



# HOW TO SLAY THE COMPETITION

Master the Art of Winning, Conquer the  
Competition, and Celebrate Success

PIAMIDAM.ORG



# INTRODUCTION

The Graphic Excellence Awards (GraphEx for short), hosted by PIA MidAmerica, are a prestigious celebration of excellence in print and visual communication. This competition has become a significant benchmark in the industry, recognizing the outstanding abilities of print producers to transform paper and ink into powerful forms of communication. These awards honor not only the technical achievements in innovation and print production but also the creativity and technical skills of employees and customers in the print industry.

- Entries categorized into 200+ divisions based on print type: annual reports, art reproductions, books, brochures, etc.
- Three size-based divisions ensure fair competition: small, medium, large company categories.
- Recognition given to category winners, with advancement to Best of Show.
- Top category winners may compete in America's Print Awards, increasing industry stature.

GraphEx competition stands as a pivotal stage for businesses to not only demonstrate their expertise but to also amplify their market presence. Participation in such a reputable contest is a clear statement of a company's commitment to quality and innovation, bolstering its image in the eyes of clients and competitors alike. Moreover, it serves as a morale booster for teams, as their hard work and creativity receive the recognition they deserve.

- The competition showcases business capabilities, enhances profiles, and boosts employee morale.
- Celebrates print's technical and creative skill, affirming its relevance in digital times.



# UNDERSTANDING THE COMPETITION

Scope and Regional Relevance of the Awards:

- The GraphEx Awards holds substantial prominence in the regions of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Western Missouri.
- The awards recognize a wide range of print products, including annual reports, brochures, newsletters, direct marketing materials, presentation folders, cross-media campaigns, and more. This extensive categorization highlights the diverse capabilities within the industry and provides numerous opportunities for companies of various sizes and specializations to participate.
- There are over 200 categories within three different divisions based on the size of the company and the type of print process used, ensuring a level playing field for all entrants.



Key Information Sources for Participants:

- Detailed information about the awards, including categories, entry guidelines, and deadlines, can be found on the PIA MidAmerica website ([piamidam.org/entries](http://piamidam.org/entries) and [piamidam.org/graphex](http://piamidam.org/graphex)). This site serves as the central repository for all relevant data regarding the GraphEx Awards.

## PIA | MIDAMERICA graphex GRAPHIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### DIGITAL & OFFSET PRINTING

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATIONS**  
10 Announcements & invitations — offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)  
11 Announcements & invitations — offset (4 or more colors)  
12 Announcements & invitations — digital  
13 Announcements & invitations — specialty (i.e. screen printing, combo printing methods, non-paper substrates)

**ANNUAL REPORTS**  
20 Annual reports — offset  
21 Annual reports — offset (combo, process color cover with 1, 2 or 3 color text or vice-versa)  
22 Annual reports — digital  
23 Annual reports — digital / offset combo

**ART REPRODUCTION**  
Reproduction of fine art for use as decoration  
30 Art reproductions — offset  
31 Art reproductions — digital

**BOOKLETS**  
Bound, in any manner: 32 pages or less, including cover and text  
40 Booklets, small format — offset (6 x 9 or smaller)  
41 Booklets, small format — digital (6 x 9 or smaller)  
42 Booklets, large format — offset (over 6 x 9)  
43 Booklets, large format — digital (over 6 x 9)  
44 Booklets — web

**BOOKS**  
Bound volume of more than 32 pages, including cover & text  
50 Books, hard cover — offset  
51 Books, hard cover — digital  
52 Books, soft cover — offset  
53 Books, soft cover — digital

**YEARBOOKS**  
Bound volume used to document students at schools or universities  
54 Yearbooks — offset  
55 Yearbooks — digital  
56 Yearbooks — digital / offset combo  
57 Yearbook supplements

**BROCHURES**  
Not stitched, folded from flat sheets 11" x 17" or smaller  
60 Brochures — offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)  
61 Brochures — offset (4 or more colors)  
62 Brochures — digital  
63 Brochures — digital / offset combo

