

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REFORMA Announces the 2016 Pura Belpré Awards Winners and Celebrates Historic Wins in the 2016 Youth Media Awards

Every year, the American Library Association (ALA) awards and honors the most distinguished youth books, audiobooks, and videos published in the United States. The Pura Belpré Award was established 20 years ago to acknowledge Latino/Latina authors and illustrators whose works best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in outstanding work for children and youth. We can reiterate the significance of the Belpré Awards through the years, and its role in highlighting and acknowledging Latino/Latino authors and illustrators and setting them in the landscape of the children's literature world.

The Pura Belpré 2016 winners and honors were announced amidst an enthusiastic crowd at the Youth Media Awards during ALA Midwinter Conference in Boston, MA.

Winners of the Belpré Medal are:

“Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music”, illustrated by Rafael López is the Belpré Illustrator Award winner. The book was written by Margarita Engle and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

“Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir”, written by Margarita Engle is the Belpré Author Award winner. The book is published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division.

Three Belpré Illustrator Honor Books were named:

“My Tata’s Remedies/Los remedios de mi tata”, illustrated by Antonio Castro L., written by Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford, and published by Cinco Puntos Press.

“Mango, Abuela, And Me”, illustrated by Ángela Domínguez, written by Meg Medina, and published by Candlewick Press.

“Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras”, illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh, and published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Abrams.

Two Belpré Author Honor Books were named:

“The Smoking Mirror”, written by David Bowles, and published by IFWG Publishing, Inc.

“Mango, Abuela, and Me”, written by Meg Medina, illustrated by Ángela Domínguez, and published by Candlewick Press.

In addition to the outstanding Pura Belpré honorees, the rest of the announcements made at the 2016 Youth Media Awards marked a historic and unique moment in Latino children's literature when Latino authors and illustrators received an unprecedented amount of medals and honors across different awards.

Matt de la Peña became the first Latino to win the Newbery Medal, which is considered to be the top award given to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, for his picture book, "Last Stop on Market Street", illustrated by Christian Robinson. In the most distinguished informational book category, Duncan Tonatiuh became the first Latino to win the Sibert Informational Book Medal for "Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras".

Other Latino/Latina authors recognized at the 2016 ALA Youth Media Awards were: Pam Muñoz Ryan for "Echo" (Newbery Honor & Odyssey Honor), Ricardo Liniers Siri for "Written and Drawn by Henrietta" (Batchelder Honor), Anna-Marie McLemore for "The Weight of Feathers" (Morris Award finalist), Margarita Engle for "Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir" (YALSA Award for Excellence in Non-Fiction for Young Adults finalist), and Dan-el Padilla Peralta for "Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League" (Alex Award).

"The historic moment was twenty years in the making since the establishment of the Pura Belpré Awards" says Oralia Garza de Cortés, co-founder of the Belpré Award. "The Pura Belpré Awards lay the groundwork for the recognition and inclusion of Latino authors and illustrators for children onto today's literary stage", she said. REFORMA is proud of all the Latino authors and illustrators recognized at this year's Youth Media Awards, whose victories affirmed by their past and present recognition from the Belpré Award continue to demonstrate their important contribution to children's literature. We are looking forward to celebrate our trajectory with past winners and Latino children's literature supporters on June 26th during the 20th Anniversary Pura Belpré Celebración at the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

Established in 1996, the Pura Belpré Award is named after a pioneer in Latino librarianship, Pura Belpré, who revolutionized the role of Latinos and people of color in the library field as well as empowering the Puerto Rican community through her work.

For more information on the Pura Belpré award:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal>

Established in 1971, REFORMA has actively sought to promote the development of library collections to include Spanish-language and Latino oriented materials; the recruitment of more bilingual and bicultural library professionals and support staff; the development of library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community; the establishment of a national information and support network among individuals who share our goals; the education of the U.S. Latino population in regards to the availability and types of library services; and lobbying efforts to preserve existing library resource centers serving the interests of Latinos. For more information on REFORMA, visit www.reforma.org

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REFORMA anuncia los ganadores del Premio Pura Belpré 2016 y celebra victorias histórica en Los Premios de Medios Juveniles 2016

Cada año, the American Library Association (ALA) presenta honores a los mas distinguidos libros, audiolibros, y videos para jóvenes publicados en los Estados Unidos. El Premio Pura Belpré fue establecido hace 20 años para dar representación a los autores y ilustradores Latinos/as cuyo trabajo mejor cuenta, afirma y celebra la experiencia cultural Latina en una obra de literatura para niños y jóvenes.

