

1. Introduction

The Gabo Foundation announces the 11th edition of the Gabo Award to promote models of excellence, ethical coherence, and innovation in Ibero-American journalism so that citizens may be more active and better informed—an essential part of building solid and sustainable democracies.

The Technical Secretariat of the Award organizes the contest activities under the guidance of the Gabo Foundation's highest advisory body, the Governing Council, whose members are responsible for defining the applicable rules, overseeing the principles that govern the award, and resolving controversies or ethical concerns regarding the contestants' work.

The entries are evaluated by autonomous judging panels—made up of distinguished journalists from several different countries—who are responsible for the pre-selection, evaluation, and final selection of the best pieces in order to define the respective lists of nominees, finalists, and winners in the competition's five categories. Governing Council members may be part of the judging panel for the different categories in the competition's final round.

None of the members, partners, or sponsors take part in announcing, regulating, or managing the award, as this is done solely by the Gabo Foundation.

The Gabo Award is supported by the Gabo Foundation's partnership with the Bancolombia and SURA groups—and their affiliates in Latin America—who are committed to freedom of expression and good journalism.

These guidelines—approved by the Gabo Foundation's Governing Council—make up the bylaws for the 11th edition of the Gabo Award, which will take place in 2023.

2. Award for Excellence Category

In order to select the Gabo Award winner for this category—which will have no pre-selected list of nominees—the Governing Council shall carefully choose a journalist (or journalistic team) known for their autonomy, integrity, and commitment to the ideals of public service journalism and who deserves to be highlighted as an example, either for his or her career as a whole or for an exceptional contribution to truth-seeking or the advancement of journalism.

3. Competition categories



In the contest, the award will be granted after the judging panel has made its final decision. The journalism pieces must have been originally published in Spanish or Portuguese between June 7, 2022 and March 21, 2023.

Entries must be submitted on the Gabo Award platform between Tuesday, February 7 and Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

The works submitted will compete in one of five categories, as follows:

Text: for the author(s) of the best-written piece of journalism

Photography: for the author(s) of the best photographic coverage

Audio: for the author(s) of the best piece of audio journalism

Image: for the author(s) of the best piece of journalism in the category of audiovisual, video, animation, or other digital visualization formats

Coverage: for the author(s) of the best news, research, or current affairs piece in any media format or language

The person submitting the piece for the contest will decide in which of the five categories he/she would like their journalism piece to be judged. The same piece may not be entered into more than one category.

As long as they comply with the rules, any piece of journalism—including different types of stories, topics, formats, languages, and mediums, or a combination—may be entered in any of the aforementioned contest categories under the following conditions: it must be published by the established deadline by private or commercial media outlets created to continually and professionally serve a wide range of audiences. These outlets include newspapers and magazines; radio and television networks, channels, and stations; news agencies; collaborative journalism networks and groups; fact-checking and investigative journalism centers; podcast and video production companies; blogs, microblogs, streaming platforms, and other online digital and social-media based media outlets and journalism services; and news and editorial projects produced by universities or civil society organizations.

Journalistic books are expressly excluded, as there will be a call for this category different from the Gabo Award.

4. Judging and allocation criteria for competition



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After the pieces entered in the different categories are verified by the Technical Secretariat of the Award for completeness and appropriateness, they will be submitted for consideration to independent judges from the pre-selection committees and groups of at least three (3) final judges that will be appointed by the Gabo Foundation. Each final group or judging panel will carefully choose a list of ten (10) nominees, three (3) finalists, and one (1) winner for its corresponding category, in accordance with the rules set forth in these guidelines.

To evaluate and make their decision, the judging panel for each category will focus solely on the materials received and will make selections based on the following essential criteria:

- Narrative quality and newsworthiness of the stories
- Innovation or originality in the storytelling process and the way they connect with audiences
- Independent research to unravel hidden facts or understand complex processes
- Journalistic independence and professional ethical values reflected in the work
- Variety, contrast, and verification of sources used
- Accuracy and rigor in the treatment of facts

Additionally, the judges will take into account:

- Clarity and depth of the story
- Risks and difficulties involved in sharing true facts
- Commitment to high-quality information and the idea of public service in journalism
- Impact of the published piece

Additionally, the judging panel will evaluate the stories' production quality, with technical criteria related to the respective category's best use of resources in that language or main format.

