

Nautilus Book Awards Unveils Expanded Vision and Reimagined 40-Category Framework for 2027

Six Core Values, Six Nautilus Questions, new and evolving categories, and Guiding Questions for every category mark a new chapter for the Nautilus Book Awards.

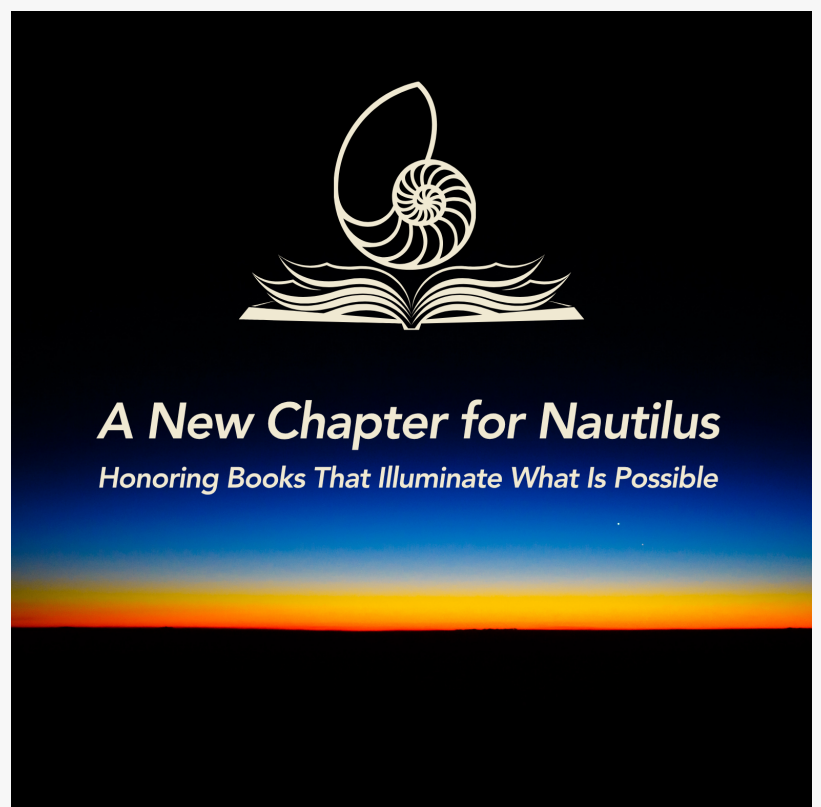
BOULDER, CO, UNITED STATES, August 25, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For more than a quarter century, the [Nautilus Book Awards](#) has honored books that inspire wisdom, compassion, spiritual growth, social transformation, environmental stewardship, and human flourishing. As Nautilus looks toward the future, the organization is proud to announce an expanded vision and thoughtfully reimagined 40-category framework for the 2027 awards season.

The evolution represents more than an update to the Nautilus categories. It reflects a deeper consideration of the ideas, questions, and areas of inquiry shaping our world today, while remaining grounded in the enduring spirit and purpose that have guided Nautilus for decades.

Six Core Values

At the heart of the new framework are Six Core Values:

Stewardship of Earth & All Living Systems
Wellness, Love, Beauty & Human Potential
Spiritual Growth & Inner Transformation
Justice, Belonging & Transformative Change



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Diverse Voices, Global Interconnection & Human Flourishing Emerging Futures & Collective Wisdom

Together, these values express the broad landscape of work Nautilus seeks to recognize: books that deepen understanding, expand possibility, nurture individual and collective well-being, and contribute to a more compassionate and flourishing world.

Six Questions for the World We Are Creating

The 2027 framework also introduces Six Nautilus Questions:

- How do we care for Earth?
- How do we thrive as individuals?
- How do we deepen wisdom?
- How do we build a just and compassionate society?
- How do we flourish together as one human family?
- How do we consciously shape humanity's future?

Rather than functioning as judging criteria, these questions illuminate the larger conversations to which Nautilus-winning books have contributed throughout the awards' history. They connect diverse subjects and genres through a shared belief in the power of books to help us understand ourselves, one another, our living world, and the possibilities before us.

