



# EMPOWERING LATINO FUTURES'S INTERNATIONAL LATINO BOOK AWARDS

The Largest Awards in the USA Celebrating Achievements in Latino Literature



## 2021 ILBA Honorable Mention Books Worth Your Consideration

For the first time in 2021 we are adding a list of Honorable Mention Books to go along with our Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medal winners. These selections are a salute to the wide variety of quality books being created BY and ABOUT Latinos, both inside and outside the USA.

As Empowering Latino Futures Vice President of Authors Katharine A. Díaz put it, "The International Latino Book Awards judges were in a quandary. There are so many top-notch books entered for consideration in many categories, but only a few books can win the top Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals in each category. So we have prepared a list of other books that are award-quality and that deserve your attention too. This is our FIRST Honorable Mention Books Worth Your Consideration."

Two key things happened in 2021:

1. We had 248 more entries than we have ever had before. This massive increase is a reflection that books by and about Latinos are receiving more attention than ever.
2. The overall quality of the books keeps increasing every year. All the major publishing companies are now FINALLY paying attention to great Latino authors.

Many of these books are from categories with numerous great books. Others are books the judges felt the editorial quality was there, but they might need some help on the layout or design of the book. These books definitely deserve being read and added to collections.

When actor Edward James Olmos and Kirk Whisler co-founded in 1997 what is now the 501c3 nonprofit **Empowering Latino Futures** we saw the organization as both a facilitator for Latinos to have more access to a multitude of resources to help improve their futures AND to help mainstream America view the Latino community in more accurate, less stereotypical ways. Over the last two and a half decades our collective accomplishments include:

- ✓ Holding 68 **Latino Book & Family Festivals** around the USA, combined attendance of 900,000+ people;
- ✓ Honoring 3,468 books via the **International Latino Book Awards**;
- ✓ Producing and distributing 182,500 copies of the **National Latino & American Indian Scholarship Directory**;
- ✓ Distributing 155,000+ books to underserved youth in North San Diego County via **Education Begins in the Home**; and
- ✓ Honoring 155 books via the **Latino Books into Movies Awards**.

Here are the Honorable Mentions:

### A1 CHILDREN BOOK AWARDS

#### The Alma Flor Ada Best Latino Focused Children's Picture Book Award – Bilingual

Blue, Yulien Jimenez & Juan José Catalán; Editorial Voces De Hoy; Cuba; Miami, FL

Los pueblitos / Small Towns, María L. Villagómez Victoria; Balboa Press; Mexican/USA; Sacramento, CA

¿Que Vola, NOLA? / What's Up, NOLA?, Abigail Isaacoff; Illustrated by Ramiro Díaz; Pelican Publishing, an imprint of Arcadia Publishing; Author-USA, Illustrator-Havana, Cuba; New Orleans, LA

#### The Alma Flor Ada Best Latino Focused Children's Picture Book Award – English

Love and Monsters in Sofia's Life, Belinda Hernández Arriaga; Illustrated by Veronica Castillo Salas; Conocimientos Press; ; San Francisco, CA

#### Best Children's Fiction Picture Book – Bilingual

For All / Para Todos, Alejandra Domenzain; Illustrated by Katherine Loh; Little Heroes, Hard Ball Press; USA; San Francisco, CA

Jose the Reindeer, Ernest Olivarez; Ernest Michael Olivarez Publishing LLC; USA; Dallas

Pancho, el mosquito más listo en la tierra, John Joven; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Colombia; Bogotá, D.C.

#### Best Children's Fiction Picture Book – English

A Sled for Gabo, Emma Otheguy; Illustrated by Ana Ramírez González; Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster; ; New York, NY

Kaia and the Bees, Maribeth Boelts; Candlewick Press; ;

The Day Ladybug Drew a Giant Ball of Fluff, José Carlos Román; Illustrated by Zuriñe Aguirre; Cuento de Luz; Spain;

#### Best Children's Fiction Picture Book – Spanish

Alina, Francisco Luis Padilla García & Montese Palomino López; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Zaragoza

Los Guardianes de Cádiz, Fernando Macías; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Sevilla

No hay mal que por bien no venga, Roger Fondevila Julià; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Barcelona

**Please Note:** These are Honorable Mention books, a separate from the ILBA Award Winning Books. The listing of books is alphabetical, NOT a reflection on the order of the final awards that will be given. After the Publisher of the book is listed we cite the Country of Origin for the author(s) and the DMA or DMAs they currently live in.