**BROADSIDES**  
Not stitched or glued, only folded from flat sheets 11" x 17" or larger  
65 Broad­sides — offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)  
66 Broad­sides — offset (4 or more colors)  
67 Broad­sides — digital

**CALENDARS**  
70 Calendars, flat — offset  
71 Calendars, flat — digital  
72 Calendars, booklet — offset  
73 Calendars, booklet — digital

**CAMPAIGNS**  
Two or more companion pieces that promote a product or brand.  
80 Sales campaigns — offset  
81 Sales campaigns — digital  
82 Direct mail campaign — offset  
83 Direct mail campaign — digital

### 2024 CATEGORIES

84 Corporate identity campaigns — offset (2 or more printed pieces designed to be used together to present a unified identity. Such as: stationery, brochures, business cards, presentation folders, sale sheets, bill stuffers, etc. Letterhead & envelope count as one item.)  
85 Corporate identity campaigns — digital (see #84 for description)  
86 Sales campaigns — digital/offset combo

**CARDS**  
90 Rack cards — offset  
91 Rack cards — digital  
92 Individual greeting card / notecard — offset  
93 Individual greeting card / notecard — digital  
94 Series of greeting cards / notecards — offset  
95 Series of greeting cards / notecards — digital  
96 Postcard — offset  
97 Postcard — digital  
98 Postcard series — offset  
99 Postcard series — digital

**CATALOGS**  
Printed for business, consumer or service industries. May include products or listings for exhibits, education, or member institutions.  
100 Catalogs — sheetfed (up to 32 pages, including cover)  
101 Catalogs — sheetfed (over 32 pages, including cover)  
102 Catalogs — web (up to 32 pages, including cover)  
103 Catalogs — web (over 32 pages, including cover)  
104 Catalogs — digital (up to 32 pages, including cover)  
105 Catalogs — digital (over 32 pages, including cover)  
106 Web / sheetfed combination catalogs  
107 Web / sheetfed & digital combination catalogs  
108 Catalog inserts

**DIRECTORIES & SOURCE BOOKS**  
Publications listing names, addresses, etc., of individuals or companies  
110 Directories & source books — offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)  
111 Directories & source books — offset (4 or more colors)  
112 Directories & source books — digital

**INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS**  
Produced for a single organization's internal use only.  
115 Internal communications — offset (1, 2 or 3 colors)  
116 Internal communications — offset (4 or more colors)  
117 Internal communications — digital

**MAGAZINES, PERIODICALS & PUBLICATIONS**  
120 Magazines, periodicals & publications — sheetfed  
121 Magazines, periodicals & publications — web  
122 Magazines, periodicals & publications — digital  
123 Combination magazines (sheetfed cover, web interior)  
124 Web / sheetfed & digital combo magazines  
125 Publication inserts — offset (up to 40 lb. stock)  
126 Publication inserts — offset (over 40 lb. stock)  
127 Publication inserts — digital

**MAGAZINE SERIES**  
(Entries should consist of at least three issues of the same magazine title during a one-year period. Work will be judged on consistency in series.)  
130 Magazine series — sheetfed  
131 Magazine series — web  
132 Magazine series — digital

**MENUS**  
135 Menus — offset  
136 Menus — digital  
137 Menus — digital / offset combo

**IMPORTANT NOTE** \*Entries without accompanying description will be disqualified.

2024 GRAPHX CATEGORIES • [PIAMIDAM.ORG/GRAPHX](http://PIAMIDAM.ORG/GRAPHX)

# PREPARATION FOR ENTRY

## **Make the Commitment to Participate:**

- Officially decide and commit to participating in the GraphEx Awards and share with your company so every employee can help identify potential winning entries.

## **Ideally, identify special pieces and plan to submit entries throughout the year:**

- Planning and preparation should start early. This proactive approach allows for thorough preparation and avoids last-minute rushing, which can compromise the quality of the submission.

