

Creative workshops with some of the best facilitators - visionaries in publishing, language and all aspects of writing - have been staples of our annual literary festival. Now, they are available throughout the year, via Zoom, for you to access wherever you are, in an intimate group with feedback and support.

JUN 26



How to Make Your Book Look Good, with Melanie Archer

Books are often judged by their cover and how they look and feel. This seminar focuses on understanding the aesthetics of publishing — book covers, layout and design. Learn about what goes into good book design.

All levels / \$225
10-11:30am

JUL 30



Sentence by Sentence: The Language of Fiction, with Barbara Lalla

A workshop combining close reading of classic texts with analysis of grammar and vocabulary, the most basic building blocks of prose. How do you craft your sentences and paragraphs to convey atmosphere and character? How can you improve your prose by studying the writing of our most celebrated authors?

All levels / \$300
10-11:30am

JUL 31



Images are Poems: An Introduction to Visual Poetry, with Andre Baggio

How a poem looks on a page influences how we read it. And in the cutting-edge genre of visual poetry — or “vispo” — language is mined for its visual qualities, as text becomes image and image is read as text. Drawing on examples from Caribbean and international writers, this workshop is designed to plunge you into this exciting genre and jumpstart your poetic creativity.

All levels / \$300
10-11:30am

Aug 27-Oct 1



Speculative Fiction Masterclass, with Karen Lord and Tobias Buckell:

Take Your Writing to the Next Level: A masterclass in speculative fiction, with four sessions over six weeks. Participants will work on short stories based on possible Caribbean futures. Material from this workshop may be featured in a “spec fic”-focused Bocas event in 2021.

Intermediate + Advanced levels / \$1,000
Participants must submit a 1000-2000 word sample of their work for consideration.

Aug 27, Sep 10, Sep 24, Oct 1
5-6:30pm

SEP 25



Scriptwriting, with David Edgecombe

Scripted dialogue can be a challenge when putting your ideas down on paper. Explore techniques to help you get your vision from pen to paper and performance. A free workshop for those focused on writing for theatre.

All levels / FREE
10-11:30am

OCT 2



Writing for Children, with Joanne Hillhouse

This 2-part seminar encourages you to unlock your creativity to develop engaging work for children. It examines your current work in progress and focuses on everything from concept, to character development and illustrations. Create captivating, page-turning work for young readers aged 7-12.

Intermediate + Advanced Levels / \$300
10-11:30am

OCT 30



From Short Story to Novel, with Sharma Taylor

For many budding writers, making the leap from a 10-page short story to a 200-page novel can be daunting. That's a transition Sharma Taylor herself had to make, as she completed her debut novel and secured a two-book publishing deal. She shares her insights and experience in transferring the craft and technique of short-form fiction to a successful novel, and building your career as an emerging writer.

All levels / \$300
10-11:30am

NOV 27



The History Around Me: Writing Popular History, with Bridget Brereton

Learn the fundamentals of producing well researched and written pieces on historical topics of many different kinds, including biographies (lives of others, living or dead) and autobiographies/memoirs (writing one's own life). Establish a wide appeal and get creative with engaging your audience.

All levels / \$300
10-11:30am

For information on all our workshops, visit <https://www.bocaslitfest.com/workshops/> or email us at workshops@bocaslitfest.com



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ABOUT THE FACILITATORS

WORKSHOPS



Melanie Archer

Based in Trinidad and Tobago, Melanie Archer is a freelance graphic designer who has worked in the fields of illustrated book publishing and editorial design for more than 15 years. Melanie is partner/editor at Robert & Christopher Publishers, and a part-time lecturer at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine. She also writes on art, design, and culture.

Andre Bagoo

Andre Bagoo is an award-winning poet and writer from Trinidad and Tobago and the author of several books of poetry including *Burn* (Shearsman, 2015) and *Pitch Lake* (Peepal Tree Press, 2017). He is a former newspaper journalist and his essay collection on art and literature, *The Undiscovered Country* (Peepal Tree Press, 2020) won the 2021 OCM Bocas Prize for nonfiction.

Bridget Brereton

Bridget Brereton is Professor Emerita of History, at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Her publications include *Race Relations in Colonial Trinidad* and *A History of Modern Trinidad*. She was chair of the non-fiction judging panel for the inaugural OCM Bocas Prize in 2010, and again in 2020.

Tobias Buckell

Born in the Caribbean, Tobias S. Buckell is a New York Times bestselling and World Fantasy Award winning author. His novels and almost one hundred stories have been translated into nineteen different languages. He has been nominated for the Hugo Award, Nebula Award, World Fantasy Award, and Astounding Award for Best New Science Fiction Author. He currently lives in Ohio but has been an NGC Bocas Lit Fest regular.



David Edgecombe

David Edgecombe teaches Theatre, Playwriting and Directing at the University of the Virgin Islands. His productions are numerous and include *Heaven*, which enjoyed a 25th Anniversary revival at UVI in 2016, having premiered in 1991 and toured St. Maarten, St. Kitts, Antigua and Montserrat. He is former Director of the Reichhold Center for the Arts.

Joanne Hillhouse

Antiguan and Barbudan Joanne Hillhouse is a cross genre writer, writing coach and book blogger. Her children's stories include *Lost! A Caribbean Sea Adventure* and *With Grace*. Her YA novel *Musical Youth* won a CODE Burt Award and is on the Caribbean Schools reading list. She is the force behind the Wadadli Pen project, which nurtures and showcases the literary arts in her country through a writing challenge and the Wadadli Youth Pen Prize. <http://wadadlipen.wordpress.com>

Barbara Lalla

Novelist Barbara Lalla is Professor Emerita, Language and Literature, at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine. She is the author of five novels; her latest, *One Thousand Eyes*, was published in April 2021. Her numerous scholarly works include *Postcolonialisms: Caribbean Rereading of Medieval English Discourse*, *Defining Jamaican Fiction: Marronage and the Discourse of Survival* and the co-authored *Language in Exile: Three Hundred Years of Jamaican Creole*, *Voices in Exile: Jamaican Texts of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* and *Caribbean Literary Discourse: Voice and Cultural Identity in the Anglophone Caribbean*.



Karen Lord

Karen Lord is a prize-winning Barbadian author, editor and research consultant. Her debut novel *Redemption in Indigo* was nominated for the 2011 World Fantasy Award for Best Novel. She is the author of science fiction novels *The Best of All Possible Worlds* and *The Galaxy Game*, and the crime-fantasy novel *Unraveling*. She edited the Peekash Press anthology *New Worlds, Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean* and judged the Commonwealth Short Story Prize and the 2018 CODE Burt Award for Caribbean YA Literature. She has taught several international creative writing workshops.

Sharma Taylor

The debut novel of Barbados-based, Jamaican lawyer Sharma Taylor, *What a Mother's Love Don't Teach You*, was bought at auction by Virago and will appear in 2022. She won the 2020 Wasafiri Queen Mary New Writing Prize, the 2020 Frank Collymore Literary Endowment Award and the 2019 Bocas Lit Fest's Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize. Twice shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, she was also a finalist for the 2020 Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean in the Brooklyn Caribbean Literary Festival's Caribbean Fiction Writers Competition.

