin, *TheWrap*, "Ted Lasso cover"

3rd Raul Aguila, Jennifer Dorn and Sophy Holland, *Variety*, "Variety's Power of Women Cover (Michaela Coel)"

D14. PAGE DESIGN - Demonstrating outstanding art direction and layout, graphics.

John Goecke, *Alfa Journal*, "Book of Jim Harrison's Last Poems, Pull-out keepsake Issue 17"

<https://bit.ly/3ne3ccn>

Judges' comment: John Goecke's careful balance of text and imagery pulls together elements from multiple sources — reported narrative, photos, illustrations, and Jim Harrison's indelible poetry — and creates a cohesive design that appropriately directs attention rather than calling attention to itself.

2nd Peter Cury, Kelsey Stefanson and Heather Hazzan, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Martinis and Red Meat With Kieran Culkin: The 'Succession' Star on Childhood, Co-Stars and Fame"

3rd Beatrice Alcalá, *Los Angeles Collegian*, "City Rest on Hollowed Ground"

D15. BEST ISSUE - A publication, supplement or special issue from a single day, demonstrating outstanding art direction, layout and/or graphics.

John Goecke, *Alta Journal*, "A Year Like No Other"

<https://bit.ly/3OnzQ7c>

Judges' comment: It was truly difficult to decide which issue of the Alta Journal to give first place to. Every page was full of incredible articles, photos, illustrations, and layouts that would make the audience gasp with delight.

2nd Beatrice Alcalá, *Collegian Times*, "Cultured L.A."

3rd Joanna Andreasson, *Reason*, "The Ashes of the Evil Empire"

E. PRINT – ANY OUTLET

E1. HARD NEWS - One day's coverage of a hard news story.

Isai Rocha, *L.A. Weekly*, "Man Stabbed At Anti-Vax Rally Near L.A. City Hall"

<https://tinyurl.com/3c4ydn7w>

Judges' comment: Well written and covered all the bases for a breaking news story. Excellent job of gathering facts but also getting the quotes from protagonists that told the story in human terms and dramatized the polarization driving some people to violence over a public health issue.

2nd Erika I. Ritchie, *OC Register/Southern California News Group*, "9 deaths in July's Marine AAV training off San Clemente Island were preventable, investigation finds"

3rd Los Angeles Times Staff, *Los Angeles Times*, "Massive oil spill sends crude onto Orange County beaches, killing birds, marine life"

E2. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Gary Baum, Rebecca Sun and Katie Kilkenny, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Undoing of Hollywood's Favorite Pole-Dancing Studio"

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

Judges' comment: A story about a unique way for women to find fitness and empowerment takes several dark turns in a balanced, thorough enterprise report.

2nd Lisa Boone, *Los Angeles Times*, "Two L.A. families turned a McMansion into the ultimate pandemic pod. How'd they do it?"

3rd Cindy Carcamo, *Los Angeles Times*, "I tried to start a pandemic pod for my 5-year-old. Here's how it went wrong"

E3. RACE AND SOCIETY

Anh Do, *Los Angeles Times*, "White residents burned this California Chinatown to the ground. An apology came 145 years later."

<https://lat.ms/3vnEN7K>

Judges' comment: A Black mayor elected amidst the Black Lives Matter movement eloquently addresses his city's ugly past. The writing is stark, direct, and honest.

2nd Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn, *LMU Magazine*, "Crowns"

3rd Yvonne Villarreal, *Los Angeles Times*, "'Selena' writers say Netflix series disrespected the singer — and staff"

E4. PANDEMIC REPORTING

Joe Mozingo, *Los Angeles Times*, "For two COVID-19 patients, life and death rests on 'el tubo'"

<https://lat.ms/37yWjOx>

Judges' comment: A compelling look at the impact of Covid on certain neighborhoods and how where you live could be a major factor in whether you survived the pandemic. The narrative approach is a real winner and grabs the reader.

2nd Marisa Gerber, *Los Angeles Times*, "COVID-19 took away their last moments together. Now families cherish what was left behind"

3rd Diana Martinez and Alejandro JSM Chavez, *San Fernando Valley Sun/El Sol Newspaper*, "Through Art Nursing Professor Expresses Urgency to Protect Health Care Workers"

E5. BUSINESS - An article or series.

Hugo Martin, *Los Angeles Times*, "CEOs promised to cut their pay during the pandemic. Here's how they wound up earning more"

<https://lat.ms/3OnmtVg>

Judges' comment: A detailed review of SEC filings to show that several chief executive officers of big companies actually increased their compensation through bonuses, stock options, and other goodies while publicizing their "pay cuts" — and laying off workers during the pandemic. This is a great example of enterprise business reporting that showcases reality instead of self-serving press releases.

2nd Gary Baum and Alex Ritman, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "From Opioid Crisis to Hollywood: Heir to Purdue Pharma Undergoes 'Identity Makeover'"

3rd Connor Sheets, *Los Angeles Times*, "From Alabama to California, a trip along the broken supply chain"

F. NEWSPAPERS Over 50,000 circulation includes news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team.

F1. NEWS FEATURE – General News/Hard News

Ryan Kartje, *Los Angeles Times*, "Ex-Trojan Chris Brown drowned in a Malibu pool; his death opened a window into his life"

<https://lat.ms/3rA1HYL>

Judges' comment: This story about Chris Brown was so well written. It could easily be seen what he was describing and feel the pain that Brown's father felt. A wonderful and impressive entry.

2nd Thomas Curwen, *Los Angeles Times*, "A bomb, a death, a war's painful legacy: Remembering the first Californian killed in Afghanistan"

3rd Beau Yarbrough, *Press-Enterprise*, "Riverside County desert ghost town sells for \$6 million"

F2. NEWS FEATURE – Society/Culture/History (for Environment and Education see category C, for Science, Technology and Travel see category B)

Erika Ritchie, *OC Register/Southern California News Group*, "How an unofficial military network helped 2 families of Afghan interpreters evacuate from Kabul"

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

Judges' comment: The story was very well written. It keeps readers engaged and really makes them care about the subject and those involved. The length was perfect and the writer really conveyed why the interpreters were so important and valued.

2nd Daniel Miller, *Los Angeles Times*, "J.P. Morgan's million-dollar pocket watch vanished. The hunt for it became an obsession"

3rd Emily St Martin, *Los Angeles Daily News/Southern California News Group*, "Teachers are amping up to help handle students' pandemic-era trauma"

F3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

August Brown, *Los Angeles Times*, "A homeless L.A. musician helped create a Daft Punk classic. So why hasn't he seen a dime?"

<https://lat.ms/3JXlvdH>

Judges' comment: August Brown examines a complex musical and moral issue about long-overdue payments owed to an L.A. musician challenged by periodic homelessness. This could not have been an easy story to research and write, but it asks questions that deserve timely answers.

2nd Jen Yamato, *Los Angeles Times*, "How the F9 team sought justice for Han and shaped the franchise's future"

3rd Greg Braxton, *Los Angeles Times*, "Last summer, Disney promised change. Then the first Black 'Bachelor's' season unraveled"

F4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Meredith Blake, *Los Angeles Times*, "Molly Shannon is a comedy legend. Now she's opening up about the tragedy that shaped her"

<https://lat.ms/3xA0JQ1>

Judges' comment: A great read here, well-structured and vivid enough information about Shannon's past with more of a focus on her newest work, and all the dots were connected to her memoir. Kept the audience reading all the way to the end.

2nd Deborah Vankin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Academy Museum hired a hawk. His name is Spencer, and he scares for a living"

3rd Erika Ritchie, *OC Register/Southern California News Group*, "Most Influential: After a military death, this Garden Grove woman honors the fallen"

F5. INVESTIGATIVE - May include relevant information on the impact, or supporting editorials and letters to the editor. Series accepted.

Jack Dolan, Kim Christensen, Melody Gutierrez and Britny Mejia, *Los Angeles Times*, "California Medical Board and Troubled Doctors"

<https://lat.ms/387MDux> ; <https://lat.ms/3K1vLmi> ; <https://lat.ms/37vXZzd> ; <https://lat.ms/3uVOJ9F> ; <https://lat.ms/3JXUYhi>

Judges' comment: Congratulations for doing a phenomenal job of shining a light on a disturbing trend that has caused so much heartache for so many in your state. Your meticulous reporting and compelling writing made this project stand out from others in this category.

2nd Jessica Gelt, *Los Angeles Times*, "The women who brought down Burger Records"

3rd Alene Tchekmedyan, Ben Poston and Julia Barajas, *Los Angeles Times*, "L.A. sheriff's deputies use minor stops to search bicyclists, with Latinos hit hardest"

F6. COMMENTARY - On political, social, cultural, investigative, judicial, economic or other serious subjects. For editorials see C1.

LZ Granderson, *Los Angeles Times*, "Commentary by LZ Granderson"

<https://lat.ms/3LdcEHZ> ; <https://lat.ms/3jisPO2> ; <https://lat.ms/3xCjJ02>

Judges' comment: LZ Granderson's column on what it is to be a Black gay man living through 2021 peeled back the curtain of how some members of society suffered, survived, and learned to move forward in 2021. His writing enlightened, provoked, and took his readers into a world that's often times ignored. Reading the article, one could feel like Granderson was sitting next to them talking. Well done.

2nd Ryan Lo and Chandra Bozelko, *USA Today/Freelance*, "What prosecutors did to the Tiger King shouldn't happen to anyone else. But it does."

3rd Jean Guerrero, *Los Angeles Times*, "Commentary by Jean Guerrero"

F7. COLUMNIST - One person's viewpoint. Up to 3 samples.

Erika D. Smith, *Los Angeles Times*, "The persistent inequities of COVID-19"

<https://lat.ms/3Ev1kne> ; <https://lat.ms/3JW7DBD> ; <https://lat.ms/3xEgvt5>

Judges' comment: Erika D. Smith's writing grappled with the challenges of COVID-19 and the unvaccinated. It did what good writing should, it highlighted points of view that hadn't previously been considered and made readers reconsider their points of view. The columns were written in prose that moved each column forward and with a pacing that never felt forced or slow. Smith's columns were universal but written from her point of view. These samples makes us want to read more of her writing.

