

PIA MIDAMERICA GRAPHEX AWARDS

Circle of Excellence

GRAPHEX 2025



*Honoring
Excellence
in Graphic
Communication*

Celebrating print,
packaging, label and
sign professionals

APRIL 10TH
ASTORIA
EVENT VENUE
DALLAS, TX



2025 PIA MIDAMERICA GRAPHEX AWARDS



PIA MidAmerica hosts the annual Graphic Excellence Awards (GraphEx) competition to recognize our industry’s outstanding technical achievements in innovation and print production. Hundreds of entries are submitted each year in an array of categories including brochures, magazines, calendars, campaigns, packaging and much more. Our independent judges select the extraordinary pieces in the competition to be recognized for Best of Show, Best of Division, Specialty, Best of Category awards and Awards of Recognition.

In addition, we want to recognize businesses and technical professionals who make up one of the industry’s largest regional trade associations in the United States. These professionals and award-winning companies demonstrate outstanding technical capabilities in print and finishing techniques. Distinguished industry leaders are recognized with Executive of the Year, Print Champion and Professional of the Year honors. Join me in congratulating all the winners on their outstanding contributions that have made a positive impact on our region.



Best,
Teresa G. Campbell
Teresa Campbell, PIA MidAmerica President

2025 PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

Don Denny
SLATE GROUP

Don Denny is the Owner and President of Slate Group, a national printing company based in Texas. He’s been with the company since 1993, starting as a delivery driver and working his way through production and sales–by 2017, Don became the sole owner. Now, with over 30 years of experience and leadership, he has helped Slate Group grow into a nationally recognized print partner, known for delivering innovative services and building lasting partnerships. He has a simple business philosophy–the harder I work, the luckier I get. Don believes in working hard, leading by example, and investing back into the company; he is proud of the work Slate Group does and loves to show off his business and hardworking employees. He will do everything in his power to make sure his people are taken care of. Outside of work, Don and his wife, Wendy, love to spend their time raising and showing cattle with their son, Dylan. An activity that reflects his dedication to both personal and professional endeavors.

PRINT CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR

Andy & Julie Plata
OUTPUTLINKS COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Andy and Julie Plata have dedicated their careers to advancing the print industry through innovation, leadership, and advocacy. As pioneers in digital print technology, they founded COPI in 1977, positioning it at the forefront of digital print adoption and helping suppliers, OEMs, and print providers worldwide. Their commitment to preserving industry knowledge led them to rescue American Printer in 2011, ensuring the 144-year-old publication remains a vital resource focused on the business of print. Beyond publishing, they have championed education through endowed scholarships, mentorship programs, and advisory roles with the University of Houston Digital Media Program, fostering the next generation of print professionals. As co-CEOs of OutputLinks Communications Group, they continue to influence the industry’s evolution, bridging the gap between print’s legacy and future. Their contributions have left a lasting impact on the industry, earning them widespread respect and recognition. While their professional achievements are remarkable, they find their greatest joy in art, books, travel, and spending time with their four children and five grandchildren.



PLATINUM
ColorMark
TX Gulf Coast By David H. Gibson

Accordion-style book printed on a Heidelberg 640 press using 100# Polar Bear Velvet Cover and 98 Pt. Grey Graphic Board. Side one features double black duotones using separate plates for solid backgrounds, while side two showcases 4-color process images with double black plates for rich black solids. Panels are 6.375” and seamed twice to create a 114.75” x 16” fold.



GOLD
Brodnax 21C Printers
Zoo Ball Invites

Invitation suite printed 4-color process on a Heidelberg CD102-6L press. The holder is printed on 100# Classic Crest Solar White Smooth Cover, the invite on 80# Classic Crest Solar White Linen Cover, the envelope on 100# Classic Crest Solar White Smooth Cover, and the label on 80# Classic Crest Epic Black Smooth Text. Finishing includes scoring, laser die-cutting, foil stamping in two colors across four locations, lamination, envelope conversion, adhesive application, and final assembly.

SILVER*
LARGEPRINTING.com
Encyclopedia Printanica Volume 1

BRONZE
MetroVCS
HKS Mandarin Hotel Items

Booklet printed digitally on HP Indigo press. The cover is printed on 130# Colorplan Pale Gray Cover and foil stamped using PG 100/PG490. The text pages are printed on 100# Mohawk Superfine Ultra White. Perfect bound, trimmed on three sides to final size, and shrink-wrapped for packaging.



