

The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize, 2021

Eligibility and entry guidelines

The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize is an annual award which allows an emerging Caribbean writer living and working in the Anglophone Caribbean to devote time to advancing or finishing a literary work, with support from an established writer as mentor. The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize is sponsored by philanthropist Dr. Kongshiek Achong Low and administered by The Bocas Lit Fest and the literary charitable trust, Arvon.

In its third year, 2021, The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize will be awarded for a poetry work in progress.

The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize consists of:

1. A cash award of US \$3,000;
2. A year's mentoring by an established writer;
3. Travel to the United Kingdom to attend a one-week intensive Arvon creative writing course at one of Arvon's internationally renowned writing houses;
4. A three-day stay in London during which Arvon, in association with the Free Word Centre, will host an event that features the winner of the Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize;
5. Aitken Alexander Associates, the London literary agency, has the option to agent the winning writer if they choose to do so. The writer is free to pursue other agents if this agency does not exercise the option.

The winner of the 2021 Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize will be announced during the 2021 NGC Bocas Lit Fest (dates to be confirmed).

To be eligible for entry, a writer must:

1. Be of Caribbean birth or citizenship, living and working in the Anglophone Caribbean and writing in English;
2. Be over the age of 18 by 30 September, 2020
3. Not have previously published a book-length poetry collection. For the purposes of this prize, self-published books do not count as 'previously published', and authors who have self-published a poetry collection may still submit work-in-progress to the prize.

See Appendix 1 for a list of eligible territories for the purposes of the Johnson and Amoy Achong Prize.

Each entrant may make only one submission for the 2021 Johnson and Amoy Achong Prize. Each submission must include:

1. A sample of a poetry collection in progress which the Prize will allow the writer to advance or complete. The sample must comprise a minimum of three and a maximum of five poems. There is no line limit – minimum or maximum – for each individual poem, but the overall maximum length of the poems combined must not exceed 120 lines. All work submitted for consideration can be on any subject, and written in any style or form, but must be the entrant's own original writing, and should not have appeared in print or appear on a website (including blogs and social networking sites) or have been broadcast, or be submitted for publication or consideration elsewhere, for the duration of the Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize (which is judged to be from 23 July 2020 to 31 May 2021). Work found to be published in print or on a website or to have been broadcast will be disqualified.
2. An outline of the entire work in progress and how the writer plans to develop it.
3. A statement of no more than 500 words about why your work should be supported by this Prize.
4. A copy of at least two poems previously published in magazines, journals, anthologies, or websites with editorial oversight. State the date and place of publication and the name of the publisher. Note: extracts from personal blogs or self-published work will not be accepted as samples of previously published writing. Transcripts of publicly performed writing (e.g. work read at a curated festival or public show) will be accepted. In the case of performance work, state the date and name of the event/ place of reading.
5. A completed entry form.

Note: the writer's name MUST NOT appear anywhere in the submitted pages except for on the entry form. This is to ensure the judging process is "blind". Failure to observe this requirement will lead to disqualification.

Each part of the submission MUST be attached as a separate Word document or PDF from other entry materials. Each attachment should be titled appropriately: 1. Work in progress (title), 2. Outline, 3. Statement, 4. Previously published work (title), 5. Previously published work (title) 6. entry form.

Note: all submissions should be typed in a basic font, 12 point, black, with double spacing. Submissions must be submitted as .doc or .pdf files. Please ensure that submissions are carefully proofread and formatting is complete.

Submissions must be made electronically. Please send all submission materials attached to a single email addressed to awards@bocaslitfest.com. The email subject line should read "**Johnson and Amoy Achong Prize**".

- The 2021 Johnson and Amoy Achong Prize opens for entries on 23 July 2020. The closing date is 30 September 2020, at 6:00 pm TT time. No late entries will be accepted.
- The Johnson and Amoy Achong Prize will be judged by a panel comprising

representatives of the Achong family and Arvon, an agent from the Aitken Alexander Associates literary agency, and up to two representatives of the Bocas Lit Fest.

- For any queries about eligibility requirements or the submission process, please contact the prize administrators at: **awards@bocaslitfest.com**

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Entry form

Date: _____

Name of writer: _____

Address of writer: _____

Date of birth: _____

Sex: _____

Country of birth: _____

Country of citizenship: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Title of sample from work in progress: _____

Title(s) of sample(s) of previously published writing and date/place of publication/name of publisher:

1) _____

2) _____

I confirm that I have read and will abide by the eligibility guidelines for the 2021 Johnson and Amoy Achong Prize

I confirm that I have not previously published a poetry book

I confirm that the above information is accurate.

Signature of writer: _____

Appendix 1

Definition of the Caribbean

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

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
The Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Dominica
Grenada
Guyana
Jamaica
Montserrat
St Kitts and Nevis
St Lucia
St Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos
US Virgin Islands