

PRESENTING THE 2022 OHIOANA BOOK AWARDS!



It is truly a time to celebrate – this year, for the first time since 2019, we will be presenting the Ohioana Book Awards LIVE in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on Wednesday, October 26! The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a reception that includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and complimentary drinks. The program will include remarks from the winners*, a writers' roundtable, and conclude with book signing. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

We'd love to have you join us! It's easy to make your reservation online: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-ohioana-book-awards-tickets-421376457327>

The 2022 award winners:

Fiction

Anthony Doerr*, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Scribner

Anthony Doerr is the author of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, and *All the Light We Cannot See*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Carnegie Medal, the Alex Award, and a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the author of the story collections *Memory Wall* and *The Shell Collector*, the novel *About Grace*, and the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. He has won five Ohioana Book Awards,

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

Happy Autumn!

As I write this, we are less than two weeks away from our major event of the season: the presentation of the annual Ohioana Book Awards. And as you can read in our cover story, this year is especially significant, as it marks our first live awards event since 2019. The past two years we've had to present the awards virtually due to the pandemic. While those events were memorable, we're excited to have the opportunity to come together once again in person.

There are so many great literary events going on all across Ohio this autumn, and we've listed several of them in our Coming Soon calendar. Ohioana is pleased to partner with Gramercy Books on two of their upcoming events, both featuring past Ohioana Book Award winners: on October 28, Celeste Ng returns to Columbus with her latest novel, *Our Missing Hearts*. And on November 9, I will have the pleasure of moderating a conversation with Moriel Rothman-Zecher as he launches *Before All the*

five O. Henry Prizes, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award, the National Magazine Award for Fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Story Prize. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Doerr lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife and two sons.

Nonfiction

Hanif Abdurraqib*, *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*, Random House

Hanif Abdurraqib is a poet, essayist, and cultural critic from Columbus, Ohio. His poetry has been published in *Muzzle*, *Vinyl*, *PEN American*, and various other journals. *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, his first poetry collection, was named a finalist for the Eric Hoffer book award and nominated for a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. His first collection of essays, *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*, was named a book of the year by NPR, *Esquire*, *BuzzFeed*, and *O: The Oprah Magazine*, among others. *Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to a Tribe Called Quest* was a *New York Times* bestseller, a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, and longlisted for the National Book Award. His second poetry collection, *A Fortune for Your Disaster*, won the Ohioana Book Award and the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. In 2021, he was named a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellow.

Poetry

Felicia Zamora, *I Always Carry My Bones*, University of Iowa Press

Felicia Zamora is a poet, educator, and editor. Her accolades include the 2020 Iowa Poetry Prize for *I Always Carry My Bones*, the 2018 Benjamin Saltman Award for *Body of Render*, and the 2016 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize for *Of Form & Gather*. She has received fellowships and residencies from CantoMundo, Tin House, Ragdale Foundation, PLAYA, *Moth Magazine*, and Noepe Center at Martha's Vineyard. She won the 2020 C. P. Cavafy Prize from Poetry International, the Wabash Prize for Poetry, the Tomáš Šalamun Prize, a 2022 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, and was the Poet Laureate of Fort Collins, CO. Her poems and essays are found or forthcoming in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Guernica*, *Literary Hub*, *Orion*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Poetry Daily*, and *Poetry International*, among many others. She is an assistant professor of poetry at the University of Cincinnati and is the associate poetry editor for the *Colorado Review*.

About Ohio or an Ohioan

Brian Alexander, *The Hospital: Life, Death, and Dollars in a Small American Town*, St. Martin's Press

Brian Alexander has written about American culture for decades. A former contributing editor to *Wired* magazine, he has been recognized by the John Bartlow Martin Award for public interest journalism and was a finalist for the National Magazine Award. His *Glass House* won the 2018 Ohioana Book Award for Book About Ohio or an Ohioan. Alexander grew up in Lancaster, Ohio, and now lives in California.

World. We're also delighted to see Books by the Banks in Cincinnati come back, bigger and better than ever.

October is National Arts and Humanities Month in the United States, established in 1993 as a "collective recognition of the importance of culture in America." We like to think of the Ohioana Book Awards as our contribution to this month-long celebration. Of course, our awards were first presented in 1942, so they predate National Arts and Humanities Month by more than a half-century! October is a very important month for Ohioana and not only because of the awards: it was on October 5, 1929, that we were founded by Ohio First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper, an avid reader who believed there should be a collection of books by Ohio authors in the Governor's Residence. From this simple idea, the Ohioana Library was born.

And here we are, 93 years later, still "connecting readers and Ohio writers" and promoting our state as one of America's greatest literary centers. It wouldn't happen without the generous commitment of many friends—like you—all across Ohio. I want to especially acknowledge the sponsors of the 2022 Ohioana Book Awards, recognized herein. *Thank you all.*

Have a wonderful autumn—I hope to see you at the Ohio Statehouse on October 26!

