



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Dennis T. Clark
Librarian of Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2024

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Library of Virginia Announces 12 Finalists for 27th Annual Virginia Literary Awards

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce that 12 finalists have been selected for the 27th Annual Virginia Literary Awards, the Commonwealth’s premier event honoring Virginia authors and their contributions to literature.

The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from more than 200 submissions. The winner in each category will be announced during a gala celebration at the Library of Virginia on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024. In addition to the award and distinguished recognition, winners in each category will receive a monetary prize of \$2,500.

"We are thrilled to recognize literary excellence among Virginia authors and on Virginia subjects," said Librarian of Virginia Dennis T. Clark. "What’s even more exciting is that the Virginia Literary Awards Celebration brings readers together with these talented writers in what has become a highly anticipated cultural tradition in the Commonwealth."

The [2024 Virginia Literary Awards finalists](#) are:

FICTION FINALISTS:

RACHEL BEANLAND | The House Is On Fire

SADEQA JOHNSON | The House of Eve

ANGIE KIM | Happiness Falls

NONFICTION FINALISTS:

EDWARD L. AYERS | American Visions: The United States, 1800–1860

ASHLEY SHEW | Against Technoableism: Rethinking Who Needs Improvement

ELIZABETH R. VARON | Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South

POETRY FINALISTS:

ARIANA BENSON | Black Pastoral: Poems

BOB HICOK | Water Look Away

JANINE JOSEPH | Decade of the Brain: Poems

CHILDREN’S VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARD FINALISTS:

KWAME ALEXANDER | An American Story

ANDREA BEATRIZ ARANGO | Something Like Home

VASHTI HARRISON | Big

The finalists for the Library's People's Choice Awards for fiction and nonfiction, announced in a [previous news release](#), will also be recognized. This year's gala celebration will also include the presentation of the [honorary Patron of Letters degree](#) to poet and lawyer Reginald Dwayne Betts, founder and CEO of Freedom Reads.

Presented by Dominion Energy and supported by Carole and Marcus Weinstein, the Virginia Literary Awards is an annual gala celebration that includes a cocktail reception, dinner and awards ceremony. The ticketed event and a silent auction raise support for the Library's conservation, education and community outreach initiatives.

For information on tickets, sponsorship or other ways to support the 27th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration honoring Virginia authors and friends, visit lvafoundation.org/literaryawards/ or call 804.692.3813.

Find related images here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/785qfrrevkpbcgfcrni1v/ANE9eiGSoldEkPsaR6rgW74?rlkey=njrx9yas8y9vhxnfxjibqwy7r&dl=0>

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ABOUT THE VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARDS

Hosted by award-winning author Adriana Trigiani, the 27th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, with nominated authors, presenters and special guests. Dominion Energy and Carole and Marcus Weinstein are the presenting sponsors for this annual event, which attracts all who enjoy the written word and support literature. New this year is the [Children's Virginia Literary Award](#). A partnership between the Library of Virginia and William and Mary Libraries, the award honors excellence in the field of children's literature with a focus on Virginia. The Literary Awards festivities kick off on Friday, Sept. 20 with the Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 4 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.