*awarded to a KS/MO entrant

DIVISION 1

PLATINUM*

Vahalla Studios

Sessanta Bonner Springs

GOLD

The Boxman

Lancome Holiday Display

Custom packaging featuring multiple cut-score boxes wrapped, laminated, and foil-stamped. Attached to a .25" vinyl-wrapped and router-cut acrylic artwork. Produced using 100# gloss book stock with 1.2 mil matte lamination and UEI foils. Precision cutting and finishing achieved through die-cutting and Zünd technology.



SILVER

OptiGraphics

Rippaverse Comics Special 2024 Edition 10 Card Oversized 3D Lenticular Set

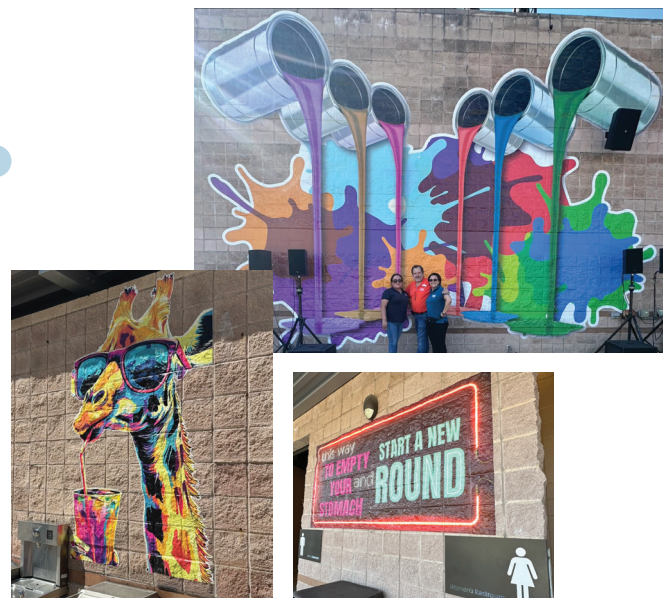
Trading card set, produced using a 28" x 40" UV offset KBA press. The artwork was processed through Human Eye's software to create a deep 3D illusion. Printed on Spartech 100 LPI 22.5 mil super deep 3D lens with UV offset inks from TOPCO, the backs were laminated with 8 pt. C1S Tango paper. Flatbed trimmers ensured precise cutting, and sets were collated by hand.

BRONZE

1to1printers LLC

TRASH BASH Brick Wall

Large-format wall graphic measuring 28' x 18', printed on 2 mil. vinyl. Produced using an HP Latex 700 printer with latex ink, the vinyl was heat-installed onto a brick wall for a seamless and durable application.



**awarded to a KS/MO entrant*



DIVISION 2

PLATINUM

Simon Printing

UT - Our Tower - Over 100 Years

Case-bound book digitally printed in-house using Ricoh 9210 and Xerox Iridesse presses. The cover is produced on 80# Cundance Felt Cover, featuring a fabric-wrapped case binding with embossed leather tag. Interior pages are printed 4-color process on 100# coated cover, calibrated and aligned for precision laser cutting. Finishing includes embossing by Embossed Creations and case binding by Texas Bindery Services.



GOLD

ColorMark

Perennials Wallcoverings By David Sutherland Inc.

A 40-page perfect-bound catalog showcases premium wallcoverings with exceptional print quality. Offset printed on a 640 Heidelberg LED press, the interior features 4-color process on 100# Mohawk Coolwhite Smooth Text for crisp detail. The cover, printed 4cp + PMS Green on 100# Mohawk Coolwhite Smooth Cover, is enhanced with foil stamping and a tri-mount cover. Finished with perfect binding by C&R Bindery for a refined and durable presentation.



SILVER*

LARGEPRINTING.com

Conroy's Public House – Stained Glass Window Transformation

BRONZE*

Kingston

Time to Celebrate!

**awarded to a KS/MO entrant*

DIVISION 3



PLATINUM

Brodnax 21C Printers

75th Anniversary Picture Book

Hardcover book featuring 384 pages, printed 4-color process on a Heidelberg CD102-6L press. The interior is printed on 100# Cougar Opaque Smooth Text and folded to 11.5" x 11.5". The cover, with no print, includes debossing and white foil on 80# Classic Crest Eggshell Epic Black. Smyth sewn and case bound.

