

67th Southern California Journalism Awards Winners

A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A1. PRINT JOURNALIST (Over 50,000 Circulation)

Keiran Southern, *The Times of London*

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/44acd4e2-de72-4044-8b29-fcc0d705a18b>

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/2f8fcbf0-3cd4-4e58-90ca-ba9a17f9df6f>

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/2f8fcbf0-3cd4-4e58-90ca-ba9a17f9df6f>

Judges' comment: Southern's incisive, in-depth reporting on controversial issues, such as the Elvis Presley family feud, the pros and cons of riding in driverless taxis, or Kamala Harris's past relationship with a city major, earns him this top print award.

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

3rd: Daniel D'Addario, *Variety*

A2. PRINT JOURNALIST (Under 50,000 Circulation)

Ellen Snortland, *Los Angeles Downtown News*

<https://bit.ly/4cdou2r>

<https://bit.ly/3Y8fEgA>

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

Judges' comment: Snortland is a passionate reporter on the arts, whether describing the joy of children with failing eyesight seeing stunning sites with their parents in the documentary "Blink:", or writing about local theater in Atwater Village and Pasadena.

2nd: Aaron Bandler, *Jewish Journal*

3rd: Diana Martinez, *The San Fernando Valley Sun/el Sol Newspaper*

A3. TELEVISION JOURNALIST

Angela Boisvert, *PBS SoCal*

<https://vimeo.com/1070670838/603411f153?share=copy>

<https://vimeo.com/1011186264/ae0a3583cd?share=copy>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZ3rqujPJ1k>

Judges' comment: Boisvert's wide range of covering numerous stories from fun arts in education with actor John Lithgow to sociopolitical issues earns her lots of accolades and deserving of the TV Journalist of the Year award.

2nd: David Ono, *KABC-TV*

3rd: Marla Tellez, *KTTV Fox 11*

A4. AUDIO JOURNALIST

Caleigh Wells, *KCRW/Marketplace*

<https://bit.ly/3EHjK8R>

<https://bit.ly/4k6cEuz>

<https://bit.ly/4k6cD9Z>

Judges' comment: Well's uncanny ability to find and tell little-known stories about many people, including describing how a person's partner who died and underwent the new practice of composting, is worthy of the Audio Journalist of the Year award.

2nd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*

3rd: Steve Futterman, *CBC News/NPR*

A5. ONLINE JOURNALIST, Tied to an Organization

Nick Gerda, *LAist*

<https://bit.ly/4iOpug8>

<https://bit.ly/41OTKkW>

<https://bit.ly/4caQeF5>

Judges' comment: LAist's Gerda conducted a superb, revealing investigation of corruption in a series of articles, demonstrating the necessity and power of journalism to be done in the public interest in an era of unwarranted criticism of the press.

2nd: Phil Hopkins, *LocalNewsPasadena.com*

3rd: James Hibberd, *The Hollywood Reporter*

A6. ONLINE JOURNALIST, Independent/Freelance

Lyndsey Parker, *Freelance*

<https://bit.ly/3DaJt91>

<https://bit.ly/3Z1y8AD>
<https://bit.ly/4gVb3Fe>

Judges' comment: With her extensive interviews with pop music stars and absorbing pieces about pop culture for her "Lyndsanity" website, Parker is a music culture aficionado who deserves this award recognition.

2nd: Nico Lang, *Queer News Daily*

3rd: Lisa Niver, *Freelance*

A7. ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST

Chris Willman, *Variety*

<https://bit.ly/3XnqGya>
<https://bit.ly/4e073lx>
<https://bit.ly/4clk8z8>

Judges' comment: Not only does Willman exhaustively cover major music events, such as Taylor Swift and Bruce Springsteen, and major personalities, such as composer John Williams, but also he writes brilliantly about them and their significance.

2nd: Holly Gleason, *Freelance*

3rd: Mesfin Fekadu, *The Hollywood Reporter*

A8. SPORTS JOURNALIST

Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*

<https://shorturl.at/BtRCa>
<https://shorturl.at/qTmki>
<https://shorturl.at/mGwGB>

Judges' comment: While some sports journalists write about the major sports, Flax finds lesser-known sports athletes and engagingly writes about their lives and desires. His pieces are compelling, earning him the Sports Journalist award.

2nd: Brian Steinberg, *Variety*

3rd: John Murphy, *Redlands Daily Facts*

A9. PHOTOJOURNALIST

Osceola Refetoff, *PBS SoCal*

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

<http://bit.ly/43w60b4>

Judges' comment: With an excellent eye for composing just the right shot and angle to illustrate articles, whether terrific landscape photos or ones with humans posed against a compelling background, Refetoff's work is always spot on and earns the Photojournalist of the Year award.

2nd: Robert Gauthier, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd: Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*

A10. VIDEOGRAPHER

Christopher Pearson, *Sky News UK*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JddlCs7YrEw&t=2s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wulgLZy0gPg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3perFUMnB-I>

Judges' comment: Whether covering Native American protests against mining in vast Western landscapes, up close to San Quentin prisoners, or in the midst of student protests at UCLA, Pearson composes stunning and gripping videos to illustrate reporters' stories. Kudos to Pearson as Videographer of the Year.

2nd: Sandra Stojanovic, *Reuters TV*

3rd: Paul Sanchez, *KTLA*

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

B1. CONSUMER NEWS or FEATURE

Caleigh Wells, *Marketplace*, "Urban condo owners are 'counting pennies' as home insurance soars"

<https://bit.ly/4k3BQ4Y>

Judges' comment: This story is a terrific example of using a person to humanize what would be an otherwise dull story. Impressive storytelling combined with research, statistics and the judicious use of sources to tell the story succinctly and well.

2nd: Robin Urevich, *Capital & Main/ProPublica*, "How L.A.'s Illegal Short-Term Rentals Hide in Plain Sight on Booking Sites"

3rd: Tatiana Siegel, *Variety*, "Fugees Founder Pras Michél Speaks Out While Facing 22 Years in Prison: 'I Never Wanted to Be a Spy'"

B2. FAITH/SPIRITUAL REPORTING

Stephanie Ayanian, Joseph Myers, Mary McDermott, Greg Feinberg, *PBS SoCal*, "Whatever Dreams They Had"

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

Judges' comment: A stunning, intimate look at what it means to seek safety, lift your community and build a future in the wake of tragedy. The film handles grief, pain, hope and resilience with care. How lucky viewers are to be introduced to Father Armenag through this thoughtful film.

2nd: Louis Keene, *The Forward*, "How a California wildfire put an Orthodox school's values to the test"

3rd: Matthew Crotty, Francesca Roth, Clarissa Guy, Angela Boisvert and Tamara Gould, *PBS SoCal*, "Earth Focus: YTT Tribe Reclaims Ancestral Land"

B3. TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Audrey Carleton, *Capital & Main*, "In Rural Pennsylvania, Crypto Mining Offers a Lifeline for Dying Gas Wells"

<https://capitalandmain.com/in-rural-pennsylvania-crypto-mining-offers-a-lifeline-for-dying-gas-wells>

Judges' comment: Capital & Main's entry about bitcoin mining in rural Pennsylvania is a solid investigative piece, spotlighting shadowy operators, faulty oversight and new threats to the environment.

2nd: Joe Zadeh, *Noema Magazine*, "A Digital Twin Might Just Save Your Life"

3rd: Ethan Ward, *AfroLA*, "The algorithm says crisis. The social worker says trust"

B4. TRAVEL REPORTING

Angela Boisvert, Matt Bass, Tamara Gould, Nathan Masters, Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Lost LA: Hiking Trailblazers"

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/lost-la/clip/hiking-as-healing-with-walkgood-la>

Judges' comment: Hiking Trailblazers, This PBS story tells a compelling story in a personal way about race in America. It uses an outdoor event to draw the viewer into the story and has plenty of historical photographs and background research to round it out. Nicely done!

2nd: Ruksana Hussain, *Fodor's Travel*, "How to Behave When Visiting Sites of Remembrance"

3rd: Susan Valot, *KCRW*, "'Just as special as Disneyland,' backyard trains draw crowds"

B5. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

Katie Licari, Dana Amihire, Alexandra Kanik, Alex Tatusian, Justin Allen, AfroLA, "Water and Power"

<http://bit.ly/4hml6Cd>

Judges' comment: The depth of reporting and interactive graphics make this entry stand out.

2nd: Jack Eidt and Osceola Refetoff, *PBS SoCal*, "High & Dry: Slab City – Creative Homesteading in a Desert of Extremes"

3rd: Melissa Saenz Gordon, Nora O'Donnell, Tara Thompson, Kirsten Nicholas and Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Legends of the Floor"

B6. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF TV

Mary McNamara, *Los Angeles Times*, "'The Bear' isn't about the pressures of fine dining. It's about the damage alcoholism inflicts"

<https://tinyurl.com/4wcpka2k>

Judges' comment: Tremendous writer who has a way with words. These columns captivate the audience.

2nd: Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, "TV Talkers From Pat McAfee to Rachel Maddow Gain New License to Blast Bosses On-Air"

3rd: Jenelle Riley, *Variety*, "This Emmys Season, Don't Forget About: Heidi Gardner, the Scene Stealer of 'SNL'"

B7. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF FILM

Lovia Gyarkye, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Notebook: A New Wave of Films Experiments With How We See Climate Change"

<https://tinyurl.com/msd2ckm3>

Judges' comment: An important and insightful piece on how cinema is addressing environmental issues in new ways.

2nd: Jim Hemphill, *IndieWire*, “One of the Greatest Westerns Ever Made Is Now Streaming After Decades in the Wilderness”

3rd: Peter Debruge, *Variety*, “Critic's Notebook: Sharper Than Ever, French Crime Classic 'Le Samourai' Might Be the Coolest Film Ever Made”

B8. CRITICISM OF TV

Ben Travers, *IndieWire*
<https://shorturl.at/Cff7z>

Judges’ comment: What is the best thing a review can deliver? If it's a favorable review, and the reader has not experienced the production, it inspires that reader to immediately seek out the piece and experience it. This review fills that bill admirably — and as a bonus offers accessible prose and some nice turns of phrase. In short, the review itself is enjoyable, and it lures the reader to a TV series that the reviewer finds enjoyable and satisfying.

2nd: Angie Han, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd: Aramide Tinubu, *Variety*

B9. CRITICISM OF FILM (Over 1,000 Words; Each Review)

Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*
<https://bit.ly/3T6ie4s>

Judges’ comment: Gleiberman writes for every movie fan. The work is approachable for the common viewer, but it also drops deep-cut references for the true cinephiles out there. There's more personalized voice than any other entrant in this contest, which leads to a really enjoyable and fun read.

2nd: Siddhant Adlakha, *Truthdig*

3rd: Jon Frosch, *The Hollywood Reporter*

B10. CRITICISM OF FILM (Under 1,000 Words; Each Review)

Carlos Aguilar, *Freelance/Los Angeles Times*
<https://bit.ly/4jdTIJ3>

Judges’ comment: Thoughtfully nuanced film reviews offer rich analysis and vivid descriptions that bring each film’s emotional depth and thematic complexity to life with clarity and insight.

2nd: David Ehrlich, *IndieWire*

3rd: Lovia Gyarkye, *The Hollywood Reporter*

B11. CRITICISM OF THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS

Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2024-12-04/theater-critic-upside-down-world-muppets-ebert-siskel>

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2024-11-12/review-east-west-players-stephen-sondheim-pacific-overtures-theater-revival>

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2024-11-15/review-waiting-for-godot-geffen-playhouse-rainn-wilson-aasif-mandvi>

Judges' comment: McNulty's criticism is thoughtful, provocative and expansive. This reader enjoyed going through the looking glass to read McNulty's thoughts on everything from August Wilson to Chekhov, McCraney to Macbeth, The Wooster Group and Bergoff. McNulty reminds readers that theatre remains the most vital public artform.

2nd: Chris Willman, *Variety*

3rd: David Rooney, *The Hollywood Reporter*

B12. CRITICISM OF MUSIC

Holly Gleason, *HITS*

<https://bit.ly/42aVpjC>,

Judges' comment: These are celebratory, informed pieces that walk the borderlands between music and society, and trace the ties that bind country and culture.

2nd: Chris Willman, *Variety*

3rd: Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*

B13. CRITICISM OF BOOKS

Judy Gruen, *Jewish Journal*

<https://bit.ly/3FK3iox>

<https://bit.ly/3E1hdpV>

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

Judges' comment: Written for a Jewish audience but inviting to readers of many faiths, the author's thoughtful book selections, deft summaries and insightful reviews are a reminder that

we are all grasping to survive a multitude of situations, and that great literature can pierce preconceived notions of different faiths, traditions and cultures to reveal what unites rather than separates humanity.

2nd: Amy DePaul, *Citric Acid*

3rd: Tom Teicholz, *Forbes.com*

B14. CRITICISM OF ART/ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN

Mimi Zeiger, *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, *Los Angeles Review of Architecture*, *The Architects Newspaper*

<https://bit.ly/421xPqD>

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

<https://bit.ly/420oLlP>

Judges' comment: A variety of styles tailored to the subject at hand, showing an overall knowledge and a flexibility with style and prose. Reviews are well reported, respectful, occasionally critical, and layered with examples to make a strong case either way.

2nd: Tom Teicholz, *Forbes.com*

3rd: Monica Osborne, *Jewish Journal*

B15. CRITICISM OF FOOD/CULTURE (Up to three reviews)

Bill Addison, *Los Angeles Times*

<https://tinyurl.com/mv89p8n2>

<https://tinyurl.com/3482hnf2>

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

Judges' comment: Clear-eyed reviews that are loaded with context. Readers will leave these pieces with great food descriptions and a better understanding of the Los Angeles food scene at large.

2nd: Brian Addison, *Longbeachize*

3rd: Rob Eshman, *The Forward*

C. PRINT/ONLINE – ANY OUTLET

Includes news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team.

C1. EDITORIALS

Emily St. Martin, *Huffington Post*, “Hundreds Of Journalists Just Lost Their Jobs. I’m One Of Them — And I’m Begging You To Pay Attention”

<http://bit.ly/4hEJ2mF>

Judges’ comment: A well-written, timely and excruciatingly human story.

2nd: Jem Aswad, *Variety*, “Jennifer Lopez’s Canceled Tour, and Society’s Twisted Pleasure in Seeing Strong Women Fail”

3rd: Phil Hopkins, *Local News Pasadena*, “Goodbye Darkness, Goodbye Quiet”

C2. HEADLINE

James Hibberd, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Cats Are Finally Having a Big Hollywood Meow-Ment”

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxp5yxc>

Judges’ comment: James Hibberd was having a lot of fun with this headline and deck, and the fun is contagious.

2nd: Mark Sharar, *Investor’s Business Daily*, “AI Takes a Bite Out of Apple”

3rd: Sandro Monetti, *Hollywood International Filmmaker Magazine*, “The Shawshank Vacation (Prison Open to Tourists)”

C3. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

Nick Gerda, Jill Replogle, Ted Rohrlich, Yusra Farzan, *LAist*, “Uncovering the Andrew Do corruption scandal”

<https://bit.ly/4iOpug8>

Judges’ comment: LAist held power to account in the way only a local publication can in this story, uncovering diverted funds that would’ve otherwise gone unnoticed.

2nd: Jessica Goodheart, *Capital & Main*, “Surviving on \$1,800 a Month in Social Security, She Died Looking for a Place to Live”

3rd: Joe Mathews, *Noema Magazine*, “I Wrote The Magna Carta, And You Can Too”

C4A. MEDICAL/HEALTH, Healthcare Issues

Keri Blakinger, *Los Angeles Times*, “Why was 2023 such a deadly year in Los Angeles County jails? It depends on whom you ask”

<http://bit.ly/3Do4OvY>

Judges’ comment: The writer found a way to humanize this investigation of the high prison death toll and took the reader far beyond the numbers and problems there.

2nd: Eliza Partika, *AfroLA*, “How do we treat L.A.’s overwhelmed emergency medicine system?”

3rd: Jireh Deng, *Los Angeles Times*, “‘We’ve created medical refugees.’ LGBTQ+ healthcare workers fight for gender-affirming care amid rise in anti-trans laws”

C4B. MEDICAL/HEALTH, Mental and Physical Health

Miles Klee, *Rolling Stone*, “Luigi Mangione Wrote Online About a Spine Disorder. Other Patients Say It’s Hell”

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

Judges’ comment: Klee shines light on the interesting backstory of Luigi Mangione and millions of others who suffer from debilitating back pain. Klee includes a slew of interesting interviews painting a grim picture of the healthcare system and patients who experience this affliction. A complicated look at how pain could have led to a mental crisis and murder.

