

2026 Oklahoma Book Awards

Memorandum of Agreement

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made and entered into between the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, a state agency (Department), and the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization (Partner), hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Parties.”

WHEREAS, the Department and Partner wish to improve reading and literacy in the State of Oklahoma, and understand the Oklahoma Book Awards is an avenue to achieve this improvement in reading and literacy, as well as celebrate Oklahoma’s rich literary landscape,

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

Oklahoma Book Award Venue: The Partner will select, contract, and provide payment for the venue, its caterer, and the audiovisual system for the Oklahoma Book Awards. The Partner selected May 16 as the date for the awards and the venue is the Oklahoma History Center.

Bookseller: The Partner will select the bookseller for the 2026 Book Awards. The Partner will contract with them to provide books of the authors, illustrators, and poets attending the book awards, the names of which will be provided by the Department. The Department will also provide the bookseller the titles of books being featured at the Oklahoma Book Awards as finalists in the five categories and provide any advice necessary regarding the number of books the bookseller should purchase for each author/illustrator/poet featured at the event.

Call for Entries: The Department designed the Call for Entries and distributed them electronically, as well as posted information to appropriate web and social media sites.

Judges: The Department selected five (5) judges for each of the five (5) categories of the Oklahoma Book Awards, or a total of twenty-five (25) judges.

Oklahoma Book Award Entries: The Department checked in and catalogued all Oklahoma Book Award entries. The Department mailed out the book award entries to the judges in each category. The Department is responsible for tabulating the ballots provided by the judges and sharing the finalist list to the judges.

Identification of Sponsors: In collaboration with The Department, the Partner will identify “high priority” sponsors for the Oklahoma Book Awards banquet, and the Partner will contact them with invitations for sponsorship. The Partner will provide a follow-up contact with the potential sponsors as needed.

Oklahoma Book Award Medals: The Partner is responsible for selecting and purchasing the Oklahoma Book Award recognition material (certificates, medals, etc.). The Department is

responsible for providing the company responsible for making the recognition items with the appropriate language.

Oklahoma Book Award Travel and Lodging/Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

Recipient: The Partner is responsible for travel and lodging expenses associated with the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. This includes airfare and appropriate lodging.

Oklahoma Book Award Invitation: The Department is responsible for the design of the Oklahoma Book Award invitation. The Partner will have the opportunity to review the invitation prior to them being sent for printing and the Department will accept changes based on feedback from the Partner. The Department will select, contract, and provide payment to the printing company responsible for printing the Oklahoma Book Award invitation. The Department is responsible for mailing out the Oklahoma Book Award invitation to a collaborative address list agreed upon by the Department and the Partner.

Oklahoma Book Award RSVP and Ticketing: The Partner will be responsible for accepting RSVP and payments from attendees and convey the attendee information to the Department for use in developing a seating chart and for check in.

Oklahoma Book Award Entertainment: The Partner is responsible for the selection of, contract with, and payment to the Oklahoma Book Award entertainer.

Oklahoma Book Award Program: The Department is responsible for determining the order of agenda items on the evening's program, including the award announcements, for recruiting a presenter for each award, and for scripting the presentations by each speaker. Each presenter shall have the opportunity to review the script and make reasonable edits to ensure the remarks reflect their individual voice, provided such edits do not significantly increase the length of the remarks. The Department will assemble the slides that appear on the large screen(s) behind speakers as each finalist is named, each slide to contain the book title, an image of the book's front cover, and publisher name.

Oklahoma Book Award Printed Program: The Department is responsible for the Oklahoma Book Award Program design of advertisements featured in the program, with collaboration by sponsors to ensure brand continuity, based on level of sponsorship. Shakesperean Sponsors are allotted premiere seating for eight, plus a full-page ad in the program. Hemingway Sponsors are allotted preferred seating for eight plus a half-page ad in the program. The Partner is responsible for accepting payment for sponsorship at any level and providing this information to the Department for ad inclusion in the event program. The Department is responsible for the selection of, contract with, and payment to the printing company responsible for printing the Oklahoma Book Award program.

Oklahoma Book Awards Press/Media Releases: The Department is responsible for the writing and distributing all press/media releases regarding the Oklahoma Book Awards.

Oklahoma Book Award Banquet Staffing: The Department will provide employees to staff the check-in table, PowerPoint programming, and any other service necessary to ensure a successful event. The Department will cover any meal costs for Department employees.

Oklahoma Book Award Banquet Photographer: The Department will use staff to photograph and video the Oklahoma Book Award event.

Natalie Currie

Natalie Currie, Executive Director
Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Rudy Ellis

[Rudy Ellis \(Mar 24, 2026 09:23:36 CDT\)](#)

Rudy Ellis, President
Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book

Mar 23, 2026

Date

Mar 23, 2026

Date










MOA - OBA Book Awards - Final

Final Audit Report

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