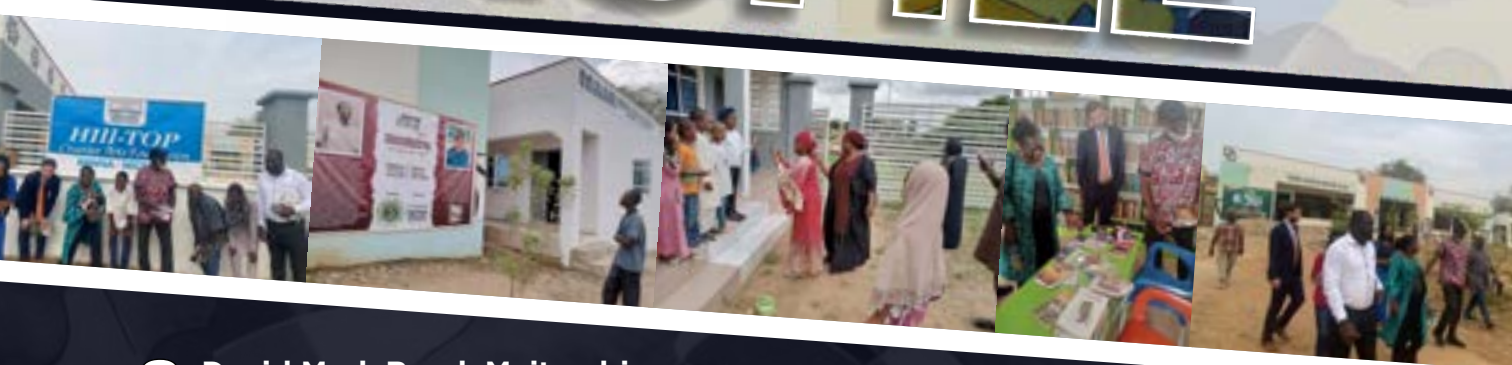
HILLTOP
CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION
CAC/IT/NO.86003

HILL-TOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

MINNA, NIGERIA



PROFILE



David Mark Road, Maitumbi,
P.O. Box 4070, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.





FOUNDATION PROFILE

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION



CAC/IT/NO 86003

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Certificate of Incorporation

of the Incorporated Trustees of

HILL-TOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

I hereby certify that

BABA MUHAMMAD DZUKOGI, KAMAR HAMZA , MAKAMA SHEKWOAGA , AWWAL ABDULLAHI SAKIWA, ISYAKU BALA IBRAHIM

the duly appointed trustees of **HILL-TOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION** *have this day been registered as a corporate body, subject to the below mentioned conditions and directions.*

Given under my hand and the Common Seal of the Corporate Affairs Commission at Abuja this 31st day of March, 2016

CONDITIONS AND DIRECTIONS

This certificate is liable to cancellation should the objects or the rules of the body be changed without the previous consent in writing of the Registrar General or should the body at any time permit or condone any divergence from or breach of such objects and rules.

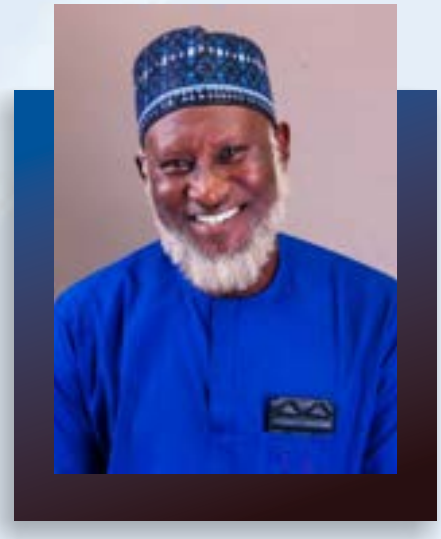
Note:
This certificate does not bestow upon the Organization the right to establish any institution, engage in any business and the like without permission from the appropriate authority

BELLO MAHMUD
Registrar - General

886546

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BM Dzukogi



BM Dzukogi is one of Nigeria's leading contemporary art administrators, known for his ability to establish new art platforms and organise art festivals and awards across the country. He is a fiercely honest, adventurous, and experimental teacher and father who is deeply passionate about youth affairs.

Dzukogi's remarkable journey and dedication to promoting Nigerian literature and art, as well as youth empowerment, are demonstrated by his creation of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) around 20 years ago. This organisation stands out as a comprehensive arts initiative in Nigeria. Although he studied Physical and Health Education, Dzukogi's influence as a literary activist resonates with artists of all ages and holds significant national importance. He has held several key positions, including former National Secretary of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), founding Chairman of the Northern Nigeria Writers Summit (NNWS), and founding Director-General of the Niger State Book Development Agency. Dzukogi is also the author of over ten books spanning various genres, including aphorisms.

