

The OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature 2019

Eligibility and entry guidelines

These guidelines have been updated for the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize. Please read carefully.

The **OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature** is an annual award for literary books by Caribbean writers, first presented in 2011. Books are judged in three categories: **poetry; fiction** — both novels and collections of short stories; and **literary non-fiction** — including books of essays, biography and autobiography, history, current affairs, travel, and other genres, which demonstrate literary qualities and use literary techniques, regardless of subject matter. (*Note: textbooks, technical books, coffee-table books, specialist publications and reference works are not eligible.*)

There will be a panel of three judges for each category, who will determine category shortlists and winners.

The three category winners will then be judged by a panel of four judges — consisting of the chairs of the category panels and the prize chair — who will determine the overall winner.

The author of the book judged overall winner will receive an award of US\$10,000. The other category winners will receive cash awards of US\$3,000.

• To be eligible for entry for the 2019 prize, a book must:

1. Have been first published in the calendar year 2018 (1 January to 31 December);
2. Have been written by a single author who either holds Caribbean citizenship or was born in the Caribbean (this must be verified by the publisher), regardless of current place of residence;
3. Have been written by an author who is living on 31 December, 2018;
4. Have been written and first published in English originally (i.e. translations are not eligible);
5. Be a new work, previously unpublished in book form (though collections including poems, stories, essays, or other short pieces that have individually appeared in print in periodicals or anthologies *are* eligible).

See Appendix 1 for a list of territories which constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.

• Books must be entered by their publishers (though judges may call in further books at their discretion).

- There is no requirement for publishers of eligible books to be located in the Caribbean.
- Each publisher may enter a maximum of five books per category (poetry, fiction, non-fiction), for a maximum of fifteen titles per publisher. A book may be entered in only one category. Publishers must get authors' consent for entry.
- Self-published books may be submitted by their authors, following the same procedure outlined in these guidelines. Self-published authors should provide their own contact information on the entry form.
- There is an entry fee of US\$35 per title. We can accept US dollar bank drafts made payable to **The Bocas Lit Fest**, PayPal transfers, or bank wire transfer inclusive of ALL bank charges. (Contact info@bocaslitfest.com for PayPal or bank transfer details.) We do not accept cash or postal orders. **Payment must accompany each title submitted.** *Note: For Canadian entries accompanied by a Canadian dollar bank draft, this should be to the equivalent value of US\$35. Trinidad and Tobago publishers can pay TT\$235 per entry in cash or cheque (exact amount required).*
- Each title must be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- Publishers must provide five copies of each title entered, and agree to provide a further five copies of shortlisted titles.
- Each entry should be accompanied by a short biographical note on the author. Publishers must also provide digital photos of shortlisted authors.
- Books will be accepted for entry at the discretion of The Bocas Lit Fest. Decisions on eligibility are final. Non-eligible books and their entry fees will not be returned.
- Books published before 31 October, 2018, must be delivered to the Bocas Lit Fest (or judges, where applicable) by **14 November, 2018**. ONLY books published between 31 October and 31 December, 2018, will be accepted for entry by the second deadline, **9 January, 2019**. Eligible books that arrive after each deadline date will not be considered. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- Ineligible books will not be returned to publishers.
- Publishers must send books **by courier** to the Bocas Lit Fest office to guarantee timely arrival and onward dispatch to judges:

Bocas Lit Fest
Attn: OCM Bocas Prize
38 Coblentz Avenue
St. Ann's
Trinidad and Tobago
Telephone: 1 (868) 222 7099

However, if a publisher is located in the same country as one of the relevant judges, one copy of the relevant title may be sent directly to that judge. Other copies should be sent to the Bocas Lit Fest address above.

Please contact the prize administrators for the names of relevant judges.

- The 2019 prize longlist will be announced in March 2019. The shortlist will be announced in April 2019. The overall winner will be announced on 4 May, 2019, at a ceremony during the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Trinidad and Tobago's annual literary festival in Port of Spain.
- Publishers must agree that extracts from shortlisted books may be published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Daily* and *Sunday Express*, for purposes of promoting the winning titles. These extracts will appear twice weekly in April 2019.
- Publishers should notify authors of titles entered for the prize that the three category winners may be invited to attend the award ceremony in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on 4 May, 2018, and are expected to record a filmed interview.
- Category winners and the overall winner of the OCM Bocas Prize are expected to be willing to represent the Prize at international festivals and other fora if invited to do so. Please confirm that the writer whose work is being submitted would be prepared to accept this condition of entry.
- **Publishers must use a reliable international courier** (not regular air mail) to send entries, to ensure prompt delivery.
- For any queries about eligibility requirements or the submission process, please contact the prize administrators at:

info@bocaslitfest.com

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Entry form

Please refer to the eligibility and entry guidelines when completing this form. Each title entered for the prize must be accompanied by a printed and completed copy of this form.

Date: _____

Name of publisher: _____

Address of publisher: _____

Contact name and job title: _____

Contact email address: _____

Contact telephone numbers: _____

Title of book: _____

Category (choose one): poetry fiction non-fiction

Date of first publication: _____

Name of author: _____

Country of birth: _____

Country of current citizenship: _____

I confirm that I have read and will abide by the eligibility guidelines for the 2019 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.

I confirm that the above information is accurate.

I confirm that the entry fee of US\$35/TT\$235 is enclosed or has been paid by PayPal/bank transfer.

I confirm that, if this title is shortlisted, I will make additional copies available for publicity purposes at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2019.

I agree to allow the OCM Bocas Prize administrators to disclose that this title has been entered for the 2019 competition, and for extracts of shortlisted titles to be published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Express* for promotional purposes.

I confirm that the writer whose work is submitted for this Prize is prepared to attend international literary events if invited as a Prize winner, at his/her convenience.

If, as part of this submission, a book has been sent directly to one or more judges based in the same country as the publisher (see guidelines above), please list the judge(s) names here:

Signature of contact at publisher: _____

Appendix 1

Definition of the Caribbean

For the purposes of the OCM Bocas Prize, the Caribbean is defined as including the following countries and territories:

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
The Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
Bonaire
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Cuba
Curaçao
Dominica
Dominican Republic
French Guiana
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Martinique
Montserrat
Puerto Rico
Saba
St Barthélemy
St Kitts and Nevis
St Lucia
St Martin/Sint Maarten
St Vincent and the Grenadines
Sint Eustatius
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos
US Virgin Islands

NB: books entered for the OCM Bocas Prize must be originally written and published in English.