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Oklahoma Center for the Book Honors Winners of the 37th Annual Oklahoma Book Awards

OKLAHOMA CITY — Winners and finalists of the 37th Annual Oklahoma Book Awards were honored during an evening celebrating the stories, voices, and creativity that continue to enrich Oklahoma’s literary community. The awards recognized outstanding books published in 2025 by Oklahoma authors and creators, as well as works centered on Oklahoma themes, with honors presented across multiple categories for excellence in writing, design, and storytelling.

The awards ceremony and banquet dinner took place May 16, 2026, at the Oklahoma History Center, bringing together authors, readers, publishers, illustrators, and supporters of Oklahoma literature from across the state.

The Oklahoma Center for the Book presented the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing a lifetime of creativity and contribution to literature. This year’s honor was awarded to Carolyn Brown, a *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Amazon*, and *Washington Post* bestselling author.

The Oklahoma Book Awards continue to highlight the depth and diversity of Oklahoma’s literary landscape while connecting readers with stories inspired by the people, history, and spirit of the state.

2026 Oklahoma Book Award Winners

Children

Mary Had a Little Jam by Tammi Sauer, Hachette Book Group, Union Square Kids

Young Adult

Gittel by Laurie Schneider, Regal House Publishing

Design, Illustration, Photography

Route 66: The First 100 Years

Author Jim Ross and photographer Shellee Graham, Reedy Press

Fiction

The Filling Station by Vanessa Miller, Thomas Nelson

Non-Fiction

Black Moses: A Saga of Ambition and the Fight for a Black State

by Caleb Gayle, Riverhead Books

Poetry

Blood Wolf Moon by Elise Paschen, Red Hen Press

Lynn McIntosh Award for Excellence

Making of the Killers of the Flower Moon by Shannon Shaw Duty, Benny Polacca, Chelsea T. Hicks, Allison Herrera, Ruby Hansen Murray, Tristan Joseph Espinoza, Cody Hammer, Sherry Stinson, Echo Reed, and Louise Red Corn, Osage News

Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service Award: Connie Armstrong

Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award: Carolyn Brown

Special thanks to the sponsors, partners, coordinators, and volunteers whose support helped make this celebration possible. For more information about the Oklahoma Book Awards and the Oklahoma Center for the Book, visit oklahoma.gov/libraries/ocb/ok-book-awards

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About the Oklahoma Department of Libraries

The [Oklahoma Department of Libraries](http://oklahoma.gov/libraries) is the official State Library of Oklahoma. It serves the information and records management needs of state government, assists with public library development, coordinates library and information technology projects for the state, and serves the general public through its specialized collections.

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About the Oklahoma Center for the Book

The [Oklahoma Center for the Book \(OCB\)](#) is a state affiliate of the [Center for the Book in the Library of Congress](#), and is organized to focus attention on the vital role of books and reading in our lives. The Center promotes the past, current, and future works of Oklahoma authors; promotes the literary heritage of the state; and encourages reading for pleasure by Oklahomans of all ages. The Center partners with the non-profit [Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book](#) on a variety of literary events.