New Categories for an Evolving World

The 2027 season introduces new categories designed to provide clearer homes for important and emerging areas of publishing.

Indigenous Wisdom & Traditional Knowledge recognizes works exploring Indigenous knowledge systems, ecological wisdom, cultural continuity, and traditional ways of knowing.

Interfaith & Interspiritual Studies and Dialogue creates space for books that build understanding and shared wisdom across religious, spiritual, contemplative, and wisdom traditions.

Community Building & Belonging honors books exploring social connection, civic life, dialogue, collective resilience, and communities in which people can feel seen, connected, and valued.

Women's Voices & Wisdom honors works illuminating women's experiences, perspectives, leadership, creativity, and contributions to personal and collective transformation.

Extraordinary Experiences & Consciousness Studies provides a thoughtful home for works examining near-death and mystical experiences, afterlife studies, reincarnation, psychic phenomena, expanded states of consciousness, and related research and inquiry.

Familiar Categories, Expanded for the Future

Nautilus has also thoughtfully revised longstanding categories to better reflect today's publishing landscape.

Psychology / Mental & Emotional Well-Being evolves into Psychology & Human Behavior.

Science and Cosmology becomes Science, Consciousness, Technology & Cosmology, opening more clearly to neuroscience, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, systems thinking, consciousness studies, and humanity's evolving understanding of reality.

World-Cultures' Transformational Growth & Development becomes Global Transformation & Emerging Futures, reflecting the interconnected cultural, social, environmental, technological, economic, and spiritual transformations shaping humanity's future.

Business & Leadership expands into Business, Leadership & Right Livelihood, while Personal Growth & Self-Help becomes Personal Growth & Self-Development.

The fiction categories have also evolved, with Visionary & Contemporary Fiction and Speculative, Science Fiction & Fantasy creating broader spaces for imaginative storytelling exploring human possibility, transformation, alternative realities, and emerging futures.

The complete framework spans 40 categories, from Photography & Arts, Food, Cooking & Healthy Eating, Ecology & Environment, Health, Healing & Wellness, Poetry, Memoir, and Spirituality to social justice, diverse voices, consciousness, science and technology, global transformation, fiction, and literature for children and young adults.

A Guiding Question for Every Category

One of the most distinctive additions for 2027 is a Guiding Question for every category, illuminating the deeper inquiry behind each area of recognition.

Women's Voices & Wisdom asks: What can we learn from women's experiences, perspectives, and leadership?

Interfaith & Interspiritual Studies and Dialogue asks: How do wisdom traditions learn from one another?

Global Transformation & Emerging Futures asks: What future are we creating together?

Rising To The Moment asks: How do we respond wisely to the defining challenges of our time?

The Guiding Questions are not intended to limit what belongs within a category, but to invite authors, publishers, reviewers, and readers into the larger conversation each category represents.

Evolution with Purpose

While much is new for 2027, the heart of Nautilus remains unchanged.

The Nautilus Book Awards will continue to recognize books that deepen awareness, awaken imagination, encourage healing, foster compassion, celebrate diverse voices, strengthen communities, honor the living world, and illuminate possibilities for a better future.

Together, the Six Core Values, Six Nautilus Questions, 40 categories, and Guiding Questions create a clearer and more cohesive foundation for the next chapter of Nautilus.

The 2027 Nautilus Book Awards season opens September 15, 2026.

The complete category framework, submission guidelines, and eligibility requirements will be available at NautilusBookAwards.com.

About the Nautilus Book Awards

For more than twenty-five years, the Nautilus Book Awards has celebrated books that inspire positive action and conscious living, promote spiritual growth, encourage wellness, advance social and environmental responsibility, and contribute to a more compassionate and flourishing world.

Through its annual awards program, Nautilus honors authors and publishers whose works engage some of the most meaningful questions of our time and illuminate possibilities for individual, community, and global transformation.

Better Books for a Better World.

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