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Two Journalists Awarded Nation’s Largest Media Prize for Coverage of Misrepresented Communities, Including Black Americans, Migrant Farmers and Transgender Latinx Groups

Writer Latria Graham and Photojournalist Zaydee Sanchez Receive \$100,000 American Mosaic Journalism Prize

Los Altos, Calif. (February 11, 2025)—The Heising-Simons Foundation announced today that freelance journalists Latria Graham and Zaydee Sanchez are the recipients of the [2025 American Mosaic Journalism Prize](#), which includes an unrestricted cash prize of \$100,000 for each winner. This is the largest dollar amount given for a journalism prize in the United States.

Based on confidential nominations from journalism leaders from around the country, the prize is awarded for excellence in long-form, narrative or deep reporting about underrepresented and/or misrepresented groups in the United States. The award recognizes journalism’s ability to foster greater understanding and recognizes the important work of freelance journalists in our media ecosystem.

A panel of 10 judges—including journalists from the Associated Press, NBC News, NPR, Columbia Journalism Review and The 19th News, among others—selected this year’s recipients.

Graham and Sanchez join a distinguished group of past recipients of this prestigious award from across the country, including Cerise Castle, Darcy Courteau, David Dennis Jr., Valeria Fernández, Michelle García, Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, Ryan Christopher Jones, Tamir Kalifa, Jaeah Lee, Dara T. Mathis, Rebecca Nagle, Julian Brave NoiseCat, Abe Streep and Carvell Wallace.

About Latria Graham:

Ms. Graham is an accomplished writer, storyteller and cultural critic dedicated to covering under-resourced and misrepresented communities in the American South. As a fifth-generation farmer from Spartanburg, South Carolina, she provides a unique and powerful perspective in her reporting on race and Southern culture.

Ms. Graham’s stories have appeared in The New York Times, The Guardian, The New Yorker and Garden & Gun Magazine, among other outlets. Her April/May 2024 piece for Garden & Gun, “[Masters of the green: the Black caddies of Augusta National](#),” highlights the remarkable legacy of Augusta National Golf Club’s all-Black caddie corps, whose members guided golf legends to victory, while their own excellence was overlooked for generations.

Ms. Graham’s forthcoming book, “Uneven Ground: A Memoir of a Family, a Land, and a Culture in Peril,” chronicles her attempt to preserve her family’s century-old farm and sense of rootedness. It will soon be published by Mariner, a division of HarperCollins.

“Ultimately, I tell stories about all of the things we—Black people and, by extension, humanity—have survived,” said Graham. “Along the way, I hope that I’m challenging assumptions, highlighting connections, and providing questions that readers can use to initiate change.”

About Zaydee Sanchez:

Based in Los Angeles, California, Ms. Sanchez is a Mexican-American photojournalist and writer who is being honored for her poignant coverage of farm workers, migrants and transgender Latinx groups. Her work has been published in leading outlets such as The New York Times, ProPublica, The Wall Street Journal and National Geographic.

Ms. Sanchez’s experience growing up in Tulare, an agricultural town in California’s San Joaquin Valley, has inspired much of her work. Her June 2023 story for Mother Jones and the Economic Hardship Reporting Project, [“Pajaro’s quest to rebuild,”](#) chronicled the struggles of a predominantly Latino farming community in Pajaro, California, to rebuild their town, and their lives, after a devastating flood.

“This year, we walk into the unknown, a path that many in my community fear,” said Sanchez. “We do not know what lies ahead or who will be impacted. In this uncertainty, I feel a deep responsibility to keep the focus on the migrant community.”

For more information about the **American Mosaic Journalism Prize**, visit <https://www.hsfoundation.org/prize>.

The Heising-Simons Foundation launched the American Mosaic Journalism Prize in 2018 as part of a portfolio of journalism grants investing in leaders and organizations that help increase coverage, stories and amplification of voices of underrepresented and misrepresented communities.

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2025 American Mosaic Journalism Prize Judges

Katherine Boo
Independent Writer

Graham Lee Brewer
National Writer, Race and Ethnicity Team
The Associated Press

Sewell Chan

Executive Editor
Columbia Journalism Review

Benjamin Davis

Chair, Department of Multimedia
Journalism
Morgan State University

Antonia Hylton

Correspondent
NBC News

Ryan Christopher Jones

Photojournalist, PhD Student in
Anthropology

Harvard University

Wesley Lowery

Executive Editor
The Investigative Reporting Workshop

Kevin Merida

Independent Journalist

B.A. Parker

Co-host
NPR

Orion Rummel

LGBTQ+ Reporter
The 19th News

About the Heising-Simons Foundation

The Heising-Simons Foundation is a family foundation based in Los Altos and San Francisco, California. The Foundation works with its many partners to advance sustainable solutions in climate and clean energy, enable groundbreaking research in science, enhance the education of our youngest learners, and support human rights for all people. For more information, visit www.hsfoundation.org.