For more information, please go to [www.LatinoBookAward.org](http://www.LatinoBookAward.org) or contact Kirk Whisler, Empowering Latino Futures, 760-579-1696, [kirk@whisler.com](mailto:kirk@whisler.com)

### **Best Children’s Nonfiction Picture Book**

ABC El Salvador, Holly Ayala; Luna’s Press Books; USA/Salvadorian; San Francisco, CA

### **Best Educational Children’s Picture Book – English or Bilingual**

DLee’s Shapely Imagination, Diana Lee Santamaria; Dlee’s World, LLC; USA; New York

Hummingbird / Colibrí / Uitsitsilij: A Trilingual Counting Book, Reynaldo Mora; Skillful & Soulful Press; USA/Purepecha Ancestry; Los Angeles, CA

I Have a Secret! / Tengo un secreto!, Mariterez Rodríguez Bellas; 1010 Publishing; Puerto Rico; Los Angeles, CA

### **Best Educational Children’s Picture Book – Spanish**

Guillo, el armadillo, Andrea Olatunji; ; Uruguay; Nueva Orleans

Pepe y Pako: ;Exploran Los Estados Unidos!, Karen Vásquez O’Donnell; Fig Factor Media; El Salvador; Dallas, TX

Ventura en Córdoba, Jorge Molinero Méndez; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Seville, Spain

### **Most Inspirational Children’s Picture Book – Spanish**

¿Bailamos?, Salvador Rojo Flores; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Mexico; Tepetongo, Mexico

Cuentos tristes para niños grandes, Emilio del Carril; País Invisible-editores; ;

El dragón de la cola de cartón, Esmeralda Pérez Cortés; Illustrated by Alynor Díaz; Snow Fountain Press; Panamá, Republic of Panamá; Orlando, FL

La Gran Victoria, Verónica de la Cruz; ; Puerto Rico; San Juan

La historia de Do, Esmeralda Pérez Cortés; Illustrated by Alynor Díaz; Snow Fountain Press; Panamá, Republic of Panamá; Orlando, FL

Ramón, Camila y el hada madrina, Carolina Van Pampus; ; Venezuela/Española; Miami, FL

### **Most Inspirational Children’s Picture Book – Bilingual or English**

A Dress to Remember, Natalie Torres-Haddad & Mario Echeverria; Illustrated by KC Lemus; ; El Salvador; Los Angeles, CA

I Want to Dance like a Koala, Sandra Gonzalez-Mora; Skillful and Soulful Press; Mexico/Otomí Ancestry; Los Angeles CA

ZeeZee Can Make the World Smile / ZeeZee puede hacer sonreír al mundo, Ana Larrea-Albert; Ally-Gator BookBites Publishing House; ;

### **Best Learn to Read Book**

Mr. Macaw’s Paleta Adventure, Leticia Ordaz; Cielito Lindo Books; Mexico/Mexican; Sacramento, CA

## **A2 YOUTH BOOK AWARDS**

### **Best Youth Chapter Fiction Book – English**

Definitely Dominguita: Knight of the Cape, Terry Catasús Jennings; Illustrated by Fátima Anaya; Aladdin, Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing; Cuba; Reston, VA

Ghost Squad, Claribel A. Ortega; Scholastic Press; USA/Dominican Republic; New York City

### **Best Educational Youth Chapter Book**

Los cuentos de Darwin, Raúl Martínez Mora; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Santa Cristina d’Aro

## **A3 YOUNG ADULT BOOK AWARDS**

### **Best Young Adult Fiction Book**

A Cuban Girl’s Guide to Tea and Tomorrow, Laura Taylor Namely; Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster; Cuba; San Diego, CA

Aroma de azucenas, Edwin Fontáñez; Exit Studio Publishing; Puerto Rico; Washington, DC

Eliot un perro de la calle, Verónica Salgado ; ; México; Pasadena, CA

### **Best Young Adult Nonfiction Book**

It’s All Love: Reflections for Your Heart & Soul, Jenna Ortega; Random House Books for Young Readers ; USA/Mexico/Puerto Rico; Los Angeles, CA

### **Best Young Adult Fantasy & Adventure**

La Biblioteca de los Libros Infinitos, Alycia Alba; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Mallorca

### **Best Young Adult Romance Book**

El chico más alTo de la luna, David Guerrero Martín; Mr. Momo, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Málaga, Spain

## **B NONFICTION AWARDS**

### **Most Inspirational Nonfiction Book – Spanish**

Cuando la luz se apaga, Alma Lazar; ; México; San Diego, CA

La Latina con baja autoestima, Rosie Mercado; HarperCollins Español; Mexico; Los Angeles, CA