2nd: Natalie Yeh, *Zócalo Public Square*, “For Trans People, a Doctor’s Visit Can Be a Dilemma”

3rd: Eli Cahan, *Capital & Main*, “How Islamophobia Is Driving a Mental Health Crisis Among Michigan’s Muslim Youth”

C4C. MEDICAL/HEALTH, Diseases and Epidemics

Carrie Arnold, *Noema Magazine*, “Viruses Play A Leading Role In Humanity’s Story, And Not As A Villain”

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

Judges’ comment: A fascinating and well researched article looking at the role viruses play in our lives. Arnold skillfully crafts a science, history and evolution story all in one!

2nd: J.D. Tuccille, *Reason Magazine*, “When Your Heart Becomes a Snitch”

3rd: Hosam Elattar, *Voice of OC*, “Tackling Health Gaps in OC’s South Asian, Middle Eastern and North African Communities”

C5. SCIENCE REPORTING

Joe Zadeh, *Noema Magazine*, “A Digital Twin Might Just Save Your Life”

<https://bit.ly/440r5uz>

Judges’ comment: This is explanatory journalism at its best: taking a scientific and technical subject and putting it in terms lay readers can understand.

2nd: Ian James, *Los Angeles Times*, “How a water scientist hopes to save California habitats that could be pumped dry”

3rd: John Harlow, *UCLA Magazine*, “The Promise of Cameroon”

C6A. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Schools and Universities

Tyler Kingkade, *NBC News Digital*, “Inside the two-year fight to bring charges against school librarians in Granbury, Texas”

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/school-librarians-banned-books-investigation-texas-rcna161444>

Judges’ comment: Strong writing that draws the reader in right away. Well laid out with context around this deep investigation.

2nd: Beau Yarbrough and Jordan Darling, *The Press-Enterprise*, “Riverside takes UC Riverside to court over university’s growth plans”

3rd: Sharon Hawley/Colorado Boulevard Newspaper Staff, *Colorado Boulevard Newspaper*, “Spooky Tunnels Under the Caltech Campus”

C6B. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Homelessness/Housing

Robin Urevich, Haru Coryne, *Capital & Main/ProPublica*, “In Los Angeles, Your Chic Vacation Rental May Be a Rent-Controlled Apartment”

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

<https://bit.ly/445mMOv>

<https://bit.ly/43zkPK5>

Judges’ comment: A helpful accompanying piece explains how consumers can detect improper rentals and a follow-up story suggests the city may improve enforcement in advance of the 2028 Summer Olympics.

2nd: Spencer Custodio, *Voice of OC*, “Does Prop 1 Mean More Group Homes for Orange County?”

3rd: Kevin Dolak, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Beverly Hills in Crisis as Judge Mandates New Affordable Housing: ‘People Are Furious’”

C6C. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Crime/Corruption

Phil Hopkins, *LocalNewsPasadena.com*, “A Local Police Force Prepares For War: The Question is With Whom?”

<https://localnewspasadena.com/2024/our-local-police-force-prepares-for-war-the-question-is-with-whom/>

Judges’ comment: This article about police militarization is not merely food for thought but a full, troubling, 10 course meal!

2nd: Nick Gerda, Jill Replogle, Ted Rohrlich and Yusra Farzan, *LAist*, “Uncovering the Andrew Do corruption scandal”

3rd: Scott Schwebke, *Pasadena Star-News*, “Arcadia councilmember under harsh glare over ties to accused Chinese agent”

C6D. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Governing

Louis Keene, *The Forward*, “Why a liberal Jewish stronghold in Los Angeles flipped for Trump”

<https://bit.ly/43fuS6Z>

Judges’ comment: The author’s deep-dive into an often overlooked voting bloc is a great example of crucial political reporting missed by mainstream media during elections. Only through local, community-focused stories like this one do we get a true understanding of why every vote matters.

2nd: Daniel Trotta, *Reuters*, “Huntington Beach politics”

3rd: Robert J. Lopez, *Capital & Main*, “California Cuts Back on Safety Enforcement as Farmworkers Toil in Extreme Heat”

C7. NATIONAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Colleen Hagerty, *Rolling Stone*, “Inside the Patchwork World of Emergency Alerts”

<https://bit.ly/3Dub5q0>

Judges’ comment: From wildfires to tornadoes, the reporter does a deep dive into the importance of emergency alerts. Great story in what was a loaded category.

2nd: Erich Schwartzel, *The Wall Street Journal*, "Inside Kamala Harris's L.A. Life: SoulCycle, Hollywood Parties, Annoyed Neighbors"

3rd: Nina Storchlic, *Noema Magazine*, "A Country Shaped By Poetry"

C8. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

Editorial Board, *Colorado Boulevard Newspaper*, "Pasadena Mayor, Victor Gordo, Volunteers To Solve the Middle East Conflict"

<https://shorturl.at/W6p6U>

Judges' comment: A biting satire of the self-importance of one municipality officeholder.

2nd: Tabby Refael, *Jewish Journal*, "The Commencement Address No One Asked Me to Deliver"

3rd: Chris Willman, *Variety*, "'Freedom,' or 'YMCA'? What Donald Trump's and Kamala Harris' Music Choices on the Campaign Trail Really Say About Their Candidacies"

C9. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION, TV/Film Personalities

Holly Gleason, *Hollygleason.com*, "MOMENT OF FOREVER: Kris Kristofferson's Love for ALL Defined his Life"

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

Judges' comment: This is a profoundly personal tale of what Kristofferson meant to the author that does not sacrifice a telling narrative of Kristofferson's own hardships and victories.

2nd: Daniel Fienberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Appreciation: Bob Newhart Was an Everyman With a Comic Voice Like No Other"

3rd: Christian Blauvelt, *IndieWire*, "The Late Quincy Jones Reinvented Film Music, Defined 'Fusion,' and Did Something Extremely Rare at a Post-Screening Q&A"

C10. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION, Politics/Business/Arts Personalities

Erin Aubry Kaplan, *Capital & Main*, "A Lifelong Sika"

<https://capitalandmain.com/a-lifelong-sika>

Judges' comment: Kaplan gives a wonderful tribute to the "Baba of Leimert Park Village" - Sika Dwimfo, the Black jewelry merchant who brought together the Black L.A. community.

2nd: Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Chuck Philips, Pulitzer-Winning L.A. Times Journalist Renowned for Investigative Reporting on Music Industry, Dies at 71"

3rd: Holly Gleason, *PASTE*, “If You Have Crying Eyes: JD Souther Will Be Here At Closing Time”

C11. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM

Michaela Haas, *Reasons to be Cheerful*, “Growing Corn in the Desert, No Irrigation Required”

<https://shorturl.at/u7tHG>

Judges’ comment: This article shows how traditional methods, used for thousands of years, can offer real solutions to modern problems like drought—especially in dry places like Arizona. The Hopi grow crops without irrigation, relying on rainfall and deep planting techniques. It’s a powerful reminder that Indigenous knowledge has a lot to teach us about sustainability and resilience.

2nd: Elizabeth Moss, *AfroLA*, “Is the blind removal model in child welfare scalable? It’s complicated”

3rd: Eliza Partika, *AfroLA*, “Courtroom watchdog program holds Los Angeles judges accountable”

C12. CRIME REPORTING

Oliver Milman, *Noema Magazine*, “The Rise Of the Bee Bandits”

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

Judges’ comment: Totally unexpected in a crime story, the writing is lyrical, the reporting impeccable and the result is a great read. An incredible tale of a crime – bee rustling – and the nuances of this growing problem in agricultural areas needing pollinators. Who knew thousands of bee hives are being stolen by these bee-thieving gangs each year?

2nd: Keri Blakinger and Alene Tchekmedyian, *Los Angeles Times*, “A bowling alley, a boozy fight and allegations of a new deputy gang in Los Angeles”

3rd: Keri Blakinger and Emily Elena Dugdale, *Los Angeles Times/LA Public Press*, “Spotty redactions and public records reveal names of deputies in case against D.A. advisor”

C13. SPORTS REPORTING

Lisa Friedman Bloch, *Beverly Hills Courier*, “Candace Parker Powering Forward”

<https://bit.ly/3QMjt2d>

Judges’ comment: A riveting story about the first woman to dunk a basketball. The writer does a great job of tracing her career through the years and of showing her enduring relevance. Beautifully written.

2nd: Izzy Salant, *Jewish News Syndicate*, "They survived Oct. 7 ... now they're playing basketball in Los Angeles"

3rd: Clay Skipper, Peter Flax, Nora O'Donnell, Tara Thompson and Rudi Uebelhoer, *The Red Bulletin*, "Double Trouble"

C14. SPORTS COMMENTARY

James C. Cobb, *Zócalo Public Square*, "How Television Made Willie Mays a Star"
<https://zps.la/3Y3iW5G>

Judges' comment: The winning entry is a glorious analysis of the enduring impact of the great Willie Mays. Told compellingly and extremely readable for sports fans and non fans alike.

2nd: Natalia Molina, *Caló News*, "Will my brother be at the World Series? I think so"

3rd: John Murphy, *Banning Beaumont Record Gazette*, "Little person managing quite well for Cougars"

D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

D1. NEWS PHOTO

Robert Gauthier, *Los Angeles Times*, "Campus Protest"
PDF

Judges' comment: Gauthier's chilling, up-close photo capturing police charging protesters could only happen if he positioned himself well. An unforgettable image.

2nd: Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*, "Vigil on Anniversary of Monterey Park Mass Shooting"

3rd: Barbara Davidson, *Capital & Main*, "Hope and Defeat at Howard University"

D2. FEATURE PHOTO

David Crane, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "Super Moon Strut"
<http://bit.ly/4idlofX>

Judges' comment: By far the runaway winner, well seen, and executed.

2nd: Mary Ellen Matthews, Jennifer Dorn and Haley Kluge, *Variety*, "Robert Downey Jr. and Jodie Foster Cover"

3rd: Joe Toreno, Haley Kluge and Jennifer Dorn, *Variety*, "Variety's Taylor Swift Tour Cover"

D3. PORTRAIT PHOTO, Entertainment

Greg Swales, Jennifer Dorn, Haley Kluge, *Variety*, "Demi Moore Photo"

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

Judges' comment: Great irony and symbolism, well-crafted and captured.

2nd: Stefano Tonchi, Michaela Dosamantes, Andrew Wren and Molly Matalon, *TheWrap*, "Portrait of Naomi Watts"

3rd: Jonny Marlow, Jennifer Dorn and Haley Kluge, *Variety*, "Anya Taylor-Joy Photo"

D4. PORTRAIT PHOTO, Non-Entertainment

Barbara Davidson, *Capital & Main*, "In the Los Angeles Housing Crisis, a Senior Fights to Keep His Place in the World"

<https://capitalandmain.com/in-the-los-angeles-housing-crisis-a-senior-fights-to-keep-his-place-in-the-world>

https://capitalandmain.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/EVICTION_01-scaled

Judges' comment: A very nice personality profile portrait.

2nd: Mustafa Saeed, *Noema Magazine*, "A Country Shaped By Poetry"

3rd: Ringo Chiu, *Ringo Chiu Photography*, "Moment of Connection"

D5. SPORTS PHOTO

Robert Gauthier, *Los Angeles Times*, "Angel's Wings"

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

Judges' comment: Excellent composition and angle. In essence, the photo encapsulates what the story is all about. Photojournalism at its finest.

2nd: Keith Birmingham, *Los Angeles Daily News*, "Freddie Freeman's big swing"

3rd: Joe Pugliese, Rudi Uebelhoer, Peter Flax, Tara Thompson and Nora O'Donnell, *The Red Bulletin*, "Lawrence Brothers spray dirt"

D6. ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO

G L Askew II, Rudi Uebelhoer, Tara Thompson, Nora O'Donnell, Peter Flax, *The Red Bulletin*, "Breland in Nashville"

PDF

Judges' comment: Beautiful composition with the warm light and soft colors, and the interplay between the shadows in the background and the light in foreground. This photo made a strong first impression that only got stronger as time went on.

2nd: Jenny Sargent, Samantha Xu and Ruvén Afanador, *Billboard*, "A\$AP Rocky"

3rd: Jessica Chou, *Deadline Hollywood*, "The Shogun Way"

D7. PHOTO ESSAY (Single Topic), Culture/Entertainment

Osceola Refetoff, *PBS SoCal*, "High & Dry: Slab City – Creative Homesteading in a Desert of Extremes"

<http://bit.ly/43w60b4>

Judges' comment: Full range of photo reporting showed the expanse of Slab City and the small details of people's home. Good photojournalism that tells a story without needing a lot of explanations.

2nd: Alyson Camus, *US Rocker*, "St. Vincent Rocks the Greek in LA on 'Born Screaming' Tour - Photos + Review"

3rd: Julie Leopo, *Voice of OC*, "An Original Chicano Barrio in Santa Ana Gets a New Mural and Pocket Park"

D8. PHOTO ESSAY (Single Topic), News/News Feature

Osceola Refetoff, *PBS SoCal*, "The White Snake of Knowledge: A Lithium Boom at the Salton Sea"

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

Judges' comment: This photojournalist strikes the balance between art and information. The photos of the Salton Sea are captured with a delicate eye that builds empathy and attention for viewers. The diversity of subjects really helps make this photo essay shine. Also, the use of a map and a vintage postcard elevate the multimedia element of this story.

2nd: Tim Georgeson, *Noema Magazine*, "Protecting Dark Sky Country"

3rd: Barbara Davidson, *Capital & Main*, "Hope and Defeat at Howard University"

D9. EDITORIAL CARTOON

Lalo Alcaraz, *CALÓ News*, "Virgen de Guadalupe and Angel Deportation"

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

Judges' comment: A poignant editorial cartoon about Trump's deportation policies. On the day of celebrating Virgin de Guadeloupe he is deporting her and her cherub, making the point that no one is spared.

2nd: Haley Kluge and Kristian Hammerstad, *Variety*, "Snoop Dogg at the Olympics"

3rd: Carlos Conde, *Voice of OC*, "Fighting off a Press Pen in Santa Ana"

D10. ILLUSTRATION

Be Boggs, *Zócalo Public Square*, "All the Shorts Are Dead... Only Jim Crow Is Alive"

<https://zps.la/3zBCZhn>

Judges' comment: When an illustration says more than 1000 words.

2nd: Haley Kluge and Ricardo Tomas, *Variety*, "Trump in Hollywood"

3rd: Alex Valentina, *Noema Magazine*, "The Rise Of The Bee Bandits"

D11. GRAPHIC

Robert Gottenbos, *Hollywood International Filmmaker Magazine*, "AI versus Actors"

PDF

Judges' comment: Clean, clear use of color, typography and form with imagery that supports the topic.

2nd: Soobin Kim, *Zócalo Public Square*, "What Is a 'Latino'? With Héctor Tobar"

3rd: Jimmy Jiang, *Hollywood International Filmmaker Magazine*, "Megalopolis - a step into the unknown"

D12. ANIMATION/MOVING GRAPHIC

Lucy Munger, *PBS SoCal*, "Earth Focus"

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/earth-focus/clip/a-history-of-division-over-nuclear-power-at-diablo-canyon>

Judges' comment: The animation played a crucial role in storytelling, enhancing the overall piece with its thoughtful execution.

2nd: Ruby Fresson and LMU Magazine Staff, *LMU Magazine*, "Who You Gonna' Call?"

3rd: Brindha Kumar, *Noema Magazine*, "Living In A Lucid Dream"

D13. COVER ART

Haley Kluge, Jennifer Dorn, Jonny Marlow, *Variety*, "Anya Taylor-Joy Cover"

<https://bit.ly/4kw7HLO>

Judges' comment: Breathtakingly beautiful cover. This could just as well have been a vintage movie poster from the golden era of movies, fittingly cover for a Cannes special.

2nd: Peter B. Cury, Ash Barhamand and Fredrik Broden, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Stuck"

3rd: Sterling Ruby, *Noema Magazine*, "Issue No. 5: Threshold"

D14. PAGE DESIGN

Haley Kluge, Jennifer Dorn, Ted Keller, Neil Jamieson, *Variety*, "Star Trek"

<https://bit.ly/4ixwm0E>

Judges' comment: A fun cover and design that all Trekkies will enjoy.

