

## Strategic Plan Breakout

### Education Programme

The educational programme of The Allen Prize for Young Writers in the first instance will comprise an annual workshop and three seminars a year.

- An annual developmental workshop will form part of the Prize for the writers adjudged the top achievers in each category and genre.
- Educational seminars will be held to support young writers to produce work of sound quality.
- Presenters will be drawn from a local and international pool of writers. The Allen Prize covers four genres: fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama. The initial list of presenters who have been or will be approached includes: Anson Gonzalez, poet; Dr Paloma Mohammed, playwright; Kei Miller, novelist and poet; and Vaneisa Baksh, journalist.

### Annual Workshop

The organization will host an annual, age-appropriate, two-day workshop facilitated by professional writers. This workshop will be open only to the top participants in the Prize competition, up to 20 participants. Workshops will take place in July of every year.

The facilitators will make some presentations but the emphasis will be on placing writers into small working groups with mentors. The workshops will expose participants to technique, style and language. Attention will be paid to craft, research, and presentation.

Workshops will give writers the opportunity to have their work critiqued.

Continued mentoring by older writers will take place through networking after the workshops. The Allen Prize web site will include moderated chat rooms. Various means will be employed to keep young people in touch with the network of mentoring writers.

## **Once-a-term Seminars**

The Allen Prize will host three seminars a year, one in each term. They will be open to all young people eligible for the Prize in order to disseminate the principles of good writing in each of the genres under consideration in the Prize.

Seminars will be free of charge to participants. Each seminar will last approximately three hours. Up to 200 participants will be invited to attend each seminar.

Each seminar will cover one of three catchment areas: North/East, Central/South, and Tobago. Students from all secondary schools in the catchment area will be invited to the respective seminar. Schools will be invited to send students who are interested in writing, or who are already writing seriously, to participate.

Each seminar will be held at an appropriate venue to allow the widest possible national participation. This might necessitate reducing the number of participants, depending on the size of available venues, and the budget available for each seminar.

The format of the seminars will differ from the workshops in that they will be presentation-oriented. Up to five experienced writers will make presentations on writing at each seminar. There will be no more than three presentations at each seminar. A question period will follow each presentation.

As far as possible, each seminar will mix general technical presentations—on character or dialogue, for example—with genre-specific presentations.

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