2nd Gustavo Arellano, *Los Angeles Times*, "Columns by Gustavo Arellano"

3rd Patt Morrison, *Los Angeles Times*, "Explaining LA"

G. NEWSPAPERS - Under 50,000 circulation Includes news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team.

G1. NEWS FEATURE

Francine Kiefer, *The Christian Science Monitor*, "From LA jail, two inmates pioneer care for mentally ill peers"

<https://bit.ly/3CMVr3W>

Judges' comment: Kiefer's incisive article highlighting how two L.A. County Jail inmates have greatly helped other troubled inmates cope with jail conditions and inspire them to reduce loneliness with friendship could be a model for other jails.

2nd Samuel Breslow, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "Beverly Hills Salon Owner Recounts Her Actions in D.C. Riot"

3rd Gabriel San Roman, *Daily Pilot*, "Amid new revelations, Alex Odeh's assassination remains unsolved"

G2. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

Brett Callwood, *LA Weekly*, "Can Our Stages Be Saved?"

<https://bit.ly/3B9PewO>

Judges' comment: This story was a great illustration of a group of people who have struggled through the pandemic - and continue to struggle, even as the pandemic is seemingly ending. While the author believes the mentioning of this topic is considered frivolous to discuss, the entertainment industry employees thousands of people and often they (like restaurants, bars, others) were overlooked.

2nd Justin Sayers, *Beverly Press/Park LaBrea News*, "Misidentification of Asian-American actress sparks outrage"

3rd Lina Lecaro, *LA Weekly*, "Licorice Pizza: A Conversation with P.T. Anderson About his new Slice of Nostalgia"

G3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Lisa Bloch, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "The Beverly Hills Idol, Lionel Richie"

<https://bit.ly/3xVY7Mg>

Judges' comment: A perfect example of how good questions elicit thoughtful, in-depth answers!

2nd Gabriel San Roman, *Times OC*, "How OC Weekly's founding editor turned conservative libertarian firebrand"

3rd Lina Lecaro, *LA Weekly*, "Inside the Masterful, Much Obligated Mind of Joseph Gordon-Levitt"

G4. INVESTIGATIVE - May include relevant information on the impact, or supporting editorials and letters to the editor. Series accepted.

Scott Schwebke, *Southern California News Group*, "Los Angeles DA George Gascon vs. Crime Victims"

<https://bit.ly/3lpk9c5> ; <https://bit.ly/3L17A8i> ; <https://bit.ly/3L2SnE1> ; <https://bit.ly/3lr2HnB> ; <https://bit.ly/3Jqv0nv> ; <https://bit.ly/3L1NiLV> ; <https://bit.ly/3qjG3qk>

Judges' comment: The series by Scott Schwebke was excellent, well-researched, and documented by facts and quotes that had a powerful impact resulting in major changes.

2nd Brian Hews, *Los Cerritos Community News*, "Megataxers"

3rd Helene Seifer, *Larchmont Chronicle*, "Neighborhood regular sparks chats and compassion ("Giorgio")"

G5. COMMENTARY - On political, social, cultural, investigative, judicial, economic or other serious subjects. For editorials see C1.

Tabby Refael, *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, "Want to Know What Will Become of Afghanistan? Ask Iranian Women"

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

Judges' comment: Deeply insightful, the author argues in troubling prose that women in Afghanistan face a special horror of repression, then freedom — then losing it. A must-read.

2nd Thomas Elias, *California Focus*, "High Time Utility Execs Pay for Their Crimes"

3rd David Suissa, *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, "How Do You Fight Antisemitism? With Arab Israelis."

G6. COLUMNIST - One person's viewpoint

Thomas Elias, *California Focus*

<https://bit.ly/36LvBBY> ; <https://bit.ly/3KitOBY> ; <https://bit.ly/3ONwLhE>

Judges' comment: An observant columnist holding the powerful accountable. As fewer observant eyes monitor local, regional state level politics, there is no doubt his role has grown all the more important in recent years.

2nd David Suissa, *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*

3rd Patricia Bunin, *Southern California News Group*

H. MAGAZINES

Including magazines with L.A. bureaus

H1. INVESTIGATIVE - Reporting by an individual or team.

Gary Baum, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Drugs, Death and Denial at a Rehab for the Rich"

<https://bit.ly/3rEtJ5b>

Judges' comment: Detailed account of high-end scammers of people in rehab. Lots of good sources and anecdotes to build the case against the Red Door.

2nd C.J. Ciaramella, *Reason*, "The \$2 Drug Test Keeping Inmates in Solitary"

3rd Tatiana Siegel, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Everyone Just Knows He's an Absolute Monster': Scott Rudin's Ex-Staffers Speak Out on Abusive Behavior"

H2. COMMENTARY - On political, social, cultural, investigative, judicial, economic or other serious subjects, including editorials.

Tim Gray, *Variety*, "Oscar Contenders Need to Help Theater Owners"

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

Judges' comment: The author subtly hits the heart with some painful truths about the pandemic so... You don't have to be a believer to find his insights devastatingly beautiful.

2nd Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Here Are the Ways the Pandemic Changed Hollywood"

3rd Neil J. Young, *The Week*, "Commentary by Neil J. Young"

H3. COLUMNIST - One person's point of view on any subject.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://bit.ly/3EfQh0u> ; <https://bit.ly/3uFKAXl> ; <https://bit.ly/3JHotEg>

Judges' comment: Observations and insights that force both introspection and the need to confront injustice-- are the hallmarks of these excellent columns.

2nd Chris Willman, *Variety*

3rd Neil J. Young, *The Week*

H4. FEATURE Business/Government, over 1,000 words

Adam Fisher, *Alfa Journal*, "The Mushroom Man's Magic"

<https://bit.ly/3veptM6>

Judges' comment: Who knew fungi could be worth millions? This fun, well-written story is filled with entertaining, magical details.

2nd Esmé E. Deprez, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Hastening Death"

3rd Susan Karlin, *Air & Space Magazine*, "Got Gas? (print title)/These College Students Want to Make Sure No Pilot Ever Runs Out of Gas"

H5. FEATURE Culture/Arts, over 1,000 words

Steve Appleford, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Ryan Adams: 'I Felt Like They Were Asking Me to Die'"

<https://bit.ly/3JXEP7k>

Judges' comment: So many great stories here. But the award goes to the Ryan Adams' story for having the guts and the nerves of steel required not to gloss over the circumstances that got his subject in his predicament, plus great scene-setting and details.

2nd Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Why Brett Butler Is Broke"

3rd Chris Willman, *Variety*, "With Songs From Black Films Dominating Awards Race, H.E.R., Janelle Monae, Leslie Odom Jr. and Others Discuss Why the Change Has Come"

H6. FEATURE, under 1,000 words - Any feature.

Heather Balogh Rochfort, Nora O'Donnell and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Verna Volker: Time to Run"

<https://win.gs/3vllvgC>

Judges' comment: Interesting profile of a Navajo runner and why many indigenous women run — to help recover from a crisis they face as crime victims.

2nd Brent Lang, *Variety*, "'The Many Saints of Newark' Production Team on Returning to the World of 'The Sopranos'"

3rd Mia Galuppo and Kim Masters, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Behind Warner Bros.' Olive Branch to Top Talent"

H7A. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS - Coverage of any entertainment subject by a person or a team.

Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Spotify Bets Big on Podcasts as a Path to Profitability"

<https://bloom.bg/37QmNuB>

Judges' comment: Detailed writing and abundant data put to good use to outline how podcasts have become a big source of revenue for Spotify.

2nd Katie Kilkenny, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Why Hollywood Guilds Haven't Cut Ties With a Police Union"

3rd Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Adele's '30' Sends Vinyl Pressing Plants Into Overdrive, While LP Shortages Leave Many Artists Chasing Pavements"

H7B. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE - Coverage of any entertainment subject by a person or a team.

Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Searching for Shelley Duvall"

<https://bit.ly/37PucdY>

Judges' comment: Deft reporting on a difficult topic - the mental health issues of aging actress Shelly Duvall. It is straight-forward without being sappy or sensational and includes wonderful details and background.

2nd Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "The Days After: Musicians and Club Owners Remember 9/11's Impact on the City's Scene, and the Revival That Followed"

3rd Jazz Tangcay, *Variety*, "Black History Month/Costume Designers Francine Jamison-Tanchuck and Charlese Antoinette Jones on Ruth E. Carter's Oscar Win: 'She Opened a Lot of Doors for Us'"

H8. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Film/TV personalities

Rebecca Sun, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Resurrection of Kelly Marie Tran"

<https://bit.ly/37q0Q67>

Judges' comment: Nicely-written exploration of the harassment she experienced and how she coped with and overcame it.

2nd Rebecca Keegan, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Lady Gaga on Mining Personal Pain for 'House of Gucci'"

3rd Gerrick Kennedy, *Men's Health*, "Michael B. Jordan on Power, Purpose, and His Navy SEAL Workout"

H9. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Politics/Business/Arts personalities

Rex Weiner, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "She Built a Bustling Business Providing Cremations for Less, but Nothing Prepared Her for COVID-19"

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

Judges' comment: A work like this in today's day and age is simply uncommon, especially given the COVIDity of the last two years. Innovative approach, great writing, stands out in so many ways. Through the portrayal of one, we get a way to know the enormity of all our losses.

2nd Jessica Glynn, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, "The \$2 Billion Man"

3rd Carla Blank, *Alfa Journal*, "The Resurrection of Sister Aimee"

H10. IN-HOUSE or CORPORATE PUBLICATION - Single-best issue published by a company, agency or organization, for internal or external distribution.