2nd: Peter Mellgard and Amara Higuera, *Noema Magazine*, "Protecting Dark Sky Country"

3rd: Fah Sakhareet and Jessica Chou, *Deadline Hollywood*, "Splitting Aces"

D15. BEST ISSUE

Tara Thompson, Rudi Uebelhoer, Peter Flax, Nora O'Donnell, *The Red Bulletin*, "Red Bulletin: Issue 4"

https://issuu.com/redbulletin.com/docs/the_red_bulletin_us_quarterly_4_24

Judges' comment: Intentionality is evident from cover to cover, with every element complementing the next. The imagery, typography, and cohesive design work together to bring the words to life.

2nd: Variety's Editorial Art Department, *Variety*, "Variety's John Williams Issue"

3rd: Deadline Hollywood Editorial & Design, *Deadline Hollywood*, "Deadline Disruptors"

E. PRINT – ANY OUTLET

E1. HARD NEWS

Gillian Tan, Katie Roof, *Bloomberg News*, "SpaceX Weighs Tender Offer Raising Valuation to \$350 Billion"

<https://shorturl.at/QW2K9>

Judges' comment: Bloomberg revealed that Elon Musk's SpaceX company was considering an offer much higher than its original value following the Presidential election.

2nd: Erika Ritchie, *Southern California News Group*, "A first for Marines and Camp Pendleton as ACVs return from Indo-Pacific"

3rd: Clara Harter, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "Local Pro-Palestinian Protests Elicit Strong Response"

E2. BUSINESS REPORTING

Los Angeles Times Staff, *Los Angeles Times*, "Hollywood Slowdown"

<https://tinyurl.com/39vh6thb>

<https://tinyurl.com/mpctr8p>

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

Judges' comment: This series entry is packed with detailed anecdotes, data and blow-by-blow storytelling of Hollywood's most challenging chapter yet.

2nd: Mia Galuppo, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Big Squeeze: Why Everyone in Hollywood Feels Stuck"

3rd: Robbie Whelan, *The Wall Street Journal*, "The Disney Sequel Bob Iger Never Wanted"

E3. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Lenore Skenazy, *Reason Magazine*, "Kids Should Be Blindfolded and Dropped in the Woods at Night"

<https://bit.ly/3XQ8A8c>

Judges' comment: An interesting and fascinating story about a Netherlands kids tradition that would be considered hazing – or worse – in the United States.

E4. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Deborah Vankin, *Los Angeles Times*, "The internet loves this L.A. Chinese herb shop. Can its ancient prescriptions really improve your health?"

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

Judges' comment: Loved how the author combined expert sources to explain well beyond what we see in viral TikTok's while also giving the reader a first-hand account.

2nd: Stephanie Mendez, *Los Angeles Times*, "This South East L.A. rock camp celebrates 10 years of amplifying the punk spirit of girls, trans, and gender-fluid youth"

3rd: Lisa Friedman Bloch, *Beverly Hills Courier*, "Jay Leno and Bruce Meyer How They Became The Kings of Cars"

E5. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Deepa Bharath, Terry Tang, *Associated Press*, "Buddhists use karmic healing against one US city's anti-Asian legacy and nationwide prejudice today"

<https://shorturl.at/WQp9b>

<https://shorturl.at/REWFt>

Judges' comment: Brought awareness to a chilling past but balanced by insight into how to progress towards a more accepting future.

2nd: Jacob Sullum, *Reason Magazine*, "'Smoking Opium Is Not Our Vice'"

3rd: Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn, *Humanitas Magazine*, "Reclaiming Catherine...and all black wombs, because they matter"

E6. IMMIGRATION REPORTING

Francine Kiefer, Melanie Stetson Freeman, *The Christian Science Monitor*, "Chinese Migrants"

<https://bit.ly/4kw4Xhk>

Judges' comment: Deep reporting and attention to detail make this story a prime example of immigration reporting.

2nd: Fiona Harrigan, *Reason Magazine*, "Left in the Graveyard of Empires"

3rd: Natasha Hakimi Zapata, *The Nation Magazine*, "The Recent Riots in the UK Should Be a Warning to Kamala Harris"

E7. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Jireh Deng, *Los Angeles Times*, "T-Boy Wrestling is a sizzling showcase of trans masculinity — sweat, twerking and all"

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

Judges' comment: Captures the fun and spirit of the event, and reveals the importance of such spaces. Holds your interest throughout, making you smile and think.

2nd: Miles Klee, *Rolling Stone*, "Sasha Jane Lowerson Made History as the First Trans Pro Surfer. She's Just Getting Started"

3rd: Maria Luisa Torres, *The San Fernando Valley Sun/el Sol Newspaper*, "Trans male 'renews' quinceañera"

E8. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Tyrone Beason, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Land Nurtures the Navajo Nation, but It Has Lacked One Thing - Safe Drinking Water"

<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2024-04-07/here-arizona-nurtures-the-navajo-nation-but-lacks-water>

Judges' comment: Amid the arm wrestling among western states over their share of scarce water supplies, this sensitive and beautifully written piece reveals the plight of a people starving for water on their native lands.

2nd: Leslie Kaufman, Saijel Kishan and Nadia Lopez, *Bloomberg News*, "Uncovered: A Hidden Crisis in US Housing"

3rd: Hayley Smith, Ian James, Brian van der Brug and Sean Greene, *Los Angeles Times*, "Newsom wants to build a \$16-billion water tunnel. Will it destroy California's delta?"

E9. EDUCATION REPORTING

Katia Porzecanski, Maxwell Adler, Janet Lorin, *Bloomberg News*, "'Zionists Now Welcome' and Mob Violence Ignite Backlash at UCLA"

<https://shorturl.at/EfHQR>

Judges' comment: On-ground reporting set this story apart from other entries.

2nd: Kristy Hutchings and Lisa Jacobs, *Daily News*, "Meet the student journalists bringing college campus protests to the world"

3rd: Emma Camp, *Reason Magazine*, "The Real Student Loan Crisis"

E10. VISUAL ARTS/DESIGN/ARCHITECTURE FEATURE

Shana Nys Dambrot, *Artillery Magazine*, "THE STARS ARE ALIGNED: Lita Albuquerque on Observational Astronomy"

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

Judges' comment: Great use of conversation in this piece. It really captures the essence of Lita Albuquerque and her work.

2nd: Ed Leibowitz, *UCLA Magazine*, "Eric Owen Moss and the Rebirth of Culver City"

3rd: Karen Villalpando, *Beverly Press/Park Labrea News*, "LACMA Campus Comes Into Focus"

F. NEWSPAPERS (Over 50,000 Circulation)

F1. NEWS FEATURE, General News/Hard News

Matthew Ormseth, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Mexican Mafia Tapes: Secret recordings reveal greed, betrayal — and a deal with the feds"

<https://tinyurl.com/muf79w5r>

Judges' comment: The scope of investigative reporting for this series of stories is very expansive. The series provides depth and valuable insight into law enforcement strategy for curtailing organized crime.

2nd: Scott Schwebke, *Southern California News Group*, "Aliso Viejo residents claim herbicide spraying near their homes is making them sick"

3rd: Keri Blakinger, *Los Angeles Times*, "How L.A.'s jail system became America's largest"

F2. NEWS FEATURE, Society/Culture/History

Thomas Curwen, *Los Angeles Times*, "How explorers found Amelia Earhart's watery grave. Or did they?"

<https://bit.ly/3F6WOjh>

Judges' comment: Thomas Curwen's four entries are a master class in narrative storytelling, but this one rises for its deft writing and light touch in weaving in sources on -- and off -- the water to describe the possible discovery of Amelia Earhart's plane and the exquisite tension of the hunt.

2nd: Erich Schwartzel, *The Wall Street Journal*, "Can Warner Bros. Uncancel J.K. Rowling?"

3rd: Erin Osmon, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Legend of Howdy Glenn: Inglewood's Black Firefighting Country Singer"

F3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

Erich Schwartzel, Jessica Toonkel, *The Wall Street Journal*, "Where Is James Bond? Trapped in an Ugly Stalemate With Amazon"

<https://on.wsj.com/4ijFciP>

Judges' comment: This is a standout from all the entries due to the sheer scope of reporting. It chronicles an interesting challenge between Amazon and the family that owns the rights to James Bond.

2nd: Pamela Chelin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Rare photos of Dave Chappelle and Lenny Kravitz sparkle in Mathieu Bitton's ode to Paris"

3rd: Candace Hansen, *Los Angeles Times*, "New Elvira XXPerience celebrates 40 years of sexy, spooky, hilarious nights at Knotts Scary Farm"

F4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Roy Rivenburg, *Christian Science Monitor*, "Why writer AJ Jacobs took up his quill to live like a Founding Father"

<http://bit.ly/41ka1xL>

Judges' comment: This was a thoroughly enjoyable read. A.J. Jacobs made for a great subject with interesting stories and good quotes.

2nd: Jeffrey Fleishman, *Los Angeles Times*, "Bill Baird, the 'father' of birth control, on the religious right and Supreme Court"

3rd: Pamela Chelin, *Los Angeles Times*, "Rare photos of Dave Chappelle and Lenny Kravitz sparkle in Mathieu Bitton's ode to Paris"

F5. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Alene Tchekmedyan, Melody Gutierrez, David Wharton, *Los Angeles Times*, "Pets for Profit"

<https://tinyurl.com/473usxre>

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

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhzzfcb>

Judges' comment: It's not often you see a brilliantly reported investigative piece that takes your breath away for its depth, excellent storytelling and style at the same time. This story tells a LOT on a subject that matters to so many of us. Extraordinarily well done.

2nd: Paige St. John, *Los Angeles Times*, "Dirty Weed"

3rd: Justin Nobel, *Truthdig*, "Hell's Kitchen: Radioactive Gas is Quietly Seeping into New York City"

F6. COMMENTARY

Natalia Molina, *Los Angeles Times*, "Trump's border czar and a history we should not forget"
<https://bit.ly/3DeqTNu>

Judges' comment: Informative and chilling account of how migrant populations, including American citizens, have been ill-treated, and deported, through the years.

2nd: Michelle Zacarias, *CALÓ News*, "Latinos are not a monolith: a nuanced picture beyond the polls"

3rd: Sammy Roth, *Los Angeles Times*, "Boiling Point"

F7. COLUMNIST

Gustavo Arellano, *Los Angeles Times*
<https://tinyurl.com/muas4csv>
<https://tinyurl.com/3ycv8dhz>
<https://tinyurl.com/m7ud9t5t>

Judges' comment: Gustavo Arellano shows a versatility in tackling diverse subjects — large issues of national political importance, racism in politics and sport as well as personal transformation and growth. Each piece is clearly written with care, clarity and a unique point of view that is evident without being heavy-handed.

2nd: Steve Lopez, *Los Angeles Times*

3rd: Michelle Zacarias, *CALÓ News*

G. NEWSPAPERS (Under 50,000 Circulation)

G1. NEWS FEATURE, General News/Hard News

Francine Kiefer, Melanie Stetson Freeman, *The Christian Science Monitor*, “Chinese migration to the US is soaring. Here’s what happens next.”

<http://bit.ly/41LNRok>

Judges’ comment: Well reported. There’s no substitute for being there.

2nd: Jason Henry, *Los Angeles Daily News*, “How ‘pig butchering’ romance scams siphon millions from Californians every year”

3rd: Scott Schwebke, *Southern California News Group*, “Harbor-UCLA orthopedics chief fired for accepting improper payments, patient misconduct”

G2. NEWS FEATURE, Society/Culture/History

George Toshio Johnston, *Pacific Citizen*, “Finding Private Taira / In Linda Taira’s quest to learn more about her uncle, help comes from an unexpected source”

<https://bit.ly/3QVgnh7>

Judges’ comment: A fascinating account of a woman looking for the final resting place of her uncle, a WWII veteran, in Italy -- as well as piecing together clues from her family's past. The writing is strong and compelling, and the similarities between then and now are included in a powerful way.

2nd: Tabor Brewster, *Beverly Press*, “The WWII Hero of Hancock Park”

3rd: Michele Stueven, *LA Weekly*, “THE SYNANON FIX The Rise And Fall Of LA’s First Drug Rehab”

G3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

David Wilson, *Pasadena Star-News*, “How the Rose Parade’s largest marching band is gearing up for a key moment: ‘the turn’”

<http://bit.ly/3Dccu4s>

Judges’ comment: This reporter uses eye-witness accounts and drone coverage to tell the story of a high school marching band practicing for the Rose Bowl parade. It has plenty of great quotes and pictures.

2nd: George Toshio Johnston, *Pacific Citizen*, “No Joke — Coalition Pressures Offending Comedian/Netflix, Budweiser urged to stop rewarding slur-slinger Shane Gillis”

3rd: Steve Scauzillo, *Pasadena Star-News*, “The rise of Jimmy Kimmel: From LA’s KROQ, to talkshow host to now Biden’s emcee”

G4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Semantha Raquel Norris, *The San Fernando Valley Sun/el Sol Newspaper*, “Youth kickboxing champion clinches another win”

<https://tinyurl.com/yc49hp28>

Judges’ comment: Uplifting story about an Olympic hopeful youth kickboxer from San Fernando Valley who won a world kickboxing association match.

2nd: Lisa Friedman Bloch, *Beverly Hills Courier*, “Candace Parker Powering Forward”

3rd: John Murphy, *San Bernardino Sun*, “Banning football standout Deven Ray Jr. has emerged out of a dark past into a bright future”

G5. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Scott Schwebke, *Southern California News Group*, “Harbor-UCLA orthopedics chief fired for accepting improper payments, patient misconduct”

PDF

Judges’ comment: Public records, obtained by Schwebke, and other reporting provide the details of allegations against a doctor that would otherwise have been kept under wraps – at least in the short term. The public interest in telling this compelling story as soon as possible are obvious.

2nd: Aaron Bandler, *Jewish Journal*, “Investigative series on anti-Israel bias in Wikipedia”

3rd: Tabor Brewster, *Beverly Press/Park Labrea News*, “RD Whittington and his Wires Only luxury auto showroom goes from riches to rags”

G6. COMMENTARY

Kylie Ora Lobell, *Jewish Journal*, “Shattered Glass Can’t Break Our Jewish Spirit”

<https://bit.ly/4iPif7D>

Judges’ comment: An eloquent and intensely personal response to prejudice displayed at the local level.

2nd: Evelyn McDonnell, *Random Lengths News*, “The Imperative For Independent Journalism”

3rd: Thomas Elias, *The Davis Enterprise*, “Tom Elias: Consequences of condoning campus anti-Semitism”

G7. COLUMNIST

Ellen Snortland, *Pasadena Weekly*

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

Judges' comment: Ms. Snortland's columns are well-crafted. The variety of topics that she tackles, and the depths with which she explores interesting details, provides welcome elements of surprise.

2nd: Chris Erskine, *Beverly Press/Park Labrea News*

3rd: Rich Archbold, *Press-Telegram*

H. MAGAZINES

H1. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Bloomberg Staff, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "The Egg"

<https://tinyurl.com/473t3msc>

Judges' comment: The clear winner for the unmatched depth and breadth of its reporting on a little-known industry. The descriptive writing puts the readers in the room with these girls and women. Fantastic work.

2nd: Oliver Milman, *Noema Magazine*, "The Rise Of The Bee Bandits"

3rd: Nancy Dillon and Cheyenne Roundtree, *Rolling Stone*, "Bad Boy for Life: Sean Combs' History of Violence"

H2. COMMENTARY

Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn, *Humanitas Magazine*, "Reclaiming Catherine...and all black wombs, because they matter"

<https://bit.ly/3Qmy5K4>

Judges' comment: In this deep category of reporting and writing, this piece stands out. It takes a personal story and layers it against what we now know to be a shameful chapter in the health care provided to black women.

2nd: Brian Stone Jr., *Noema Magazine*, "The Lunacy Of Rebuilding In Disaster-Prone Areas"

3rd: Billy Binion, *Reason Magazine*, "Trump Promises Police 'Immunity From Prosecution'"

H3. COLUMNIST

Chris Willman, *Variety*

<https://bit.ly/41pLuWW>

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

<https://bit.ly/4kjX12N>

Judges' comment: Willman's pieces provide illuminating industry-insider perspectives on matters of national interest

2nd: Mesfin Fekadu, *The Hollywood Reporter*

3rd: Katherine Mangu-Ward, *Reason Magazine*

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

Jason McGahan, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Elite Private Security"

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

Judges' comment: A great exposé of LA's private security world.