## **Involve Everyone in the Process:**

- Engaging different departments and team members in the selection process can provide diverse perspectives and ensure the best work is chosen for submission.

## **Create a Sense of Pride:**

- Use the opportunity to foster a sense of pride and achievement among employees. Highlighting how their work contributes to the award submissions can boost morale and motivation.

## **Use Qualified Personnel to Examine Pieces:**

- Have experienced and qualified staff members review potential submissions to ensure they meet the high standards of the awards. Remember judging will be looking at the technical skills of the production process. This is not a beauty contest.

## **Start Gathering Pieces Immediately upon Completion:**

- As soon as a potential award-worthy piece is completed, set it aside for consideration. This ensures that high-quality work is not overlooked or forgotten.

## **Put Aside 3 or 4 Samples of Each Qualified Piece:**

- Keeping multiple samples ensures that you have backups in case of damage or loss and allows for a choice of the best sample to submit.

## **Secure these Samples in a Strict “Hands-Off” Location:**

- Store the selected samples in a secure location where they won't be damaged or tampered with, maintaining their pristine condition for submission.

## **Consider Entering an Exceptional Piece in Several Categories:**

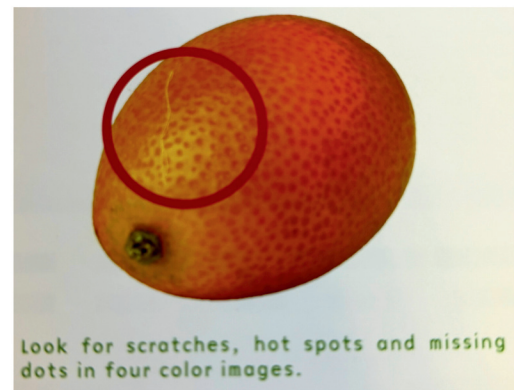
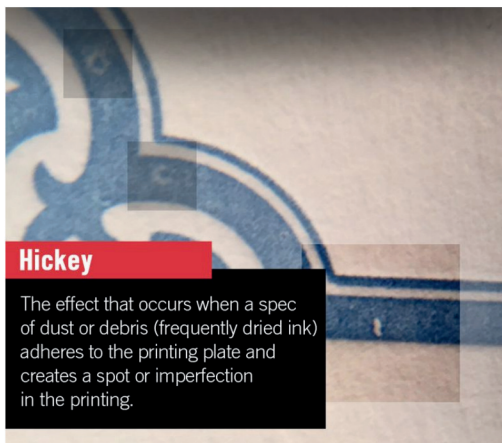
- If a piece qualifies for multiple categories, consider submitting it in more than one to maximize chances of recognition. Ensure that it meets the specific criteria for each category. If you choose to enter in multiple categories, these would be multiple submissions.
- With over 200 categories, it may be hard to pick just one category. Know that if PIA MidAmerica staff think your entry will shine better in a different category, we may move your entry to compete there.

# UNDERSTANDING THE JUDGING CRITERIA

Familiarize yourself with the specific criteria used by the judges in the GraphEx Awards. This typically involves assessing the technical quality, creativity, and innovation of the print work. Each category might have its unique set of criteria, so it's important to understand what the judges are looking for in each case.

The judging criteria may also include how effectively the print work communicates its intended message, its visual appeal, and the complexity of the printing process. Below is a list of common errors that could result in disqualification.

