

# BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The Before Columbus Foundation announces the  
Winners of the Thirty-Ninth Annual  
AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS  
Ceremonies, October 28, 2018, 12:00–2:30 p.m.**

Oakland, CA—The Before Columbus Foundation announces the Winners of the Thirty-Ninth Annual AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS. The 2018 American Book Award winners will be formally recognized on Sunday, October 28, from 12:00-2:30 p.m. at the SF Jazz Center, Joe Henderson Lab, 201 Franklin Street (at Fell), San Francisco, CA. This event is open to the public.

The American Book Awards were created to provide recognition for outstanding literary achievement from the entire spectrum of America’s diverse literary community. The purpose of the awards is to recognize literary excellence without limitations or restrictions. There are no categories, no nominees, and therefore no losers. The award winners range from well-known and established writers to under-recognized authors and first works. There are no quotas for diversity, the winners list simply reflects it as a natural process. The Before Columbus Foundation views American culture as inclusive and has always considered the term “multicultural” to be not a description of various categories, groups, or “special interests,” but rather as the definition of all of American literature. The Awards are not bestowed by an industry organization, but rather are a writers’ award given by other writers.

**The 2018 American Book Award Winners are:**

**Thi Bui**, *The Best That We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir* (Harry N. Abrams)

**Rachelle Cruz**, *God’s Will for Monsters* (Inlandia Books)

**Tommy Curry**, *The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre, and the Dilemmas of Black Manhood*  
(Temple University Press)

**Tongo Eisen-Martin**, *Heaven Is All Goodbyes* (City Lights)

**Dana Naone Hall**, *Life of the Land: Articulations of a Native Writer* (University of Hawaii)

**Kelly Lytle Hernández**, *City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion, and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771-1965* (University of North Carolina)

**Victor Lavalle**, *The Changeling: A Novel* (Spiegel & Grau)

**Bojan Louis**, *Currents* (BkMk Press at the University of Missouri-Kansas City)

**Valeria Luiselli**, *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions* (Coffee House)

**Cathryn Josefina Merla-Watson** and **B. V. Olguín**, *Altermundos Latin@ Speculative Literature, Film, and Popular Culture* (UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press)

**Tiya Miles**, *The Dawn of Detroit: A Chronicle of Slavery and Freedom in the City of the Straits* (The New Press)

**Tommy Pico**, *Nature Poem* (Tin House Books)

**Rena Priest**, *Patriarchy Blues* (MoonPath Press)

**Joseph Rios**, *Shadowboxing: poems & impersonations* (Omnidawn)

**Sunaura Taylor**, *Beasts of Burden: Animal and Disability Liberation* (The New Press)

*Lifetime Achievement*

**Sequoyah Guess**

*Walter & Lillian Lowenfels Criticism Award*

**Kellie Jones**, *South of Pico: African American Artists in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 1970s* (Duke University)

*Editor/Publisher Award*

**Charles F. Harris**

*Anti-Censorship Award*

**Rob Rogers**

*Oral Literature Award*

**Heroes Are Gang Leaders**