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Two Freelance Journalists Awarded \$100,000 Each for Elevating Stories of Underrepresented and Misrepresented Communities in the United States

Julian Brave NoiseCat and Ryan Christopher Jones have been named the recipients of the 2022 American Mosaic Journalism Prize

Los Altos, Calif. (February 10, 2022) – The Heising-Simons Foundation announced today that freelance journalists Julian Brave NoiseCat and Ryan Christopher Jones are the recipients of the 2022 American Mosaic Journalism Prize, which includes an unrestricted cash prize of \$100,000 for each. This is one of the largest dollar amounts given for a journalism prize in the United States.

The prize is awarded for excellence in long-form, narrative, or deep reporting about underrepresented and/or misrepresented groups in the United States. It recognizes journalism's ability to foster understanding and aims to support freelance journalists. The prize is based on confidential nominations invited from more than 150 leaders in journalism throughout the country. A panel of 10 judges—including journalists from *NPR*, *NBC News*, *ProPublica/Texas Tribune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*, among others—selected the recipients.

NoiseCat and Jones join a distinguished group of prize recipients, alongside past winners Jaeah Lee, Valeria Fernández, Abe Streep, Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, Rebecca Nagle, Darcy Courteau, David Dennis Jr., and Michelle García.

About Julian Brave NoiseCat:

NoiseCat, a member of the Canim Lake Band Tsq'escen and a descendant of the Lil'Wat Nation of Mount Currie, is a journalist currently based in the Pacific Northwest. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The California Sunday Magazine*, and *National Geographic*, among other outlets.

Mr. NoiseCat's belief that Indigenous peoples can contribute to understanding and addressing the world's most pressing challenges inspires his work. "[The Census Powwow](#)," a podcast episode reported for *Snap Judgment*, follows a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation as she attempts to count everyone on her reservation in the 2020 U.S. Census. "[Indigenous Fathers Take Lessons From Their Own Experience to Create Healthy Lifestyles for Their Children](#)" is an examination of the joys and challenges of fatherhood as seen through the perspective of Indigenous men. Mr. NoiseCat also reports on other often overlooked issues and communities. In "[The House of Magnolia Street](#)" he followed a movement led by unhoused Black mothers who had reclaimed a property from investors in West Oakland, California.

"Indigenous communities have a perspective and an experience that matters to a broader audience," said NoiseCat. "My work is inspired by a belief that Indigenous peoples' experience and wisdom can contribute to understanding and addressing the world's most pressing challenges – from the climate crisis to anxieties around imperialism and race."

About Ryan Christopher Jones:

Jones is a Mexican-American photojournalist and anthropologist based in Central California. He is a regular contributor to *The New York Times* and his work has also been featured in The Atlantic, Der Spiegel, ProPublica, *The Washington Post*, The Intercept, The Guardian, and others.

Mr. Jones' photography and reporting explore, among other issues, the intersecting identities of immigrant and farmworker communities living in Central California and beyond, and the environmental politics of California agriculture. "[Underground Lives: The Sunless World of Immigrants in Queens](#)" portrays the life of Amado, a man living in an underground apartment in Queens, and the great sacrifices he makes to provide a better life for his family in Coatzingo, Mexico. His work also includes in-depth stories during the Covid-19 pandemic in New York City and [Boston](#), the overdose crisis, and [Mexican-American economic mobility](#).

Mr. Jones is a vocal advocate of ethical photojournalism and has written about this theme in two essays for *The New York Times*, "[How Photography Exploits the Vulnerable](#)" and "[The Deja Vu of Mass Shootings](#)".

"In the news, photographic depictions of vulnerable communities have often resorted to dangerous tropes and stereotypes," said Jones. "As a photojournalist it has been my goal to visually document the complex stories of these under-represented communities with the care and nuance they deserve; to show that they respond to social struggle with agency and intention."

For more information about the American Mosaic Journalism Prize, visit
<https://www.hsfoundation.org/prize>.

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The 2022 American Mosaic Journalism Prize Judges

Hannah Allam

Reporter

The Washington Post

Cindi Leive

Co-founder

The Meteor

Talal Ansari

U.S. News Reporter

The Wall Street Journal

Wesley Lowery

Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist

Katharine Boo

Author and Co-Chair

The Pulitzer Prizes

B.A. Parker

Writer/Audio Producer

Freelance

Antonia Hylton

Correspondent

NBC News and MSNBC

Perla Trevizo

Investigative Reporter

ProPublica-Texas Tribune

Tracy Jan

Race and the Economy Reporter

The Washington Post

Keith Woods

Chief Diversity Officer

NPR

About the Heising-Simons Foundation

The Heising-Simons Foundation is a family foundation based in Los Altos and San Francisco, California. The Foundation works with its many partners to advance sustainable solutions in climate and clean energy, enable groundbreaking research in science, enhance the education of our youngest learners, and support human rights for all people. For more information visit, www.hsfoundation.org.