2nd: Eric Boehm, *Reason Magazine*, "How Inflation Breaks Our Brains"

3rd: Stephen Robert Miller, *Noema Magazine*, "Inside Silicon Valley's Grand Ambitions To Control Our Planet's Thermostat"

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

Joseph Bien-Kahn, *Rolling Stone*, "Untangling the Mystery of the Art God"

<https://bit.ly/4id3NG1>

Judges' comment: Exhaustive, fascinating and incredibly well written.

2nd: Alex Bhattacharji, *Rolling Stone*, "Inside Sammy Davis Jr.'s Secret Satanic Past"

3rd: John Last, *Noema Magazine*, "What Feral Children Can Teach Us About AI"

H6. FEATURE (Under 1,000 Words) Any feature

Rebecca Keegan, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Can Watching Movies Rewire Your Brain?"

<https://tinyurl.com/24ababf2>

Judges' comment: Blends art and science in an engaging, easy-to-understand way. Holds the reader's attention with well-placed, surprising anecdotes and an impressive lack of jargon considering the topic

2nd: Tatiana Siegel, *Variety*, "Apple's Blockbuster Gamble: Was Spending \$700 Million on 'Killers of the Flower Moon,' 'Napoleon' and 'Argylle' Worth It?"

3rd: Shana Nys Dambrot, *Alta Journal*, "What Outer Space Smells Like"

H7. TV/STREAMING/RADIO FEATURE

Alex Weprin, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "How the NBA's Slam-Dunk Deals Will Reshape TV"
<https://bit.ly/3FSq7GB>

Judges' comment: This takes a closer look at a big story and does a good job of documenting the potential ripple effects. It's well sourced and well written.

2nd: Michael Schneider, *Variety*, "The Re-Reinvention of Television: Streamers Dust Off Some of the Old Broadcast Playbook for a New Era"

3rd: Ethan Shanfeld, *Variety*, "Do Trigger Warnings Need Spoiler Alerts?"

H8. FILM FEATURE

Daniel D'Addario, **Ramin Setoodeh**, *Variety*, "Daniel Craig and Drew Starkey on Making 'Queer'"
<https://bit.ly/4il0rLe>

Judges' comment: Great feature that stands out in a competitive category. It goes deep and wide and keeps going, never losing the reader's interest. It stands up regardless of the reader's inherent interest in the films or personalities, and offers revealing insight into the artists' work.

2nd: Rebecca Keegan, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Resurrecting 'Rust': How Alec Baldwin's Ill-Fated Flick Got Finished"

3rd: Alex Morris, *Rolling Stone*, "Kristen Stewart: Uncensored"

H9. MUSIC FEATURE

Chris Willman, *Variety*, "How Taylor Swift's Eras Tour Took Over the Entire World"
<https://bit.ly/3XnqGya>

Judges' comment: It was no doubt an intimidating challenge tackling the impact of Taylor Swift's Eras Tour, but the author rose to the occasion with a fascinating piece that blends lovely personal touch, insights from industry experts and slices of perspective from perhaps the biggest experts of all: Swifties around the world.

2nd: Kristin Robinson, *Billboard*, "Charli Made It"

3rd: Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "How Nick Cave Weathered Unimaginable Tragedy and Fell in Love With the World"

H10. THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS FEATURE

Chris Willman, *Variety*, "'Randy Newman's Faust,' the Songwriter's Brilliant but Rarely Produced Stage Musical, Rises Again for a Weekend in L.A. at the Soraya"

<https://bit.ly/41pdKZI>

Judges' comment: Willman writes eloquently about an underproduced, and so neglected piece of theatre. Through deft descriptions of the musical and its history, this reader wants to see the show, and to read more of Mr. Willman's work.

2nd: Brent Lang, *Variety*, "Nicole Scherzinger on Bringing 'Sunset Boulevard' to Broadway: 'I'm Gonna F—ing Go Out There Every Single Night Coming for Blood'"

H11. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Nicole Fell, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Unreleased Michael Jackson Tapes Discovered in Abandoned Storage Unit (Exclusive)"

<https://tinyurl.com/576857za>

Judges' comment: Writer includes every juicy detail a reader would want to know about this story.

2nd: Jem Aswad, *Variety*, "Who Is Mo Elmasri? Searching for Janet Jackson's Elusive Fake 'Manager' Who Issued an Unauthorized Apology on Her Behalf"

3rd: Adam B. Vary, *Variety*, "Toxic Fandom: How Hollywood Is Battling Fans Who Are 'Just Out for Blood' — From Social Media Boot Camps to Superfan Focus Groups"

H12. PERSONALITY PROFILE, TV Personalities

Emily Longeretta, *Variety*, “Mariska Hargitay on Making a TV Icon, Dick Wolf’s ‘Tough Love,’ Fighting for Kelli Giddish and 20 Years of Helping Survivors of Sexual Violence”
<https://wp.me/pc8uak-1IE4qK>

Judges’ comment: This well-written story shows how actor Mariska Hargitay made NYPD Capt. Olivia Benson of “Law & Order: SVU” an icon. Through her Joyful Heart Foundation, Hargitay has become an advocate for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse.

2nd: Ryan Fleming, *Deadline Hollywood*, “David Oyelowo”

3rd: Angelique Jackson, *Variety*, “Ryan Seacrest on His First Days Hosting ‘Wheel of Fortune’ With Vanna White and Pat Sajak’s Parting Advice: ‘It’s Very Full Circle’”

H13. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Film Personalities

Angelique Jackson, *Variety*, “Zoe Saldaña Rebooted: Why the Action Star Broke Her ‘Cycle of Sequels’ for ‘Emilia Pérez’ — And Her One Wish for Marvel’s Next Gamora”
<https://bit.ly/3DnHsq3>

Judges’ comment: A window into Zoe Saldaña’s struggles with dyslexia, anxiety and self-doubt, told with empathy and perspicacity and without sensationalism.

2nd: Adam B. Vary, *Variety*, “How Kristen Stewart Became a Queer Trailblazer”

3rd: Mark Oppenheimer, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “‘Snakes on a Plane’ Changed His Life. Then It All Fell Apart”

H14. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Music/Theater Personalities

Tatiana Siegel, *Variety*, “Fugees Founder Pras Michél Speaks Out While Facing 22 Years in Prison: ‘I Never Wanted to Be a Spy’”
<https://bit.ly/41BDwl>

Judges’ comment: The subject of this story is inherently fascinating, but the author went above and beyond in telling it — from start to finish this had me riveted.

2nd: Angie Martoccio, *Rolling Stone*, “Billie Eilish Would Like to Reintroduce Herself”

3rd: Chris Willman, *Variety*, “John Williams Faces His Legacy: 54 Oscar Noms, ‘Star Wars’ Mistakes and Changing the Movies Forever”

H15. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Politics/Business/Arts Personalities

Chris Gardner, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “‘I’m Bloody Tired of Hiding’: Lynda Obst on Her Trailblazing Career and Devastating Diagnosis”

<https://tinyurl.com/y664utzp>

Judges’ comment: The writer skillfully embraced this candid subject, bringing her to life for the reader and capturing our attention. I hung on every word to the very end to learn every detail about this fascinating individual.

2nd: Seth Abramovitch, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Jake Paul Hits Back: How a Fallen YouTube Star Found Redemption in the Ring”

3rd: Michael Slenske, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “The Iconic Laconic Ed Ruscha Takes L.A.”

H16. IN-HOUSE or CORPORATE PUBLICATION

UCLA Magazine Staff, *UCLA Magazine*, “UCLA Magazine, Fall 2024 Issue”

<https://newsroom.ucla.edu/magazine/fall-2024-table-of-contents>

Judges’ comment: The mark of a good in-house magazine is sometimes to toe a fine line between specificity and mass appeal, and this issue accomplishes both in one fell swoop while giving the reader a glimpse into the storied spirit of UCLA.

2nd: Deadline Hollywood Editorial and Design Teams, *Deadline Hollywood*, “Deadline Disruptors”

3rd: Susan Bell and Letty Avila, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*, “USC Dornsife Magazine – The California Issue”

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

I1. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

Andrew Heaton, Austin Bragg, Meredith Bragg, John Carter, *Reason TV*, “Partisan Post-Game (Episode 2)”

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

Judges’ comment: Amusing and clever, using the sports/coach trope to provide commentary on the Presidential candidates. Timely and on-target.

2nd: Austin Bragg, Meredith Bragg and John Carter, *Reason TV*, “Great Moments in Unintended Consequences: Doordash, Google AI, French Wikipedia (Vol. 16)”

3rd: Cher Calvin, Micah Ohlman, Vera Jimenez and Glen Walker, *KTLA 5 News*, “Stuck in Space”

I2. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION

Chace Beech, *Spectrum News 1*, "Jimmy Carter's Life Celebrated at the Nixon Museum"

<https://bit.ly/41Lchym>

Judges' comment: How does a local station compete with the networks on a death like Carter's? This is how: Go to the presidential library in your backyard and talk to the citizens whose lives he touched from afar. This is a fresh look and well done.

2nd: Mary Beth McDade, *KTLA 5 News*, "O.J. Simpson dead at 76 after cancer battle"

3rd: George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, *KABC-TV*, "Remembering Mitzi Gaynor"

I3. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

Shaun Kadlec, Jamie Wolf, Bill Resnick, Grace Zahrah, Doug Blush, *PBS SoCal*, "Possible Selves: Overcoming the Odds in Foster Care"

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

Judges' comment: Children are some of the most vulnerable people in our society, and foster children even more so. What makes this feature shine is the way it features foster children and their caretakers speaking directly about their own lives and perspectives.

2nd: Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "PST Art: Art & Science Collide"

3rd: OC World Staff, *OC World*, "From Saigon to OC"

I4. BUSINESS REPORTING

Caleigh Wells, *Marketplace*, "Climate change forces third-generation fisherman to rethink this year"

<https://bit.ly/41jQPQV>

Judges' comment: This story succinctly captures how climate change is impacting one business owner and his family. I love how it uses the micro to explore the macro. Inventive use of sound. It took me there and painted an evocative picture of how this business works and why it may not be around much longer.

2nd: Angela Boisvert, Matt Bass, Tamara Gould, Nathan Masters and Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Lost LA: Fast Food and Car Culture"

3rd: Renee Eng and Cory Minderhout, *Spectrum News 1*, "Falling Behind"

15. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Billy Binion, Qinling Li, Arthur Nazaryan, Adani Samat, *Reason TV*, “This 'fat crazy lady' was arrested for her journalism”

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

Judges’ comment: Through the compelling portrait of an interview with the “fat crazy lady” citizen journalist in Laredo, Texas, the reporters explore First Amendment issues that have an impact on both legacy media and citizen journalists.

2nd: Shaun Kadlec, Jamie Wolf, Bill Resnick, Grace Zahrah and Doug Blush, *PBS SoCal*, “Possible Selves: Overcoming the Odds in Foster Care”

3rd: Mark Horvath, *Invisible People/New York Times*, “Criminalizing Homelessness Won’t Make It Go Away”

16. MEDICAL/HEALTH REPORTING

Angela Boisvert, Matt Bass, Tamara Gould, Nathan Masters, Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, “Lost LA: Tuberculosis: The Forgotten Plague”

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/lost-la/episodes/tuberculosis-the-forgotten-plague>

Judges’ comment: A fascinating look at a major historic health issue that has been all but forgotten today. Excellent use of old postcards and other items skillfully combined with informative interviews. A pleasure to watch...100 years after the fact.

2nd: Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, “LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez ‘Brian Kennedy’”

3rd: Marla Tellez, *KTTV Fox 11 Los Angeles*, “DNA Test Giving Chronic Pain Patients Hope”

17. SCIENCE REPORTING

Tara Lynn Wagner, *Spectrum News 1*, “City Nature Challenge”

<http://bit.ly/3E3JPPH>

Judges’ comment: Nice story on how to involve community in data collection.

2nd: Juliet Lemar, *KSBY*, “Shark Forecasting”

3rd: Andres Pruna and Guillermo Quiroz, *KVEA*, “Biodiversity in Action: Understanding Climate Change Through Global Research”

I8. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Annie Rose Ramos, Andre Cox, KTLA, "KTLA 5 Investigates: Housing for homeless veterans"
<http://bit.ly/3R1HJCw>

Judges' comment: An excellent and well-rounded piece highlighting an issue impacting a vulnerable population of homeless veterans, and an interesting examination on why the land set aside for them wasn't being used for its intended purpose.

2nd: Juliet Lemar, *KSBY*, "Coroner's office unsafe for the living?"

3rd: Tanya McRae, Jenni Kim, Bobbie Eng and Nate Leathers, *Spectrum News 1*, "IN FOCUS SOCAL - Drink Spiking Law"

I9. NATIONAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

Karen Foshay, Michael Ray, Shiho Fukada, Los Angeles Times, "I survived Kent State Shooting"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiwFOo1fJ0&list=PLdgePvblfv95VzS-8MCv7YUupS1kRE82V&index=7>

Judges' comment: A sensitive, artful handling of trauma and American history through a local lens that informs the pressing issue of protest and how power controls stories.

2nd: Rae Wynn-Grant, Angela Boisvert, Jaime Morgan Munoz, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Jenny Price, PBS SoCal Staff, *PBS SoCal*, "Stop Saving the Planet?"

3rd: Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Bridging Our Divides: Politics"

I10. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Matthew Crotty, Francesca Roth, Clarissa Guy, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, PBS SoCal, "Earth Focus: The Tortoise, the Raven, and Us"
<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/earth-focus/episodes/the-tortoise-the-raven-and-us>

Judges' comment: Really interesting look at shifting roles in the environment for ravens and tortoises. The idea that ravens are not the problem but how we create an environment for them is fascinating.

2nd: Andres Pruna and Connie Schulte, *KMEX*, "Urban Wildlife"

3rd: Zach Weissmueller, Danielle Thompson, Jim Epstein, Kevin Alexander and Adani Samat, *Reason TV*, "The political sabotage of nuclear power"

I11. EDUCATION REPORTING

John Lithgow, Perry Simon, Juan Devis, Angela Boisvert, Antonio Diaz, *PBS SoCal*, “Art Happens Here with John Lithgow”

<https://vimeo.com/1011186264/ae0a3583cd?share=copy>

Judges’ comment: As engaging as it is beautifully shot and edited, this story educates viewers about local arts education resources and its purpose while leaving them with a sense of hope.

2nd: Cher Calvin, Frank Buckley, Tammy Chan, Jennifer Thang and Kris Arciaga, *KTLA 5 News*, “Celebration of Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month”

3rd: Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, “Parents & Politics: The Battle Over our Kids”

I12. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM

Matthew Crotty, Francesca Roth, Clarissa Guy, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, *PBS SoCal*, “Earth Focus: Transforming the Los Angeles River”

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/earth-focus/episodes/transforming-the-los-angeles-river>

Judges’ comment: This story on the LA River’s transformation reflects the core of Solutions Journalism—showcasing a community-driven response backed by strong evidence and diverse on-camera voices. It presents a well-documented solution while offering insight into both its potential and its challenges.

2nd: Catalina Villegas and Cory Minderhout, *Spectrum News 1*, “The Nuisance Next Door”

3rd: Rae Wynn-Grant, Angela Boisvert, Jaime Morgan Munoz, Suzanne Mejean Pinney, Jenny Price, *PBS SoCal* Staff, *PBS SoCal*, “Stop Saving the Planet?”

I13A. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING, Racial Histories

Esteban Gómez, Whitney Peterson, Michelle Merker, J.D. Gonzales, Ian Marks, *PBS SoCal*, “Snapshots of Confinement”

<https://bit.ly/412V2Ze>

Judges’ comment: The variety, depth and scope of the research and its presentation is impressive while providing insight into a story that has been obscured by power dynamics, incarceration and the double-edged sword of photography as a mechanism for storytelling. Great work illuminating these stories while expanding who gets the right to remember and be remembered.

