

The New York Society Library Announces the 2021 New York City Book Awards

The New York Society Library's New York City Book Awards, established in 1995, honor books of literary quality or historical importance that, in the opinion of the selection committee, evoke the spirit or enhance appreciation of New York City. Our 2020-2021 season marked the 25th anniversary of the New York City Book Awards, and the 10th anniversary of the Hornblower Award. As New York City's oldest cultural institution, the Library is uniquely suited to present the New York City Book Awards.

The New York Society Library is proud to announce the winners of the 2021 New York City Book Awards.

- Debby Applegate, *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age* (Doubleday)
- Colson Whitehead, *Harlem Shuffle* (Doubleday)
- C.G. Esperanza, *Boogie Boogie Y'all* (Katherine Tegen Books)
- Brian Merlis and Clarence Taylor, *Historic Black Brooklyn: 400 Years of Struggle and Hope* (Israelowitz Publishing)

The Hornblower Award for a First Book

- Ly Tran, *House of Sticks: A Memoir* (Scribner)



Members of the book awards selection committee read and reviewed approximately 150 books published in 2021 with New York City as their major topic or setting. The winners qualify as titles of literary quality or historical importance that evoke the spirit or enhance appreciation of New York City, shedding some new or unusual light on it. The Hornblower Award, established in 2011, is for excellent New York City-related books by first-time authors.

The selection committee was chaired by Bianca Calabresi and comprised Gessy Alvarez, Nikhil Iyengar, Anita Kapadia, Christine Kendall, Tracy Quan, Jonathan Soffer, and Justin Zarembly.

More general information about the awards, and a complete list of winners from the awards' past 25 years, [can be found here](#).

The New York City Book Awards ceremony, honoring the winning authors and publishers, [takes place Thursday, May 19, 2022, 6:00 PM Eastern](#), at the Library with a [livestream](#).

The 2021-2022 New York City Book Awards are generously underwritten by Ellen M. Iseman. The Hornblower Award is generously underwritten by Jenny Lawrence.

About the Library

Founded in 1754, the New York Society Library is open to all for reading, reference, and many events. Circulation and other services are available to members. Our landmark building houses over 300,000 volumes, reading rooms, study spaces, a children's library, and the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery. The Library is a not-for-profit organization supported in part by tax-deductible contributions. nysoclib.org