



Underground Railroad Free Press Prize Procedures

Purpose of the *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prizes

The purpose of the *Underground Railroad Free Press* prizes is to recognize and honor the most outstanding contributions to contemporary Underground Railroad work in leadership, preservation and advancement of knowledge. The prizes also promote awareness and appreciation of today's Underground Railroad work to the general public, governments and key decision-makers by publicizing prizes and winners. The prizes are intended as the most esteemed honor bestowed in the Underground Railroad community.

Prize Criteria

The *Underground Railroad Free Press* prizes recognize the Underground Railroad as an international enterprise. Therefore prize eligibility is extended to individual and organizational nominees from any nation.

The *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prize for Leadership in the Underground Railroad Community

Recognizes Outstanding present or past individual leadership of a contemporary Underground Railroad entity or cause, or leadership within the Underground Railroad community as a whole

Eligibility Individuals from any nation

The *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prize for Preservation

Recognizes A significant restoration of an Underground Railroad safe-house or route; or discovery or rediscovery of an important Underground Railroad site or sites; or significant promotion or advancement of the methods of Underground Railroad site preservation

Eligibility Individuals, legal entities such as corporations and nonprofit corporations, or informal groups from any nation

The *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prize for the Advancement of Underground Railroad Knowledge

Recognizes A significant addition to the store of Underground Railroad knowledge. May be awarded for a single contribution such as a landmark publication; or for a body of work or the arts; or for creating or advancing a collection.

Eligibility Individuals, legal entities such as corporations and nonprofit corporations, or informal groups from any nation

Nature of the *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prizes

Sponsor of Prizes *Underground Railroad Free Press* solely

Number of Prizes Three: one each for leadership, preservation and advancement of knowledge

Frequency of Prizes Annually

Character of Prizes *Underground Railroad Free Press* prizes do not carry a cash or other financial award. At least initially, the physical prize is a plaque or framed diploma and perhaps a struck medallion.

Judges

Panel of Judges The *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prize judges are known collectively as the *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prize Panel of Judges.

Selection of Judges For 2008, judges were empanelled by invitation from *Underground Railroad Free Press*. Terms of judges are three years. Vacancies are filled by majority vote of active judges subject to approval by *Free Press*.

- Number of Judges* Seven. The panel may be expanded in the future.
- Remuneration of Judges* Judges receive no remuneration.
- Ineligibility of Judges* A judge nominated for an *Underground Railroad Free Press* prize may not that year participate in judging of that prize and must recuse herself or himself from deliberation regarding the prize. A judge nominated for a prize may fully participate in judging of the other two prizes that year. A judge who was a nominee or winner of a prize in a previous year may participate in judging of that prize in years after the judge was nominated for the prize but not if again a nominee in a given year.

Nominations

- Call for Nominations* Early each year, *Underground Railroad Free Press* issues a call in the publication and possibly by other means for nominations for the three prizes.
- Public Nominations* Anyone may nominate any individual, entity or group for one or more of the three prizes. Prizes are not awarded posthumously. Nominations shall be submitted only on the standardized form available at the *Free Press* web site at urrFreePress.com. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.
- Confidentiality* Names of nominees, nominators and prize winners as well as investigations and opinions related to a prize award or to any other consideration of a prize will not at any time be announced or otherwise revealed in any way by judges, nominators or anyone else who might be privy to such information.

Selection of Prize Winners

- The Judging Process* Judges consider nominee qualifications based only on information provided by nominators on the standardized *Free Press* nomination form for each prize, and, when applicable, on further information gathered by the judges. Judges shall make their individual selections for prizes based only on stated prize criteria. Prize winners are chosen by majority vote of the judges. Their decisions are without appeal by nominees or nominators.
- Gathering Information* Judges do not confer with nominees but may approach nominators for more information. Nominators must keep nominations and discussions strictly confidential, and do not evaluate nominations or give recommendations.

Announcement and Award of Prizes

- Notice of Prizes* *Underground Railroad Free Press* has sole authority to announce the annual winners of the three *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prizes. Prize winners are announced annually in *Underground Railroad Free Press* which also releases announcements to the international press community.
- Awarding of Prizes* Prizes are conferred either by personal delivery to prize winners by the *Free Pres* publisher or a Prize judge, or, if personal delivery is not practical, then by postal mail or delivery service. If future funding permits, a formal annual *Underground Railroad Free Press* Prize Ceremony may be held.

Annual Prize Schedule

- Quarterly Milestones*
 - First Quarter Call for nominations
 - Second Quarter Selection of finalists
Research on finalists if necessary
 - Third Quarter Selection of prize winners
 - Third or Fourth Quarter Announcement of prize winners
Awarding of prizes