2nd: Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Decision 2024: Latino Voters"

3rd: Andy Schlachtenhaufen, *Spectrum News 1*, "Protecting Little Tokyo"

I13B. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING, Individual Profiles

Giselle Fernandez, Anaconda Street Productions, Seth Katz, Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez 'Angela Patton'"

<https://vimeo.com/1028631638/cfce784542?share=copy>

Judges' comment: In a wide-ranging excellent bio and interview with the multi-talented black leader Angela Patton, Fernandez discusses how Patton empowers black girls, and how she organized the Daddy-Daughters Dance with prison inmates also featured in an award-winning documentary and book.

2nd: Kimberly Cornell, Angel C. Kim and Ernesto Huerta-Juarez, *KTLA*, "LA Unscripted: Unmasking Anna May Wong"

3rd: Zócalo Public Square Staff, *Zócalo Public Square*, "How Does the Inland Empire Strike Back Against Hate?"

I14. IMMIGRATION REPORTING

Antonio Diaz, Jaime Morgan Munoz, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Rebel Kitchens Southern California"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkHgaUY7AOU>

Judges' comment: An immigrant family makes Oaxacan cuisine at home and serves it there, giving a fascinating, intimate look at food preparation.

2nd: David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: 1924"

3rd: Angela Boisvert, Matt Bass, Tamara Gould, Nathan Masters and Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Lost LA: Historic Filipinotown"

I15. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Tadashi Nakamura, Quyen Nguyen-Le, Nic Cha Kim, Angela Boisvert, Iliana Garcia, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song in Movement"

<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/artbound/episodes/nobuko-miyamoto-a-song-in-movement>

Judges' comment: This powerful profile follows the evolution of a compelling and charismatic artist shaped by culture, bigotry, and historical events.

2nd: Jesus Trejo, Angela Boisvert, Donny Jackson, Juan Devis and Danny Lee, *PBS SoCal*, "Roots of Comedy with Jesus Trejo: Sierra Katow"

3rd: Brian Hardzinski, *KCRW*, "Wilson Cruz Interview"

I16. CRIME REPORTING

Keith Morrison, Ellen Mason, Susan Leibowitz, Karen Israel, Michelle Madigan, *Dateline NBC*, "The Menendez Brothers: Chance at Freedom"

<https://bit.ly/3XZrY2G>

Judges' comment: A thorough and comprehensive look at the story of the Menendez brothers from the crime through the judicial process through their time in prison and their current chances for parole. Every angle and person involved in the crime and the case is explored in a logical timeline and with plenty of archival footage. Informative and compelling.

2nd: Keith Morrison, Adam Gorfain, Susan Leibowitz and Tim Uehlinger, *Dateline NBC*, "The Girl with the Hibiscus Tattoo"

3rd: David Ono, Jason Burks and Julie Sone, *KABC-TV*, "LAX: The Drug Gateway"

I17. SPORTS

Richard Yelland, Matthew Johnston, Robert Riemer, Will Jobe, Miles Masterson, *PBS SoCal*, "Birth of the Endless Summer"

Judges' comment: Captivating feature that pulled me in from the first frames and kept me enthralled throughout.

2nd: Elex Michaelson, Debbie Kim and James Wulff, *FOX 11 Los Angeles*, "L.A. Rams' Emotional ALS Tribute"

3rd: Tanya McRae, Jenni Kim, Bobbie Eng and Nate Leathers, *Spectrum News 1*, "IN FOCUS SOCAL: Paralympic athlete Isaac Jean-Paul and Angel City Sports"

I18. WEATHER or TRAFFIC REPORT

John Fenoglio, *KTLA*, "Southern California storm brings whiteout conditions to San Bernardino Mountains"

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

Judges' comment: Crisp audio and B-roll combine with multiple interviews to bring the viewer to the frigid, snow-caked San Bernardino mountains.

2nd: Jorge Garcia and Sandra Stojanovic, *Reuters TV*, "Sonoma County resident recalls fleeing flooded home"

3rd: Vera Jimenez, *KTLA 5 News*, "Weather"

J. TELEVISION/FILM

J1. REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST

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

<https://vimeo.com/1059914703/c5596b4520?share=copy>

Judges' comment: A well-produced look at the urgent fire situation. The anchor and reporters conveyed information in a calm manner sharing information and including allowing viewers to listen to what was happening.

2nd: Spectrum News 1 Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Your Morning on Spectrum News 1"

3rd: Lizzy Tyler, Marissa Sifuentes, Kathy Camacho, Laura Fong and Jennifer Yu, *KCBS/KCAL*, "KCAL News At 11PM"

J2. ANCHOR/HOST

Kelvin Washington, *Spectrum News 1*, "Your Morning on Spectrum News 1"

<https://pilot.latakoo.com/asset/20098498?share=po4m53jndzmcj6ydgrdq23btbtj3kuc>

Judges' comment: Kevin showed a wide range of talent in his entry, from breaking news to lighter content. He seems comfortable in any situation and in return earns the trust of the viewer.

2nd: John Lithgow, *PBS SoCal*, "Art Happens Here with John Lithgow"

3rd: Rae Wynn-Grant, *PBS SoCal*, "Stop Saving the Planet?"

J3. VIDEOGRAPHER

Christopher Pearson, *Sky News UK*, "Lithium mine being built on site where Native Americans say ancestors were massacred"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JddlCs7YrEw>

Judges' comment: Beautiful photography and skilled editing bring this story to life. The pathos of the subject is enhanced by the shots

2nd: Sandra Stojanovic, *Reuters TV*, "Father and son firefighters lose own homes while trying to save their California town"

3rd: Christopher Low, *PBS SoCal*, "Art Happens Here with John Lithgow"

J4. BREAKING NEWS

Hailey Winslow, Sam Dubin, FOX 11, "Mountain Fire – No Water"

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

Judges' comment: An urgent report on the fire situation sharing new information. Hailey seemed unphased by what was happening around her while conveying information the audience needed to know. Well done.

2nd: John Fenoglio, *KTLA*, "Violence erupts amid dueling demonstrations at UCLA"

3rd: Sophie Flay and Will Giron, *KABC*, "Whirlwind homicide in Woodland Hills, mother kills baby and boyfriend"

J5. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

David Ono, Jason Burks, Julie Sone, KABC-TV, "LAX: The Drug Gateway"

<https://youtu.be/yadUeAaHCnc>

Judge's comment: Excellent investigation, good pacing, sharp writing and tough interviews.

2nd: Ross Palombo and Angie Moriconi, *KCAL TV*, "To Protect and Sell"

3rd: Renee Eng and Cory Minderhout, *Spectrum News 1*, "Falling Behind"

J6. NEWS FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

Alexis Garcia, Investor's Business Daily, "If Tesla Is The Most Valuable Car Company, Why Are Hybrids Outselling EVs?"

<https://bit.ly/3F8UXuy>

Judges' comment: A well-researched, thorough and balanced look at the electric vehicle industry, its future and how automakers and consumers are affected.

2nd: Matthew Crotty, Francesca Roth, Clarissa Guy, Angela Boisvert and Tamara Gould, *PBS SoCal*, "Earth Focus: What Joshua Tree's Social Media Presence Means for Tourism"

3rd: Andres Pruna and Guillermo Quiroz, *KVEA*, "Fighting Flames: Innovative Solutions for Wildfire Protection in California"

J7. NEWS FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

Cher Calvin, Paul Sanchez, Ernesto Huerta-Juarez, *KTLA*, "Remarkable Women: Ana Estevez"
<https://bit.ly/3FNhX2B>

Judges' comment: Compelling look at a child who fell through the judicial cracks and at the grieving mom who worked for change after being failed by the system. Very affecting in a brief format. Every moment used to full advantage.

2nd: Andres Pruna and Connie Schulte, *KMEX*, "Remedios que Curan"

3rd: John Fenoglio, *KTLA*, "2 men save dog from house fire in Koreatown"

J8. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

Varda Bar-Kar, Alessandra Pasquino, Nic Cha Kim, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: Judy Baca and the Power of Murals in Los Angeles"
<https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/artbound/clip/judy-baca-and-the-power-of-murals-in-los-angeles>

Judges' comment: Wonderful and compelling feature on artist Judy Baca, who was pivotal in the Great Wall murals of LA. Really nice blend of art shots, historical context and a personal narrative.

2nd: Angela Boisvert, Matt Bass, Tamara Gould, Nathan Masters and Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Lost LA: Helping Create Safe Spaces Outdoors for People of Color"

3rd: Adam VanDeKerchove, Lisa McRee, Larry Tye and Kelvin Washington, *Spectrum News 1*, "Jazz Legends That Transformed America"

J9. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

Marla Tellez, *KTTV FOX 11 Los Angeles*, "Arthur Yu's Cancer Journey"
<https://bit.ly/3QOSpnM>

Judges' comment: A lot of time and dedication has gone into covering Arthur Yu's story, and making people aware of the issues he, and others, face with foreign donors.

2nd: Bryant T. Griffin, Monesha Madison Lever, Carol Paik, Shannon Sun-Higginson and Nic Cha Kim, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: '84 Olympic Freeway Mural Project Pulled Talent From Diverse L.A. Communities"

3rd: Renee Eng, *Spectrum News 1*, "A Beautiful Mind"

J10. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

David Ono, *KABC-TV*, "FACEism: 1924"

<https://youtu.be/1gXJp5q8QeU>

Judges' comment: Captivating piece. Seamlessly weaves together the individual entrepreneur's story with the larger historical and present-day theme of U.S. immigration policy. Expertly reported and edited.

2nd: Robeson Taj Frazier, Jaime Morgan Munoz, Colin Taylor, Angela Boisvert and Daniel Leonard, *PBS SoCal*, "Outside the Lyrics: The Surprising Origins of Streetwear"

3rd: OC World Staff, *OC World*, "The Power and Awe of Music"

J11. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

Maria Hall-Brown, Paul Hodgins, Al Magallon, Kevin King, *PBS SoCal*, "Under the Baton: Pacific Symphony's Carl St. Clair"

<https://bit.ly/417sZYA>

Judges' comment: In "Under the Baton," the PBS SoCal team tells a rich story using animated interviews and a combination of recent and archive footage, all set to the soundtrack of the Pacific Symphony's own music. The final product is a delightful and well-told story.

2nd: Lesley Corral, Jason Bass, Harry Buerkle and Dominoe Ibarra, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "THR On Set of 'Grey's Anatomy' For Season 21 With Chandra Wilson, James Pickens Jr. & Rest of Cast"

3rd: Nic Cha Kim, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould, Matt Bass and Suzanne Mejean Pinney, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: The Legacy of the Paul Robeson Players in 1970s L.A. Black Theater"

J12. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

Tara Lynn Wagner, *Spectrum News 1*, "Rock, Rage and a Reopening"

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/southern-california/entertainment/2024/10/10/american-idiot-ushers-in-rock--rage-and-the-reopening-of-the-mark-taper-forum>

Judges' comment: Wagner wonderfully tells the story of the merging in the "American Idiot" rock musical of actors from the Deaf West Theatre with Center Theatre Group speaking actors to give a sense of community in troubled times.

2nd: George Pennacchio and Cheryl Diano, *KABC-TV*, "Carol Burnett Cements Her Spot in Hollywood History"

3rd: Phil Ige, *KTLA 5*, "Jazz Hands for Autism"

J13. ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

Bridget Murnane, *PBS SoCal*, "Bella"

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

Judges' comment: A documentary film that lets music and photos speak about its subject in addition to narration.

2nd: Jesus Trejo, Angela Boisvert, Donny Jackson, Juan Devis, Danny Lee, *PBS SoCal* Staff, *PBS SoCal*, "Roots of Comedy with Jesus Trejo: Tatanka Means"

3rd: Tiana DeNicola, *Variety*, "Jack Antonoff Talks Crafting the Summer Hit 'Please Please Please' and Falling in Love with Sabrina Carpenter's Voice"

J14. NON-ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

Giselle Fernandez, **Anaconda Street Productions**, **Seth Katz**, **Spectrum News 1 Team**, *Spectrum News 1 SoCal*, "LA Stories with Giselle Fernandez 'Fabian Debora'"

<https://vimeo.com/923573172?share=copy>

Judges' comment: Giselle Fernandez's well-researched interview with artist Fabian Debora is a powerful telling of Debora's history, culture, transformation and art.

2nd: Martha Kelner, Sarah Gough and Christopher Pearson, *Sky News UK*, "Who Is The Real Kamala Harris?"

3rd: Antonio Diaz, Jaime Morgan Munoz, Angela Boisvert, Tamara Gould and Kathy Kasaba, *PBS SoCal*, "Rebel Kitchens Southern California: This Nigerian Chef Wants to Make the Ultimate Jolof"

J15. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Elex Michaelson, Debbie Kim, Greg Lindsay, Steve Thorp, Al Rupp, FOX 11 Los Angeles, "The Issue Is: Homeboy Gives Hope"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3_UQM5BXKQ

Judges' comment: FOX 11's "The Issue Is" special on Father Greg Boyle is full of engaging interviews that bring out the emotion of the people who go through Homeboy Industries.

2nd: LA Times Today Team, *Spectrum News 1*, "Spectrum News 1"

3rd: Tanya McRae, Jenni Kim, Bobbie Eng and Nate Leathers, *Spectrum News 1*, "IN FOCUS SOCAL - Hispanic Heritage Month in SoCal"

J16. FEATURE DOCUMENTARY (Over 25 Minutes)

Scott Steindorff, Zhara Astra, Dylan Russell, Hemant Taneja, Sonia Rockwell, PBS SoCal, "Understanding Autism"

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

Judges' comment: "Understanding Autism" is a powerful documentary, told not about people who have autism, but BY them. It is a journey through the history and future of what we know about autism, and concludes with a feeling of celebration.

2nd: Varda Bar-Kar, Alessandra Pasquino, Nic Cha Kim, Angela Boisvert and Tamara Gould, *PBS SoCal*, "Artbound: The Cheech"

3rd: Zach Weissmueller, Danielle Thompson, César Báez, Adani Samat and Jim Epstein, *Reason TV*, "Javier Milei: Madman? Or savior?"

J17. DOCUMENTARY SHORT (Under 25 Minutes)

Rashida Jones, Will McCormack, Emily Arlook, Nicole Emanuele, Bill Marsh, Los Angeles Times, "A Swim Lesson"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6ooMTKXAVk>

Judges' comment: In this beautiful short documentary, "A Swim Lesson" combines gorgeous images and sounds, a unique personality in Bill Marsh, and raw (toddler) emotion for a lesson not just about swimming, but about life and love.

2nd: Michelle Merker, Georg Kallert, Moses Norton, Maris Malejs and Anna Agadjanyan, *PBS SoCal*, "Women of Fire"

3rd: Andres F. Pruna, Marco Flores, Connie Schulte, Gabriela Teissier and Oswaldo Borraez, *KMEX*, "La negación del cambio climático: un planeta que agoniza"

K. AUDIO JOURNALISM

K1. ANCHOR/HOST

Debra Eckerling, *Jewish Journal*, "Debra Eckerling, Host of Taste Buds with Deb"

<https://bit.ly/3FPMv3B>

Judges' comment: Debra Eckerling does a great job anchoring this interview about Israeli food culture. It is made richer when the interviewee reveals an initiative that helps displaced Palestinians reconnect with their heritage through cooking. The Open Kitchen Project places women in local kitchens, by asking "Can we use your kitchen for an hour or two?" They cook, bake and are able to have a semblance of normalcy. It shows that there is something we can all do to honor each other's humanity in the midst of deep divides.

2nd: Vicky Moore and Mike Simpson, *KNX*, "LA's Morning News"

3rd: Ana Garcia, *True Crime News*, "True Crime News: The Podcast"

K2. NEWS or BREAKING NEWS

Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Mark and Jacob Iskander's killer sentenced for murders"

<https://bit.ly/42K9IxE>

Judges' comment: This tragic story about two boys killed by a drunk driver—who happens to be a local socialite—is told powerfully. The reporter chose compelling soundbites that clearly capture the perspectives of everyone involved. She made a smart decision to include the 911 call played in court, adding emotional weight and immediacy. The piece thoughtfully explores the power dynamics between a grieving mother and the wealthy driver who sped through the neighborhood at 83 miles per hour.

