

LUCCA GAMES AWARDS

BOARD GAME
DESIGNER OF
THE YEAR
2025

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the contest

The Board Game Designer of the Year competition aims to reward the creative excellence of authors, or pairs of authors (hereinafter referred to as 'Author', even in the case of pairs), of Italian and international games, through the application of the criteria set out in Article 3. The prize is awarded annually to an Author who is still active and prolific in the board game market.

1.2. Organization

The award is organized by *Lucca Crea (Organizing Body)*. Ownership of the award, its logos and trademarks, as well as total discretion over the rules are reserved to *Lucca Crea*.

Lucca Crea also reserves the right to modify the rules of the award and the following articles at any time, totally or in part, by giving notice through its official communication channels. The Jury may propose changes to the rules by submitting duly dated and recorded requests. All proposed changes will be evaluated, and possibly implemented, by *Lucca Crea*.

1.3. Awards

The Board Game Designer of the Year prize is awarded annually.

The winner may use the contest logo for communication and marketing activities, as stated in Article 5.1.

1.4. Finality of decisions

The decisions of the Jury regarding the selection of the Winner (hereinafter referred to as 'Winner', even in the case of pairs) are final and cannot be appealed.

1.5. Duration of the competition

The prize is awarded annually to a game author who has made one or more titles available to the public in the two years before the current edition and up to the announcement of the opening of the prize as stated in Article 4.1.

2. Jury

2.1. Composition

The Jury is composed of 5 voting members, including the President, plus a Coordinator (in charge of supervising the works, without voting rights). The members of the Jury and the Coordinator are appointed by *Lucca Crea*.

Jurors are chosen by *Lucca Crea* among personalities, professionals and scholars who have participated or actively participate in board games awards, and are members of the SAZ Italia association (Spiele-Autoren-Zunft Italia).

The Jury is composed as follows:

- President, with a 3-year term of office, renewable at the end of term.
- One Jury member (or former juror) of the Gioco dell'Anno - Game of the Year award, with a 3-year term of office, renewable at the end of term.
- One spokesperson or delegate of the SAZ Association, with a 1-year term of office.
- One Jury member (or former juror) of a foreign board games award, with a 1-year term of office, renewable at the end of term.
- The latest winner of this award, with a 1-year term of office.
- Award Coordinator.

2.2. Terms of office

Extraordinary members of the Jury (i.e. the award's Coordinator), as identified with the revision of these Rules, shall hold office indefinitely, up to a maximum continuous tenure of 30 years.

The offices identified above are renewable, with no limit on renewals.

The President of the Jury will serve in office for a three-years term, and may be reappointed without renewal limits.

The Jury member (or former juror) of the Gioco dell'Anno-Game of the Year award may be reappointed every three years.

Ordinary members of the Jury serve for a maximum of two years.

Ordinary members of the Jury who end their term may be reappointed only after the completion of a one-year recess term.

2.3. President

The President's task is to act as the Jury's spokesperson, manage the voting, moderate the discussions, prepare the justifications for the awards, and draft the final document containing the reasons for the choice. The President of the Jury is chosen by *Lucca Crea*.

2.4. Coordinator

The Coordinator, with the support of *Lucca Crea*, is in charge of organizing the Jury meetings, coordinating communications among the Jurors, reminding the Jurors of deadlines, and organizing the award ceremony. The Coordinator is chosen by *Lucca Crea*.

3. Criteria for selection

3.1. Originality and innovation

Creative talent and competence in generating novel ideas are valued, as well as the ability to rework the state of the art in a personal, original, and critical way to create games that are innovative or even have distinct uniqueness. In addition, the ability to identify themes consistent with game mechanisms is a matter of merit, as is the cultural-historical accuracy of settings when necessary.

3.2. Sensitivity and timeliness

The ability to interpret players' desires, proposing games particularly suited to current market needs and thus destined to gain popularity in a short period of time, not only among industry audiences, but also among mass audiences, is examined.

3.3. Prolificacy and eclecticism

Consideration is given to the prolificacy of ingenuity, both in relation to the amount of games of recognized value made accessible to the public during the contest period and in terms of the aptitude for successfully engaging in diverse styles of gaming. In addition, skills in collaborating and creating synergies with other authors are positively valued.

4. Conduct of the works

4.1. Announcement of the competition and the Jury

By April each year *Lucca Crea* will announce the opening of the competition and the composition of the Jury.

4.2. Selection of the Winner

By the month of June of each year, the Jury meets (in physical mode, and/or in telematic mode) and selects, according to the criteria indicated in Article 3, the Winner of the prize.

4.3. Announcement of the Winner and awards ceremony

The Winner will be announced during the awards night of the *Lucca Comics & Games* festival. Afterwards, the announcement will be disseminated through the official channels of *Lucca Comics & Games*.

4.4. Disagreements within the jury

For any irremediable divergence of opinions that may arise within the Jury, the final word shall rest with the President, whose vote will count double in case of disagreements

5. Logo

5.1. Use of the logo

Lucca Crea will produce a manual for the use of the logos that it owns and is responsible for. The Winner will receive permission to use the logo, according to the instructions in the usage manual. The *Organizing Body* reserves the right to take legal action against those Authors who should use the logo without concession, or in a way that differs from what is indicated in the usage manual.

6. Funding of the contest

6.1. Management charges

Lucca Crea is the organizing body of the prize, and bears the burden of management expenses.

6.2. Communication

Lucca Crea is the organizing body of the prize, and takes on the burden of communication, commissioning its own communication and press channels.