



# JUDGING & RULES

2019 Graphic Excellence Awards Gala  
Wednesday, April 17, 2019  
The Ballroom at Bayou Place  
Houston, TX

Sponsored by Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast

This annual statewide and regional competition affords a unique opportunity for you to recognize your customers and the superb craftsmanship of your employees. The pieces entered in the competition will represent the finest printed material produced by the leading printers, finishers and designers in this region of America.

## Who Can Enter?

The Competition is open to any graphic arts firm (designer, printer, finisher, or converter) or inplant graphics operation located in the service area of Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast. The entrant must have produced a majority of the piece(s) entered or be sure and list the company that did (this is for the benefit of designer firms and finishing businesses that would like to enter particular pieces in the print categories). Finishing and imaging firms may enter in those categories that best define the process or processes incorporated in the printed piece, such as Foil Stamping and Die Cutting or Digital Imaging. Entries must have been produced during 2018.

## How Many Pieces Can Be Entered?

There is no limit on the number of pieces that a company can enter in the 2019 Graphic Excellence Awards Competition.

## Entry Fee

There is a \$35 entry fee for each piece entered by a PIGC member by the Early Bird deadline of February 9, 2019. The cost for entries by non-members by the Early Bird is \$60. From February 10 -16, 2015, the fee is \$40 per entry for PIGC members and \$70 for non-members.

**Payment must accompany the entry.**

## How to Submit Entries

Please submit two copies of each entry. An Entry Form (this form may be copied) must accompany each entry. Additional forms may be obtained by calling Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast at (713) 522-2046 or (800) 448-5930, or download the form from our web site at [www.pigulfcoast.com](http://www.pigulfcoast.com).

Attach the order form (or a copy) to two identical copies of each entry. (One entry form + two samples.) Do not send two different pieces unless the category calls for multiple pieces, then you must submit two copies of each piece in the series.

Attach the appropriate entry fee (unless submitting multiple entries and then one check to cover all the entries may be submitted).

Check all samples submitted since this is a print competition. Handle the pieces carefully to reduce fingerprints.

Don't use cellophane tape or heavy duty clips that can damage the pieces. Do use plastic bags to group pieces.

Package/ship entries in a sturdy box/container so that they do not get damaged in transit.

## Deadline For Entries

Entries should be received on or before 5:00 PM Friday, February 9, 2019 to be eligible for Early Bird pricing. After that, entries must be received on or before 3:00 PM Friday, February 16, 2019. Entries may be delivered, mailed or shipped to Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast, 9800 Northwest Frwy, Suite 512, Houston, Texas 77092.

## Judging

To ensure a fair and unbiased competition, all entries will be judged by two printing experts from outside Texas. The judges will be instructed to base their decisions first on technical expertise and the quality of printing, then on design features and overall appearance. The exception will be Category 50, Graphic Design, where the design element will be judged first with print quality second.

## The Judging Procedures

Entries in each category will be reviewed first by the judges for technical flaws. Those with visible flaws will be eliminated from the competition. The remaining entries will have earned at least an Award of Merit.

All merit winners will then compete for the top awards in each category. One piece will be judged Best of Category. The runner-up entries will receive an Award of Excellence.

Upon the completion of category judging in each division, the judges will review all Best of Category winners with the top four pieces competing for the "Best of Division" recognition. The next best entry



will receive Best of Division Gold Award recognition, then Silver Award recognition, and finally the Bronze Award. All Best of Division winners will then compete for the “Best in Show” awards.

Except by special request prior to the judging, all entries become the property of the Graphic Excellence Awards Competition.

### Categories and Awards

A piece may be entered in more than one category. Two copies of each entry, accompanied by an entry form, must be submitted in each category in which the piece is entered. In the 2019 competition there will be five divisions—Division I (Print firms and operations employing fewer than 15); Division II (firms employing 16 to 50); and Division III (firms with more than 50 employees); the Digital Division and Finishing. Divisions I, II and III will have identical categories, with Best of Category recognition given to the piece judged the best within that category and division.

Along with Award of Merit, Award of Excellence and Best of Category, there are four awards per division given, four top Best of Show awards, Special Awards such as Regional Awards, Best Use of Paper, Best Use of Ink, Judges’ Choice, Best In-Plant Entry, and Best Student Entry.

### Award Hierarchy

- Best in Show Awards
  - Best in Show 1st Runner-up
  - 2nd Runner-up
  - 3rd Runner-up
  - Honorable Mention
- Special Awards
  - Best Use of Ink
  - Best Use of Paper
  - Judges’ Choice
  - Best In-Plant Entry
  - Best Student Entry
  - Regional Awards -
    - Bryan/College Station,
    - Golden Triangle
    - Corpus Christi/The Valley
- Division Awards
  - Division I (1-15 employees)
    - Best of Division
    - Gold Award
    - Silver Award
    - Bronze Award
  - Division II (16-50 employees)
    - Best of Division
    - Gold Award
    - Silver Award
    - Bronze Award



## Award Hierarchy

Division Awards (continued)

Division III (51+ employees)

Best of Division

Gold Award

Silver Award

Bronze Award

Digital Division

Best of Division

Gold Award

Silver Award

Bronze Award

Finishing Division

Best of Division

Gold Award

Silver Award

Bronze Award



## Announcement of Award Winners

Top award winners - division winners, special awards and show winners - will be announced at the 2019 Graphic Excellence Awards Gala to be held in Houston, Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at The Ballroom at Bayou Place. An announcement will be mailed to all firms who have won awards following the judging. There will be two letters - one informing the company of those entries receiving an Award of Merit; the second letter for those pieces awarded an Award of Excellence, Best of Category or higher (Division Awards, Special Awards, or Show Awards). That award announcement will not identify the particular award or awards that have been won.

## Recognizing the Winners

Winners are first announced at the Graphic Excellence Awards Gala attended by many industry professionals and their clients. All entries will be on display at the Gala.

News releases announcing the major winners will be sent to national, regional and local trade magazines and business publications. Selected local newspapers will also receive news releases relating to local award winners.

All Award Winners will receive a packet at the Gala with information on how to let your awards work for you. Also enclosed will be a Premier Print brochure and (framed) certificate order forms for each entry. Additional certificates may be purchased.

## PIA PRINT AWARDS

All Best of Category winners (and above) in the 2019 Graphic Excellence Awards Competition will be invited to enter their winning piece, free of charge, in the national PIA Premier Print Awards; also known as The Bennys. This prestigious international competition offers extensive promotional coverage for the winner. A special code will be available for companies to use on the entry forms. Winning companies will be responsible for entering their pieces in the Premier Print Awards competition.

For additional information, please call PI-Gulf Coast at 713-522-2046 or contact us at [info@pigc.com](mailto:info@pigc.com).