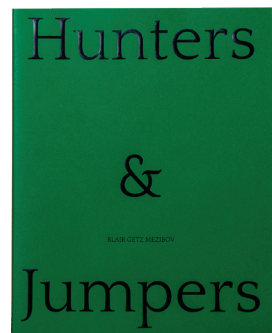


PLATINUM

Brodnax 21C Printers

Blair Horses Hunters & Jumpers

Softcover book printed 4-color process on a Landa Nanographic Printing Press S10P. The cover, produced on 91# Colorplan Text Lochwood Green, features foil stamping with no print. The 64-page interior is printed on 80# Mohawk Via Vellum Text Cool White and folded to 11" x 13.75".



GOLD*

NextPage

KC Symphony Michael Stern Reversible Book



SILVER

Slate Group

The Printing Express

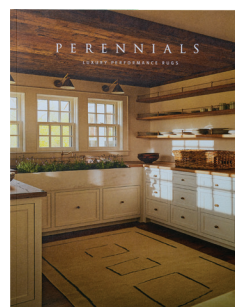
Self-promotional package showcasing in-house capabilities. Printed on a Komori GL540 UV/LED press and AGFA Tauro flatbed printer using specialty papers. Features foil stamping, die-cutting, and a tear-strip box, with finishing on a Kluge APEX Foil Press and Heidelberg Cylinder Letterpress.

BRONZE

ColorDynamics

Perennials - Luxury Performance Rugs Catalog 2024

A 136-page perfect-bound rug catalog showcasing high-performance textiles. Printed UV offset on a Heidelberg 840P press in four-color process for vibrant clarity. Features a 100# Classic Crest Eggshell Solar White cover and 80# text, with binding by C&R Binding for a refined finish.



**awarded to a KS/MO entrant*

BEST OF GULF COAST

PLATINUM

Bayside Printing

Kaleidoscope Ball Invitation package

Invitation suite printed 4-color process on a 20" Heidelberg Speedmaster 4-color sheet-fed press. The invitation cover is printed on 100# Accent Opaque Cover, with a 4-page interior on 100# Accent Opaque Text. The reply card is printed on 100# Accent Opaque Cover, and the reply envelope is produced on 60# Accent Opaque White Smooth A7 stock. Die-cutting and scoring were completed on a Heidelberg cylinder letterpress, with a Kwik Kut steel rule die.

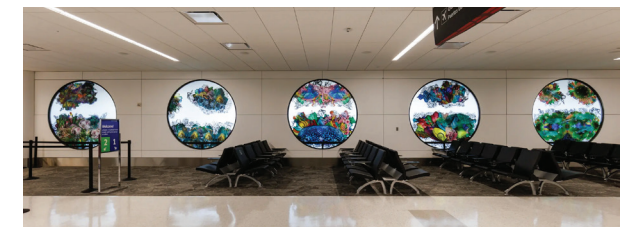


GOLD

1to1printers

Water Whips, Sanctuary Tunnel

Large-scale fine art window installation featuring 19 individually shaped, double-sided art pieces printed on 3M 40C Clear Vinyl. The original artwork, digitally manipulated in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, was printed using a Canon Colorado M Series with CMYK + White ink and precision cut on a Colex Router. Installed on 90-inch round windows along a 321-foot span, the display creates an immersive aquarium-like experience for visitors to enjoy. The art is credited to Janavi Mahimtura Folmsbee.

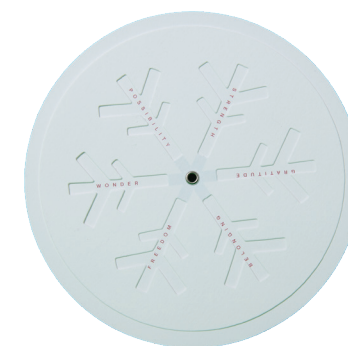


SILVER

Simon Printing

Little Shifts Circular Holiday Card

Holiday and planning instrument designed for an annual meeting, serving as both a review tool and organizational guide. Digitally printed on a Ricoh 9210 press using 110# Fluorescent White Cover. Finishing includes precision cutting and drill punching by Embossed Creations. Paper supplied by Lindenmeyer Munroe.