- Binding/Finishing – Scores are not Cracked
- Paper Grain Direction –No Cracking of Backbone
- Foil Stamping – Registration and Proper Pressures
- Coatings – Appropriate Usage
- Hickies – One of these can cause a piece to be disqualified
- Scratches and Smudges • Stitching – Binding
- Registration
- Clarity– Line Drawings/Halftones
- Smoothness of the Ink lay
- Color Consistency
- Roller or Gear Marks
- Crossovers Line up
- Folios Positioned Consistently
- Creep or “Push-Out Control – Margins
- Photo Consistency
- Use of Paper
- Smoothness –Not Excessive Use of Spray Powder
- Emboss – Clean and Sharp
- Die Cuts – Clean with No Heavy Nicks
- Gates Line Up



# JUDGING PROCESS

## Cataloging and Labeling Entries:

- Each entry submitted to the GraphEx Awards is meticulously cataloged in a database and assigned a unique identification number. This number is also physically attached to the entry for easy tracking and reference.
- This systematic approach ensures blind-judging, fairness, and easy-to-reconcile entries - providing for a smooth judging process.

## Pre-Judging Organization:

- As entries are received, they are filed and stored until the judging date. This storage is secure and organized to maintain the integrity and confidentiality of each entry.

## Judging Timeline and Procedure:

- Judging traditionally takes place in mid-February. All entries are displayed on table tops, grouped according to their respective categories, facilitating a comprehensive and comparative evaluation by the judges.
- The judges, are experts in the field of print and visual communications, they assess each piece against the established criteria for each category and take into account the details provided on the entry form. The more detailed you can be, the better.

## Decision and Documentation Process:

- As judges make their decisions, winning entries are flagged in the database, noting the level of award each piece has achieved. This methodical process ensures accuracy and proper record-keeping.
- Major award winners are photographed, likely for use in promotional materials and the awards ceremony.

## Notification and Confidentiality:

- Official letters of notification are sent to the winning companies, informing them of their achievement of either an Award of Excellence or a higher honor. However, the specific details of the awards are kept confidential until the awards galas later in the spring.
- The final results of the awards are kept strictly under wraps until the Awards Night, adding an element of suspense and excitement for the participants and attendees.



# JUDGING HIERARCHY

## By Division – Category Judging:

- Each entry within the GraphEx Awards is initially judged within its specific category to determine the 'Best of Category' and 'Award of Excellence.'
- 'Best of Category' is a prestigious distinction, indicating the entry is the top in its category, while an 'Award of Excellence' is a mark of superior quality within that field.

## Award Saturation in Categories:

- It is noted that some categories may have a high volume of entries, leading to a competitive environment. Despite this saturation, receiving an 'Award of Excellence' is a significant achievement that recognizes the outstanding quality of an entry.

## Advancement to Higher Honors:

- Winners of 'Best of Category' advance to compete for even higher honors, including 'Best of Show,' 'Best of Division', and various specialty awards.
- The selection for 'Best of Show' is made first from these top-category winners, highlighting the elite status of these entries.

## Eligibility for Multiple Awards:

- Once an entry wins a top-level award, such as 'Best of Show', it becomes ineligible for other high-level awards. This rule ensures a wider distribution of honors among participants and recognizes a variety of outstanding works.

## Specialty Awards Across Divisions:

- Specialty awards are unique in that they cross all divisions and include honors such as 'Best Use of Ink', 'Best Use of Paper', 'Judge's Choice', 'Best of Digital', 'Best of Packaging', and 'Best Finishing' among others. These awards recognize exceptional skill and creativity in specific areas of print and design.



# CRAFTING A WINNING ENTRY

## Strategies for Differentiating Your Entry:

- Focus on showcasing the uniqueness and innovation of your work. Highlight any special techniques, unique materials, or creative designs that set your work apart.
- Tell a compelling story through your entry. This could involve the process of creating the work, the challenges overcome, or the impact the work had.
- Pay attention to the finer details of your work. Often, the quality of the finishing touches can make a significant difference in how your entry is perceived.

## The Role of Collaboration with Partners and Suppliers:

- Leverage the strengths of your partners and suppliers. Their expertise can add value to your entry, whether it's through high-quality materials, innovative printing techniques, or cutting-edge design.
- Highlight the collaborative effort in your submission. Identify the equipment used and inks used, paper and substrates, and any outside vendors and their role. This can demonstrate the breadth and depth of your network and your ability to work effectively with others to produce outstanding results.
- Involving partners and suppliers early in the planning process can ensure that the final product is a result of a well-coordinated effort, showcasing the best of each contributor's expertise.

