

BEFORE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

The Raymond House • 655 -13th Street • Suite 302 • Oakland, California 94612 • (510) 268-9775



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakland, CA--The Before Columbus Foundation announces the **Winners of the Twenty-Sixth Annual AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS** (see attached list of winners). The 2006 American Book Award winners will be formally recognized during Ceremonies in Oakland, California in October (TBA).

The American Book Awards were created to provide recognition for outstanding literary achievement from the entire spectrum of America's diverse literary community. The purpose of the awards is to recognize literary excellence without limitations or restrictions. There are no categories, no nominees, and therefore no losers. The award winners range from well-known and established writers to under-recognized authors and first works. There are no quotas for diversity, the winners list simply reflects it as a natural process. The Before Columbus Foundation views American culture as inclusive and has always considered the term "multicultural" to be not a description of various categories, groups, or "special interests," but rather as the definition of all of American literature. The Awards are not bestowed by an industry organization, but rather are a writers' award given by other writers. (The Before Columbus Foundation is an independent non-profit organization.)

For more detailed information, CONTACT: Gundars Strads (510) 268-9775 or (510) 642-7321

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