



2020 AASLH Leadership in History Publication Awards Manual

The AASLH Publication Awards are presented annually to books and articles of exceptional scholarly achievement in a variety of state and local history subjects. The awards are designed to heighten awareness of outstanding books and articles of state and local history interest published in the last year and:

- to encourage the reading of books and articles on state and local history topics
- to recognize the authors of outstanding scholarly works
- to stimulate others to further literary creativity
- to acknowledge original contributions to scholarship
- to promote changing best practices and trends in the field of history

Eligibility

All Published Matter:

- May be submitted by an author or publisher. Self-nominations are welcome.
- Can be singly and jointly authored/edited works
- Must address local history or historical practice in North America
- Must be available in the English language

For books, they must:

- Be in hardcover, original paperback, or e-book (see category requirements)
- Be published within two years of January 1, 2020
- Have a valid ISBN
- Be available for sale in the United States
- Have sufficient back matter to demonstrate good scholarship (references, endnotes, index, etc.)

The following are NOT eligible:

- Reprints of books originally published in another year
- Books containing previously published material UNLESS at least 50% of the book's content is new (further documentation will be required)
- Plays/screenplays
- Studies/research papers (see Leadership in History Award Guidelines)
- Anthologies
- Annual reports/brochures/newsletters/marketing materials



Awards are presented in four categories, and the winning authors are celebrated at the Annual Meeting later in the year. Unlike the other Leadership in History Award categories, AASLH Publication Awards are competitive. **One winner and up to three Honorable Mentions are selected in each category.**

In the event that the Award Committee determines the quality of the entries does not warrant the awarding of any prize, the Committee shall have the right to make no award available.

The final submission date is **March 1, 2020**. The awards will be presented in Las Vegas, Nevada, during AASLH's Annual Meeting in **September 2020**. Authors or publishers will be advised of the Award Committee's decision in advance of the annual conference.

Publication Award Categories

Best Local History Book Award

Awarded annually to the most outstanding book published on a state or local history topic within the previous two calendar years (2018 and 2019).

Best Small Press Local History Book Award

Awarded annually to the most outstanding book published on a local history topic by a press/organization that published fewer than three books a year for the past three years. This may include authors who work with subsidy publishers. The book must be published within the previous two calendar years (2018 and 2019).

Best History Practice Book Award

Is awarded to the most outstanding book on the practice of state and local history and museology addressing matters critical to the field and issues or challenges facing history organizations and their staffs. The award is offered on a rotating basis: in odd years for books published through the AASLH imprint; in even years for all professional and practice books, excluding AASLH publications. The book must be published within the previous two calendar years (2018 and 2019).

Best Journal Article

Award for best article on state or local history published in a peer-reviewed journal published within the prior twelve months.

Award Criteria

Criteria for selection include:

- Exceptional and meritorious work
- Contribution to advancing the field of state and/or local history
- Excellence and thoroughness of research
- Style and appropriateness of presentation



- Suitability and rigor of methodology
- Nominations should answer the question, “Is It Good History?”
- Definition of Good History
 1. Embraces difficult topics by reflecting current scholarship, grounding the work in primary source research, and providing a genuine contribution to the understanding of history.
 2. Acts to build diversity and inclusiveness through interpretation that considers race, ethnicity, gender, social class, and geography, and is provocative through presenting contested history and multiple perspectives.
 3. Cultivates an experimental and creative spirit as a source for imaginative problem solving, exploring new approaches, and resourcefulness, while also looking to others for inspiration. Projects that extend the mission of an organization, demonstrate risk-taking, and offer activities outside conventional boundaries will merit the greatest consideration.
 4. Demonstrates the relevance of history and showcases how the public can make use of the past in discussions of the present and the future.
 5. Attempts to be accessible to wide audiences with differing learning styles, abilities, and interest in history.

Prizes

- Formal recognition at the AALSH Annual Meeting
- AALSH Award seal to use in marketing.
- Complimentary registration for the awards banquet for the award winner.

Submission Instructions

Please fill out the nomination form and upload resumes of authors/editors [in our online portal](#). Send **four** copies of the book to AASLH via USPS Media Mail at:

*American Association for State and Local History
Atten: AASLH Book Award 2020
2021 21st Ave S., Suite 320
Nashville, TN 37212*

Submissions must be received (not postmarked) no later than March 1, 2020. Please note that materials will not be returned.