

## Grand Prix Città di Lugano 2026 RULES & REGULATIONS

### 1. The Award

InnovaComix – Lugano International Comic Art Festival organizes and promotes the **Grand Prix Città di Lugano**, with the goal of recognizing the best comic works published worldwide each year, along with their authors, regardless of nationality, publishing format, or distribution method.

All nominated works (25 in total) will be part of a group exhibition hosted by the Festival, which will also serve as the occasion for the **Audience Award** (see below).

All nominated authors will be invited as guests of the Festival, with all expenses covered by the organization.

### 2. Categories

The Grand Prix Città di Lugano awards the following categories. Winners of the five **Cygne D'Or** awards will receive a plaque and a monetary prize of 2,000 CHF (approximately 2,000 Euros) each.

#### Cygne D'Or

- **Best Comic Book**, awarded to a comic book published in a single volume or as a complete story within one book.
- **Best Drawing**, awarded to an artist nominated for the best drawing in a standalone comic or a series (or miniseries).
- **Best Writing**, awarded to a writer nominated for the best textual component in a standalone comic or a series (or miniseries).
- **Best Coloring**, awarded to an artist nominated for the best coloring in a standalone comic or a series (or miniseries).
- **Best Swiss Comic**, awarded to the best comic work by a Swiss artist.

#### Cygne d'Argent

The 25 nominated works competing for the Cygne D'Or, selected by the Selection Committee, are each winners of the **Cygne D'Argent**, which honors the 25 best comic works on the international scene for the eligible period. Winners of this award will be guests of the Festival, present their selected work to the public in dedicated panels, and have a selection of pages displayed in a group exhibition.

#### Special Awards

- **Audience Award**, granted to one of the nominated comics based on votes cast by attendees of the Festival. Voting is possible only after visiting the exhibition dedicated to the nominated works, using devices provided at the end of the exhibit path,



emphasizing the interactive nature of the event.

- **Innova Award**, presented to one of the attending artists for their contribution to innovation in the field through their recent creative output, regardless of the nominations.
- **Grand Prix Spécial Città di Lugano**, awarded based on the annual theme of the Festival to the artist whose work best reflects that theme, regardless of nominations. The winner will be honored with a solo exhibition the following year.

### 3. Cygne D'Or Nominations

The Grand Prix Città di Lugano nominations represent the best in comics during the eligible period. Works and their creators are nominated for the five Cygne D'Or awards based on submitted entries (see below), as selected by a dedicated **Selection Committee** made up of experts, external readers, cultural contributors from InnovaComix, and the Artistic Director. Nominations will be made public at least one month before the awards ceremony (February 28, 2026).

All nominees receive the **Cygne D'Argent** and are eligible for any of the Cygne D'Or categories (with the exception of Best Swiss Comic, which is reserved for Swiss creators). Publishers or authors (in case of self-publishing) of nominated works will receive graphic materials to create commemorative banners or similar promotional content.

### 4. Participation

The Grand Prix Città di Lugano allows **self-submission** by publishers and/or authors. Eligible entries include any comic works published for the first time in any country between **July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025**.

### 5. Submission

To submit a work for the Grand Prix Città di Lugano, candidates must email their application to **grandprix@innovacomix.ch**.

Each publisher and/or author may submit more than one work, attaching a digital version (PDF format) of each title to the email.

Due to the nature of the prize and the importance of authors' presence, submissions are recommended for works whose authors are available to attend the Festival, at least on the day of the awards ceremony (February 28, 2026). Travel and accommodations are fully covered by the Festival.

### 6. Physical Copies for Nominated Works

If one or more submitted works (or their creators) are nominated for the awards (thus receiving the Cygne D'Argent), they must also be sent in **physical format** to the address provided in the nomination notification email, or risk disqualification (this does not apply to online-only works or self-published titles).

For each nominated work, **seven physical copies** must be sent. InnovaComix will distribute one copy to each jury member and retain one for archiving purposes.



## 7. Deadline

The final deadline for digital submission is **Monday, July 7, 2025**. For nominated works, physical copies must be shipped within **seven business days** of receiving the nomination notice. The shipping date will be used as proof of compliance—late submissions will be disqualified.

## 8. Jury

The international jury, responsible for evaluating nominated works and assigning the Cygne D'Or awards, is composed of five renowned individuals involved in the comics world (critics, journalists, industry professionals), selected as follows:

- One native English speaker
- One native French speaker
- One native German speaker
- One native Italian speaker
- One from a different native language group

At least one juror will be of Swiss nationality.

One of the five members will serve as **Jury President**, and will cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie or disagreement.

The jury composition will be announced publicly before the submission deadline.

## 9. Award Ceremony

The winners will be announced and awards presented during a ceremony that is part of the official program of InnovaComix – Lugano International Comic Art Festival, on **February 28, 2026**.

