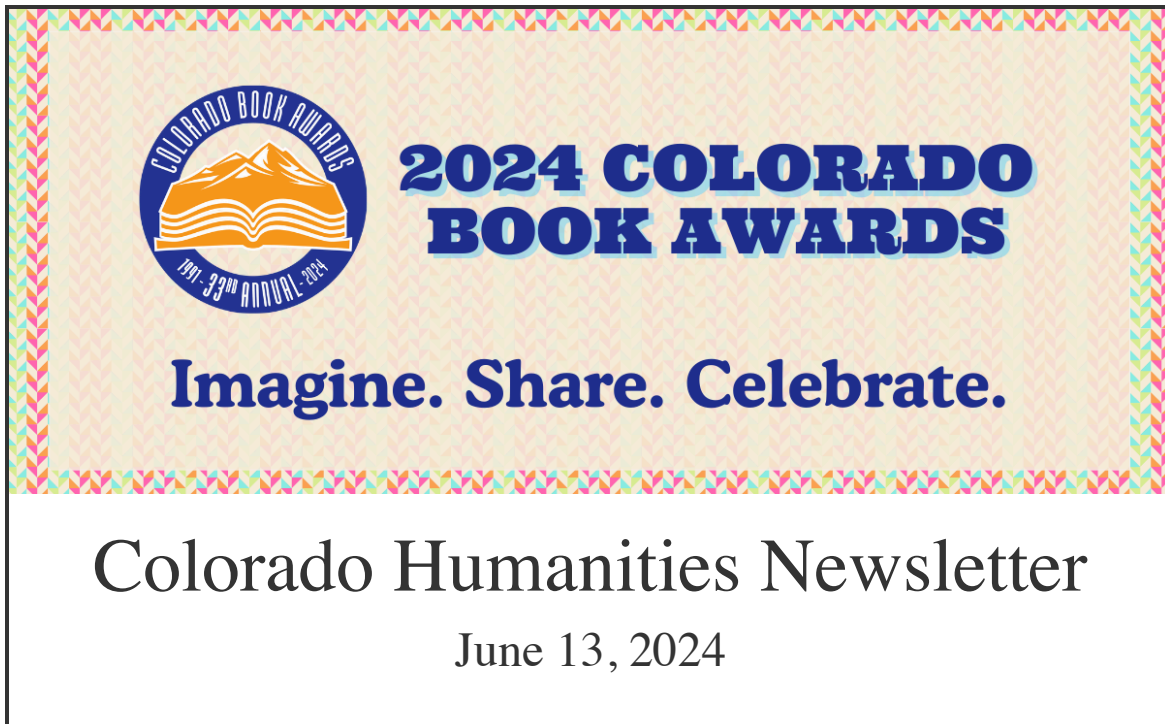


Celebrate Freedom and Diversity: Juneteenth and Pride Month Events!



Hello everyone! The 2024 Book Awards Finalists Celebration and Winners Announcement is nearly upon us, and we are excited to share our list of winners! The awards ceremony will take place on Friday, June 21st at 5 p.m. at the Tivoli Turnhalle theater at Metropolitan State University of Denver's Auraria campus. Tickets are sold out, but you can join us virtually for the livestream on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

Awards will be presented across 15 categories: anthology, creative nonfiction, general nonfiction, historical fiction, history, mystery, novel, poetry, romance, science fiction/fantasy, short story, thriller, children's literature, juvenile literature, and young adult literature. 87 volunteer selectors and judges from across the state helped choose the finalists and winners this year, and we are so appreciative of their help!

While we are not hosting author readings before the awards this year, we will partner with Colorado libraries to offer programs that feature our finalists and winners in the coming months. Until then, be sure to check out our sponsor

The Colorado Sun's weekly author feature in their **SunLit** publication. They are highlighting many of our finalists with author interviews and excerpts from their books.

Thank you for everything you do to support the Colorado Book Awards as a community member. Our program is only successful because of our community of authors and readers!

Valerie Eddy

Colorado Center for the Book Program Coordinator



LGBTQIA+ Books to Celebrate Pride Month

There are many wonderful resources assembled by libraries across the state that highlight the LGBTQIA+ experience. Here are some resources:

- [Denver Public Library's book list for adults](#)
- [Mesa County Library has created a carefully curated list of of book awards and book lists](#)
- [The University of Colorado Boulder has created a guide for Children's and Young Adult reader](#)

Celebrating Juneteenth

Juneteenth, officially titled Juneteenth National Independence Day, is celebrated on June 19th. Learn more about this holiday by visiting [Denver Public Library's curated list of resources](#) that showcase the importance of this day. Also check out [PBS Kid's books for celebrating Juneteenth](#).

Book Signing with Polly Holyoke for *The Sky King*

Meet Colorado Book Award finalist Polly Holyoke on Saturday, June 22nd from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Bookies. In *The Sky King*, a new kind of monster launches an attack on the empire Prekalt. Who can Kiesandra and her skysteed turn to for help in this life-and-death battle? Polly Holyoke grew up in Colorado, where she spent her childhood skiing, camping, reading, and dreaming up fantastical stories. Learn more about the signing at [The Bookies](#).