2nd: KNX News Team, *KNX*, "Wrong Way Madness"

3rd: Lance Orozco, *KCLU AM/FM*, "Ventura County Firestorm Destroys Or Damages 370 Structures"

K3. NEWS FEATURE

Mariana Dale, Monica Bushman, Ross Brenneman, the Imperfect Paradise team, *LAist Studios*, "Imperfect Paradise - Too young to vote, but not to care: 3 high schoolers watch the election"

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

Judges' comment: It was refreshing to hear youth voices reflected in coverage of the 2024 presidential election. The team did a great job sourcing diverse perspectives, and each teen offered memorable insights on the country's future. This kind of reporting is vital—and it was clear the team made a strong effort to let the teens speak for themselves

2nd: Jon Baird, *KNX*, "Poop Art"

3rd: April Brown, *KPFK*, "Words Uncaged"

K4. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Lisa Niver, *Make Your Own Map*, "Ireland: Neville's Stories at Giant's Causeway"

<https://bit.ly/438qEhs>

Judges' comment: An immersive listening experience with whimsical tales.

2nd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "A master whiskey distiller from Scotland is putting Oxnard on the map"

3rd: Jonathan Bastian and Andrea Brody, *KCRW*, "'The Serviceberry': Robin Wall Kimmerer's guide to the gift economy"

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

Evan Kleiman, Gillian Ferguson, Laryl Garcia, Elina Shatkin, *KCRW's Good Food*, "How 'Sideways' changed the Santa Ynez Valley"

<https://bit.ly/3FL62SI>

Judges' comment: This lovely story highlights the real people behind the story told in Sideways, and the impact the surprise hit had on their lives and their region.

2nd: Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Awards Chatter' Podcast: Martin Scorsese on 'Killers of the Flower Moon' Blending His Past Films, the Marvel Controversy and Almost Directing 'Schindler's List'"

3rd: Debra Eckerling, *Jewish Journal*, "Patricia Heaton: Philanthropy, Food in Entertainment and Chicken Chilaquiles"

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

Billy Binion, *Reason TV*, "Amanda Knox: 'I Have Felt Utterly Exploited' by True Crime"

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

Judges' comment: The interviewer created space for the subject to reflect deeply on her experiences, drawing connections of meaning for systems and culture writ large.

2nd: Esther D. Kustanowitz and Erin Benmoche, *The Bagel Report*, "Bagels and Brous: Mending Broken Hearts with Rabbi Sharon Brous"

3rd: Elvis Mitchell, Rebecca Mooney and Katie Gilchrest, *KCRW*, "Michelin star chef René Redzepi shares new series 'Omnivore'"

K7. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW (Under 10 Minutes)

Megan Jamerson, *KCRW*, "'Making it' is not worrying about work: A laid-off father's story"
<https://www.kcrw.com/news/shows/kcrw-features/making-it-barret>

Judges' comment: A simple story that packs an emotional punch.

2nd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "From The Beatles to Fleetwood Mac, the muse and author who was a fly on the wall"

3rd: Caleigh Wells, *KCRW*, "Fires, quakes, floods – 92-year-old Topangan has seen 'em all"

K8. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING N/A

K9. ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Unique combination of dancing and disability is inspiring the next generation"
<https://bit.ly/3CHBfVJ>

Judges' comment: Great Piece! Good storytelling. Wonderful mix of diverse voices. Excellent use of multiple layers of audio, music, ambi, and voice. I feel like I never notice an audio thread start or end - they weave in-and-out smoothly, artfully.

2nd: Megan Jamerson, *KCRW*, "Hollywood's animation union wants to end a gender pay gap"

3rd: Andrea Gutierrez and Ravenna Koenig, *NPR*, "1931 film Dracula gets its first film score, just in time for Halloween"

K10. USE OF SOUND

Emily Kwong, Anjuli Sastry Krbechek, James Chow, Sara Sarasohn, and the Inheriting team, LAist Studios, "Inheriting: Bảo & the Vietnam War"

<https://bit.ly/3E6OQGY>

Judges' comment: Excellent use of ambient sound, straight ahead music, and sounds space/reverb throughout. Most notable was the transition of the ambient sounds from the dinner party into a "sleepy tunnel" sound while transitioning out of the dinner scene.

2nd: Caroline Feraday, *KCLU Radio*, "Why Superman singer took a risky journey to Kyiv"

3rd: Susan Valot, *KCRW*, "Rare Palos Verdes blue butterfly gets lift from volunteers"

K11. REGULAR PODCAST

Sarah Shachat, Trevor Wallace, IndieWire, "How 'Hacks' Keeps Ava and Deborah (and the Audience) on Their Toes in Season 3"

<https://bit.ly/42g2517>

Judges' comment: This quite entertaining podcast was especially well-produced and offered revealing, behind-the-scenes insights.

2nd: The Sam Sanders Show, *KCRW*, "Roy Wood Jr Says Comedy is Journalism"

3rd: Lyndsey Parker, *Totally '80s*, "The Totally 80s Podcast - Desperately Seeking: Madonna's Punk Roots"

K12. LIMITED SERIES PODCAST

Antonia Cereijido, Emily Guerin, Jill Replogle, Erin Stone, Makenna Sievertson, LAist Studios, "Imperfect Paradise: Lions, Coyotes, & Bears"

<https://bit.ly/4lfl43f>

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

<https://bit.ly/41ZSED3>

Judges' comment: LA is wild but not the way you think. This series explores what happens when the wilderness that surrounds our cities crosses into our concrete jungle. Told through the bittersweet story of P-22, Griffith Park's resident cougar, the leading episode leverages expert interviews, news clips, personal anecdotes, and snippets of popular culture to explore how concepts of wildness and nature play into our cultural ecology.

2nd: Natalie Lopez, Mallory Carra, Charles Zukowski, Allison Agsten and Spencer Cline, *Annenbergmedia*, "Lithium Valley: The White Gold Rush"

3rd: Eric Boehm and Hunt Beaty, *Reason TV*, “Why We Can't Have Nice Things (Season 2)”

K13. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Frank Stoltze, Meg Cramer, and the Imperfect Paradise Staff, *LAist Studios*, “Imperfect Paradise: District Attorney Gascón”

<https://bit.ly/3XFe6uw>

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

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

Judges’ comment: This deep exploration of the controversy over LA’s district attorney is compelling and relevant for anyone in the country concerned about criminal justice.

2nd: Enzo Luna, Ethan Huang, Erick Trevino, Isaac Vargas and Sana Mahmud, *Annenbergmedia*, “2024 Election: Hour Three”

3rd: Damien Newton and Chris Greenspon, *SGV Connect/Streetsblog Los Angeles*, “SGV Connect 124: Reclaimers and Rick Cole”

K14. DOCUMENTARY

Andrea Gutierrez, Fernanda Santos, Juleyka Lantigua, Jesse Alejandro Cottrell, Kojin Tashiro, *LWC Studios*, “70 Million: Angel Island—And Why the U.S. Has Historically Used Islands to Isolate, Process, and Deter Immigrants”

<https://apple.co/4iV1vfg>

Judges’ comment: A timely and critical exploration of the history of U.S. immigration detention. The past is beautifully brought to life through the stories and relics of one family who suffered many injustices, giving a framework for understanding today's events.

2nd: Emily Kwong, Anjuli Sastry Krbechek, James Chow, Minju Park and Sara Sarasohn, *LAist Studios*, “Inheriting: Victoria & the Cambodian Genocide”

3rd: Charles Feldman and Jonathan Serviss, *KNX*, “Campus Fury”

L. ONLINE

L1. HARD NEWS

Spencer Custodio, *Voice of OC*, "Anaheim's Scathing Audit Marks Another Chapter in a Corruption-Plagued City Hall"

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

Judges' comment: Anaheim seems like the city that just keeps on giving in terms of mismanagement and questionable financial decisions. Keep up the good work, Voice of OC!

2nd: Phoenix Tso, *Los Angeles Public Press*, "Chinatown tenant wins court battle over eviction from 'affordable' unit"

3rd: Jessica Goodheart, *Capital & Main*, "Los Angeles Has the Power to Challenge One of the Largest Mass Evictions in City History, Legal Experts Say"

L2. GENERAL NEWS

Nico Lang, *HuffPost*, "These Trans People And Their Families Can't Afford To Flee To A Friendlier State"

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

Judges' comment: This was a strong tale that needed to be told, in a way that focuses on the impact that broad policy decisions can have on individuals and families.

2nd: Kate Morrissey, *Capital & Main*, "A Dead Cellphone, \$27 in Cash and Nowhere to Turn"

3rd: Amanda Del Cid Lugo, *Los Angeles Public Press*, "Incoming Metro line raises fear of high rent, displacement in Huntington Park"

L3A. CULTURE NEWS, TV/Film related

Malina Saval, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Hiding in Plain Sight: How the Academy Museum Relegated Hollywood's Jewish Founders to the Ghetto"

<https://bit.ly/3Y9gABm>

Judges' comment: Malina Saval's "Hiding in Plain Sight" uncovers what its title promises by demonstrating the Academy Museum's omission of Hollywood's Jewish history, in its permanent and special exhibitions, including 'Hollywoodland'.

2nd: Raquel Harris and Sharon Knolle, *TheWrap*, "After 'Quiet on Set' Revelations, Is Hollywood Doing Enough to Protect Child Actors?"

3rd: Ryan Gajewski, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'Twisters' Reignites Debate Over Steamy Scenes in Movies"

L3B. CULTURE NEWS, Profiles

Cynthia Rebolledo, *Culture OC*, "Artist Alicia Rojas Honors Las Poderosas of Latino Health Access"

<https://bit.ly/43s81VT>

Judges' comment: The writing evokes the scary early days of the pandemic, highlighting an art and oral history project that honors unsung heroes of that time.

2nd: Gail Mitchell and LMU Magazine Staff, *LMU Magazine*, "L.A.'s Mexican Melody"

3rd: Katie Grant, *Parents.com*, "6-Month-Old Baby Goes Viral for Talking in Sign Language With Her Grandparents"

L3C. CULTURE NEWS, Events

Steve Appleford, *Capital & Main*, "Street Artists Say Graffiti on Abandoned L.A. High-Rises Is Disruptive, Divisive Art"

<https://capitalandmain.com/street-artists-say-graffiti-on-abandoned-l-a-high-rises-is-disruptive-divisive-art>

Judges' comment: Compelling writing goes inside a world not accessible to most readers, explaining the action and motivation, while also providing context and history.

2nd: Hosam Elattar, *Voice of OC*, "Anaheim's Little Arabia is Finally Getting its Freeway Signs"

3rd: Phil Hopkins, *Local News Pasadena*, "Trouble in Tovaangar"

L4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, Film/Broadcast Related

Katie Kilkenny, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Struggling Entertainment Workers Are Fleeing Hollywood — But Some Employers Balk at Showbiz Backgrounds"

<https://tinyurl.com/kjx6ndct>

Judges' comment: This is an important story about the long effects of COVID and the strikes on the Hollywood industry. What makes it stand apart is the insightful look into how the entertainment industry skills transfer outside the industry.

2nd: Drew Taylor, *TheWrap*, "The Final Days of 'Coyote vs. Acme': Offers, Rejections and a Roadrunner Race Against Time"

3rd: Brent Lang and Rebecca Rubin, *Variety*, "Disney Recaptured Its Dominance in 2024 as Family Films and Sequels Ruled the Box Office"

L5. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, Music/Performing Arts

Rebecca Rubin, *Variety*, "Inside the Tony Awards: From Jay-Z's Lobby Act, an Accidental F-Bomb to Overzealous Ushers, Here's What You Didn't See on TV"

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

Judges' comment: The author's selection of amusing off-screen anecdotes adds value the average reader might not get elsewhere, and her playful tone makes the article sparkle without straying into the world of editorializing.

2nd: Mesfin Fekadu, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Rep: Beyoncé Is Not Performing at DNC; 'Was Never Scheduled' to Attend (Exclusive)"

3rd: Nancy Dillon, *Rolling Stone*, "PnB Rock Murder Trial Verdict: Jury Finds Two Men Guilty on All Counts"

L6. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, Entertainment or Business Related

Mark Olalde, Nick Bowlin, *Capital & Main/ProPublica*, "The Rising Cost of the Oil Industry's Slow Death"

<https://tinyurl.com/5yjr2e>

<https://tinyurl.com/yf9y23c6>

<https://tinyurl.com/2m8zud39>

Judges' comment: A very impressive investigation of an important issue that touches many lives in the West and Midwest. Personal stories like those of the Ledgerwoods help bring this otherwise industry-insider-y issue to life.

2nd: Olivia Carville and Cecilia D'Anastasio, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "Roblox's Pedophile Problem"

3rd: Justin Nobel, *Truthdig*, "Hell's Kitchen: Radioactive Gas is Quietly Seeping into New York City"

L7. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, Government Related

Josh Boswell, *Daily Mail*, "Doug Emhoff's Sexism Scandals"

<https://bit.ly/42YwUs3>

<https://bit.ly/436ZiYX>

<https://bit.ly/432Cs4A>

Judges' comment: An exhaustive look into the questionable activities of Kamala Harris' husband. Boswell's tenacious reporting provided vital information to voters during the presidential election.

2nd: Nick Gerda, Jill Replogle, Ted Rohrlich and Yusra Farzan, *LAist*, "Uncovering the Andrew Do corruption scandal"

3rd: Katie Licari, *AfroLA*, "Water and Power"

L8. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, Crime Related

Jessica Schulberg, *HuffPost*, "His Brother Admitted To A Murder. He Is Sentenced To Die For It"
<https://bit.ly/4hSFvQO>

Judges' comment: In an exhaustive anatomy of an Oklahoma murder case in which one brother was sentenced to die while the other admitted the actual murder, Schulberg not only compellingly writes about the troubled background of the brothers and the trial, but also about death row and executions.

2nd: Oliver Milman, *Noema Magazine*, "The Rise Of The Bee Bandits"

3rd: Celeste Fremon, *WitnessLA*, "Rosa Gonzalez, The Whistleblower"

L9. BUSINESS REPORTING

Susan Karlin, *Fast Company*, "Intuitive Machines: How This Houston Startup is Making Space History"
<https://bit.ly/4hpn0mK>

Judges' comment: I was blown away by the writing in this piece about the first private moon landing. Karlin selected the perfect details to show how difficult and extraordinary this work is.

2nd: Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, "TV News' Big Squeeze: Suddenly, Local and National Anchors All Play for Same Team, Stream and Screen"

3rd: Marcus Baram, Jennifer Oldham, Meg Duff and Jeffrey Rothfeder, *Capital & Main*, "Dirty Money: U.S. Banks and the Climate Crisis"

L10. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

Jessica Goodheart, *Capital & Main*, "Surviving on \$1,800 a Month in Social Security, She Died Looking for a Place to Live"

<https://capitalandmain.com/surviving-on-1800-a-month-in-social-security-she-died-looking-for-a-place-to-live>

Judges' comment: Exquisite reporting. "Chef's kiss".

2nd: Nico Lang, *HuffPost*, "These Trans People And Their Families Can't Afford To Flee To A Friendlier State"

3rd: Kate Burns and Sean Beckner-Carmitchel, *Left Coast Right Watch*, "Predictable Violence: A Timeline of Incidents at the UCLA Pro-Palestine Encampment & Months Later, Few Changes for UCLA Attacks, No New Charges For Pico-Robertson Violence"

L11. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Michelle Zacarias, *CALÓ News*, "Black and Latino survivors of burned Palm Springs community seek restitution"

<https://bit.ly/4iuJx2k>

Judges' comment: For its powerful exploration of a buried chapter in California history — blending deep historical context with present-day calls for justice, it gives voice to communities long erased from the story of Palm Springs.

2nd: Chris Gardner, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Turmoil at Brentwood's Country Mart: How Hamas Book Sparked Fiery Protest and Tense Fallout"

3rd: Eli Cahan, *Capital & Main*, "How Islamophobia Is Driving a Mental Health Crisis Among Michigan's Muslim Youth"

L12. IMMIGRATION REPORTING

David Noriega, Aarne Heikkila, Adiel Kaplan, Jessi Prois, *NBC Asian America*, "'The world has changed': WeChat, snakeheads and the new era of global migration"

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/demographics-migration-us-are-rapidly-shifting-s-change-rcna149623>

Judges' comment: This piece is a compelling global look at a situation often looked at through a national or regional lens.