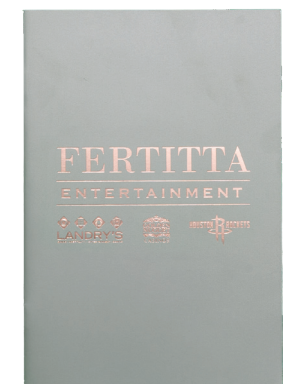


BRONZE

Absolute Color Mailplex

Fertitta Entertainment Calendar Catalog

A 32-page calendar booklet highlighting hospitality venues under the Fertitta Entertainment umbrella. Printed on a Komori Lithrone S40P 10-Color Offset Press. The cover, produced on 111# Vellum Cover, features PMS Silver ink with soft-touch AQ and embossed Rose Gold foil. Interior pages are printed 4-color process on 100lb Gloss Text with dull AQ coating.



BEST OF HILL COUNTRY & HIGH PLAINS

PLATINUM
Accu-Print

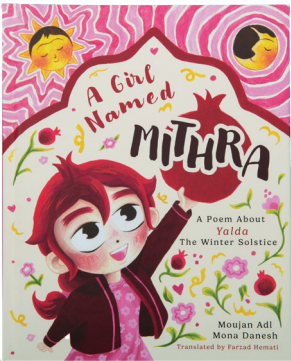
San Antonio Zoo Ball Invitation

Gate-fold invitation (18" x 9" flat, 9" x 9" folded) printed in full color with duplex printing and bleed, paired with a 9.5" x 9.5" envelope. Glama Natural belly band (19.25" x 3.125") with personalized addressing wraps around the envelope. Includes a full-color, duplex-printed wine card/RSVP (4.125" x 5.5") and Zoo Ball envelope flap labels.



GOLD
Capital Printing
Civil Rights Program

Saddle-stitched 28-page booklet plus cover, finished to 7" x 10". The back cover is printed in black with gold foil stamping on the front and maximizes white space on 130# Classic Crest Smooth Solar White Cover and scored for a refined finish. The interior pages are printed 4-color process plus PMS Metallic Gold 871 on 100# Classic Crest Smooth Solar White Text with full bleed. Completed with folding, trimming and saddle stitching.



SILVER
Litho Press

"A Girl Named Mithra"

Case-bound children's publication printed on a Ryobi 970 UV 4-Color Press. The text is printed on 100# Silk Text with 100# Silk Cover end sheets. Case bound by Universal Bookbindery, ensuring durability and a premium finish.



BRONZE
Fused Graphics Group
Equibrand Spiral Bound Catalog

Spiral-bound publication printed on a Heidelberg SM102 8-Color 40" Perfecting Press. The cover is printed on 120# Endurance Gloss Cover with flood lamination and foil stamping, while the text is printed on 60# Endurance Gloss Text using Sunlit Legend Traditional Offset Inks. Foil stamping by Sarchet Printing Company and spiral binding by C&R Bindery complete the finishing.

BEST OF INNOVATION

PLATINUM
The Boxman
Birthday Invitation

Invitation designed to replicate a musical amplifier, featuring functional sound knobs, an on/off switch with a working light, and foam cavities for the invitation and a Bluetooth speaker behind the speaker door. Produced using black soft-touch Mano with die-cutting, foil stamping, and UEI foils and dies. Incorporates batteries and electrical components for an interactive experience.



GOLD
OptiGraphics

Cabaret The Kit Kat Club featuring Adam Lambert

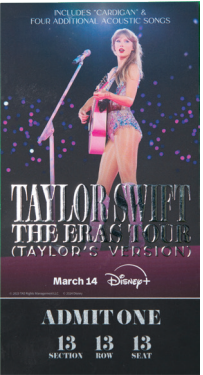
Large-format lenticular signage printed on a 48" x 72" 40 LPI, 33 mil. thick flexible PETG lens using an Epson large-format flatbed printer. The high-resolution 300 DPI print includes four hits of white for opacity, allowing vibrant colors and seamless lightbox display. Unique three-image movement was achieved, a rare feat in lenticular printing.



SILVER
OptiGraphics

Taylor Swift Disney VIP Ticket

VIP concert tickets produced using Scodix liquid foil technology. Printed on 14 pt. C2S Tango paper with four-color process on an HP digital press, the tickets feature variable-imaged silver-to-black foil for sections, rows, and seats. Scodix foil enhancements provided a premium finish without traditional foil stamping, delivering a visually striking and highly collectible design.