**Gold**

## AlphaGraphics Kansas City

Clark Enersen Anniversary Casebound Book

Leatherette 260-page, 12 x 9.75" casebound book with blind deboss on cover and foil stamp on front and spine. Produced on Ricoh 7210SX with clear and white toner on Blazer 100lb Gloss cover, Blazer 100lb Gloss text, 80lb Classic Crest Epic Black Smooth cover and 80lb Classic Crest Epic Black Techweave cover.





# CRAFTING A WINNING ENTRY

## Design Excellence:

- While this is a technical competition and not a design or beauty contest, winners often present designs that maximize the possibilities of printing. This includes unique uses of paper, innovative ink applications, and exceptional cutting, binding, and finishing techniques.

## Quality Narrative:

- In a brief statement on the entry form, describe your commitment to maintaining high-quality across all pages. For example: "Note the perfect registration across three different passes and tight adherence to crossovers on this booklet." Do not use your company's name. Remember, this is blind-judging so we remove any mention of your company unless it is for the self-promotion category.

## Technical Specificity:

- Highlight your printing process's technical aspects. Whether it's the line screen resolutions or advanced printing techniques like stochastic or hexachrome, these details can set your entry apart.

## Regional Specialties:

- Draw attention to your region's specialties. For instance, if you're from MidAmerica, emphasize your prowess in specialty techniques and digital printing.

## Precision and Geometry:

- If your strength lies in precision, such as a dust jacket that aligns flawlessly, make sure to detail this. For 3D pieces like car wraps or building signage, provide photographs or videos to illustrate the innovation, along with a smaller replica to display the work's scale and detail.

## Finishing Touches:

- Don't forget to elaborate on the finishing process. Detail how your entry stands out through large-format executions or intricate finishing techniques.

**Note:** On the following pages are prompts and examples to consider when deciding how to tell your story. As authors of this piece, it is challenging to describe a fictional narrative of an imaginary project. Use these following pages as prompts to give you ideas about the submissions you are entering and what stories of technical prowess, innovation or special circumstances went into the production of that particular project.

# CRAFTING A WINNING ENTRY

## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

**Reminder:** The following serve as prompts and illustrative examples to guide you in telling the production story. We expect the examples you submit to be more illustrative, informative, and relative to your particular entry. **The judges are not looking for hype in your story, but more so reflections on the tales of technical prowess, innovation, or special circumstances that played a pivotal role in the realization of your specific project.**

**Problem Solving:** When were you a problem solver for your client?

Our client's vision was complex: a multi-faceted print campaign that included variable data printing, a range of custom finishes, and required meticulous attention to detail. They had been let down before, but our track record gave them confidence. We stepped in as problem solvers, navigating through supply chain disruptions to source the perfect materials and coordinating with our team to ensure every detail was managed with precision ensuring that multiple pieces were fulfilled properly.

**Extra Time and Effort:** Where did you put in extra time and effort?

The project required not just expertise but passion—late nights, early mornings, and countless hours of fine-tuning. Our commitment to excellence meant that we invested extra time in pre-press proofing, ensuring that each color matched the client's brand palette exactly, and each element aligned perfectly with their vision.

**Client Confidence:** When did the client select your company because they knew you could deliver?

Our client chose us for this pivotal project because of our unwavering commitment to quality. We had proven ourselves time and again as a partner that doesn't just promise but delivers. This time was no different. We were the trendsetters, introducing innovative print techniques that set a new standard for the industry.

**No Shortcuts:** What piece did you produce where there were no shortcuts taken by the client?

For "The Masterpiece Campaign," the client spared no expense, and neither did we. There were no shortcuts; every decision was deliberate, from the selection of premium inks to the choice of heavyweight, textured paper that conveyed luxury and substance.

