

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction

Names, affiliations, and geographic region for members:

Julia López-Robertson (Chair), University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Eliza Braden, University of South Carolina, South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Becki Maldonado, Teacher, Salisbury, Maryland
Melissa Summer Wells, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia
Caryl Crowell, Consultant, Tucson, AZ
Jason Griffith, Penn State University, State College, PA
Janelle Mathis, University of North Texas, Denton, TX

Actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in progress

- We are currently reviewing books that we have received.
- We meet monthly to discuss books that we have received.

Accomplishments and timeline for future work

- To date (9/7/2023), we have received and reviewed a total of 250 books. We expect to receive many more this month. We have held monthly Zoom meetings to review and discuss books. We will have two longer Zoom meetings (October and November) to continue deliberations. Finally, we will meet the Thursday before the Annual Convention to make final deliberations and select winners.
- Some committee members are presenting a Build Your Stack on books submitted to Orbis Pictus who were not selected for the award.

Contributions to NCTE's role in shaping the profession of teaching and/or the understanding of literacy in educational contexts:

The charge of the group is to promote children's non-fiction books in the classroom. This group is charged with selecting the best nonfiction and this provides access to books for teachers that they may not otherwise know about. We believe that the work that this committee does brings more visibility to NCTE, but also helps teachers know that the winners that are selected have been thoroughly vetted by a diverse group of literacy professionals. An NCTE book award seal indicates a standard of excellence that teachers can rely on when making book selections for their classrooms.

Significant changes or trends in our field:

- We have had discussions about changing the guidelines to be more inclusive.
- We plan to form a committee to engage in revising the guidelines after the Convention.

Trends to factor into medium to long-term NCTE planning:

- Last year, we had an increased social media presence, and the visibility of the award is growing.
- We need to continue and extend the social media presence-perhaps a monthly Tweet [Z], Instagram Post, FB post.
- Our committee believes that we need to continue to look for ways to include more books about and by underrepresented groups.
- Our committee believes strongly that we [any member of OP, not limited to this year's members] should not be required to pay for the luncheon. We work for months reviewing the books and spend hours on Zoom calls engaged in meaningful discussions about the books. Our work continues at the Award's luncheon