Works composed of a series of publications may submit a maximum of 10 pieces to be evaluated in the contest. In the Photography category, each image must include a caption with the following information:

- Identification of the photograph's subjects (from left to right)
- Location where photograph was taken
- Description of what is happening in the image and why it is happening
- Date the photograph was taken

Entries must have been created and/or produced in Spanish or Portuguese (translations are not valid). This requirement also applies to captions.

They must also have been published in any country in the Americas or the Iberian Peninsula. However, if they meet the other requirements, works published in other countries—by international agencies or media outlets aimed primarily at audiences in the Americas, Spain, and Portugal—may also be submitted.

Only one entry per journalist will be considered unless a second entry is of a collective nature.

A maximum of two entries may be submitted by the same journalistic team. A second work is considered to have the same journalistic team when it includes at least 60% of the same authors as the first entry.

Series are valid, but fixed, ongoing media segments are not considered as such. In order for a series to be submitted, at least 70% of the work must have been published between June 7, 2022 and March 21, 2023. Texts and series of texts must not exceed the maximum length of 15,000 words.

5. Awards

The winners of each contest category must previously agree to accept and commit to participating in the Gabo Festival award ceremony and other activities.

In each of the five categories, the winner will receive a trophy of the “Gabriel” sculpture created by Colombian artist Antonio Caro, a diploma of accreditation, and a gross sum of thirty-five million Colombian pesos (\$35,000,000 COP). After deducting any applicable taxes, this sum will be paid by bank transfer to an account in the winner’s name within forty-five (45) days after the award has been granted.

In the event that a collective work receives an award, only the team representative will be invited to participate in the Gabo Festival award ceremony and other activities. Likewise, the corresponding monetary award will be transferred to the representative’s bank account. However, at the representative’s request, the other co-authors mentioned in the registration document may also receive copies of the diploma, certifying them as winners.

Neither the Gabo Foundation nor its partners or sponsors will intervene or be liable for how the monetary award is distributed among the team members.

6. Contestant registration and entry verification

Contestants must register on the Gabo Foundation's registration platform by the deadline and provide the required information, documents, and materials in accordance with each category’s submission requirements.

Third parties may recommend works for the competition by sending any relevant information about the work to the e-mail address premio@fundaciongabo.org and providing the author or co-author's information on the online form, so that the Technical Secretariat of the Award may invite them to submit their work. Only works that are fully registered through the Gabo Foundation's registration platform will be eligible to compete.

By completing the registration process for the Gabo Award, the contestants confirm that they are the full owners of the copyrights for the journalistic works and initiatives submitted to the competition or that the authors have given them the permission or made the agreements needed to compete and allow the submitted works to be published and disseminated, in accordance with these terms and conditions.

At any time, the Technical Secretariat of the Award may verify the information provided in the registration with the applicant or third parties and request additional information. In the case that falsehood, significant inaccuracy, plagiarism, authorship dispute, or serious ethical concerns are established, the nominee will be disqualified and the nomination or award will be revoked. The information for all entries entering the final phase will be verified.

In these cases, or for any other eventuality that may affect any of the nominated works, the Technical Secretariat of the Award will first consult with the judging panels or with the Governing Council—the Gabo Award's highest advisory body—and may resort to external sources of verification.

Papers and documents received will not be returned.

7. Additional rules

- Awards will not be divided.
- Positions on the list of 10 nominees may remain unfilled.
- By completing the registration process, the applicant agrees to follow the rules and accepts the results of the contest. Completing the registration process also gives the Gabo Foundation express authorization to publish all or part of the submitted works—especially the nominees' and winners'—from the date registration is closed, in any language and for any country. The works may be published on the Gabo Award website or in other digital, printed, or audiovisual media—directly or through third parties—for informative and pedagogical purposes. Such authorization does not imply the transfer of intellectual property rights.
- Works authored by Gabo Foundation employees, members of the Board of Directors, or Governing Council members are not eligible to compete or receive awards.

8. Registration deadline

Registration will be open from **Tuesday, February 7 at 8:00 a.m. (-5 UTC) through Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. (-5 UTC).**

9. Clarifications, modifications, interpretations, and rules

The Gabo Foundation's Technical Secretariat of the Award will coordinate and manage the various processes involved with the Award. This body will be responsible for resolving queries and providing clarification regarding these rules. It may publish its responses so they are better understood and applied. If needed, it may first submit them to receive feedback from the Award's Governing Council, which is the highest authority for interpreting the rules and resolving any controversies that may arise.

These rules were approved and may be modified by the Governing Council prior to opening the call for applications.

10. Official Addresses

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