



AASLH Leadership in History Publication Awards Manual

The AASLH Publication Awards are presented annually to books of exceptional scholarly achievement in a variety of state and local history subjects. The awards are designed to heighten awareness of outstanding books of state and local history interest and:

- to encourage the publication and reading of books on state and local history topics
- to recognize the authors of outstanding scholarly works
- to acknowledge original contributions to scholarship
- to promote changing best practices and trends in the field of history

Eligibility

All published matter:

- May be submitted by an author or publisher. Self-nominations are welcome.
- Can be singly and jointly authored/edited works
- Must address local history or historical practice in North America
- Must be available in the English language

For books, they must:

- Be in hardcover, original paperback, or e-book (see category requirements)
- Be published within two years prior to January 1 of the year of the competition
- Have a valid ISBN
- Be available for sale in the United States
- Have sufficient back matter to demonstrate good scholarship (references, endnotes, index, etc.)

The following are **NOT** eligible:

- Reprints of books originally published in another year
- Books containing previously published material **UNLESS** at least 50% of the book's content is new (further documentation will be required)
- Plays/screenplays
- Studies/research papers (see Leadership in History Award Guidelines)
- Anthologies
- Annual reports/brochures/newsletters/marketing materials

Awards are presented in three categories, and the winning authors are celebrated at the Annual Meeting later in the year. Unlike the other Leadership in History Award categories,



AASLH Publication Awards are competitive. **One winner and up to three Honorable Mentions are selected in each category.**

In the event that the Award Committee determines the quality of the entries does not warrant the awarding of any prize, the Committee shall have the right to make no award available.

The final submission date is **March 1**. The awards will be presented in-person at the AASLH Annual Meeting or virtually if necessary. Authors or publishers will be advised of the Award Committee's decision in advance of the annual conference.

Publication Award Categories

Best Local History Book Award

Awarded annually to the most outstanding book published on a state or local history topic by a larger press within the previous two calendar years.

Best Small Press Local History Book Award

Awarded annually to the most outstanding book published on a local history topic by a press/organization that published fewer than three books a year for the past three years. This may include authors who work with subsidy publishers. The book must be published within the previous two calendar years.

Best History Practice Book Award

Awarded to the most outstanding book on the practice of state and local history and museology addressing matters critical to the field and issues or challenges facing history organizations and their staffs. The book must be published within the previous two calendar years.

Award Criteria

Criteria for selection include:

- Exceptional and meritorious work
- Contribution to advancing the field of state and/or local history
- Excellence and thoroughness of research
- Style and appropriateness of presentation
- Suitability and rigor of methodology
- Nominations should answer the question, "Is It Good History?"
- Definition of Good History
 1. Embraces difficult topics by reflecting current scholarship, grounding the work in primary source research, and providing a genuine contribution to the understanding of history.



2. Acts to build diversity and inclusiveness through interpretation that considers race, ethnicity, gender, social class, and geography, and is provocative through presenting contested history and multiple perspectives.
3. Cultivates an experimental and creative spirit as a source for imaginative problem solving, exploring new approaches, and resourcefulness, while also looking to others for inspiration. Projects that extend the mission of an organization, demonstrate risk-taking, and offer activities outside conventional boundaries will merit the greatest consideration.
4. Demonstrates the relevance of history and showcases how the public can make use of the past in discussions of the present and the future.
5. Attempts to be accessible to wide audiences with differing learning styles, abilities, and interest in history.

Prizes

- Formal recognition at the AASLH Annual Meeting
- AASLH Awards seal to use in marketing.
- Complimentary registration for the awards banquet for the award winner.

Submission Instructions

Please fill out the nomination form and upload resumes of authors/editors to our online portal at <https://aaslh.submittable.com/submit>.

Send **two** copies of the book to AASLH via USPS Media Mail at:

*American Association for State and Local History
Atten: AASLH Book Award 2020
2021 21st Ave S., Suite 320
Nashville, TN 37212*

Submissions must be received (not postmarked) no later than March 1. Please note that materials will not be returned.