Peter Flax, Nora O'Donnell, Tara Thompson and Rudi Uebelhoer, *The Red Bulletin*, "The Heroes Issue"

<https://bit.ly/3u4cgEG>; <https://bit.ly/3tXpfrY>; <https://bit.ly/3HOmdf3>

Judges' comment: Stunning, innovative storytelling makes this publication truly engaging and memorable.

2nd Mira Zimet, Suzanne Boretz, Emily Cavalcanti and Ted Kissell, *USC Annenberg Media*, "USC Annenberg Magazine – Fall 2021"

3rd LMU Magazine staff, *LMU Magazine*, "Crowning Achievement"

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

11. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

Patt Morrison, *LA Times Today on Spectrum*, "Patt Says: Shortages"

<https://lat.ms/36UfMse>

Judges' comment: Patt Morrison's humor makes all of his readers want to switch to no-salt peanuts!

2nd Remy, *Reason*, "Remy: Dogecoin Rap"

12. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION

George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, *KABC*, "Saying Goodbye to America's Golden Girl"

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

Judges' comment: Great tribute to a Hollywood legend.

2nd Tom Walters, Jonathan Austin and Will Dugan, *CTV National News*, "Charlie Watts"

3rd Lydia Garcia, *Spectrum News 1*, "Vicente Fernández Dies at 81 Years Old"

13. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION – See 12.

14. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

Mike Cervantes and Robert Kovacik, *NBC4*, "The LAPD: Joining the Force"

<https://bit.ly/3vh5wD0>

Judges' comment: This report had public service value and interest without feeling like a documentary.

2nd Jamie Novograd, Leslie Lindsay, Patrick Steward, Kevin Haulihan and Andy Viner, *Los Angeles Times*, "The California Recall"

3rd Rollo Ross, Sandra Stojanovic and Nathan Frandino, *Reuters*, "Inside a California hospital battling COVID-19"

15. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Giselle Fernandez, Seth Katz and Anaconda Street Productions, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez: Ady Barkan"

<https://vimeo.com/585130193>

Judges' comment: This inspiring story was slickly produced but showed the impact of activism and organizing.

2nd Juan Devis, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Amanda Marie Pinedo, Angela Boisvert and Kathy Kasaba, *KCET*, "Emory Douglas: The Black Panther Artist"

3rd Itay Hod, *Spectrum News 1*, "Every Day Action"

16. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Jamie Novogrod, Kevin Haulihan, Leslie Lindsay, Patrick Steward and Andy Viner, *Los Angeles Times*, "The California Recall"

<https://bit.ly/3lkc5JC>

Judges' comment : A detailed analysis with insights from a panel of smart people clearly underscores the foolishness of the Recall effort.

2nd Inside The Issues With Alex Cohen, *Spectrum News 1*, "Newsom's Recall"

3rd Elex Michaelson, Sam Dubin, Howard Wells and Debbie Kim, *KTTV*, "Arnold Schwarzenegger Donates Tiny Homes to Homeless Vets"

17. NATIONAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Gina Pollack, Karen Foshay, Michael Ray, Joey Larson and Paul Thornton, *Los Angeles Times*, "When Abortion Was Illegal"

<https://lat.ms/36eQTHN>

Judges' comment : A journey of the soul is viewed through the lens of illegal abortion in this well-focused report: a clear warning that the dysfunctional past may soon be our future.

2nd Elex Michaelson and Jake Frahm, *KTTV*, "Ady Barkan's Fight for Healthcare Reform"

3rd Inside The Issues With Alex Cohen, *Spectrum News 1*, "9/11: 20 Years"

18. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

David Ono, Andres Pruna and Jeff MacIntyre, *KABC*, "For Every Action"

<https://tinyurl.com/2h5staxm>

Judges' comment: The inclusion of the trip to Japan was a unique touch that allowed readers to focus on a specific aspect of hydrogen as a key component to fight climate change.

2nd Kevin Haulihan, Andy Viner, Helki Frantzen, Karen Foshay and Paul Thornton, *Los Angeles Times*, "Hear Me Out: A port pollution crisis"

3rd Julie Carli, Gary Scott and Warren Olney, *KCRW*, "In Our Backyard"

19. EDUCATIONAL REPORTING

Angela Boisvert, Matt Bass, Juan Devis, Jacqueline Reyno and Kathy Kasaba, *KCET*, "Arts Education"

<https://bit.ly/3LTI Dyb>

Judges' comment: This was a great documentary about the power of arts education.

2nd In Focus SoCal, *Spectrum News 1*, "The Cybersecurity Center"

3rd Steve Chiotakis, Kathryn Barnes, Christian Bordial and Ray Guarna, *KCRW*, "How the 1970 Chicano Moratorium sparked Día de Los Muertos in LA"

110. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM - Rigorous reporting on a response to a problem and its associated evidence. Series or single story.

Julie Carli, Gary Scott and Warren Olney, *KCRW*, "In Our Backyard"

<https://kcrw.co/3r3qKmA>

Judges' comment: A deeply human and nuanced exploration of the complexities of fashioning effective responses to wildfires, heat islands, drought, and the rising seas and how communities are organizing to meet them head on with hope for more thoughtful ways of living in Southern California.

2nd Anna Scott, *KCRW*, "LA cleared a homeless camp near Venice golf and declared it a success. Was it?"

111. RACE AND SOCIETY

Aaron Day, Nick Greitzer, Tony Buffitta, Debbie Kim and Pete Wilgoren, *FOX 11 Los Angeles*, "Rising Up"

<https://bit.ly/3ODOub6> ; <https://bit.ly/3vK2bN2> ; <https://bit.ly/3MBwagZ> ; <https://bit.ly/3xW0Nji> ; <https://bit.ly/3rT41Kz>

Judges' comment: Exceptional storytelling that is thoughtful, thorough, and necessary. Too often, news organizations cover major events in the moment and neglect the opportunity for reflection and analysis once the dust settles. While this series is a look back, it also moves the story forward with fresh voices, new perspective, and plenty of discovery. Bravo!

2nd KTLA 5 News team, *KTLA 5 News*, "Breaking Bias: Race in America Asian Hate"

3rd Mike Schlitt, *KCRW*, "How a proposal to rename Crenshaw Boulevard divided the community"

112. IMMIGRATION REPORTING (includes Dreamers)

Spectrum News 1 staff, *Spectrum News 1*, "Driving the Border: Mile by Mile"

<https://vimeo.com/635501495>

Judges' comment: An important collection of stories that explains the border crisis in simple terms and through the lens of those impacted most. Visual stunning and well written... This is storytelling with an impact! Well done.

2nd Leslie Berestein Rojas, *89.3 KPCC/LAist*, "Afghan Refugees Are Arriving in LA, But It's Tough To Find Affordable Housing"

3rd Karen Foshay, Helki Frantzen, Andy Viner, Paul Thornton and Terry Tang, *Los Angeles Times*, "Hear Me Out: The Fall of Saigon"

113. GENDER AND SOCIETY (includes LGBTQ reporting)

Juan Devis, Nic Cha Kim, Julieta Messmer, Marianne Amelinckx and Angela Boisvert, *KCET*, "Mustache Mondays"

<https://bit.ly/35SgMgq>

Judges' comment: This work opened the doors of opportunity for learning and emotional growth. The storytelling and raw video from the club helped aid in the audiences' understanding and investment in the piece.

2nd Itay Hod, *Spectrum News 1*, "Leaving WeHo"

3rd (tie) Tara Lynn Wagner, *Spectrum News 1*, "Actor and Advocate"

3rd (tie) Danielle Chiriguayo, *KCRW*, "As LA's LGBTQ bars close, Redline and The Eagle fight to stay open"

114. CRIME REPORTING

Spectrum News 1 Staff, *Spectrum News 1*, "Two Billboards - The Search for Justice"

<https://vimeo.com/635539137>

Judges' comment: The stories of the two Billboards brought the mothers and their children to life — it felt as though viewers could have been there for the conversation. Well shot and edited, polished graphics (opens, transitions). Made the viewer feel part of the solution.

2nd Ernesto Torres, Hetty Chang and Jeremy Bermudez, *KNBC 4*, "Looking Out"

3rd Gene Kang and Christian Grow, *KTLA 5*, "Mother Remembers Baby Sebastian"

115. SPORTS - Any News or Feature on sports.

Spectrum News 1 Staff, *Spectrum News 1*, "The Pride of Riverside"

<https://vimeo.com/669580405>

Judges' comment: The remarkable story about the California School for the Deaf's unbeaten high school football team last year, which reached the championship game after seven losing seasons, demonstrates that people with a disability can accomplish much and never give up, even when falling short of a Hollywood ending with a final loss. That team, along with Coda's Oscar win for Best Picture, helped bring deserved attention to a silent world.

2nd Aaron Day, Nick Greitzer, Debbie Kim, Tony Butfitta and Pete Wilgoren, *FOX11 Los Angeles*, "When Magic Shocked The World"

3rd Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein, Mark E. Potts, Jessica Q. Chen and Steve Saldivar, *Los Angeles Times*, "Fernandomania @ 40"

116. BUSINESS An article or series.

Leslie Berestein Rojas, *KPCC/LAist*, "A Tough Pandemic Christmas In A Legendary LA Latino Shopping District"

<https://bit.ly/3LO8NR1>

Judges' comment: The decline of a neighborhood shopping area is told in vivid terms of Family and the resolve of immigrants to build a better life-- something we all can identify with.

2nd Benjamin Gottlieb, KCRW, "LA has many sidewalk carts selling food and knick-knacks. Few have legal permits"

J. TELEVISION/FILM

Broadcast, including online and cable TV, produced in Southern California.

J1. REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST

Spectrum News 1 Staff, *Spectrum News 1*, "Your Morning on Spectrum News 1"

<https://vimeo.com/690276384>

Judges' comment: High-quality graphics tie the various themes and locations together while highlighting the vast scope of the coverage. The investment in a live location to field anchor from the border wall paid dividends. Good storytelling with compelling characters throughout.