### **Best Autobiography – English**

Federico: One Man’s Remarkable Journey from Tututepec to L.A., Federico Jiménez Caballero; Edited by Shelby Tisdale; University of Arizona Press; Mexico; Los Angeles, CA

### **The Raul Yzaguirre Best Political/Current Affairs Book**

Los grupos humanos actuales y prehistóricos del lago Baikal, Almudena Alonso Centero & Delfín Ortega-Sánchez; Aula Magna, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Sevilla, Spain

## Best History Book

Activist Leaders of San Jose: En sus propias voces, Josie Méndez-Negrete; The University of Arizona Press; USA; San Antonio, TX  
El Caribe en la Guerra de Independencia de los Estados Unidos, Vol. I y Vol. II, José E. Muratti-Toro, Ph.D.; Editorial 360°; Puerto Rico; San Juan  
Hispanic Heritage and Participation on United States Stamps, Daniel T. Sanchez; Hispanic Institute of Social Issues; Mexican/USA; Phoenix

## Best Arts Book

El telón de Picasso, Marcelo Donato; Argus-a; Argentina; Ottawa, Canada

## Best Gift Book

La sábana de retazos: En busca de tu leyenda personal, Carlos Alberto Fuentes Montes; Universo de Letras, Lantia Publishing Group; Colombia; Barranquilla, Colombia

## Best Self Transformation Book – English

Breaking Through Your Own Glass Ceiling: Embracing a Full-hearted Life, Linda González; Xlibris; USA/Mexico & Colombia; San Francisco

## Best Self Transformation Book – Spanish

Cuando las mujeres fuertes hablan, las mujeres fuertes escuchan, Adriana Fuentes Díaz; Caliente Press; Mexico; Mexico City  
El poder transformador de las creencias, César Lacayo; CEPI; Nicaragua/USA; Miami, FL  
Volver a vivir, Beatriz Cantu; Big Factor Media; México; Chicago, IL

## Best Religious Book

The Faith of My Friends, Neighbors, Relatives, and Parents, Volume III, Dr. Ronald W. Maestas; ; ;

## Best Nonfiction - Multi-Author

Decolonizing Latinx Masculinities, Arturo J. Aldama & Frederick Luis Aldama; The University of Arizona Press; USA; Boulder, CA & Columbus, OH  
True Border: 100 Questions & Answers About the U.S.-Mexico Frontera, Zita Arocha; Edited by Dino Chiecchi; Borderzine; USA; El Paso, TX

## C FICTION AWARDS

### The Rudolfo Anaya Best Latino Focused Fiction Book Award – English

Jubilee, Jennifer Givhan; Blackstone Publishing; Mexican-American; Albuquerque, NM  
Legends of the Californios, Raquel Perez; Outskirts Press; USA, Mexico; San Diego  
Sanctuary, Rocky Barilla; Rosquete Press; Mexican American; San Francisco  
The New American, Micheline Aharonian Marcom; Simon & Schuster; ;

### The Rudolfo Anaya Best Latino Focused Fiction Book Award – Spanish

El lugar donde los equilibristas descansan, Frank Hidalgo-Gato Durán; Caligrama; Cuba; Madrid

### The Isabel Allende Most Inspirational Fiction Book Award – English

Dreaming with Mariposas, Sonia Gutiérrez; FlowerSong Press; USA; San Siego  
Transcending the Lazareto, Nery Santos Gómez; Grupo Editorial Sial Pigmalión; Venezuela; Florida

### The Isabel Allende Most Inspirational Fiction Book Award – Spanish

Cuarentena Literaria, Nery Santos Gómez; Grupo Editorial Sial Pigmalión; Venezuela; Florida  
Qué gris era Lima, Rocío Wezensky; Ibukku; Peru; Knoxville

### Best Novel - Adventure or Drama – Spanish

Crema Paraíso, Camilo Pino; Alianza Editorial; Venezuela; Miami, FL  
El Muladar, Ángela Puentes & José Ignacio Villacampa; Universo de Letras, Lantia Publishing Group; Zaragoza;  
La Ballena, Aldo Berríos; Áurea Ediciones; Chile; Viña del Mar  
Venatrix I: Las cuatro Jinetes del Apocalipsis, Rolando Ávila de la Parra; Universo de Letras, Lantia Publishing Group; México, Mexicano; León, Gto., México

