

PULITZER PRIZES FACT SHEET -- 2011

Overview

- More than 2,500 entries are submitted each year to the Pulitzer Prize competition and only 21 prizes are awarded.
- The year-long process begins with the appointment of 102 distinguished jurors who serve on separate juries and make three recommendations in each of 21 categories.

Journalism

- In the 14 Journalism categories, 1,097 entries were submitted, down slightly from the last year's total of 1,103.
- In Journalism, there was a robust competition with finalists coming from 25 different news organizations, one of them a small weekly newspaper. Winners represented 11 organizations.
- In 2009, the Journalism competition was expanded to include online-only news sites. This year, 60 different online-only entities, the largest number so far, submitted about 100 entries.
- ProPublica, which last year became the first news site to win a prize, has won its second Pulitzer. Last year, it won an Investigative Reporting prize in collaboration with The New York Times Magazine. This year, it won a National Reporting prize on its own.
- Substantial online content was submitted, most of it from newspapers. Nearly a third of all journalism entries had some form of online or digital content, compared to one-fourth last year.
- Entries from 12 finalists contained digital content and it played a role in seven winning entries: Investigative Reporting, Explanatory, Local Reporting, National Reporting, International Reporting – as well as Breaking News Photography and Feature Photography.

Arts

- In the arts categories, juries reviewed 1,204 books (45 more than last year). They also reviewed 161 Music entries and 80 plays.

Board

- The Board is composed of 19 members, 17 of whom are voting members.
- Members serve a maximum of three three-year terms.

Juries

- Juries range in size. Journalism juries have five or seven members, depending on the volume in a category. Book juries have three members. Music and Drama juries have five members.

Procedure

- Each jury recommends three finalists – no more, no less – without statement of preference.
- The Board makes the final decisions after evaluating all the nominated finalists and considering jury reports.
- Prizes are awarded by majority vote of the Board but the Board is also empowered to vote “no prize” or by three-fourths vote to switch nominations among categories or to select any entry that has not been nominated by a jury.

Notable facts

- For the first time, the Music prize went to an Asian American composer, Zhou Long, for his opera.
- Two prizes went to repeat winners: Carol Guzy (Breaking News Photography) won her fourth Pulitzer, the most ever in Journalism; and Clifford Levy (International Reporting) won his second.
- For the first time, no winner was named in Local Reporting of Breaking News.

Awards luncheon

- The prizes will be awarded at a luncheon on May 23 at Columbia's Low Library.

Symbol of the Prizes

- The iconic Gold Medal is awarded each year to the American newspaper that wins the Public Service category. It is never awarded to an individual. However, through the years, the Medal has come to symbolize the entire Pulitzer program.