2nd Spectrum News 1 Staff, *Spectrum News 1*, "Your Evening on Spectrum News 1"

3rd Elizabeth Wagmeister and Clayton Davis, *Variety*, "Variety's 'The Take'"

J2. ANCHOR/HOST - Any anchor or host, single or team.

Giselle Fernandez, *Spectrum News 1*, "Giselle Fernandez"

<https://vimeo.com/607868132/b89c1008c4> ; <https://vimeo.com/690262226> ; <https://vimeo.com/687252108>

Judges' comment: What sets Giselle Fernandez apart is her ability to work serious news and entertainment news, and be excellent at each. Strong, smart, on-point all the time — just outstanding across the board.

2nd Rosey Alvero, KCET, "SoCal Wanderer"

3rd Jenn Harris, *Los Angeles Times*, "What We're Into"

J3. VIDEOGRAPHER - Any news, feature, sports or documentary videographer.

Corbett Jones, KCET, "Tending Nature: Indigenous Land Stewardship"

<https://bit.ly/372C5fw>

Judges' comment: Put aside the gorgeous landscapes and beautiful detail shots, this piece captured rarely seen, intimate moments that felt emotional and alive.

2nd Matt Bass, KCET, "Arts Education"

3rd Andres Pruna, KABC, "The Edge-Climate Crisis"

J4. BREAKING NEWS - One news story by an individual or a team.

Ernesto Torres and Tony Shin, NBC4, "The South Fire Coverage"

<https://vimeo.com/634891745>

Judges' comment: Exceptional job by the reporter to grasp the moment and handle it with the appropriate tone.

2nd Susan Monroe and Robert Kovacik, NBC4, "Slaughterhouse Escape"

3rd Elizabeth Wagmeister, *Variety*, "Dwayne Johnson Pledges to Stop Using Real Guns on His Productions, Following 'Rust' Tragedy"

J5. INVESTIGATIVE - Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.

Zach Weissmueller, *Reason*, "Los Angeles Is Squandering \$1.2 Billion While Homeless Face a 'Spiral of Death'"

<https://bit.ly/3Oqo64e>

Judges' comment: The story is a comprehensive and thorough investigation of a problem that affects thousands of the most vulnerable people in Los Angeles, and it clearly outlines the ways bureaucracy and corruption have worsened the crisis.

2nd Kate Cagle, *Spectrum News 1*, "Banditos Tattoo"

3rd Albert Brave, Tiger Lee, Jorge Garcia and Robert Meeks, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Hunt for J.P. Morgan's Million-dollar Watch"

J6. NEWS FEATURE, over 5 minutes

David Ono, Jeff MacIntyre and Dylan Glockler, KABC, "FACEism: Banzai Hill"

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

Judges' comment: "FACEism: Banzai Hill" created a beautiful connection between the issues of the present and the prejudices of our past. The videography of the hill was stunning, as well as fantastic editing and use of music. The reporter used every word wisely, building up to a tear-jerker moment of a man visiting the site where his father bravely battled.

2nd Kate Elston, Dena Takruri and David Dougherty, *AJ+ (Al Jazeera)*, "The Secret, Toxic Oil Wells Underneath Los Angeles"

3rd Giselle Fernandez and Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Guatemala: Why They Come, Root Causes of Migration 'Comitancillo'"

J7. NEWS FEATURE, under 5 minutes

Itay Hod, Spectrum News 1, "Staying Afloat"

<https://bit.ly/37xVMMr>

Judges' comment: This story of the fishermen who pivoted their business during Covid resonated in a big way.

2nd Laura Diaz and Rudy Leiva, *KTTV*, "Anthony Barajas Remembered"

3rd Marcus Yam, Karen Foshay, Patrick Steward and Jamie Novogrod, *Los Angeles Times*, "Withdrawal from Afghanistan"

J8. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE, over 5 minutes

Don Hahn, Juan Devis, Laura Hull, Georgie Kajer and Lori Korngiebel, KCET, "Life Centered: The Helen Jean Taylor Story"

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

Judges' comment: A beautiful and in-depth portrait of an interesting woman that showcases the importance of arts education.

2nd Yadira Flores and Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein, *Los Angeles Times*, "Hiking Mt. Whitney after being paralyzed"

3rd Juan Devis, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Amanda Marie Pinedo, Angela Boisvert and Kathy Kasaba, *KCET*, "Corita Kent: The Pop Art Nun"

J9. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE, under 5 minutes

Karen Foshay, Helki Frantzen, Andy Viner, Paul Thornton and Terry Tang, Los Angeles Times, "The Fall of Saigon"

<https://bit.ly/36vAU88>

Judges' comment: The Saigon/Kabul comparisons were eye-opening and totally captivating. The tone of the story was perfect.

2nd Phil Ige, *KTLA 5*, "Saving Jacob"

3rd Nic Cha Kim, *Spectrum News 1*, "Fruit Cart Art"

J10. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Juan Devis, Jaime Morgan Munoz, Rosey Alvero, Marley Lister and Robert McDonnell, KCET, "SoCal Wanderer: Crème Caramel LA"

<https://bit.ly/36YIVew>

Judges' comment: Beautiful story of a little bakery that adapted in the pandemic and is thriving. The spirit of the owner jumped off the screen. Terrific work.

2nd Nic Cha Kim, *Spectrum News 1*, "Fruit Cart Art"

3rd Nic Cha Kim, *Spectrum News 1*, "Unity Through Skateboarding"

J11. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE, over 5 minutes - Coverage of any entertainment subject.

Spectrum News 1 Staff, *Spectrum News 1*, "JP Saxe Profile Interview"

<https://vimeo.com/518700223/qadb3e31c1>

Judges' comment: Sweet story that somehow has the same feel as the song being profiled. Smart, interesting, and fun to watch, a nice examination of how one song resonated with so many people because of its unique message in a unique time.

2nd Juan Devis, Nic Cha Kim, Julieta Messmer, Marianne Amelinckx and Angela Boisvert, *KCET*, "Mustache Mondays"

3rd Juan Devis, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Amanda Marie Pinedo, Angela Boisvert and Kathy Kasaba, *KCET*, "Endless Summer"

J12. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE, under 5 minutes - Coverage of any entertainment subject.

Juan Devis, Ruben Guevara III, Dan Kwong, Nic Cha Kim, Mike Vargas and Moni Vargas, *KCET*, "The Story of Rubén Guevara and Frank Zappa"

<https://bit.ly/3L0n7gX>

Judges' comment: Terrific nostalgic piece that still feels relevant.

2nd Sharon Waxman, Jennifer Laski, Chuckie Fuoco, Pablo Teyssier-Verger and Lauren Hemming, *TheWrap*, "How 'King Richard' Composer Synced a Piano Note With a Tennis Shot"

3rd Steve Appleford and Mary Ignatova, *Revolver Magazine*, "Korn: How Jonathan Davis Created Band's Iconic Logo"

J13. ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

Juan Devis, Ruben Guevara III, Dan Kwong, Nic Cha Kim and Mike & Moni Vargas, *KCET*, "Con Safos"

<https://bit.ly/3jj9jdV>

Judges' comment: Fascinating story on Ruben Guevara. Well told, well edited. This category was filled with tremendous work, but this submission stood out due to its overall excellence in every aspect.

2nd The SoCal Scene, *Spectrum News 1*, "Ava Duvernay"

3rd Giselle Fernandez, Seth Katz and Anaconda Street Productions, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez: Andra Day"

J14. NON-ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

Giselle Fernandez, Seth Katz and Anaconda Street Productions, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez: Greg Gorman"

<https://vimeo.com/607868132>

Judges' comment: Terrific portrait of an amazing photographer.

2nd Juan Devis, Jaime Morgan-Munoz, Rosey Alvero, Marley Lister and Robert McDonnell, *KCET*, "SoCal Wanderer: Dora Herrera of Yuca's Tacos"

3rd Elex Michaelson, Debbie Kim, Rudy Leiva, Greg Lindsay and Nick Greitzer, *KTTV*, "Gov. Jerry Brown at the Ranch"

J15. PANDEMIC REPORTING

Renee Eng, *Spectrum News 1*, "Running Out of Space"

<https://bit.ly/3KX2tGg>

Judges' comment: Wonderful, somber, sobering story of how the pandemic hits one very likeable man... With much larger implications. Excellent work.

2nd David Ono, Dylan Glockler and Andres Pruna, KABC, "Japan: Hardship and Hope"

3rd Itay Hod, Megan Mitchell and Dan Dowding, *Spectrum News 1*, "Covid In the ICU"

J16. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Single program on news, talk or public affairs.

Elex Michaelson, Debbie Kim, Nick Greitzer, Greg Lindsay, Tony Butitta and Steve Thorpe, KTTV, "The Issue Is: Gov. Gavin Newsom"

<https://bit.ly/36WfED2>

Judges' comment: Solid, interesting Public Affairs show. The show was snappy and fun to watch.

2nd Inside the Issues With Alex Cohen, *Spectrum News 1*, "Inside the Issues with Alex Cohen"

3rd Justin Chapman, *Pasadena Media*, "NewsRap Local with Justin Chapman"

J17. FEATURE DOCUMENTARY, over 25 minutes

Claire Hannah Collins, Albert Brave Tiger Lee, Diego Medrano, Jessica Q. Chen and Keith Bedford, *Los Angeles Times*, "Meet the formerly incarcerated fire crew protecting California from wildfires"

<https://bit.ly/38xZfLV>

Judges' comment: A documentary with great B-roll and intimate access that does not rely solely on talking heads. Topics range from prison labor to recidivism and re-integration... Discusses how the incarcerated are "over utilized and under supported," and how the released are trying to get their humanity back through the Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program. Change is possible.

2nd Nani Sahra Walker, Cody Long, Yadira Flores and Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein, *Los Angeles Times*, "Alice Waters: How to start a food revolution"

3rd Jennifer Moya, ABC7 Los Angeles, "Unsolved LA : The Disappearance of Mitrice Richardson"

J18. DOCUMENTARY, SHORT, under 25 minutes

Giselle Fernandez, Seth Katz and Anaconda Street Productions, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez: Susan Burton"

<https://vimeo.com/602247631>

Judges' comment: A fascinating and informative examination of one woman's battle against a broken system, her transformative redemption, and her tireless efforts to reintegrate formerly incarcerated women back into a society that "criminalizes trauma." A timely and important piece about the necessity of seeing the best in people in order to get the best out of them.