### Best Novel - Historical Fiction – Spanish

Heridas pendientes, Ani Palacios; Pukiyari Editores; Perú; Columbus, Ohio  
Historias para Ana: Génesis, Nasbly Kalinina; FB Libros; ;  
La segunda carta, Layda Melián; País Invisible Editores; Puerto Rico; San Juan, PR

### Best Novel - Mystery

The Book Seller, Peter Briscoe; Palo Verde Press; USA, Latino; Riverside/Los Angeles

### Best Novel - Fantasy/Sci-Fi – Spanish

Adiós, Loxonauta, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides; Sietech Ediciones; Chile; Santiago de Chile  
Carne de conejo, Ernesto Pérez Chang; Guantanamera, Lantia Publishing Group; Cuba; Havana, Cuba  
El cadáver que envejece dentro de su tumba, Elizabeth Quila; Vaso Roto Ediciones; Ecuador; Houston, TX

El puente de las conciencias, Yosuel Ián; Voces Espartanas; Guayama, PR; Houston, TX  
La Maldición Forttia, Michel Deb & Chris Fattori; Sietch Ediciones; Chilenos; Valparaíso  
La Ventana de Olduvai, H. A. Riquelme; Áurea Ediciones; Chile; Santiago, Chile  
Los Navegantes I: El Viaje de Saggia, Daniel Leal Arancibia; Áurea Ediciones; ;  
Proyecto Sinvir, Sofía Ramos Wong; Áurea Ediciones; ;  
Verano Mundial F, Mark Ledher; Universo de Letras, Lantia Publishing Group; Barcelona;

#### **Best Novel - Romance**

Días sin lágrimas, Regina Roman; Mil Amores, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Malaga, Spain  
Harvey, Rosario Allpas; Editorial Letra Minúscula; Perú; Houston, TX  
Lo que el tiempo dejó, Pedro Santana; Books&Smith; Republica Dominicana; New York, NY

#### **Best Fiction - Multi-Author**

Inficciones: Relatos de escritoras en confinamiento, Varias autoras; Editado por Alicia Monsalve; Ediciones Aguamiel; Venezuela; Miami, FL

#### **Best Collection of Short Stories – Spanish**

COVID-19-CFCh: Antología Sci Fi en tiempos de pandemia, Leonardo Espinoza Benavides; Sietch Ediciones; Chile; Santiago de Chile  
Cuando rugían los osos, J. P. Andersen; Caligrama, Lantia Publishing Group; Spain; Sevilla, Spain  
El cuco te va a comer, Ángel Isián; Ilustrado por Melvin Rodríguez-Rodríguez; Eikon; Puerto Rico; San Juan  
El último éxodo, Julio C. Garzón; Snow Fountain Press; Colombia; Miami  
Hilos Brillantes, Yosuel Ián; Voces Espartanas; Guayama, PR; Houston, TX  
Historias del confinamiento: 97 relatos, 97 días de confinamiento, Varios autores; Samarcanda, Lantia Publishing Group; ;  
Lo que escribo en la arena, Susana Illera Martínez; Snow Fountain Press; Colombia; Miami, FL

### **H THE MARIPOSA AWARDS**

#### **Best First Book - Fiction**

De estrellas y cometas y otros relatos, José Campione-Piccardo; Editorial Artística; República Oriental del Uruguay; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

### **I THEMED AWARDS**

#### **Best LGBTQ+ Themed Book**

Hoy he soñado conmigo, Emilio del Carril; País Invisible-editores; ;

#### **Best Latina Themed Book**

Latinas Rising Up in HR, Priscilla Guasso; Fig Factor Media; USA/Mexico; Miami, FL

### **J POETRY AWARDS**

#### **The Juan Felipe Herrera Best Poetry Book Award - One Author – Bilingual**

Unburied love / Amor insepulto, Jose Larraga; Café con Leche Books; Mexico; San Antonio, TX

#### **The Juan Felipe Herrera Best Poetry Book Award - One Author – English**

The Beat of an Immigrant Chicano, Juan Cardenas; Swan World Press; Guanajuato, Mexico; Los Angeles, CA  
The Wings of Adversity, Vanessa Caraveo; Vanessa Caraveo; USA/Mexican American; Harlingen

#### **Best Poetry Anthology Book**

Beyond Haiku: Pilots Write Poetry, Captain Linda Pauwels; Fig Factor Media LLC; Argentina; Dallas, TX, USA  
Entre Líneas, Carmela Escobar; Laredo Publishing ; Chinese Peruvian American; New York City