2nd: Daniel Trotta, *Reuters*, "Biden's asylum ban"

3rd: Madeleine Wattenbarger and Encarni Pindado, *Truthdig*, "Waiting in Limbo at Mexico's Southern Border"

L13. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING

Michael Ray, Karen Foshay, Denise Callahan, *Los Angeles Times*, "Meet the Father of Birth Control"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BR3OZEm3yM>

Judges' comment: Compelling interview with Baird, masterfully blended with archival and interactive features a winner.

2nd: Nico Lang, *HuffPost*, "These Trans People And Their Families Can't Afford To Flee To A Friendlier State"

3rd: Ethan Ward, *AfroLA*, "The Black Church is embracing LGBTQ+ youth and reuniting faith with family. Will it help reduce homelessness?"

L14. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Michelle Ma, *Bloomberg News*, "Netflix Wants to Shrink Your Favorite TV Show's Carbon Footprint"

<https://rb.gy/pv3n0z>

Judges' comment: Michelle Ma's writing in this piece weaves complex topics, history and scenes together for a compelling and self-propelled story. A delightful, and educational, read!

2nd: Jim Newton and LMU Magazine Staff, *LMU Magazine*, "Rivers of Division"

3rd: Stephen Robert Miller, *Noema Magazine*, "Inside Silicon Valley's Grand Ambitions To Control Our Planet's Thermostat"

L15. EDUCATION REPORTING

Noah Biesiada, *Voice of OC*, "Orange County Superintendent Quietly Misses a Year on Medical Leave"

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

Judges' comment: A well-written investigative piece asking an essential question regarding a highly paid public servant: "Where is Orange County's Superintendent?"

2nd: Nadra Nittle, *The 19th News*, "70 years later, schools — and moms — are still fighting segregation"

3rd: Cerise Castle, Jim Hinch, Frances Madeson, Martha Groves and Evelyn Nieves, *Capital & Main*, "Class War: The Culture Clash Tearing at Our Schools"

L16. NEWS FEATURE, Film/Broadcast Related

Brian Welk, *IndieWire*, "Tax Credits Aren't Enough: How States Are Wooing Film Productions"
<https://shorturl.at/ObsyP>

Judges' comment: This is an important story for the industry, and it's well written.

2nd: Lily Ford, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "The Art of Filming Sex Safely and the Case for an Intimacy Coordinator Oscar"

3rd: Lisa Richwine and Jorge Garcia, *Reuters*, "'Deadpool & Wolverine' leads a pop culture cascade of F-bombs"

L17. NEWS FEATURE, Music/Culture/Performing Arts Related

Lynda Lin Grigsby, Emilie Ikeda, Ricardo Nagaoka, Shahrzad Elghanayan, Zara Katz and Jessica Prois, *NBC Asian America*, "Japanese Americans play historic baseball games at prison camp to recall a pastime — and a lifeline"
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/manzanar-japanese-american-prison-camp-baseball-game-rcna175279>

Judges' comment: This was a beautiful, well rounded and expertly told story about a topic a lot of people don't know much about. Very well done.

2nd: Sharon Waxman, *TheWrap*, "Hollywood's Jewish Founders: How the Academy Museum Got It So Wrong, Twice"

3rd: Steve Appleford, *Capital & Main*, "Street Artists Say Graffiti on Abandoned L.A. High-Rises Is Disruptive, Divisive Art"

L18. HARD NEWS FEATURE, General News

Lily Lynch, *Noema Magazine*, "Chasing Utopia, Startup Style"
<https://bit.ly/4celbrR>

Judges' comment: The "seasteading," "pop-up cities," movement financed by tech secessionists was well researched and colorfully written. The story touched multiple areas of the globe. Watch out, nation-states.

2nd: Justin Nobel, *Truthdig*, "Hell's Kitchen: Radioactive Gas is Quietly Seeping into New York City"

3rd: Stephen Robert Miller, *Noema Magazine*, "Inside Silicon Valley's Grand Ambitions To Control Our Planet's Thermostat"

L19. SOFT NEWS FEATURE, General News

Claire L. Evans, *Noema Magazine*, "Living In A Lucid Dream"

<https://bit.ly/4j779uh>

Judges' comment: Solid writing throughout that brings the reader in on a unique subject matter.

2nd: Pat Saperstein, *Variety*, "Susan Seidelman on Directing the 'Grittier' Pilot for 'Sex and the City,' Casting Madonna in 'Desperately Seeking Susan': 'She Loved Being Provocative'"

3rd: Brian Steinberg, *Variety*, "MSNBC's Primetime 'Avengers': Rachel Maddow, Nicolle Wallace and Joy Reid Assemble to Battle Cable News' Old Rules"

L20. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Victoria Thomas, *LocalNewsPasadena.com*, "Drayke's Tale"

<https://localnewspasadena.com/2024/draykes-tale/>

Judge's comment: This touching and informative piece seamlessly combines the father-son bond with the added context of autism, celebrity and a shared interest in model trains. Thomas displays a deft touch in providing valuable background on a largely misunderstood condition while framing the story with the joy and humanity of a shared passion.

2nd: Christina Campodonico, *The San Francisco Standard*, "The new dating app is a flyer: In SF, people are posting singles ads on telephone poles"

3rd: Steffie Nelson, *Truthdig*, "Preparing to Meet Your Maker, Plus Cake: The Life of a Death Cafe"

L21. TV/STREAMING/RADIO FEATURE

J. Kim Murphy, *Variety*, "Welcome to 'Ren Faire': Lance Oppenheim's HBO Docuseries Follows a Festival Trapped in a Real-Life Game of Thrones"

<http://wp.me/pc8uak-1lEd1Z>

Judges' comment: Both of Murphy's "Ren Faire" stories provide gripping insight on a filmmaker's quest to tell a compelling story both dramatically and authentically while showcasing Oppenheim's personal investment in the subjects.

2nd: Samantha Bergeson, *IndieWire*, “Hallmark Holiday Stars Won’t Be Ignored by Hollywood Anymore: ‘I Treat Each Production Like a Martin Scorsese Film’”

3rd: Mesfin Fekadu, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “‘Abbott Elementary’ and The Glow Up of Janine Teagues”

L22A. FILM FEATURE, Documentaries/Animation/Indies

Jeremy Fuster, *TheWrap*, “Going It Alone: The Indie Filmmakers Getting Their Movies in Theaters Without a Distributor”

<https://shorturl.at/g5YSP>

Judges’ comment: An interesting piece going inside a complex and complicated industry. Fuster does a great job conveying what fuels these passionate filmmakers from burnout to box office.

2nd: Naman Ramachandran, *Variety*, “Indian Documentaries Ride Global Wave as Local Funding and Distribution Concerns Remain”

3rd: Leo Barraclough, *Variety*, “How Novelist Christine Angot Came to Make a Film About Her Family’s Reaction to Revelation That Her Father Repeatedly Raped Her”

L22B. FILM FEATURE, Profiles of Creatives

Lauren Huff, *Entertainment Weekly*, “Now entering the arena: Paul Mescal and Pedro Pascal unsheathe ‘Gladiator II’”

<https://bit.ly/4136O5y>

Judges’ comment: An in-depth look at the making of the star-studded Gladiator sequel Gladiator II. Huff weaves together behind-the-scenes stories, candid interviews, and director commentary to depict the sweeping blockbuster saga and the work that went into it. A very thoughtful piece.

2nd: Brent Lang, *Variety*, “‘The Brutalist’ Director Brady Corbet on Making His 215-Minute 70mm Epic and Including an Intermission”

3rd: Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, “When Bond goes queer”

L22C. FILM FEATURE, Production Histories

Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Was the Oscar Statuette Modeled and Named After Ancient Egyptian Gods?”

<https://tinyurl.com/476xt4ev>

Judges' comment: An engaging look at the iconic Oscar statuette and the "real" story behind its creation. As the Oscars get ready to celebrate 100 years, Feinberg shares some lesser known, yet fascinating facts about how Oscar came to be. Great job!

2nd: Todd Gilchrist, *Variety*, "'Pulp Fiction' Turns 30: How Quentin Tarantino's Masterpiece Saved Careers, Conquered Film Festivals and Changed Cinema Forever"

3rd: Mia Galuppo, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "'SNL': The Movie! – How 'Saturday Night' Filmmakers Found Their Stars"

L23. MUSIC FEATURE

Lyndsey Parker, *FLOOD Magazine*, "Standing in Front of Poseur: Redd Kross' Guide to Lost Los Angeles"

<https://bit.ly/4gVb3Fe>

Judges' comment: Lyndsey Parker's tour-de-force through the venues of California through the eyes of Redd Kross counterculture is the scum atop the ocean amid a Pacific Breeze. It rocks America.

2nd: Brandon Richardson, *Long Beach Watchdog*, "'This is rock star stuff': From Long Beach metalhead to playing taiko for millions"

3rd: Steve Appleford, *Capital & Main*, "Wayne Kramer's Rage Against the Prison Machine"

L24. THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS FEATURE

Abbey White, *Variety*, "Disabled Comedians Speak Out on Performance and Career Barriers Due To Widespread Industry Inaccessibility: 'I Want There to Be More of Us'"

<http://bit.ly/4hes90S>

Judges' comment: Abbey White's curiosity and sensitivity to the obstacles faced by the subjects of her story guide the reader through an eye-opening, touching and well-written account that would likely otherwise go entirely unnoticed by the reader.

2nd: Nina Storchlic, *Noema Magazine*, "A Country Shaped By Poetry"

3rd: Lyndsey Parker, *Lyndsanity*, "Andy Prieboy breaks 25-year silence on cult-classic Axl Rose musical: 'If anything in my life was like Brian Wilson's 'Smile,' it was 'White Trash Wins Lotto'"

L25. VISUAL ARTS/DESIGN/ARCHITECTURE FEATURE

Alizeh Kohari, *Noema Magazine*, “The Artists Digitally Liberating Colonial Plunder”

<https://bit.ly/3RqAK68>

Judges’ comment: A really interesting merging of two topics that are often written about, but rarely together: NFTs and repatriation. Writer pushes on all the pressure points and manages to weave in a number of grounding examples without overwhelming the reader.

2nd: Patrick Range McDonald, *Letters From Over Here*, “A Visit with Jean-Michel Basquiat on His Birthday”

3rd: Steffie Nelson, *Red Canary Magazine*, “The Good Earth”

L26. PERSONALITY PROFILE, TV/Film Personalities

Steve Pond, *TheWrap*, “The Lion in Winter: Martin Scorsese's Final Act”

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

Judges’ comment: Steve Pond's work here engages all the senses, helping the reader feel like they were actually in the room. The attention to detail is remarkable, down to the use of related verbs and varied syntax, which makes the reading experience super interesting.

2nd: Ky Henderson, *RollingStone.com*, “The Slings and Arrows of Being Tony Hale”

3rd: Scott Feinberg, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Karolyn Grimes, Zuzu in ‘It’s a Wonderful Life,’ Looks Back on a Life That Wasn’t Always Wonderful”

L27. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Music/Art Personalities

Leena Tailor, *Spin*, “‘Talking About Myself Is Fucking Boring as Shit’: Serj Tankian on His ‘Memoir (of Sorts)’”

<https://bit.ly/3yqiW5u>

Judges’ comment: This article has everything a great personality profile should have: solid prose, a fascinating subject and an empathetic approach by the author that gives us insight into the human side of a subject we might otherwise objectify from afar.

2nd: Kimmy Yam, *NBC Asian America*, “20 years on, William Hung looks back on 'American Idol' audition with no regrets”

3rd: Meaghan Garvey, *Billboard*, “What's It Like To Be T-Pain Now?”

L28. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Business/Government/Society Personalities

Andrew Lopez, *Boyle Heights Beat*, "The fall of José Huízar: How an Eastside hero rose to the top and how it all came crashing down"

<https://boyleheightsbeat.com/the-fall-of-jose-huizar-how-an-eastside-hero-rose-to-the-top-and-how-it-all-came-crashing-down/>

Judges' comment: It's all too easy to recount the crimes of those in power, but to go back to the beginning and put the fall in context of the rise was fantastic.

2nd: Phil Hopkins, *LocalNewsPasadena.com*, "Rick Cole: Cooling His Heels Without Breaking Stride"

3rd: Hosam Elattar, *Voice of OC*, "A Gas Station Owner Says City Corruption Cost Him Money, Now He is Suing Anaheim"

L29A. COLUMNIST, Entertainment/Media

Mesfin Fekadu, *The Hollywood Reporter*

<https://bit.ly/3ZKV7QW>

<https://bit.ly/3By1k8B>

<https://bit.ly/4j48stY>

Judges' comment: This entry showcases the writer's in-depth knowledge of the music industry focused on its main annual event, the Grammy Awards.

2nd: Chris Willman, *Variety*

3rd: Brian Addison, *Longbeachize*

L29B. COLUMNIST, Politics

Norberto Santana Jr, *Voice of OC*

<https://bit.ly/3Da2Iji>

<https://bit.ly/4cF985v>

<https://bit.ly/4bxAI5E>

Judges' comment: A well-written series of columns highlighting the importance of using public records to make sure citizens know how their local government is operating.

2nd: Erin Aubry Kaplan, *Capital & Main*

3rd: Joe Linton, *Streetsblog LA*

L29C. COLUMNIST, Current Events

Jim Knipfel, *Truthdig*

<https://tinyurl.com/ype47mmb>

<https://tinyurl.com/bdh2suj9>

<https://tinyurl.com/3h6hxkfp>

Judges' comment: Thoughtful and thought provoking columns that penetrate beneath the surface with Xray vision.

2nd: Rob Eshman, *The Forward*

3rd: Julie Patel Liss, *KPFK 90.7 FM & Cal State LA Journalism*

L30. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, National

Deanne Stillman, *Washington Monthly*, "Mothers, Sons, and Guns"

<http://bit.ly/3Q2qfoZ6>

Judges' comment: Extremely interesting subject in the politically charged debate over mass shootings. Author explores why people become mass shooters, and whether there's a link between shooters and their mothers. Well researched and written.

2nd: Jennifer Mercieca, *Zócalo Public Square*, "What Is 21st-Century Truth?"

3rd: Phil Hopkins, *LocalNewsPasadena.com*, "We Funded the Central Library Rebuild, But What About Those Books?"

L31. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, Local

Phil Hopkins, *LocalNewsPasadena.com*, "Welcome to Crown City Prison"

<https://localnewspasadena.com/2024/welcome-to-crown-city-prison/>

Judges' comment: Great job highlighting how local police are arming themselves with tools the public should know about – surveillance towers? Who knew? "What war are they preparing for?" indeed.

2nd: Mohammed Zain Shafi Khan, *The Guardian*, "USC vetoed a Muslim student's graduation speech for her pro-Palestinian views. Why?"

3rd: Jon Regardie, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Mark Ridley-Thomas Begins His Appeal, With an 'Army' of Supporters Standing Behind Him"

L32. NON-POLITICAL COMMENTARY

Hannah Drake Litman, *Ampersand/Annenbergmedia*, "Twizzlers: the worst"

<https://bit.ly/4hYD3Z1>

Judges' comment: Litman does a masterful job in a few short paragraphs to bring home a point that most of us readers can understand and relate to.

2nd: Chandra Bozelko, *The Outlaw*, "Ozempic or Abortion, We're Having the Same Debate"

3rd: Stephanie Kotin, *Noema Magazine*, "Parenthood Amid California's Devastating Climate Crisis"

L33. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY, TV/Film Related

James Hibberd, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Is Disney Bad at Star Wars?"

<https://tinyurl.com/y9n5y8fw>

Judges' comment: James Hibberd blends expansive knowledge of the Star Wars franchise, effortless narrative flow, and engaging insights to construct a rewarding analysis of Disney's handling of a precious cultural property.

2nd: Ky Henderson, *RollingStone.com*, "Feuding Co-Workers Get Medieval on Each Other in 'Ren Faire'"

3rd: Harrison Richlin, *IndieWire*, "Why Does Hollywood Hate Marketing Musicals as Musicals?"

L34. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY, Arts

Malina Saval, *Los Angeles Magazine*, "Boaz, Bruce and 'Born to Run'"

<https://bit.ly/3BmdUb7>

Judges' comment: What a wonderful way to look at Bruce Springsteen through a special needs youngster's eyes. Really engaged and connected.