2nd Juan Devis, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Amanda Marie Pinedo, Angela Boisvert and Kathy Kasaba, KCET, "Emory Douglas: The Black Panther Artist"

3rd David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre, KABC, "FACEism"

K. AUDIO JOURNALISM

Radio broadcast, podcast or stream produced in Southern California.

K1. ANCHOR/HOST - Any anchor or host, single or team.

Madeleine Brand, KCRW, "Madeleine Brand, Press Play with Madeleine Brand"

<https://kcrw.co/3v8dVZg>

Judges' comment: The host clearly has years of polishing a concise and informed delivery and knows how to get out of the way to let the guest tell the story.

2nd Steve Chiotakis, KCRW, "1959 Santa Susana meltdown still hurts San Fernando Valley community. Why hasn't it been cleaned?"

3rd Sharon Waxman and Daniel Goldblatt, *TheWrap*, "The Wrap-Up podcast"

K2. NEWS or FEATURE short form No more than 90 seconds. — **N/A**

K3. BREAKING NEWS

KNX News Staff, KNX, "January 6th Attack"

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

Judges' comment: The team balances urgency with essential sounds and diverse voices. It is solid and effective breaking news reporting.

K4. NEWS FEATURE

Julia Paskin, Southern California Public Radio, "PUSHED OUT: How Domestic Violence Pushed One Woman Into Homelessness"

<https://kp.cc/PushedOut>

Judges' comment: A detailed and emotionally compelling study of one woman's homelessness caused by domestic violence. There but for fortune.

2nd Mariana Dale, *Southern California Public Radio (KPCC/LAist)*, "These Black Midwives Opened A South LA Facility With The Goal Of 'Empowered' Births"

3rd Leslie Berestein Rojas, *89.3 KPCC/LAist*, "The East LA Classic Returns — And With It, A Sense Of Hope For Two Communities Devastated By The Pandemic"

K5. LIFESTYLE FEATURE - Lifestyle or special topics.

Caroline Feraday, KCLU, "Goats Don't Care About Politics"

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

Judges' comment: Goats and yoga are widely accepted now, but this clever story makes it new again with fun and effective nat sounds.

2nd Sharon Waxman and Daniel Goldblatt, *TheWrap*, "'TheWrap-Up' Podcast: How Actors Survived the Pandemic"

3rd Peter Gilstrap, *KCRW*, "Scoping out Mt. Wilson"

K6. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW - Entertainment personalities, over 10 minutes

Madeleine Brand and Angie Perrin, KCRW, "Rita Moreno on 'West Side Story,' race in Hollywood, and trauma"

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

Judges' comment: Readers could be drawn towards Madeleine Brand's interviewing style, and the conversation with Rita Moreno was history-spanning and fascinating. Brand encourage Moreno to go beneath the surface and talk about her craft.

2nd Sharon Waxman and Daniel Goldblatt, *TheWrap*, "'TheWrap-Up' Podcast: Actress Olivia Munn Speaks Out on Anti-Asian Violence"

3rd Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "Michael Keaton on What 'Dopesick' Taught Him About the Opioid Crisis, and Why He Wanted to Return as Batman"

K7. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW - Non-Entertainment personalities, over 10 minutes

Tracy Brown, Jen Yamato, Asal Ehsanipour, Abbie Fentress Swanson and Mike Heflin, Los Angeles Times, "Asian Enough: Min Jin Lee interview"

<https://apple.co/3EB0tBO>

Judges' comment: The host journalists make a serious subject easy and interesting to listen to, even though the topic is not flashy or sexy. You can even hear them smile.

2nd Robert Scheer and Joshua Scheer, *KCRW/ScheerPost*, "Black Lives Matter: 'When We Fight, We Win'"

3rd Shirley Halperin, *Variety*, "Music Attorney Dina LaPolit Marks 20 Years in the Biz, and 20 Lessons She Learned Along the Way"

K8. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW, under 10 minutes

Caroline Feraday, KCLU, "Grammy-nominated Five For Fighting singer and songwriter is set to return to the stage"

<https://bit.ly/3M2Eyaq>

Judges' comment: Nice reporting captures the light and dark sides of returning to live music.

2nd LA Stories Unfiltered with Giselle Fernandez, *Spectrum News 1*, "LA Stories Unfiltered with Giselle Fernandez - Andra Day"

K9. INVESTIGATIVE - Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.

Aaron Mendelson and Ely Yu, *KPCC/Southern California Public Radio*, "Immediate Jeopardy"

<https://bit.ly/386pPvf>

Judges' comment: The reporting is alarming, yet not sensationalized. The human side is the best way to make it real for a listener and this team accomplished that well.

2nd Julie Carli, Gary Scott and Warren Olney, *KCRW*, "In Our Backyard"

K10. ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING - Coverage or commentary on any entertainment subject. (For criticism see B categories)

Madeleine Brand and Bennett Purser, *KCRW*, "What 'It's a Sin,' 'Pose,' and other TV shows have historically taught the world about HIV/AIDS"

<https://kcrw.co/3LP9fOJ>

Judges' comment: Well done! Serious topic and productive discussion on a divisive and difficult period of discovering AIDS. It contains a lot of eerie similarities to the current pandemic and political climate.

2nd Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Awards Chatter' Podcast: 'Sopranos' Creator David Chase Finally Reveals What Happened to Tony"

3rd Sharon Waxman and Brian Welk, *TheWrap*, "Examining The 'Rust' Tragedy and Its Impact on Hollywood"

K11. PANDEMIC REPORTING

Leslie Berestein Rojas, *89.3 KPCC/LAist*, "Meet The People On The Front Lines Of LA's Latino Vaccination Efforts"

<https://bit.ly/3O0RbmE>

Judges' comment: We all recognized that vaccinations in the Latinx community was met with resistance for many reasons. This feature took those reasons and made them human better than most of the coverage, with generous respect to the value of close-knit family structures.

2nd Caleigh Wells, *KCRW*, "South LA COVID Vaccine Standby Line Sparks Racial Equity Debate"

3rd Caroline Feraday, *KCLU*, "A Pandemic Isn't Going To Silence Us"

K12. USE OF SOUND - Include a brief letter on how it was done, if relevant. A single program or related series.

Michelle Loxton, *KCLU*, "The Crisis of Fentanyl in Ventura County"

<https://bit.ly/kclupod>

Judges' comment: Producers nicely weaved ambient sounds from the subtle to the obvious, as well as voices from confident to timid.

2nd Madeleine Brand and Michell Eloy, *KCRW*, "'Ellen Reid SOUNDWALK': Music for Hiking around Griffith Park, Curated Just For You"

3rd Susan Valot, *KCRW*, "Pasadena Model Railroad Museum holds open house just in time for Christmas"

K13. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS - An episode of a locally produced news, talk, information, education or public affairs show.

Steve Chiotakis, Christian Bordial, Jenna Kagel and Kathryn Barnes, *KCRW*, "Huntington Beach oil spill is the latest in history of California's offshore mishaps"

<https://kcrw.co/3wTaj9S>

Judges' comment: Quick turnaround on a breaking event with a wide variety of sources.

2nd Julie Carli, Gary Scott and Warren Olney, *KCRW*, "In Our Backyard: On The Rocks"

3rd Robert Scheer and Joshua Scheer, *KCRW/ScheerPost*, "California's grim genocidal past implicates the University of California"

K14. DOCUMENTARY - A single non-fiction program, 15 minutes or longer.

Christopher Goffard, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Trials of Frank Carson"

<https://bit.ly/3uV6dms> ; <https://bit.ly/37sLcXm> ; <https://bit.ly/3EwSpll> ; <https://bit.ly/3MjLdeX> ; <https://bit.ly/380pgTw> ; <https://bit.ly/381qD4k> ; <https://bit.ly/3ITcokP> ; <https://bit.ly/3On39az>

Judges' comment: This remarkable presentation of lives and stories wound together make for an interesting documentary that captures and keeps the listener's attention.

2nd Christian Bordial, Steve Chiotakis, Ray Guarna and Phil Richards, KCRW, "Meet 'Nature Boy' composer Eden Ahbez, the LA outdoor lover who changed jazz history"

L. ONLINE

Originally published on the Internet.

L1. HARD NEWS - One day's coverage of a hard news story.

Angelika Albaladejo, *Capital & Main* and *USA Today*, "A Drunk Mechanic, Shackled Immigrants, a Crash Landing: The Dangers of ICE Flights"

<https://bit.ly/38ZFEEk>

Judges' comment: This story impeccably illustrates the human stakes of its premise and offers a fair critique of the law and policies reported on here.

2nd Jack Ross, *Capital & Main*, "Why Does USC Hire People Fired by the LAPD?"

3rd Spencer Custodio, *Voice of OC*, "Did Anaheim Violate Surplus Land Law When it Sold Angel Stadium? One State Agency Thinks it Might Have"

L2. GENERAL NEWS - A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.

David Bacon, *Capital & Main*, "Tulare County's Homeless to Be Thrown Off Their Levee Sanctuary"

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

Judges' comment: Phenomenal people-centric story rich with story arcs and data.

2nd Robin Urevich, *Capital & Main*, "L.A.'s Affordable Housing Programs Leave Low-Income Renters in the Dark"

3rd Damien Newton, *Streetsblog LA*, "United Caltrans Tenants Oppose State Legislation That Would Guide Home Sales, Possibly Lead to Evictions"

L3. CULTURE NEWS - A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.

Andrea Castillo, *Los Angeles Times*, "A lifeline for LGBTQ Latinos on the brink of closure"

<https://lat.ms/3ExeW1E>

Judges' comment: A wonderful story about what a bar means to a marginalized community, the intense challenges of the Covid era, and the spirit of resiliency.

