2 win journalism award for work on underreported communities

LOS ALTOS, Calif. (AP) — Two freelance journalists have been awarded the 2022 American Mosaic Journalism Prize for their work reporting on underrepresented or misrepresented groups in the United States. (Emily Kassie/Heising-Simons Foundation via AP)

Julian Brave NoiseCat and Ryan Christopher Jones were each awarded $100,000 by the Heising-Simons Foundation based in Los Altos, California. NoiseCat is a member of the Canada-based Canim Lake Band of First Nations people, and practices journalism in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, the foundation said.

His work has appeared in outlets including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, and The Guardian. His subjects have included Indigenous men and a movement by homeless Black mothers to reclaim a vacant house they were evicted from in West Oakland, California, the foundation said.

NoiseCat was awarded for long-form, narrative or deep reporting by a panel of judges that included Dr. Timothy Tamaya, director of the Losing Our Way Project, The New Yorker and National Geographic.

“Indigenous communities have a perspective and an experience that are often resorted to dangerous tropes and stereotypes,” Jones said in the foundation release. “As a photojournalist it has been my goal to visually document the complex stories of these underrepresented communities with the reporting skills I possess.”

Jones is based in Williams Lake, British Columbia.

“Black communities in the Bay Area have produced some of the world’s best jazz musicians and writers, but these stories are not well known and are largely unsung,” said Jones. “My work is a call to light it all up, tie jazz with social justice and education in order to help create a more meaningful understanding of how the crimes of omission and silence around Blackness.”

Jones was awarded for short-form, narrative or multimedia reporting by judges including Dr. Mary Pope, director of the Stanford Newsroom, The New York Times and Medium.

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