2nd: Lovia Gyarkye, *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Critic's Notebook: Beyoncé's 'Cowboy Carter' Is Haunted by Ghosts of Rejection"

3rd: Chris Willman, *Variety*, "Stop Blaming 'Celebrity Endorsements' for Kamala Harris' Loss: We Need to Hear From Artists Now More Than Ever"

L35. BLOG, INDIVIDUAL

Chandra Bozelko, *The Outlaw*, "Vice Presidential Mani-Pedis, A Missed Opportunities"
<https://bit.ly/3XIwxhN>

Judges' comment: This blog brought a unique perspective and a bit of flare in the prose that set it apart from the other entries.

2nd: Brian Addison, *Longbeachize*, "Brian Addison of Longbeachize"

3rd: Sharon Waxman, *TheWrap*, "Billionaires, Newspapers and Politics – A Dangerous Mix"

L36. BLOG, GROUP

Joe Linton, Sahra Sulaiman, Chris Greenspon, Damien Newton, Melanie Curry, *Streetsblog Los Angeles*

<https://tinyurl.com/sbla-bb-1>

<https://tinyurl.com/sbla-bb-3>

<https://tinyurl.com/sbla-bb-4>

Judges' comment: The Streetsblog journalists demonstrate a deep knowledge and care for their community, and they inform their audience about important issues through multifaceted platforms, resourceful reporting, and scrappy writing that can be tastefully irreverent but consistently insightful.

2nd: Cal State LA's UT Community News Staff with Boyle Heights Beat & CALÓ News Staff, *Cal State LA's UT Community News w/Boyle Heights Beat & CALÓ News*

3rd: Dan MacIntosh and Alyson Camus, *US Rocker*

L37. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION EXCLUSIVE TO THE INTERNET

IndieWire Staff, *Indiewire*

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

Judges' comment: Nice visuals, lots of options for reader navigation based on interest.

2nd: Los Angeles Public Press Staff, *Los Angeles Public Press*

3rd: Truthdig Staff, *Truthdig*

L38. WEBSITE, TRADITIONAL NEWS ORGANIZATION

Variety Staff, *Variety*

<http://variety.com>

Judges' comment: Clean homepage to story transition, nice story page design.

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

3rd: TheWrap Staff, *TheWrap*

M. SOCIAL MEDIA

M1. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By an Independent Journalist

Nachelle Alonzo, *TikTok*, "Roe, Roe, Roe your rights"

<https://bit.ly/40CwPYc>

<https://bit.ly/4aNeM6r>

<https://bit.ly/42GWMZ5>

Judges' comment: An insightful and educational TikTok series on how the overturning of Roe is taking away women's rights piece by piece.

M2. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a Journalist Tied to an Organization

Gigi Graciette, *KTTV Fox 11 News*, "Bridge Fire 2024 Personalizing TV News Thru Social Media" PDF

Judges' comment: This is extremely well-done and engaging -- it not only enhances the story but also tells it and tells us something about the reporter and the outlet and the journalism process. Bravo.

2nd: Jireh Deng, *Los Angeles Times*, "Is the Tijuana River poisoning residents in San Diego County?"

3rd: Sophie Flay, *KABC*, "Tee time brokers are running a black market for a spot at LA public golf courses"

M3. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a Group

Daily Trojan Spring 2024 Staff, *Daily Trojan*, "Daily Trojan's encampment coverage"

<https://x.com/dailytrojan/status/1783255325690511458>

<https://x.com/dailytrojan/status/1783585311920140486>

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6JZSk6LJst/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODB iNWFIZA==

Judges' comment: Journalism is often referred to as the first draft of history. The Daily Trojan did just that, capturing the encampments on campus and the student protests. Their use of mixed media and detailed descriptions in the caption reflect a command of the social media medium.

2nd: Cal State LA's Social Media Storytelling Team, *CSULA Community News*, *CALÓ News & LA Times' De Los*, "LA's Latinx Landmarks"

3rd: Noah Goldberg, Karen Foshay and Andy Viner, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Piss Bandit"

N. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS based in Southern California, reporting for an outlet outside of the U.S.

N1. NEWS N/A

N2. FEATURE

Michael Idato, *The Melbourne Age*, "One Small Brick: How Lego's Little World Became a Giant Leap for Mankind"

PDF

Judges' comment: A riveting story that deftly explores the playful side of working for the Lego behemoth within the context of the button-down business operation of a company town. The writer's personal connection to the iconic toy lends an element of nostalgia that puts the impact of the company into sharp relief.

2nd: Keiran Southern, *The Sunday Times Magazine*, "In the land of open graves, the US border crisis has a human face"

3rd: Mary O'Hara, *Byline Times*, "Can my husband find out who I voted for?"

N3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Lena Basse, *Moteris/Lithuania*, "Anthony Hopkins: The Storyteller"

PDF

Judges' comment: Basse's profile of Sir Anthony Hopkins made the storied actor human, while also engaging my imagination to see truth beyond that suggested by the ordering of facts.

2nd: Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, "Colin Farrell opens up on his son's Angelman syndrome, starts a foundation"

3rd: Michael Idato, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, "Olivia Colman: I Never Wanted Fame"

N4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

Keiran Southern, *The Sunday Times Magazine*, "Elvis, Priscilla, Lisa Marie and the battle for Graceland"

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/44acd4e2-de72-4044-8b29-fcc0d705a18b>

Judges' comment: Elvis is king and Graceland is his castle. Not only did this story make the judge want to watch the show, but it made me want to read more. For a story that has been often told, the details and the pacing rocked like Elvis.

2nd: Lena Basse, *Marie Claire/Ukraine*, "The Art of Speaking Without Words: Isabella Rossellini on Playing Sister Agnes in *The Conclave*"

3rd: Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*, "Jodie Foster on 'True Detective: Night Country' – her 1st TV show in almost 50 years"

N5. COLUMNIST or CRITIC

Ruben V. Nepales, *Rappler*

<https://bit.ly/4guUyk5>

Judges' comment: A compelling look at how a father's love knows no bounds when it comes to awareness for his son's disability and life outlook.

2nd: Mary O'Hara, *Community Living Magazine*

O. STUDENT MEDIA

O1. BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Collegian Staff, *L.A. City College Collegian*
PDF

Judges' comment: Strong cover to draw readers in. Good coverage throughout with news, opinion, lifestyles and sports.

2nd: The Corsair Staff, *The Corsair*

3rd: el Don Staff, *el Don*

O2. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Jaimie Chun, *The Accolade*

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

Judges' comment: Struck by the captivating writing and creative ways to think about safety from multiple perspectives including digital and climate safety.

2nd: Angelina Jeong and Faith Jung, *Spotlight*

3rd: Olamide Olumide, Madison Thacker and The Mirror Staff, *The Mirror*

O3. BEST COLLEGE NEWS WEBSITE

el Don Staff, *el Don*

<https://eldonnews.org/>

Judges' comment: This news org clearly knows its audience. Great use of imagery, white space, and text.

2nd: Daily Bruin Staff, *The Daily Bruin*

3rd: The Corsair Staff, *The Corsair*

O4. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWS WEBSITE

Olamide Olumide, Madison Thacker, Staff, *The Mirror*

<https://vnhsmirror.com/>

Judges' comment: Great use of color with a clean design to pull readers into the website.

2nd: Seowon Han, *The Accolade*

3rd: Tribe Tribune Staff, *Fullerton Union High School*

O5. BEST NEWS PHOTO

Henry Kofman, *Daily Trojan*, "In photos: a nation shaken by camps for Gaza."

<http://bit.ly/428JGSJ>

Judges' comment: This photo is more than an image, it tells a whole story. Great structure, focus, and detail.

2nd: Gregory Hawthorne, *The Corsair*, "Final goodbyes Felicia Hudson slain campus manager"

3rd: Jake Crandall, *The Corsair*, "Lone firefighter at the Bridge Fire at night"

O6. BEST FEATURE PHOTO

Caylo Seals, *The Corsair*, "Clásico Tapatío Ends Early Due to Safety Concerns"

<https://www.thecorsaironline.com/corsair/2024/4/2/clasico-tapato-ends-early-due-to-safety-concerns>

Judges' comment: Great lighting and composition, capturing the moment in what was likely an incredibly chaotic situation.

2nd: Geovanni Esparza, *el Don*, "Happy Daps Fest 2"

3rd: Jayln Bautista, *The Mirror*, "A Historic Win"

O7. BEST SPORTS WRITING – PRINT or ONLINE

Mia Nuñez, *Annenbergmedia*, "Simone Jackson is charting her own path"

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

Judges' comment: Nuñez skillfully melds the athletic aspirations of her subject with the broader life implications of her participation in soccer for USC. She packed a lot of fascinating information into a fast-paced narrative.

2nd: Tony Gleason, Mary Elisabeth, Emma Martinez and Jenna Parsio, *The Graphic*, "Athletics Addresses Mental Health for Student-Athletes"

3rd: Evan Smith, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "Making the major leagues: LMU's Khadim Diaw makes MLB history"

O8. BEST ARTS WRITING – PRINT or ONLINE

Lyla Bhalla-Ladd, *Annenbergmedia*, "'At The Edge of The Sun' and all the edges of L.A."

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

Judges' comment: While use of the first person can feel out of place in some news media stories, the author's presence in 'At The Edge of The Sun' and all the edges of L.A. heightens their reporting and storytelling in a way that brings southern L.A.'s culture and arts scene to life for the reader. The writing is crisp, clear and compelling, and their interpretations and reviews

of the art they interact with add context that enhances them rather than distancing readers from them.

2nd: Victoria Munck, *Daily Bruin*, "Emmys 2024: Alumnus Jerry Henry shares his experience working on 'The 1619 Project' docuseries"

3rd: Addison Cudd and Melissa Ocegueda, *The Mirror*, "Journey's end in lovers meeting"

O9A. BEST NEWS WRITING, Campus Issues, Budget/Personnel– PRINT or ONLINE

Nathan Elias, Christina Chakarboul, *Daily Trojan*, "Alone and searching for meaning: Inside USC's 'high-pressure group' problem"

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

Judges' comment: This piece really meets the moment by digging into a concerning phenomena that has seemingly gained momentum from a crisis of loneliness many young people are grappling with today. The reporters did an outstanding job of exposing the reader to differing, nuanced perspectives of students who feel they've been harassed by "high-pressure" religious groups, and student members who feel called to share their faith with others. The piece prompts the reader to ponder the role of religion and faith-based community in today's secular world.

2nd: Jimmy Dominguez, Sapphire Perez, Stephinie Phan, Deshawn Pouper and Dylan Smith, *DH Bulletin*, "Toro faculty, staff navigate operations amid CSU budget problems"

3rd: Christine Yoo, *The Accolade*, "NEWS ANALYSIS: WHY TEST-TAKERS CHEAT? Sociology professor, students provide insight into the phenomenon that caused the uptick in Advanced Placement exam score cancellations this summer"

O9B. BEST NEWS WRITING, Campus Issues, Layoffs/strikes/protests– PRINT or ONLINE

Bianca B Arzán-Montañez, David Rendon, *Daily Trojan*, "Pro-Palestinian protesters occupy Alumni Park"

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

Judges' comment: Excellent on-the-ground reporting, and written in a way that paints a clear, concise picture for the reader of the series of events and various dynamics at play.

2nd: Lyla Bhalla-Ladd, *Annenbergmedia*, "'This decision had nothing to do with her political views': Provost Guzman on the valedictorian"

3rd: Anna Dai-Liu and Dylan Winward, *Daily Bruin*, "Pro-Israel counter-protesters attempt to storm encampment, sparking violence"

O10. BEST NEWS WRITING, Off-Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE

Jarrett Carpenter, *Annenbergmedia*, "The post-Dobbs pilgrimage for abortion training"
<https://bit.ly/3E3amMv>

Judges' comment: The reporter does a great job with data and graphics to illustrate the issue – that fewer women are applying to medical schools and residencies in abortion-ban states. Really nice quotes.

2nd: Mikal Mulugeta and Sarah Hutter, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "Voices from the border: Immigration in the Trump-Biden era"

3rd: Jessica Vasquez, Brian Leonlara, Michelle McCree, Chelsea Ramon and Beatrice Alcala, *L.A. City College Collegian*, "Tongva Rising"

O11. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE

Elie Chung, **Reagan Glidewell**, *Tribe Tribune*, "Baseball Therapy"
<https://bit.ly/3XCa1qG>

Judges' comment: The reporters talked to so many people for this story, and it shows. Plenty of baseball pictures bring the subject home. Nice work!

2nd: Amani Rivers, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "Brent Torres: 200 miles in 10 days for ALS"

3rd: Marcos Franco, *Cal State LA's University Times*, "Cal State LA Latino students reflect on mental health, cultural stigmas"

O12. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Off Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE

Laurie Carrillo, *Annenbergmedia*, "Immigration is no longer the key to securing America's millions of Latino voters. What is?"
<https://bit.ly/4hYzSRc>

Judges' comment: Great reporting that personalizes and contextualizes a very current issue.

2nd: Sofia Peña, *Boyle Heights Beat*, "For Boyle Heights' mostly Latino residents, Rishho Kosei-kai offers exposure to Buddhism"

3rd: Christine Yoo, *The Accolade*, "WHAT LIES BENEATH: After the Dec. 4, 3.3 magnitude earthquake with the epicenter near Fullerton, The Accolade investigates whether a fault line runs under Sunny Hills"

O13. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Campus Personalities – ANY PLATFORM

Alicia Carhee, Sam Mulick, *Daily Bruin*, "Cooking up community: The UCLA student behind Poom Thai Cuisine"

<https://bit.ly/3E1fHEk>

Judges' comment: Wonderful story that's rich with detail and offers a window into a particular student's life.

2nd: Serenity Li, *The Accolade*, "Senior Caleb Van Hook on getting hooked onto the stage"

3rd: Fatima Garita, *el Don*, "Still Kickin': Coach Jose Vasquez reflects on legendary career"

O14. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Off-Campus Personalities – ANY PLATFORM

Madison Thacker, *The Mirror*, "From busboy to boss: Serving up success at Nat's Early Bite"

<https://bit.ly/42bDmd4>

Judges' comment: The subject of this profile jumps off the page in a well-written, sharply paced story told with a lot of humanity.

2nd: David Rendon, *Daily Trojan*, "Daily Trojan alum wins Pulitzer Prize"

3rd: Brandon Rowley, *el Don*, "Bowling with Barry: The story of a Hall of Famer"

O15. BEST TV or STREAM REPORTING

Vincent Demonte, Julia Zara, Dana Hammerstrom, Laurie Carillo, *Annenbergmedia*, "America heads to the polls"

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

Judges' comment: Excellent broadcast, very professional, as good coverage as any local entity. Great job of sustaining roughly three hours of programming, keeping it fresh with lots of live interviews and some pre-packaged pieces.

2nd: Anni Spacek, *The Los Angeles Loyolan*, "How to Be Seen"

3rd: Linsey Towles, *Long Beach Current*, "Family of CSULB staffer Rodger Watkins mourn his passing"

O16. BEST RADIO or PODCAST REPORTING

Gabriella Medina, Anthony Clingerman, Amy Lopez, *Annenbergmedia*, “From Student Protests to Student Solidarity”

<https://bit.ly/4gv6VeR>

Judges’ comment: In depth and professional in every aspect of informational podcasting. Inquiring young minds are nourished by this thoughtful work.

2nd: Jenny Marquez and Aidan Lia, *Room 22 Podcast: The Pearl Post Online*, “Students react to the 2024 presidential election outcome”

3rd: Enzo Luna, Ethan Huang, Erick Trevino, Isaac Vargas and Sana Mahmud, *Annenbergmedia*, “The last hour of ARN’s three-hour special following California and national elections and live watch parties across Los Angeles”

P. A-MARK CASH PRIZE FOR REPORTING ON MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Miranda Green, David Folkenflik, *NPR, Floodlight*, “Chevron owns this city's news site. Many stories aren't told”

<https://shorturl.at/knEtH>

Judges’ comment: This story stood out because it wasn't just about disinformation -- it was about the structures that enable it. By exposing a fake local news site created by a powerful corporation, it offered something original and revelatory. Rather than chasing falsehoods, it focused on the system that produces and sustains them.

2nd: Sarah D. Wire and Mackenzie Mays, *Los Angeles Times*, “Inside the far-right plan to use civil rights law to disrupt the 2024 election”

3rd: Aaron Bandler, *Jewish Journal*, “Investigative series on anti-Israel manipulation at Wikipedia”

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025, Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, CA