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature

Jasmine Warga, *The Shape of Thunder*, Balzer + Bray

Jasmine Warga is a New York Times bestselling author of books for young readers. Her first middle grade novel, *Other Words for Home*, earned multiple awards including a John Newbery Honor, a Walter Honor for Young Readers, a Charlotte Huck Honor, and the 2020 Ohioana Book Award for Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature. *The Shape of Thunder* was a *School Library Journal* and Bank Street best book of the year, a finalist for the Barnes & Noble Children's and YA Book Award, and has been named to several state award reading lists. Her books for teens, *My Heart and Other Black Holes* and *Here We Are Now*, have been translated into more than twenty languages. Warga teaches in the MFA program at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Originally from Cincinnati, she now lives in Chicago.

Juvenile Literature

Andrea Wang, *Watercress* (illus. by Jason Chin),

Neal Porter Books

Andrea Wang is an acclaimed author of children's books. Her book *Watercress* was awarded the Caldecott Medal, a Newbery Honor, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, a New England Book Award, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. Her other books, *The Many Meanings of Meilan*, *Magic Ramen*, and *The Nian Monster*, have also received awards and starred reviews. Her work explores culture, creative thinking, and identity. Additionally, she is the author of seven nonfiction titles for the library and school market. Wang holds an MS in environmental science and an MFA in creative writing for young people. She lives in Colorado with her family.

Readers' Choice Award

Manuel Iris, *The Parting Present/Lo que se irá*,

Dos Madres Press

Manuel Iris is a Mexican-born American poet. He received the "Merida" National Award of Poetry for his book *Notebook of Dreams* and the Rodulfo Figueroa Regional Award of Poetry for his book *The Disguises of Fire*. In 2018 his first bilingual anthology of poems, *Traducir el silencio/Translating Silence*, won two awards at the International Latino Book Awards. In 2021, he became a member of the prestigious System of Art Creators of Mexico (Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte). He currently lives in Cincinnati and was the Poet Laureate of Cincinnati from 2018-2020.

Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

Louise Ling Edwards

The Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, named for Ohioana's second director and celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2022, is a competitive prize for an Ohio writer age thirty or younger who has not yet published a book. This year's recipient is Louise Ling Edwards, an essayist and poet living in central Ohio.



Louise received her undergraduate degree from Oberlin College in creative writing and neuroscience, and holds an MFA in creative writing from The Ohio State University. During her MFA, she worked for OSU's literary magazine *The Journal* and received the Helen Earnhart Harley Creative Writing Fellowship Award in creative nonfiction and poetry. Her writing focuses on the joys and paradoxes of living as a biracial and bisexual woman by exploring tensions between hunger and abundance, loneliness and belonging. Her in-progress collection of essays, *Paper House*, reflects on her experiences living in China for two years and moves through both haunted and tranquil spaces of a homeland from which she has been separated. Her winning Marvin entry, *Holding Hands*, appears in the Fall 2022 issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

**Please note: all winners will join us in person, except for Anthony Doerr and Hanif Abdurraqib, who are unable to appear but have pre-recorded their acceptances on video. We will have signed copies of their winning books available.*

CALLING ALL OHIO AUTHORS!

Ohioana is now taking applications for Ohio authors interested in participating in the 2023 Ohioana Book Festival. For details and an application, visit www.ohioana.org.

Award Sponsors



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COMING SOON

Ohioana Book Awards

October 26, 2022, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, Ohio

Join us for a reception and ceremony to celebrate the winners of the 81st annual Ohioana Book Awards, presented live for the first time since 2019. To make your reservation, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-ohioana-book-awards-tickets-421376457327>.

Author Event: Celeste Ng

October 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m. Presented by Gramercy Books Bexley, CCAD – Canzani Auditorium, Columbus, Ohio

Gramercy Books Bexley presents Celeste Ng, the number one bestselling author of the Ohioana Award-winning *Little Fires Everywhere*, as she launches *Our Missing Hearts*, a deeply suspenseful and heartrending novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear. Ng will be in conversation with acclaimed poet and essayist Maggie Smith. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-1-bestselling-author-celeste-ng-maggie-smith-moderates-tickets-387128861847>.

Author Event: Hanif Abdurraqib

November 1, 2022, Presented by Thurber House, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio

Thurber House's fall Evenings with Authors series concludes with poet, essayist, and cultural critic Hanif Abdurraqib, a MacArthur "Genius Grant" fellow, National Book Award finalist, Carnegie Medalist, and two-time winner of the Ohioana Book Award. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.thurberhouse.org/fall-2022-events/hanif-abdurraqib>.

Buckeye Book Fair

November 5, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Greystone Event Center, Wooster, Ohio

The 35th anniversary Buckeye Book Fair features speakers, literary activities for all ages, and Ohio authors and illustrators who will meet readers and sign copies of their latest books. For more information, visit www.buckeyebookfair.org.

Author Event: Moriel Rothman-Zecher

November 9, 2022, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Gramercy Books Bexley, Bexley, Ohio

Join Jerusalem-born novelist and poet Moriel Rothman-Zecher as he launches *Before All the World*, a mesmerizing, inventive story of three souls in 1930s Philadelphia. Winner of the 2018 Ohioana Book Award for his debut novel, *Sadness is a White Bird*, Rothman-Zecher will be in conversation with Ohioana's Executive Director, David Weaver. For information and tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-acclaimed-novelist-and-poet-moriel-rothman-zecher-tickets-387095291437>.

Books by the Banks

November 19, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

The popular day-long festival features national, regional, and local authors and illustrators; book signings; panel discussions; and activities for the entire family to enjoy. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit <https://booksbythebanks.org>.