



The Burt Award for Caribbean Literature 2015

Eligibility and Entry Guidelines

The Burt Award for Caribbean Literature is an annual Award that will be given to three English-language literary works for young adults (aged 12 through 18) written by Caribbean authors. Established by CODE – a Canadian charitable organization that has been supporting literacy and learning for over 50 years – in collaboration with William (Bill) Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation and the Bocas Lit Fest, the Award aims to provide engaging and culturally-relevant books for young people across the Caribbean.

Up to three prizes will be awarded each year to the authors of the winning titles: a First Prize of \$10,000 CAD, a Second Prize of \$7,000 CAD and a Third Prize of \$5,000 CAD.

Publishers of winning titles will be awarded a guaranteed purchase of up to **2,500 copies** of each winning book. Copies purchased by the program will be donated to select libraries, schools and literacy organizations for distribution throughout the region. Winning publishers commit to actively market an additional minimum of **1,200 copies** of each winning title and are encouraged to develop digital versions (ebooks) of winning titles.

Published books, previously self-published books, and unpublished manuscripts are eligible for the Award. Eligible books and unpublished manuscripts can be submitted to the Bocas Lit Fest by publishers registered and operating in the Caribbean. Unpublished manuscripts or previously self-published books can also be submitted by authors directly to the Bocas Lit Fest.

Books published between **1 October 2012 and 23 October 2014** and eligible manuscripts must be received at the office of the Bocas Lit Fest by **24 October 2014**. Books that arrive after the deadline will not be considered. The Award longlist will be announced in February 2015. The shortlist will be announced in March 2015. The winners will be announced in April 2015 at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Award Eligibility and Submission Criteria

Who is eligible?

- The Burt Award is open to authors who were born in or who are citizens of an eligible Caribbean* country, regardless of their current place of residence. See **Appendix 1** for definitions of which territories constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.
- Authors must have been alive on 23 October 2014.

What books and manuscripts are eligible?

- The Burt Award is open to original, English-language literary works for young adults written by Caribbean authors. For this Award, the term young adult generally refers to readers from ages 12 through 18.
- Published books, previously self-published books, and unpublished manuscripts are eligible for the Award.
- Works of literary fiction, literary non-fiction, and graphic novels written for young adults are eligible. Works of poetry or drama, anthologies, short story collections, textbooks or instructional manuals **are not** eligible.
- Books and manuscripts must be in English. Works that have been translated into English are also eligible. In these cases, the Award would be shared equally between the author and translator
- Eligible books and manuscripts can be submitted by publishers registered and operating in the Caribbean*. See **Appendix 1** for definitions of which territories constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.
- Eligible self-published books or manuscripts can also be submitted by their authors directly.
- Published books previously submitted to the Burt Award cannot be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years; manuscripts previously submitted to the Burt Award can be re-submitted for consideration in subsequent years but **ONLY** if they have been significantly revised.
- Works should be engaging and entertaining and reflect issues of interest to Caribbean youth. The Award is given for literary and artistic excellence. Publishers and authors should submit works accordingly.

I. Eligibility of published books

- Must have been published for the first time in book form between **1 October 2012 and 23 October 2014**.
- Must have an ISBN.
- Must be a minimum of approximately 120 pages (or 30,000 words) in length (except in the case of graphic novels).
- Must be submitted by publishers registered and operating in the Caribbean*

- Published books previously submitted to the Burt Award cannot be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years.

II. Eligibility of self-published books

- Must have been published for the first time in book form between **1 October 2012 and 23 October 2014**.
- Must be a minimum of approximately 120 pages (or 30,000 words) in length (except in the case of graphic novels).
- In the case of a self-published book submitted by an author, the author must agree to have the work published by an eligible publisher within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.
- Self-published books previously submitted to the Burt Award cannot be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years.

III. Eligibility of unpublished manuscripts

- Must be a minimum of approximately 30,000 words (or 120 pages) in length (except in the case of graphic novels).
- Must be submitted to the Bocas List Fest electronically via email.
- Must be written using 12 point, Times New Roman font, and double spaced.
- In the case of a manuscript submitted by a publisher, the publisher must agree to publish the work within six (6) months of notification if it is successful in the competition. In the case of a manuscript submitted by an author, the author must agree to have the work published by an eligible publisher within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.
- Manuscripts will be assessed alongside published books: it is recommended that manuscripts be carefully edited.
- Manuscripts previously submitted to the Burt Award can be re-submitted for consideration in subsequent years **ONLY** if they have been significantly revised.

