

Hamilton Celebrates Independent Journalism

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The Hamilton Room slowly filled as well-dressed people arrived to celebrate independent journalism in the city. The chatter grew as more people arrived. While some sat patiently, others stood by the snack-filled tables, waiting for the event to start.

The Hamilton Independent Media Awards (HIMAs, a.k.a. the Maggies), took place on Nov. 3. Dozens of people, including nominees and guests, gathered at the Hamilton Central Library to celebrate the annual event.

According to Kurt Muller, board member of the HIMAs, the event was started to commemorate the well-known independent Hamilton journalist Maggie Hughes.

“Also, to support journalists and artists who work in the same vein as Maggie,” he added.

“You can’t have good journalism without independence,” Muller continued. “This is a way to recognize those people and the contributions they make to a democratic society.”

The event was an opportunity for citizens to appreciate the hard work that independent journalists do, as Hamiltonian Taras Cymbalisty recognized.

“I’d never actually heard of the awards before, but I think it’s a wonderful thing,” said Cymbalisty. “It just builds more interest throughout the whole community.”

As the event progressed, nervous nominees watched Jamie Tennant, host of the event, announce the winners.

The HIMAs gave awards for best independent media outlet, as well as best journalist in areas like politics, environment, and arts and culture.

After winning the Maggie for best journalist in arts and culture, Lyla Miklos described the experience as overwhelming.

“To win an award for doing something that you love is [...] the cherry on top of the sundae,” said Miklos while proudly holding her award.

Each winner received \$200 in cash along with the award.