



The
Headliners
FOUNDATION

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JOURNALISTS FROM TEXAS TRIBUNE AND *HOUSTON CHRONICLE* WIN HIGHEST HONORS IN HEADLINERS FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL SHOWCASE AWARD CONTEST

AUSTIN, TX (April 25, 2023) — Elizabeth Trovall and Marie D. DeJesus of the *Houston Chronicle* and the staff of the Texas Tribune have won **Gold** prizes in the 2022 Showcase Awards for Enterprise and Innovation contest from the [Headliners Foundation of Texas](https://www.headlinersfoundation.org).

Trovall and DeJesus won **Gold** in the Storytelling category for "Haitian Odyssey," a detailed account of the cross-continental journey of Haitian migrants and the political, economic and social pressures that pushed them to leave home.

In partnership with ProPublica and The Washington Post, staff reporters from the Texas Tribune won the **Gold** award in the Investigative category for "Uvalde shooting and its aftermath," which used data, images, video, audio recordings and exclusive access to investigative materials to produce revelatory stories about blame-shifting by state officials, 911 calls from inside the school, and the delayed EMS response.

Four Showcase entries won Silver awards, two in the Investigative category and two in Storytelling.

Silver Awards - Investigative

- Caroline Ghisolfi, Tony Plohetski, Nicole Foy, Sara Diggins and Jay Janner from the *Austin American-Statesman* for "Disabled and Abandoned," exposing the crises besetting the Texas system of care for people with disabilities.
- Staff of the Texas Tribune for "Operation Lone Star," an assessment of the costs and benefits of Gov. Greg Abbott's border protection efforts.

Silver Awards - Storytelling

- *Houston Chronicle* reporters Julian Gill and Godofredo Vasquez for "Young man fights covid virus with double lung transplant."
- Jack Herrera, Patrick Michels, Brian Standefer, Michael Hall and Isabella Van Trease from Texas Monthly for "White Hats," a look at the fraught history of the Texas Rangers.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to journalists in the Investigative category as follows:

- *San Antonio Express-News* reporters Brian Chasnoff, Libby Seline, Emilie Eaton, Jerry Lara and Ryan Serpico for "Getting Off Easy," a look at the Bexar County district attorney's handling of driving while intoxicated offenses.
- Mike Morris and John Tedesco from the *Houston Chronicle* for "Critics tried reining in lucrative tax incentives in Houston. Nothing worked."
- Victoria Rossi, Robert Moore, Danielle Prokop, Molly Smith and Cindy Ramirez from El Paso Matters for "El Paso district attorney failures," about the checkered performance of El Paso District Attorney Yvonne Rosales, who

subsequently resigned.

- KXAN-TV reporters Matt Grant, Dalton Huey, Chris Nelson and Josh Hinkle for "Still Practicing: Tracking Problem Doctors in Texas," about the Texas Medical Board's regulation of physicians' conduct.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to journalists in the Storytelling category as follows:

- Mary Cantrell, Allegra Hobbs and Sandra Villarreal from the *Big Bend Sentinel* for "In rural Far West Texas, justices of the peace confront a death-investigation system that's failing unknown migrants."
- Mose Buchele, Andrew Weber, Audrey McGlinchy, Jimmy Maas and Matt Largey from KUT/The Texas Newsroom in Austin for "The Disconnect: Power, Politics and the Texas Blackout (Season 2)," a podcast examining the great freeze of 2021 and its aftermath.
- Texas Monthly reporter Jeffrey McWhorter for "The Boy from Booker T," about life and death in an Austin public housing complex.
- Texas Monthly reporter Tom Foster for "H-Town United," a close look at a championship Houston high school soccer team in the context of changing Houston.
- Kelly Wiley, Chris Nelson, Christopher Adams and Josh Hinkle from KXAN-TV in Austin for "The Exit: Teachers Leave. Students Suffer," about teacher turnover and its effect on students.

The Showcase Awards are the only statewide competition for Texas-based news media that judges entries across all platforms – digital, broadcast, magazine, and newspaper. Interviews with several of this year's winners will be posted in the coming months on the Foundation's website.

Fred Zipp, Vice Chair of the Foundation and Chair of the Professional Excellence Committee which oversees the awards process, continues to appreciate the care and integrity employed by Texas journalists to produce such high-quality work. "I am constantly impressed by the resourcefulness, talent and creativity of Texas journalists," Zipp said. "The scope of work being produced in Texas today is exceptional," he continued. "These journalists are combining state-of-the-art technology with innovative storytelling techniques to create important, impactful stories."

Patti Ohlendorf, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Governors agrees. "Texas journalists are producing ground-breaking, inspiring work during a time when the industry is facing unprecedented challenges," Ohlendorf said. "The Foundation takes great pride in providing a platform to honor the best journalists across the state by shining a spotlight on their outstanding work."

Since 2013, the Showcase Awards have honored the best journalists in Texas, annually awarding \$2,000 for the Gold prize and \$1,000 to journalists winning a Silver. This year, a nine-member committee judged entries from media outlets throughout the state, some of which are posted on the Foundation's website at <https://www.headlinersfoundation.org/showcase-awards-2022>.

Winners of the 2022 Showcase Awards will be honored at the Foundation's Mike Quinn awards luncheon on Oct. 14 at the Headliners Club in Austin.

The Headliners Foundation of Texas' mission is to promote excellence in journalism by providing scholarships to student journalists; recognizing and rewarding outstanding work by professional journalists; and supporting special projects that promote journalistic excellence and preserve history.