# CRAFTING A WINNING ENTRY

## CONSIDERATIONS & EXAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS TO SHARE WITH YOUR ENTRY

**Multiple Passes and Binding:** Do you have pieces with multiple passes and excellent binding?

Our dedication shone through in the print pieces that featured multiple passes through the press—each adding a new dimension of color and texture. The binding was an art in itself, with hand-finished touches that transformed each piece into a collector's item.

**High-Quality Simple Techniques:** How about high-quality simple techniques?

Sometimes, simplicity speaks volumes. We employed high-quality simple techniques that stood out for their elegance and clarity. A minimalist design approach allowed the material quality and print clarity to take center stage, speaking volumes of the brand's high standards.

**Impressive Production:** What have you produced that was impressive?

"The Masterpiece Campaign" became a portfolio piece for both us and the client. It was not just a print job; it was a statement—about quality, about dedication, and about the power of print to leave a lasting impression.

**Large Format Installation:** What did you do during production to ensure flawless installation?

For "The Masterpiece Outdoor Display", we combatted the challenge direct sunlight for the majority of the day with high-quality, UV-resistant inks to combat fading and weathering. Additionally, we had to take into account this installation would be next to a busy street and required adjustments for pedestrians to walk around it safely. A photo of the installation and a printed sample has been included for with this entry.



# EXAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

**Description:** "Metropolitan Mosaic" is a harmonious blend of state-of-the-art digital print technology and design excellence, crafted by the adept hands at [Your Company Name], located in the heart of MidAmerica. This 48-page catalog exemplifies urban diversity through the lens of precision digital print on an HP Indigo 12000 Digital Press,

Printed on FSC-certified Sappi McCoy Silk paper, each page tells a story of urban life with unparalleled vibrancy. Our choice of Sappi paper reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship and print performance.

For inks, we utilized HP Indigo ElectroInk, which delivers rich, uniform color and remarkable print fidelity. Each drop of ElectroInk contributes to a visual feast, from the subtle gradients of dawn to the neon glows of nightlife, with a sharpness only a 200 line screen can produce.

Our team has pushed the boundaries with innovative finishing techniques, including precision die-cuts and intricate folds executed on a Heidelberg Dymatrix, which allows for accuracy to the millimeter. The binding is engineered with a PUR adhesive for durability and a flawless lay-flat presentation, courtesy of our Müller Martini binding system.

The cover features a custom embossed design and a cut-out window, inviting a peek into the vibrant world inside. It bears a succinct, impactful narrative: "Discover the essence of the metropolis, each page a window into the city's ever-changing story, printed with passion for quality and design."

"Metropolitan Mosaic" is more than a printed catalog—it's an immersive experience of urban exploration. We've included a QR code linking to an augmented reality tour of the production process, and a miniature 3D-printed model of the cover's skyline for a tactile representation of our digital craftsmanship.

We present "Metropolitan Mosaic" as a showcase of how technical excellence, when paired with the right materials and equipment, can create a masterpiece that transcends the ordinary.

# EXAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

**Description:** "Urban Pulse" brings the heartbeat of the city to mailboxes through a sophisticated direct mail campaign, leveraging the precision of variable data to deliver personalized messages. This multi-component kit includes an eye-catching envelope, a personalized letter, and a dynamic promotional insert.

Crafted on our Heidelberg Speedmaster XL, the envelope instantly captivates with its tactile Stora Enso LumiSilk paper, conveying luxury from first touch. Inside, the letter, printed on Neenah Classic Crest, features bespoke content for each recipient, demonstrating the powerful capabilities of our XMPie software for variable data personalization.

The promotional insert, a testament to digital agility, is produced on a Xerox iGen5, showcasing vibrant, accurate colors and crisp, clear text. The combination of the iGen's quality with Sappi McCoy's glossy finish makes for an engaging visual and tactile experience.