2nd Janelle Villafana and Jack Ross, *Capital & Main*, "Cart Battle: Los Angeles' Code War Against Street Vendors"

3rd Shawna Kenney, *LA Review of Books*, "Not Your Freak"

L4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS on Film/Broadcast - A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.

Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "'Rust' Tragedy Shakes Armorers and Propmasters: 'It's My Job to Make Sure Nobody Gets Hurt'"

<https://bit.ly/34VVQ7O>

Judges' comment: A revealing, detailed expose of prop gun handling on-set leads to the ultimate conclusion: "Always treat a gun as if it's loaded."

2nd William Earl, *Variety*, "The Invisible Oscars: Consumers Largely Unaware of This Year's Best Picture Nominees"

3rd Saida Pagan, *Palabra*, *National Association of Hispanic Journalists*, "'Lights, Camera, Tax Breaks!'"

L5. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS on Music/Performing Arts - A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.

Jeremy Fuster, *TheWrap*, "Homeless Musician Who Played with BB King"

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

Judges' comment: This story is written beautifully and provides the reader with a window into the duality of living conditions in Hollywood/LA. Paul Jacobsen carries his harmonica everywhere, and the way Jeremy Fuster describes that carries the piece. Reporting on homelessness often makes for bleak stories. This was true here, but Fuster dug deeper and found an angle full of humanity and glints of positivity.

2nd Anousha Sakoui, *Los Angeles Times*, "Behind Hollywood glamour, an Instagram account highlights darker side for workers"

3rd Kristen Lopez, *IndieWire*, "'Crip Camp' Co-Director James LeBrecht Claims CBS and Television Academy Deceived Him on Emmy Ramp"

L6. INVESTIGATIVE - Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.

Robin Urevich, *Capital & Main*, "L.A.'s Affordable Housing Programs Leave Low-Income Renters in the Dark"

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

Judges' comment: Impeccable combination of sources, data, and sharp analysis.

2nd Nicole Einbinder, *Insider*, "'Judge Judy' was plagued by sexual harassment claims, drinking on the job, and racism, former employees say. They worry the new \$25 million Amazon streaming show will be more of the same."

3rd Susan Karlin, *Fast Company*, "Elon Musk's 'Teslas in tunnels' are a \$52 million bet on the future of transit"

L7. RACE AND SOCIETY

Matt Kim, *IGN*, "Asian American Game Developers Are Dreaming of Their Own Minari Moment"

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

Judges' comment: Asian representation in the gaming world and its stereotyped distortions is explored in this perceptive, well-balance piece.

2nd Nadra Nittle, *Eater*, "Black-Owned Farms Are Holding on by a Thread"

3rd Ethan Ward, *Crosstown*, "They were homeless. Now, they're dead."

L8. PANDEMIC REPORTING

Emily Baumgaertner, *Los Angeles Times*, "From the first stitch to the final zip: The global journey of a COVID-19 body bag"

<https://lat.ms/3MfJirI>

Judges' comment: In a country where more than a million people have died from Covid, this story captures the weight of a single death. The structure of this piece was unique and captivating. The author's choice of central characters (a family from Detroit and a body bag) created tension, and a feeling of being transfixed as you watch disaster unfold. Snappy and well-paced writing.

2nd Dan Ross, *Capital & Main*, "How Were Los Angeles Hospitals Brought to the Brink by COVID?"

3rd Abbey White, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Broadway's Return Is Triumphant, But Uncertainty Looms: 'Humans Have to Be as Important as the Show'"

L9. NEWS FEATURE, Music/Culture/Performing Arts

Janette Villafana and Jack Ross, *Capital & Main*, "Cart Battle: Los Angeles' Code War Against Street Vendors"

<https://bit.ly/36pWNGm>

Judges' comment: With street food gaining popularity in the U.S., this article digs well into the problems that vendors face in LA. It's a story that is relatable as most metro areas in the country are seeing an increase of food vendors and is a sort of cautionary tale for those cities on how not to engage with vendor regulations. The story is well written and captures the people behind the vendors with empathy.

2nd Lucas Shaw, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "The Year's Biggest Concert Belongs to a Christian Rapper"

3rd Margaret Crable, *USC Dornsife*, "Mexico's Underground Railroad"

L10. NEWS FEATURE, Film/Broadcast

Saida Pagan, *Palabra*, *National Association of Hispanic Journalists*, "Needs Improvement"

<https://bit.ly/3M51aA>

Judges' comment: Pagan's work to draw attention to this area of representation is important and was well done in this piece. It takes advantage of being online in the use of photos and attention to length. Much space has been devoted to #oscarswhite, but little specifically to the Latinx numbers.

2nd Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, "How a Coronavirus Expert Shook Up CBS' 'Face the Nation'"

3rd Jenelle Riley, *Variety*, "'Stillwater' Director Tom McCarthy on Casting Matt Damon Against Type and Amanda Knox Criticism"

L11A. SOFT NEWS FEATURE, General News

Clara Preve Durrieu, *USC Annenberg Media*, "A pair of Latvian sisters traveled to India in search of hope. It ended in tragedy."

<https://bit.ly/37kFGWT>

Judges' comment: A heartbreaking story conveyed extremely well through not only the writer's concise, clear narrative but also Clara Preve Durrieu's personal experience in this tragedy. The story was a window into this world and will open many eyes to a horrifying and dangerous culture women still face in India.

2nd Bernard J. Wolfson and Heidi de Marco, *Kaiser Health News*, "Learning to Live Again: A Lazarus Tale From the Covid Front Lines"

3rd Margaret Crable, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*, "Holocaust Separates Childhood Friends; USC Shoah Foundation Reunites Them"

L11B. HARD NEWS FEATURE, General News

Celeste Fremon, *WitnessLA*, "When LA County Probation Officials Got Repeated Reports That A Staff Member Sexually Assaulted A Teenager, Why Did They Do Nothing?"

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

Judges' comment: A powerful investigation into a blatant injustice.

2nd Kat Bailey, *IGN*, "Fury, Worry, and Walkouts: Inside Activision Blizzard's Week of Reckoning"

3rd Joe Linton, *Streetsblog Los Angeles*, "Pomona Families Holding Out Against Caltrans/Metro Home Demolitions for 71 Widening"

L12. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Stephanie Mendez, *BBC*, "The bike club empowering LA's Latinx community"

<https://bbc.in/3lpOx5S>

Judges' comment: Immersive storytelling paired with awesome visuals. Great work tying in a feature to policy/infrastructure issues.

2nd Cynthia Rebolledo and Jason Williams, *KCET*, "How Pico Rivera Became the Epicenter of Charrefia and Mexican Ranch Life in L.A."

3rd Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "How Grammy Nominee Phoebe Bridgers Became a Lockdown Rock Star"

L13A. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE on Film

Saida Pagan, *Palabra*, *National Association of Hispanic Journalists*, "'West Side Story: The Next Chapter'"

<https://bit.ly/3vJT9zB>

Judges' comment: Pagan wins here because they take advantage of the online format – including many photos and a video to enhance the story.

2nd Rebecca Rubin, *Variety*, "Confused About Where to Watch the Latest Blockbuster? You're Not Alone"

3rd Justin Chapman, *LAist*, "The Hedonistic History Of Paradise Springs, Where Early Hollywood Went Wild"

L13B. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE on Radio, Music, TV

Danielle Broadway, *Los Angeles Times*, "How 'Insecure' achieved its 'mission' to forge a real bond with South L.A."

<https://lat.ms/3w2TvBN>

Judges' comment: This isn't just a story for those familiar with LA and who avoid South LA. This is relevant to everyone who's consumed media that has stereotyped LA. The author does a great job tying spots from 'Insecure' and the production's attempt to inject positive associations and highlight the tightknit community there.

2nd Mesfin Fekadu, *The Associated Press*, "'Blinding Lights' and more hits the Grammys left in the dark"

3rd Dawn Burkes, *Los Angeles Times*, "Canceled by HBO, 'Lovecraft Country' leaves its Black fans vindicated with Emmy nods"

L14. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Film/TV personalities

Aaron Couch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Ultimate Spider-Man Collection to Be Sold Under Heart-Wrenching Circumstances"

<https://bit.ly/3xNsen0>

Judges' comment: This piece caught many by surprise, taking what could be a mundane story and turning it into a touching, full-circle piece that resonates, whether you love Spider-Man or have never read a comic. Great personality profile that also highlights bigger themes.

2nd Jude Dry, *IndieWire*, "Ruth Negga Crafted a 'F*ck-You Machine' to the Establishment with Her Radiant Turn in 'Passing'"

3rd Cate Young, *The Cut*, "Colman Domingo, Voice of the Gods The dandy for the modern age is finally getting his moment in the spotlight"

L15. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Music/Art/Society personalities

Cynthia Rebolledo, *LAist*, "The Last Resident Of Chino's Last Basque Boarding House Hangs On To Tradition"

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

Judges' comment: Informative, engaging photos that work hand in hand with the writing. A perfect example of how a journalist can take an everyday person and frame them in such a way that makes them both interesting and creates insight into the world we inhabit. Well done!

2nd Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "How Grammy Nominee Phoebe Bridgers Became a Lockdown Rock Star"

3rd Jem Aswad and Jazz Tangcay, *Variety*, "Becoming H.E.R.: How a 23-Year-Old Music Prodigy Grew Into an EGOT-Bound Voice for Her Generation"

L16. BUSINESS - An article or series.

Janette Villafana and Jack Ross, *Capital & Main* and *L.A. Taco*, "Capital & Main and L.A. Taco"

<https://bit.ly/3MbsuSR> ; <https://bit.ly/3vnxo8F> ; <https://bit.ly/3jOEQoO>

Judges' comment: Immediately captured by the opening, this series immerses readers in the latest chapter of a turf war between street vendors and L.A. public officials that stretches back more than a century. It clearly and compellingly outlines what's at stake for 10,000 entrepreneurs navigating long-standing efforts to regulate L.A.'s street food economy, putting into perspective the importance of food carts in this underground community. The stories are well-crafted and pace well. It's not easy to turn a story about permitting into something palatable, but the authors do a nice job to keep the reader enticed.