****See Appendix 1 for definitions of which territories constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.***

Award Terms and Conditions

- Publishers must notify authors of titles entered for the Award. Winning authors will be invited to attend the Award ceremony in Port of Spain Trinidad in April 2015 and to participate in activities to promote themselves, their titles, and the Award.
- Publishers or authors must provide five (5) copies of each title entered at the time of submission. Publishers and authors must agree to provide a further five (5) copies of the titles if they are shortlisted.

- Each submitted title must be accompanied by a completed entry form, including a short biographical note about the author.
- Publishers or authors of shortlisted titles must agree to provide digital photos of authors and participate in media and promotional activities related to the Award.
- Once the winners have been contacted, they must confirm acceptance of the prize and agree to keep the results of the competition confidential until CODE and Bocas Lit Fest makes the official announcement.
- Publishers of winning unpublished manuscripts they submitted must agree to publish the work within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.
- Authors of winning unpublished manuscripts or previously self-published titles that they submitted must agree to be published by an eligible publisher within six (6) months of notification that it has been successful in the competition.
- Publishers of winning titles are requested to provide to CODE, at no cost, ten copies of winning books for promotion and sponsorship purposes.
- Publishers must commit to actively market an additional minimum 1,200 copies of each of the winning titles.
- CODE's Burt Award supports and promotes the writing and publishing of high quality, culturally relevant books. While a quantity of copies of the winning title is purchased in print form, it is CODE's strong desire that the Publisher will endeavour to actively market the title and to make the book available in electronic versions at a future date to ensure young people's love of reading is possible in as many digital formats as possible. CODE commits to support winning publishers in these endeavors.
- Authors and publishers of winning books must participate fully in all Award events, including the prize presentation, receptions, media interviews and press conferences. They must also allow photographs and public information about themselves to be used for promotion of the awards and in other CODE promotional initiatives.
- The support of CODE should be clearly acknowledged in any public announcements, advertising or publications related to books that receive a Burt Award.
- **Winning titles will be chosen based on their literary merit, and their ability to engage young readers and to address issues confronting youth in the Caribbean. There is no guarantee that all three prizes will be awarded every year. Only titles that meet the criteria and standards of the jury will be deemed worthy of winning prizes.**
- The decisions of the jury are final.

Deadline:

In the case of published or previously self-published books, eligible publishers or authors must send **five copies** of each title entered by courier to the Bocas Lit Fest.

The Bocas Lit Fest**Attn: Burt Award for Caribbean Literature****38 Coblenz Avenue****Cascade, Port of Spain****Trinidad and Tobago****Telephone: 1 (868) 222-7099**

In the case of unpublished manuscripts, publishers or authors must send 1 copy of the manuscript electronically to the Bocas Lit Fest at burtaward@bocaslitfest.com.

All submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form, including a short biographical note about the author.

Titles must be received by the Award administrators by **24 October 2014**. Titles that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.

Works will be accepted at the discretion of the chair of the jury, who will determine questions of eligibility when necessary. Works deemed ineligible will not be returned to publishers or authors.

Judging:

The Burt Award for Caribbean Literature will be judged by an independent jury administered by the Bocas Lit Fest. The jury will consist of four members and will include one Chair, one Canadian representative chosen by CODE and two representatives chosen by The Bocas Lit Fest. The decisions of the jury are final.

For queries about eligibility requirements or the submission process please contact the prize administrators at:

burtaward@bocaslitfest.com

or

Catherine Belshaw

Literary Awards Officer

CODE

CBelshaw@codecan.org

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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 completed copy of this entry form.

Date: _____

Name of publisher (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Contact name and job title: _____

Contact email address: _____

Contact telephone numbers: _____

Title of book: _____

Genre of book: _____

Date of first publication (if applicable): _____

Name of author: _____

Country of author's birth: _____

Country of author's current citizenship: _____

About the author: _____

Please attach a short biographical note about the author.

I confirm that I have read and will abide by the eligibility guidelines and terms and conditions for the 2015 Burt Award for Caribbean Literature.

I confirm that the above information is accurate.

I agree to allow the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature administrators to disclose that this title has been entered for the 2015 competition, and to participate fully in all Award activities as outlined in the terms and conditions.

Signature: _____

Appendix 1

Definition of the Caribbean

For the purposes of the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature, the Caribbean is defined as including the following countries and territories:

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
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
U.S. Virgin Islands.

Please note: Only English-language titles are eligible for the Award.