The entire campaign is a choreographed display of our expertise in direct mail, with each piece designed to fit together seamlessly, enhancing the recipient's unboxing journey. From the precision folds to the flawless alignment of the variable data elements, "Urban Pulse" is a showcase of how cutting-edge technology and premium materials can create a direct mail piece that not only captures attention but also holds it.

"Urban Pulse" isn't just a direct mail piece—it's an interactive experience that invites the recipient to connect with the vibrant life of the city, personalized to their interests, and delivered with unmatched print quality.

# EXAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS

**Description:** "Metropolitan Mosaic," printed on an HP Indigo 12000, showcases urban vibrancy on FSC-certified Sappi McCoy Silk paper. Vibrant HP Indigo ElectroInk and a 200 line screen deliver sharp imagery, while Heidelberg Dymatrix die-cuts and Müller Martini PUR binding ensure precision. The embossed cover with a narrative insert completes this technologically rich entry.

**Description:** "Urban Pulse," a direct mail campaign, features personalized letters and inserts produced on a Heidelberg Speedmaster using Neenah Classic Crest paper and Stora Enso LumiSilk for envelopes. The Xerox iGen5 enhances inserts with vivid colors, all integrated via XMPie for variable data precision.

# ENTER ONLINE

Submitting your masterpieces to the GraphEx Awards is a streamlined process designed to showcase your company's finest work.

Begin by visiting the PIA MidAmerica website at:  
**[piamidam.org/entries](https://piamidam.org/entries) or [piamidam.org/graphex](https://piamidam.org/graphex)**

Here you'll find a comprehensive breakdown of categories, entry guidelines, and important deadlines. This resource is your guide to navigating the submission requirements of the awards.

In this form:

- Entering company
- Printing company, *if different from entering company*
- About entry piece(s)
- Entry requirement acknowledgement
- Payment information

## Entering Company

Contact information for company submitting entry

Company \*

Membership \*  PIA MidAmerica member  Non-member  
 Student

# of employees \*

Division \*  Division 1 – Small Firm (1–20 employees)  
 Division 2 – Medium Firm (21–100 employees)  
 Division 3 – Large Firm (101+ employees)

Contact Name \*   
First & last name

Contact Email \*   
example@example.com

Phone Number \*

Phone Number Type \*

Address \*

## Entry Piece(s)

Multiple entries may be submitted at the same time. Simply click the "Add another entry" button at the end of this section. The text boxes can expand by pulling on the bottom right corner of the box.

Please enter information for each piece you're submitting in this section. Full details and Category List at <https://piamidam.org/graphex>.

Members: \$59/entry  
Non-members: \$99/entry  
Students: \$20/entry

*Early-bird discount applies to member and non-member entries postmarked on or before Jan. 13, 2023 – \$10 off per entry • use code EARLYBIRD2023*

Use "Add another entry" to submit multiple pieces / categories. \*

\* Entry Title  
As you would like entry to appear on a

\* Category Number (number only)  
Details at

\* Description  
Please be specific about how your piece

\* Printing Equipment used  
Make & model of press, bindery & finishing

\* Paper & ink  
Paper & ink brands, make, mill

\* Printing is  
 offset-only  
 flexo-only  
 digital-only  
 combination

Manufacturing partner(s)  
Any outsourced diecutting, foil, emboss

# ENTER ONLINE

Once you've completed your online entry form, you have two options for getting your printed pieces to us.

- For those in the vicinity or who prefer a personal touch, you're welcome to drop off your entries at our office **5720 LBJ FWY #655 Dallas, TX**, where they'll be received with anticipation.
- If you're further afield or find it more convenient, shipping your entries directly to us is just as effective.

Each entry will be handled with the utmost care from the moment it arrives, ensuring that it's in pristine condition for the judging process.

Remember, every detail counts, from the precision detail in the entry form to the final physical product we receive. Make sure to refer to the detailed instructions on our website to ensure your entry meets all the necessary criteria. With an anticipated full competition, you can look forward to the possibility of being recognized as one of the industry's finest at the annual GraphEx Awards.



