2006 Webby Awards nominees released

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Top blogs and podcasts will be decided at this year's 10th Annual Webby Awards on May 9. The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences released Tuesday its nominations for this year's awards, which honors excellence in Web design, functionality, and creativity every year.

"For a decade, The Webby Awards has honored the new and groundbreaking Web sites that have changed the way we work and live," said Tiffany Shlain, the founder and ambassador of The Webby Awards. "This year's nominees provide us with an inside look at where we're going next."

Among those categories making a debut this year are Political Blog, Business Blog, Culture Blog, and Podcast as well as Best use of Video or Moving Image.

Boing Boing, Cute Overload, GM FastLane Blog, Gartner Inc, and The Huffington Post, was some of those blogs nominated.

And podcast nominees included Podcast Pickle, Voices on Genocide Prevention, Yahoo! Podcasts, Youth Radio, and National Public Radio's Podcasts.

This year's leader in nominations was NPR with six, while other organizations receiving multiple nods were Google Earth, the Library of Congress, and The Book of Cool, among others.

Moreover, those nominated for Best Practice -- demonstrating breakthroughs in reshaping the cyber sphere -- included blog counter and aggregator Technorati, personal news aggregator Bloglines, online photo management and sharing application Flickr, and Google Maps.

The 535-member body of Web, business and creative experts from various industries -- musician David Bowie, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson, and "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening to name a few -- will be determining winners in the some 65 plus categories ranging from politics and news to fashion, social networking, and religion.

Criteria will be based on content, structure and navigation, visual design, functionality, interactivity, and overall experience.

In addition, The Webby People's Voice Awards presented by Verizon will allow individuals to vote for their favorite Web sites in all 65 Webby categories.

Winners will be honored on June 12 at an event at Cipriani Wall Street in New York City, hosted by comedian Rob Corddry of "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."

(A full list of nominees can be found at: www.webbyawards.com)

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