2nd Lou Hirsh, *CoStar News*, "Los Angeles Aims for No-Build 2028 Olympics"

3rd Lisa Richwine, *Reuters*, "Beyond Oscars glitz, movie theaters face uncertain future"

L17. COLUMNIST

Brett Callwood, *Idobi Radio*

<https://bit.ly/3CXI2X4> ; <https://bit.ly/3ucdsVx> ; <https://bit.ly/3qp0Nxt>

Judges' comment: Expertly written, thoughtfully crafted, and interesting columns.

2nd Chris Hedges, *ScheerPost*

3rd Chandra Bozelko, *Victorville Daily Press*

L18. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, National - One person's point of view.

Sonali Kolhatkar, *Yes! Magazine*, "Afghan Feminists Told Us War Wouldn't Free Them"

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8ed79h>

Judges' comment: This searing assessment of U.S. policy in Afghanistan focuses on the women who tried to make America understand it was fueling, not stopping, the Taliban. A stunning work that arguably belongs on some desks in Washington.

2nd Ryan Lo and Chandra Bozelko, *NBC News THINK*, "One of Joe Biden's first steps should be to fix Donald Trump's broken criminal justice reform"

3rd Norberto Santana Jr., *Voice of OC*, "Unraveling Jan. 6 Capital Riot"

L19. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, Local - One person's point of view.

Eric Preven and Joshua Preven, *CityWatchLA*, "The Pandemic Should Not be Used as a Pretext to Muffle the Voices of the 'Inconvenient Public'"

<https://bit.ly/372Vcqd>

Judges' comment: The Prevens fulfilled the role of watchdogs to fairly raise the alarm on government operating its business outside of public purview and for placing an arbitrary time limit on public comment time. This deserves praise for putting a 'stink-eye' spotlight on local bodies of government.

2nd Damien Newton, *Streetsblog LA*, "Garcetti Moves to Bring 'Hundreds' of Unhoused into Project Roomkey with New Federal Funds"

3rd Norberto Santana Jr., *Voice of OC*, "Memorializing Covid Dead"

L20. NON-POLITICAL COMMENTARY - One person's point of view.

Joe Linton, *LA Streetsblog*, "Metro/Caltrans Neighborhood Erasure along the Lower 5 Freeway"

<http://bit.ly/36l8zS1>

Judges' comment: The amount of research that went into this is incredible.

2nd Rob Eshman, *The Forward*, "I visited a tiny home village. Why aren't there more?"

3rd Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Marilyn Monroe's 'Some Like It Hot' Was a Troubled Production That Produced a Classic Movie"

L21. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY on TV/Film

Ben Travers, *IndieWire*, "TV's IP Problem: How Reboots, Spinoffs, and Blockbuster Franchises Could Shape the Future"

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

Judges' comment: The writer brilliantly argues that the repetitive nature of the blockbuster mentality is at the expense of more human stories. A dearth of originality we all will have to pay for.

2nd Matt Brennan, *Los Angeles Times*, "How two wildly different TV shows figured out how not to ignore a plague"

3rd Jess Joho, *Mashable*, "In the isolated grief of our pandemic bubbles, we are all Wanda Maximoff"

L22. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY on the Arts (including theater, music)

Ashley Lee, *Los Angeles Times*, "How the tragedy in 'The Father' taught me a surprisingly hopeful lesson about my own"

<https://lat.ms/3NXaaxD>

Judges' comment: Solid, creative piece of criticism: conversations and quotes from the writer's father deepen the understanding of the issues of aging, dementia, plus isolation of the pandemic.

2nd Chris Willman, *Variety*, "The Grammys' Nominating Committees Had to Go — Even if It Means Sacrificing Some Quality Picks"

3rd Shana Nys Dambrot, *Artillery Magazine*, "Tiffany Alfonseca at The Mistake Room"

L23. BLOG, INDIVIDUAL - Any single day.

Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, "Only In Hollywood"

<https://bit.ly/3xe8zhY>

Judges' comment: This blog entry is smart, funny, and timely, allowing the reader to step back from a show they might have loved to think about it in terms of how it was shot amid a pandemic.

2nd Donna Balancia, *US Rocker*, "Jimmy Cliff Makes Emotive Plea in First New Music in Four Years"

3rd Sharon Waxman, *TheWrap*, "Inside Disney: How the Bob Iger-Bob Chapek Rift Led to the ScarJo Blunder"

L24. BLOG, GROUP - Best collective or institutional blog; submit any single day.

Joe Linton, Sahra Sulaiman, Kris Fortin and Damien Newton, *Streetsblog Los Angeles*

<https://bit.ly/3pQjldQ> ; <https://bit.ly/3pQjkCs> ; <https://bit.ly/3MCEcXP> ; <https://bit.ly/3pQjkCs> ; <https://bit.ly/3sXQWk4>

Judges' comment: Streetsblog Los Angeles shows the power of digital journalism. By providing daily coverage focused keenly on LA transportation, Streetsblog holds the powerful to account on an issue that's often used to serve the wealthy and well-connected rather than everyday people looking to travel from Point A to Point B safely and efficiently.

2nd Ashley Cullins, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "THR, ESQ."

3rd Aaron Couch and Borys Kit, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Heat Vision"

L25. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION EXCLUSIVE TO THE INTERNET

Red Canary Magazine staff, *Red Canary Magazine*

<https://bit.ly/3NK7TH3>

Judges' comment: The design and presentation is beautiful, and the content seems very emblematic of LA culture and community.

2nd Capital & Main staff, *Capital & Main*

3rd IGN Staff, *IGN Entertainment*

L26. WEBSITE, TRADITIONAL NEWS ORGANIZATION - Website of a print or broadcast outlet.

IndieWire Staff, *IndieWire*

<http://www.indiewire.com/>

Judges' comment: By presentation, this site is the most unassuming of those competing. But it's full of analysis of entertainment issues, not to mention the depth of most of the pieces that immediately pop up on the site. Quite compelling and thought-provoking.

2nd The Hollywood Reporter Staff, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd Variety Staff, *Variety*

M. SOCIAL MEDIA

M1. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By an independent journalist - Maximum two days coverage of an individual story.

Meghann Cuniff, *Freelance*, "Live Twitter coverage of LA homeless lawsuit court hearings"

<https://bit.ly/3Npj975> ; <https://bit.ly/3up27I2>

Judges' comment: Very thorough, detailed, and engaging. Stood out for the public service function of the live tweets. Good writing.

2nd Brad A. Johnson, *Food & Travel*, "Instagram for Hotel Review: San Ysidro Ranch"

3rd Summer Dahlquist-Tookey, Johnny Neville and Rae Han, *USC Annenberg Media*, "Instagram Grid Posts Covering the Sigma Nu Fraternity Suspension and Protests in the first 48 hours"

M2. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a journalist tied to an organization - Maximum two days coverage of an individual story.

Jazz Tangcay, *Variety*, "Stephen Sondheim's Voicemail in Tick, Tick Boom"

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

Judges' comment: Thoughtful tweet, touching moment captured. Nice to see the engagement.

2nd Meghann Cuniff, *ALM/Law.com*, "Twitter coverage of Michael Avenatti's criminal trial"

3rd Brad A. Johnson, *Orange County Register*, "Brad A. Johnson's 50 Best Places to Eat Tacos in OC"

M3. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a group - Maximum two days coverage of an individual story.

Marcus Yam, Karen Foshay, Patrick Steward and Jamie Novogrod, *Los Angeles Times*, "Withdrawal from Afghanistan"

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

Judges' comment: Very high-quality video and use of social media, great teaser, engaging, an important topic - thanks for sharing your story and doing this brave work.

2nd Ryan Fish and Christy Pina, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Social Media Coverage of Betty White's Death and Legacy"

3rd Michael Ray, Kevin Haulihan, Karen Foshay, Jamie Novogrod and Joey Larson, *Los Angeles Times*, "The United States of California"

N. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS based in Southern California. — Any platform

N1. NEWS

Christele Jaime and Aviva Fried, *RTS*, "Afghanistan: a Pointless War?"

<https://bit.ly/3qIGYr2>

Judges' comment: An emotionally charged, well-told story of the heartbreak of a futile war and the heroes it produced.

2nd Fernanda Ezabella, *Folha de S. Paulo*, "Virtual Hollywood a hit with movie professionals, fans"

3rd Valerie Defert and Pierrick Leurent, *France 24*, "Eighty years after, survivors of Japanese internment camps remember ordeal"

N2. FEATURE - Profiles, lifestyle, and other topics.

Fernanda Ezabella, *UOL*, "A lion in the neighborhood"

<https://bit.ly/3MZO0ev>

Judges' comment: Fernanda Ezabella's exploration of the life of a lonely mountain lion in the midst of Los Angeles shows just how much wild creatures struggle to survive human encroachment, and how people are striving to provide wildlife with creative ways to cohabitate.

2nd Katharina Wilhelm, *ARD Radio*, "Staub statt Mais - Kaliforniens Landwirte und die Dürre"

3rd Tom Walters and Chad Tweten, *CTV - Canadian Television*, "Whitewashing"

N3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Nadra Nittle, *The Guardian UK*, "Betye Saar: the brilliant artist who reversed and radicalised racist stereotypes"

<https://bit.ly/36eG08T>

Judges' comment: Beautifully written and important story that shows the personality and impact of a groundbreaking artist.

2nd Michael Idato, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *Melbourne Age*, "Jennifer Hudson: Natural Woman"

3rd Janet Nepales, *Hollywood Foreign Press Association*, "HFPA In Conversation: Isabel Sandoval, A Trans Female Asian Filmmaker Making It In Hollywood"

N4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

Fernanda Ezabella, *Folha de S. Paulo*, "Skeletons, monoliths and a cat: artists run away to California deserts"

<https://bit.ly/30LWGlR>

Judges' comment: Fernanda Ezabella gives us a quick, compelling glimpse off the beaten path of entertainment news, describing the weird and wonderful world of art that's being carefully tended in California's half-forgotten desert.