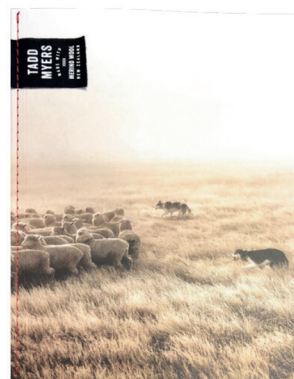
F9 Format





# MORE EXAMPLES

FOR MORE EXAMPLES OF PAST WINNING ENTRIES, CHECK OUT THE CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AND PAST COMPETITION PAGES AT [PIAMIDAM.ORG/GRAPHX](http://PIAMIDAM.ORG/GRAPHX).



# PEOPLE NOMINATIONS

Nominating industry peers for the GraphEx Awards is more than a gesture of recognition; it's a celebration of the talent and dedication that propels the print industry forward. These nominations are a vital part of fostering a culture of excellence, innovation, and collaboration. By acknowledging the achievements of customer service, human resources, production professionals, and more, we not only honor individual contributions but also highlight the collective strength and adaptability of our industry.

This recognition can be a significant milestone for nominees, inspiring their continued passion and leadership. Together, these accolades underscore the enduring relevance and creative vitality of print in a digital age, while strengthening professional networks and encouraging the sharing of best practices.

## Award Categories:

- Customer Service Professional: Celebrates innovative customer service and process improvement.
- Estimator Professional: Celebrates one of the most pivotal roles in the production process.
- Human Resources Professional: Honors ethical standards and leadership in challenging times.
- Outstanding Team: Acknowledges a team's exceptional collaboration on a project or initiative.
- Production Professional: Recognizes noteworthy innovation in print production.
- Print Champion: Awards individuals promoting and supporting print industry growth.
- Young Professional: Celebrates a young professional under 39 for leadership and integrity.

2023 CUSTOMER SERVICE PROFESSIONAL KS/MO



**Gregg Heinrich**  
J&J Printing

"Gregg encourages and supports our customers and team goals, bringing positive energy and inspiring our team to excel."

2023 CUSTOMER SERVICE PROFESSIONAL OK/TX



**Candie Garcia**  
Clampitt Paper

"There is not a single problem that Candie can't solve. We are beyond lucky to have her on our team."

2023 HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL KS/MO



**Edie Bettinger**  
NextPage

"Edie brings balance and provides steady counsel to both ownership priorities and the needs of NextPage employees."

2023 HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL OK/TX



**Sara McLean**  
JPS Books + Logistics

"Sara understands the value of bringing strong culture to the workplace and has worked diligently to ensure our 5-core values are part of all employee engagements."

2023 PRODUCTION PROFESSIONAL KS/MO



**Chris Kent**  
Posty Cards

"Chris excels at building a positive team culture and inspiring plant employees to pursue their best work for our customers."

2023 PRODUCTION PROFESSIONAL OK/TX



**Gina Eselin**  
Varispark

"It only takes a few minutes of watching Gina in action to realize that she sets the gold standard not only in the her work product, but how she leads others."

2023 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL KS/MO



**Sam Sewell**  
NextPage

"Sam embodies a love of print. He works closely with his clients to create awesome solutions that generate real results."

2023 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OK/TX



**Brent Beavan**  
Performance Specialty Service

"Brent is on the production floor daily - moving stock, approving jobs, giving advice and constantly bringing new and fresh ideas to his team and clients alike."

2023 OUTSTANDING TEAM OK/TX



**Jose Macias,  
Maria Acevedo,  
Armando Coronado,  
Gustavo Rivas,  
Hortencia Lopez**  
Shweiki Media

"They are extremely organized and focused on continuously learning and developing best practices to enhance routine activities both efficiently and

**Note: People nominations start mid-January and go to mid-February**