Self-Assessment Survey and Prize Raffle

We've been implementing our current program plan since 2019, but it's time for a refresh. We're gearing up to review our strategic goals and figure out how we can best support Colorado in the years ahead. [We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.](#) Your unique perspective will help us shape our vision and plans for the future.

Those who provide an email address when completing the survey will be entered into a drawing to win one of the following:

- a one-year subscription to NEH's Humanities magazine
- a Colorado Book Awards winning book
- a set of 10 bilingual biographies for young readers in Spanish and English

- a voucher to purchase an item from the Colorado Humanities online store

Five States of Colorado Wins Telly Award & Emmy Nominations

We are excited to announce that *The Five States of Colorado* film has received a regional Emmy nomination and is a Gold Award winner in the Telly Awards category of Documentary: Long Form! **The Telly Awards** is the premier award honoring video and television across all screens. Established in 1979, The Telly Awards receives over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents. Entrants are judged by The Telly Awards Judging Council—an industry body of over 200 leading experts including advertising agencies, production companies, and major television networks, reflective of the multi-screen industry The Telly Awards celebrates.



National Book Festival Selections

The 24th annual Library of Congress National Book Festival will take place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, August 24. A selection of programs will be livestreamed online, with videos of all programs available to watch after the Festival. This year, Colorado will be represented by Vauhini Vara, winner of the 2023 Colorado Book Award for General Fiction, with her book *The Immortal King Rao* (adult title), and Meg Long, winner of the 2023

Colorado Book Award for Young Adult Literature, with her book *Cold the Night, Fast the Wolves*.



Museum on Main Street in Paonia

Crossroads: Change in Rural America is a traveling Smithsonian exhibit that offers small towns a chance to look at their own paths over the past century and highlights the changes that affected their fortunes. The exhibition prompts discussions about what happened when America's rural population became a minority of the country's population and the ripple effects that continue today. The exhibit opens in Paonia on June 17 at the [Blue Sage Center for the Arts](#). Stop by on June 21 from 4 to 7 p.m. for the Opening Gallery Reception and Happy Hour with free food and music from The Ordinary Two.

Changing the Legacy of Race & Ethnicity Now in Podcast Form

Colorado Humanities is premiering the Changing the Legacy of Race & Ethnicity panel discussions in podcast form! [All episodes from the series will be in podcast format on Apple, Spotify, Audible.](#) Changing the Legacy of Race & Ethnicity is a conversation series initiated by Colorado Humanities and implemented with partners to encourage understanding and discussion about the legacy of race and ethnicity in America, and how Coloradans can work together to make changes now for a more just future.



Motherread/Fatheread Institute Training

Motherread/Fatheread Colorado will hold a 3-day training institute June 25-27, 2024 in Denver to train new facilitators to work with groups of parents and families of children from infants through early elementary school age. These certified facilitators will be prepared to use the Motherread/Fatheread curriculum to help parents engage children in reading and story-sharing in a way that supports early literacy skills. The application deadline has been extended to June 21. [Visit our website](#) for more information.

Facilitator Training Updates

In April we held two Facilitator Trainings in Greeley and Denver, equipping participants with tools to facilitate reflective conversations on the topics of race and ethnicity, war and veteran experience, change in rural Colorado, grief and dying, and more. We now have 41 new facilitators with a total of 92 throughout the state. With our trained facilitators, we are able to host community conversations, offering space to build rapport and relationships. If you are interested in holding a community conversation, [please complete this form](#). Please share this form with any organizations or community partners you think may be interested as well.

Save the Date!



Other News

Overland: An Incomplete History of Three Acres and All That Surrounds

Colorado State University's Sasha Steensen, Professor of Creative Writing and Literature, is excited to share her project **Overland: An Incomplete History of Three Acres and All That Surrounds**, a multi-media compilation that investigates the history of a three-acre plot at the base of the Rocky Mountain Foothills in Larimer County, Colorado. Sasha Steensen is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *Everything Awake* and *Well*.

Get Involved: Civic Engagement in Lakewood

How do you interact with your community? Historic Lakewood residents got involved with their local schools, agricultural organizations,

Queer Frontier - Cowboy Poetry of Queer Love

Cowboys are icons of straight masculinity, who often formed deep bonds with their professional partners on the range. Sometimes those bonds were romantic and inspired artists and poets. Hear some cowboy love poetry while considering the painted subject. Attend the discussion on June 21 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Grown-Up Book Fair

Second Star to the Right bookstore will host a Grown-Up Book Fair on June 22 at Fiction Beer Company from 3 to 6 p.m. Browse a wide selection of books and merchandise with drinks, food trucks, and friends. 10% of proceeds will be going to the nonprofit Books to Kids.

outdoor youth movements and many other special interest groups. Discover how making a difference in the quality of life in the city has evolved over the past century in this free exhibit open in [Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park](#).

Please contribute!

We hope you are inspired to donate to our work. The interest and insight you express by your support are important, and your contribution is an investment in Colorado.

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