2nd Adam Tanswell, SFX, "The Making Of Eternals: 'An Eternal Flame'"

3rd Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, "Jon M. Chu scales greater 'Heights' on his New York set"

N5. COLUMNIST or CRITIC - One person's point of view on any subject.

Natasha Hakimi Zapata, *The Nation/ScheerPost*

<https://bit.ly/3LRUn28>

Judges' comment: Natasha Hakimi Zapata's column on the myriad entanglements of Boris Johnson's administration with supporters granted COVID-19 contracts doesn't pull a punch, but neither does it swing too hard or below the belt. It's firmly grounded and carries the reader through a complex arrangement with a lively, concise voice and eye for telling detail.

2nd Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*

3rd Tom Walters, *CTV - Canadian Television*

O. STUDENT MEDIA

O1. BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Santa Monica College Corsair Staff, *Santa Monica College Corsair*, "The Corsair - Issue 6 (Spring 2021)"

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

Judges' comment: From layout to story content, images and graphics, this is professional caliber work.

2nd Daily Forty-Niner Staff, *Daily Forty-Niner*, "Vol. LXXII, Issue 31"

3rd Cassandra Nava and the Valley Star Staff, *The Valley Star*, Los Angeles Valley College

O2. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

The Matador Staff, *The Matador*, "The Matador: Issue 7"

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

Judges' comment: The detail and hard work are evident in this newspaper. An excellent job by tomorrow's professionals!

2nd Ani Tutunjyan, *The Mirror*, "The Mirror: The End of an Era"

3rd Tommy Li and Tyler Pak, *The Accolade*, "Stop Asian Hate"

O3. BEST COLLEGE NEWS WEBSITE

The Union staff, *The Union*

<https://eccunion.com/>

Judges' comment: An excellent job of blending design and information on this easy to navigate website.

2nd Ashley Mowreader and Karl Winter, *The Graphic (Pepperdine)*

3rd Tahiti Salinas, Rosio Flores, Mia Alva, Joshua Letona, Ethan Axtell, *University Times*, Cal State LA

O4. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWS WEBSITE

James Goddard and Liana Ngauv, *Millikan School's Millikan Corydon*

<https://millikancorydon.com/>

Judges' comment: Young minds are clearly being put to good use as evinced by the site's strong design elements and good story curation!

2nd Tommy Li and Kristima Aryal, *The Accolade*

3rd Ani Tutunjyan, *The Mirror*

O5. BEST NEWS PHOTO

Jose Tobar, *The Union*, "Remembering a slain student"

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

Judges' comment: A tragically lost life is captured with photographic simplicity and emotion. The image speaks for itself without trying.

2nd Emily Shaw, *The Graphic*, "'Don't Touch My Kid': Malibu Moms Stage Anti-Vaccine Mandate Protest Near Pier"

3rd Maxim Elramsisy, *The Corsair*, "Not Consent!"

O6. BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Liza Esquibias, *The Graphic*, "Body and Soul: Appreciate the Joys of the Farmer's Market"

<https://tinyurl.com/ycks3wd5>

Judges' comment: A mouth-watering image that conveys in living color-- the way the still life masters did with paint.

2nd Valeria Luquin, *The Pearl Post*, "Daniel Pearl World Music Day 'Reptilia'"

3rd David Tran, *The Union*, "A bereaved mom reads to her child"

O7. BEST SPORTS WRITING – PRINT or ONLINE

David Rodish, *Cronkite News*, "They 'just want to play:' The history of girls in the Little League World Series"

<https://bit.ly/36pgXQt>

Judges' comment: An incisive, well-written piece that is not merely a sports story but social commentary. Very perceptive work.

2nd Matt Brown and Jeremy Taylor, *Daily 49er*, "Student-athletes benefit from recent NCAA rule change regarding name, image and likeness"

3rd Harrison Herbert, *Warrior Life*, "Leveling up"

O8. BEST ARTS WRITING – PRINT or ONLINE

Addison Whiten, *The Graphic*, "'Yes And': LA Improv Groups Continue Performing During COVID-19"

<https://tinyurl.com/4feh8pnc>

Judges' comment The importance of an art form-- improvisation-- is somehow even more important during the pandemic. The writer gives us insight into the need for a creative process no matter the circumstances.

2nd Michael Chow, *USC Annenberg Media*, "Reflections from the 'Squid Game' Red Carpet"

3rd Tony Le Calvez, *Point Loma Nazarene University*, "Out of the Glovebox: 'Le Meilleur De Bachelet'"

O9. BEST NEWS WRITING, Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE

Erika Paz and Tiffany Mankarios, *Daily Forty-Niner*, "How CSULB lost an affordable housing opportunity in Downtown Long Beach"

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

Judges' comment: This well-written report proves the housing crisis affects us all. Very impressive for its clarity of fact and detail.

2nd Delilah Brumer, *The Pearl Post*, "School bus driver shortage leads to reduction in routes, longer rides"

3rd Sophia Villamor, *The Lion*, "Harry Styles' 'Pleasing' and the Authenticity of Celebrity Brands"

O10. BEST NEWS WRITING, Off-Campus issues – PRINT or ONLINE

David Rodish, *Cronkite News*, "'Be bold. Be courageous': Gabby Giffords opens Gun Violence Memorial in LA"

<https://bit.ly/36lzzAG>

Judges' comment: Gun violence has never been more prevalent as this excellent, well-sourced report highlights. Strong quotes are organized to put in relief our local history with the trend.

2nd Delilah Brumer and Gabrielle Lashley, *The Pearl Post*, "Acquittal of Daniel Pearl's murderer sparks outrage"

3rd Ivy Moore, *The Graphic*, "Could Beef Be Good For People and The Planet? Regenerative, Grass-Fed Beef May Offer A Solution To Our Health, Climate Crisis"

O11. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE

Marcos Mackey-Darden and Vincent Marcel, *Santa Monica College Corsair*, "Collegiate Sex Work on the Rise"

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

Judges' comment: A revealing, deeply-researched and impactful piece on a disturbing social media trend among college students earning extra cash.

2nd Lucia Ruan, *USC Annenberg Media*, "Troy Philippines Brings Philipinx American History Month to Life"

3rd Kim McGill, *The Union*, "ECC Fire Academy instructor Deena Lee makes history as South Bay's first female fire chief"

O12. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Off-Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE

Walter Jay Jr., *The Union*, "Homeless but human"

<https://bit.ly/382RBZh>

Judges' comment: The pacing of this article is pretty perfect. Walter Jay Jr.'s colloquial writing style makes this story impactful in a way that is best achieved through narrative journalism. The fact that he immersed himself in the subject — hanging out with Eddie and possibly getting soaked alongside him — is the stuff of great storytelling. He also does a great job at giving the reader just enough imagery throughout the story without getting too floral. This is a tough balance, and he does it well.

2nd Xenia Hamilton, *Cal State LA's UT Community News*, "South LA explosion, months later"

3rd Evangeline Barrosse, *USC Annenberg Media*, "Jackie Castillo: Gutting and the Art of Unsilencing"

O13. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Campus Personalities – ANY PLATFORM

Juan Miranda, *Warrior Life*, "Serving the community through Warrior Pantry"

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

Judges' comment: This was a tough category to judge because each story had its strengths. This entry stood out because the audience gets to know the subject of the story and her personality right away. The reporter starts by taking us to a lively scene that many people on campus might be familiar with, and then digs in to tell their viewers what we may not know. That is valuable. Multiple sources are interviewed.

2nd Sebastian Perez, *Daily Forty-Niner*, "CSULB project rebound coordinator shares life story as formerly incarcerated"

3rd Sorina Szakacs, *Los Angeles Collegian*, "Hardship Tests Student, Scholarships Bring Education of a Lifetime"

O14. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Off-Campus Personalities – ANY PLATFORM

Rida Zar, *The Accolade*, "From change.org to change that name: Class of 2019 alumna reflects on one-year anniversary of how she successfully campaigned to remove a suspected KKK member's name from district's auditorium"

<https://bit.ly/36qMZLP>

Judges' comment: This is a good profile that expands beyond the main subject. It gives the work of a local individual some national context. The reporter interviews multiple sources and gives credit where it is due, showing how others propped up the star of the piece. This is also a smooth read.

2nd Stephanie Prez, *Cal State LA's UT Community News*, "Accident that almost ended his life gave him a new one"

3rd Amanda Day, *Cronkite News*, "First LGBTQ+ mariachi group is paving the way for the next generation"

O15. BEST TV REPORTING - PODCAST or STREAM

Jorge Garcia and Kilmer Salinas, *Cal State LA's GETV*, "Eastsiders get help from YMCA during the pandemic"

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

Judges' comment: Great coverage on both the effects of the pandemic on Boyle Heights residents and the services being provided to them, including a diverse range of voices from residents and volunteers that shed light on various aspects of the situation.

2nd Owen Tait and Chris Benis, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "Speak Up and Dribble"

3rd Jillian Carmenate, Mayte Carrillo, Samantha Moskow and Juliette Smith, *USC Annenberg Media*, "Texas abortion law fires up Women's March"

O16. BEST RADIO OR PODCAST REPORTING

Polina Cherezova, *USC Annenberg Media*, "Out of the Concert Hall, Onto the Open Road: A Musical Journey"

<https://bit.ly/3CrQ4qR>

Judges' comment: A stirring tale from the pandemic that reminds us that Life and Art continue to unite us in this creative, musical journey.

2nd Lindsey Sullivan, *The Graphic*, "A Journalist and a Survivor Reflect on the Inner Workings of a Sexual Assault Investigation"

3rd Jeremy Taylor, *Daily Forty-Niner*, "The Fair Pay to Play Act"