BRONZE
Brodnax 21C Printers

2024 Brodnax Capacity Pocket Folder with Magnet

Custom 9" x 12" pocket folder printed on 120# Accent Opaque Smooth Cover using a Heidelberg CD102-6L press. Features two side pockets, a center pocket with business card slits, and a magnetic closure. Soft-touch laminated with Scodix raised spot UV. Printed in two passes with vibrant UV inks. Die-cut by Performance Specialty Service and finished in-house.



SPECIALTY AWARDS

JUDGES' CHOICE

Impact Stamping

WOVEN HONOR

Custom turned-edge rigid box with velvet insert, printed digitally on an HP Indigo press. Features include soft-touch lamination, digital foil, and spot UV embellishments. Produced using a GBC laminator and Scodix for finishing. Printed on 100# gloss text.



BEST COLLABORATION

Blanks Printing and Digital Solutions

Dallas Theological Seminary Centennial Celebration Campaign

Print series featuring a save-the-date, banquet information, and two hardcover books in a custom hard case sleeve. Printed on Heidelberg CD102 and HP 7900 presses with UV printing, soft-touch, gold foil, debossing, and a foil-stamped magnet. Produced on 120# McCoy Silk Cover and 100# Bilt Satin Cover and Text, with finishing by RegisterMarks, C&R Bindery, and Impact Stamping.



BEST OF PAPER

MetroVCS

MF Creative Designs Huddleston Wedding

Elegant invitation suite printed on Mohawk Superfine White Eggshell Cover and Colorplan Stone Cover using letterpress, foil stamping, and embossing. The invitation features PMS 644U letterpress text, MS142 foil stamping, and a blind-embossed floral design. Additional pieces include a details card, rehearsal dinner card, and welcome party card, all finished with letterpress, foil, and digital printing. A9 envelopes are foil stamped and digitally printed.



BEST OF INK

Jarvis Press

Alfa Romeo Welcome Kit

Tri-fold envelope package featuring an address card, radius die-cut panel, and a kiss-cut sticker sheet. Printed on HP12000 and Komori presses. The envelope is 80# Gloss Text with 4-color process and Soft Touch UV. The address card and tri-fold are printed 4/4 on 65# Gloss Cover. The sticker sheet is 3.5 mil. removable vinyl, printed 4-color process with PMS and UV Clear. Envelopes by RRD Pittsburgh. Paper supplied by Clampitt Paper.



SPECIALTY AWARDS

BEST USE OF SUBSTRATE

SixB Labels

Churtars Candy Labels

Self-promotion piece showcasing label samples produced on the Epson SurePress L-6534 VW. This press enhances labels with matte or gloss varnish for added sheen and texture. Printed on Silver BOPP from Spinnaker using Epson digital toner. Die-cut with GM equipment and a mag die from Rotometrics.



BEST SPECIAL EFFECT

OptiGraphics

Score Football Box Set 60 Cards

A 60-card Score Football set using patented lenticular technology printed on an 18 mil. 75 LPI PE TG lens with a 14 pt. C2S Tango paper backer, the cards were produced on a Heidelberg 12-color UV press. The process included reverse printing, a 2.3 mil. soft-touch laminate for opacity, and a 1.4 mil. clear gloss laminate for added sheen. Carefully cut and collated into box sets and foil packs.



BEST OF PREPRESS

SixB Labels

Vibrant Living - Inner Radiance

Labels were produced on a Mark Andy Digital Pro 3 press. Printed on Fasson White BOPP #78333 with a self-wound laminate from QSPAC, the labels were designed for durability and aesthetic appeal. Existing tooling was utilized to optimize cost efficiency, while multiple proofs ensured a final design that met the client's expectations.



BEST OF PACKAGING

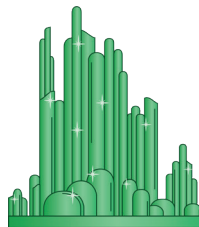
Impact Stamping

FATSU ICONIC

Magnetic enclosed turned-edge rigid box with sleeve, featuring digital print, foil stamping, spot UV, and soft-touch lamination. Printed on an HP Indigo press with finishing enhancements using Scodix, GBC laminator, die-cutting, and conversion. Constructed with 100# gloss text and cover sheets for a premium presentation.



SPECIALTY AWARDS



FINE DETAIL REVERSE PRINT EXECUTION

Spartan Printing & Packaging

Oroma 4 Pack Folding Carton

Folding carton printed on 20pt C1S SBS using a Komori GL-540 press. Finished with 4-color process and spot gloss UV coating for added contrast and visual appeal.