Este año, los premios Pura Belpré fueron anunciados durante los premios de medios juveniles la durante la Reunión y Exposiciones de Medios de Invierno de ALA en Boston, MA, EEUU.

Premio Pura Belpré (Ilustrador/a)

“**Drum Dream Girl**,” ilustrado por Rafael López. El libro fué escrito por Margarita Engle y publicado por Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Tres libros de honor fueron seleccionados para recibir un honor Belpré:

“**My Tata’s Remedies = Los remedios de mi tata**,” ilustrado por Antonio Castro L., escrito por Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford y publicado por Cinco Puntos Press

“**Mango, Abuela, and Me**,” ilustrado por Angela Dominguez, escrito por Meg Medina y publicado por Candlewick Press

“**Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras**,” ilustrado y escrito por Duncan Tonatiuh y publicado por Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.

Premio Pura Belpré (Autor/a):

“**Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir**,” escrito por Margarita Engle. El libro está publicado por Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division.

Dos libros fueron seleccionados para recibir un honor Belpré:

“**The Smoking Mirror**,” escrito por David Bowles y publicado por IFWG Publishing, Inc.
“**Mango, Abuela, and Me**,” escrito por Meg Medina, ilustrado por Angela Dominguez y publicado por Candlewick Press.

Adicionalmente, los anuncios de los premios de medios juveniles del 2016 fueron momentos históricos en la literatura juvenil cuando autores e ilustradores Latinos recibieron unos premios extraordinarios.

Matt de la Peña fue el primer Latino en ganar el Premio Newberry, considerado el premio mas alto que se le puede otorgar a un autor por sus contribuciones a la literatura juvenil Americana, por su libro, “Last Stop on Market Street”, ilustrado po Christian Robinson. En la categoría de libro distinguido de información, Duncan Tonatiuh fue el primer Latino en ganar la Medalla Sibert por su libro “Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras”.

Otros autores Latinos reconocidos an los Premios de Medios Juveniles 2016 fueron: Pam Muñoz Ryan por “Echo” (Newberry Honor & Odyssey Honor), Ricardo Liniers Siri por “Written and Drawn by Henrietta” (Batchelder Honor), Anna-Marie McLemore por “The Weight of Feathers” (Morris Award finalist), Margarita Engle por “Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir” (YALSA Award for Excellence in Non-Fiction for Young Adults finalist), y Dan-el Padilla Peralta for “Undocumented: A Dominican Boy’s Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League” (Alex Award).

“Este momento histórico se ha esperado por veinte años desde el inicio de los Premios Pura Belpré” expresa Oralia Garza de Cortés, co-fundadora del Premio Belpré. “Los Premios Pura Belpré son la fundación para el reconocimiento e inclusion de los autores e ilustradores Latinos en el esenario juvenil,” dice Garza de Cortés. REFORMA está orgulloso de todos los autores e ilustradores Latinos reconocidos este año en Los Premios de Medios Juveniles 2016, cuyas victorias afirman sus importantes contribuciones al mundo literario juvenil. Estamos muy ansiosos por celebrar una trayectoria con ganadores del presente y pasado igual a todos quienes apoyan a la literatura juvenil el 26 de junio durante nuestra celebración de 20 años del Premio Pura Belpré en la Conferencia Annual de ALA en Orlando, FL.

Establecido en 1996, el premio lleva el nombre de unas de las líderes en la bibliotecología Latina, Pura Belpré, quien revolucionó el papel de los Latinos en la biblioteca, y realizó grandes avances entre la comunidad puertorriqueña a través de su propia escritura y narración.

REFORMA, fundada en 1971, tiene el compromiso de fomentar la creación de colecciones de biblioteca que incluyan el idioma español y estén orientadas a los hispanos; de abogar por servicios y programas de bibliotecas que satisfagan las necesidades de la comunidad hispana; de informar a la población hispana acerca de la disponibilidad de recursos de bibliotecas; y de reclutar a profesionales de bibliotecas y personal de apoyo bilingües y biculturales.

Para obtener más información acerca del Premio Pura Belpré:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal>

Para obtener más información acerca de REFORMA, visite el sitio www.reforma.org.

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