BEST OF EMBELLISHMENT

Impact Stamping

TCU FINE ARTS GALA

Invitation printed on Lessebo Colours Aubergine 81# text sheet using white ink and gold film lamination. Features foil stamping on acrylic and traditional foil stamping for an elegant finish. Produced on HP Indigo press with laser cutting, Kluge foil stamping, GBC lamination, and specialized packaging conversion.



FINISHING

MetroVCS

Neiman Marcus Awards Collateral

Awards collateral piece produced on 222# Gmund Colors Matt 49 Wedding Invite stock, final size 6.5" x 12". Features foil stamping with Luxor Matte 417, engraving with PMS 1817 ink, front embossing, gold edge painting, and 2-ply mounting. Dies by Batchelor, UEI, and Owosso.

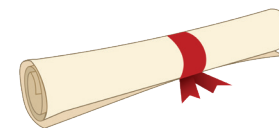


BEST OF BINDING

MetroVCS

Mous Studio Lookbook

Lookbook printed digitally on HP Indigo press. The cover is printed 4/4 on 100# Mohawk Superfine Ultra White Smooth Cover, with text pages on 100# Mohawk Superfine Ultra White Smooth Text. Sewn binding for durability and finished with collation.



STUDENTS

FIRST PLACE*

Pittsburg State University

Joni Mitchell Promotional Concept by Annabella Beachner



SECOND PLACE

University of Houston

Eid Greeting Card by Imaan Faisal

Eid greeting card featuring a swinger fold design with an illustrated front and space for a message on the back. Designed in Adobe and printed on a Konica Minolta MYIRO-9. Produced on 65# Parchtone White Vellum Cover from French Paper Company, sourced from Clampitt Paper. Hand-scored and die-cut using an X-Acto knife, with approximately 30 copies created.

THIRD PLACE*

Pittsburg State University

Bubble Gums Toothpaste box by Shae Gilstrap

JUDGES' CHOICE

Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy

Helping Hamilton (Federalist Essays)

Recreation of selections from The Federalist Papers, originally a student project focused on imposition and binding techniques. Printed on a Versant 280 Press using Xerox toner on True Red Copy Paper. Students arranged, saddle-stitched, and trimmed the essays with a Triumph 4350 Cutter. Mini biographies were also designed and included in the bound volumes.

STUDENT TECHNICAL AWARD*

Pittsburg State University

Keb Mo Promotional Concept by Alli Casner

*awarded to a KS/MO entrant



2025 PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR



CUSTOMER SERVICE PRINT PROFESSIONAL

Jana Blalock
Blanks Printing & Digital
Solutions



**PRODUCTION
PROFESSIONAL**
Gloria “Glo” Galvan
Simon Printing
Company



OUTSTANDING BINDERY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Socorro (Coco) Lopez
– Bindery Lead
Mike Sparks
– Bindery Manager
Brodnax 21C Printers



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
Michael Seward
Integ



OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION TEAM

Adrian Deluna
– Print Technician
Simone Keuhn
– Print Technician
Lee Ortiz
– Print Technician
Oscar Rivera
– Design/Pre-Press
Technician
Jennifer Santoy
– Print Technician
Abigail Trejos
– Print Technician Lead
Tori Wheeler
– Print Technician
Pflugerville ISD
Copy Center



With this year’s GraphEx wrapping up, it’s never too early to start planning for next year!

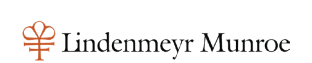
Why not keep the excitement going? Begin gathering your entries now and submit them early! Consider setting up a collection box to gather your standout pieces, special stories, and a copy of the job ticket.

Our 2026 GraphEx submissions are open year-round. Submit anytime at piamidam.org/entries.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



CELEBRATING OUR PRINT PARTNERS



Honoring Excellence in Graphic Communication

Thank you for being part of this evening's special celebration of print and those who make printed communications come alive.

Stay connected throughout 2025. Ask us about getting involved as a Print Ambassador, supporting our region at the annual golf tournaments, and taking advantage of all that PIA MidAmerica offers to help you succeed. Consider us an extension of your staff.

Production Notes
Paper: 100 lb. Hansol Explorer Gloss Cover
Press: Canon varioPRINT iX sheetfed
inkjet press

Email us at info@piamidam.org
Connect with us