What distinguishes Dzukogi is his diverse engagement with Nigerian society, particularly in the areas of art, mentoring, public discourse, good governance, teaching, sports, and youth affairs. His unmatched influence on young Nigerian writers has earned him the title "Father of Nigerian Teen Authors".

The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF), founded by BM Dzukogi in 2004, has grown into a significant national force, with over 20 branches across Nigeria and its headquarters located in Minna, Niger State. The foundation provides a supportive environment for young artists, offering mentorship in various art forms, as well as leadership and citizenship training. Under Dzukogi's leadership, HCAF has become a transformative platform that nurtures budding artists, helping them develop into professionals. It is recognised as one of the top five contemporary art organisations in Nigeria.

Dzukogi's influence on Nigerian literature is profound, exemplified by another of his initiatives, the Nigerian Teen Authorship Scheme (NTAS). This programme offers a crucial outlet for young authors, enabling over fifty talented teens to publish their books. As a result, NTAS has sparked a literary renaissance in Nigeria, making Minna the largest producer of teen authors in Africa.

BM Dzukogi's visionary spirit has led to the establishment of several festivals and awards, including the Annual Schools Carnival of Arts and Festival of Songs (ASCAFS) and the Nigeria Festival of Teen Authors (NIFESTEENA). HIASFEST, currently the largest teen arts festival in Africa, was conceived and is managed by the HCAF. This annual celebration has transformed Niger State into a

cultural hub, attracting schools from across Nigeria. Initiated by Alh. Bala Abdullahi Kwatu, HIASFEST not only showcases the immense artistic talents of Nigerian teens but also fosters cultural exchange and understanding among them. Through these platforms, Dzukogi has sown the seeds of unity, tolerance, and mutual respect, enriching the social fabric of Nigeria and the broader African community.

Dzukogi's commitment to African literature extends beyond geographical borders. He has pioneered online literary journals that have significantly contributed to the growth of African literature on a global scale. Literature Voices (LitVo) serves as a platform for interviewing writers worldwide, facilitating meaningful dialogue between established authors and aspiring talents. Another initiative by Dzukogi, The Nigeria Review (TNR), focuses on reviewing books by writers across the globe, promoting literary works and critical discussions. Additionally, the Minna City of Literature website showcases artists and writers from Niger State, providing a digital space for local talents to gain international recognition, a concept initiated by BM Dzukogi. Recently, he inaugurated the Minna Book Club (MBC) for elite readers in Minna. Plans are also underway for the creation of a bookshop at the HCAF headquarters, set to open in 2024.

Furthermore, BM Dzukogi has taken significant steps to support photographers, painters, filmmakers, spoken word artists, and more by establishing an Art Residency in Minna, which will commence operations in February 2024.

A writer, teacher, sports administrator, philosopher, poet, and art administrator, Dzukogi suggested the creation of the Niger State Book Development Agency for writers in Niger State in 2012. This initiative was realised by the administration of Gov. Babangida Aliyu, who appointed Dzukogi as the pioneer Director-General in the same year.

Dzukogi's vision extends to good governance and accountability. He founded The Blue Resolution Initiative (TBRi), a platform dedicated to promoting these ideals in Niger State, aimed at improving his community. For his outstanding contributions to Nigerian literature, mentorship, youth empowerment, and good governance, Dzukogi has received numerous awards, including the Niger State Excellence in Creativity Award (2010), the Gani Fawehinmi Impact on Society Award (2021), the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture Award of Excellence in Creativity (2022), and the Crusader's Radio Impact Award on Society (2023).



Kamar Hamza

Kamar Hamza holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He participated in the Crossing Borders Mentoring Scheme of the British Council in 2004. Hamza has served as the Chairman of the Association of Nigerian Authors in Niger State and is currently the Chairman of the National Teen Authorship Scheme Committee of ANA. He is also a member of OMEP Nigeria and the Creative Writers for Tourism group.

In addition to his leadership roles, he is the Editor-in-Chief of Polar Magazine and was formerly the Principal of FOMWAN College in Minna. Currently, he is the Proprietor of Legend International School in Minna.

Hamza has published several books, including "Best Book of Rhymes" (1998), "Rhino and Other

Shekwoaga Makama



Shekwoaga Makama is the Chief Operations Officer and Director of Books at Polarsphere Media Limited in Minna. He holds a B.A. degree in English Language and has extensive experience in book and magazine production as well as editorial services. He is passionate about mentoring and discovering young creative talent.

Additionally, he serves as the Director of Operations and is responsible for Facilities at the HCAF National Headquarters. He is also the National Coordinator for HIASFEST.

Throughout his career, Shekwoaga has held several notable positions, including President/Director of the Danfodio Playhouse at Usman Danfodio University in Sokoto, Researcher/Reporter at the State House Office of Public Communications in Abuja, and Reporter/Writer for the Research and Documentation Unit at the Governor's Office in Niger State. He has also worked as the Deputy Head of the Book Development Unit at the Niger State Book Development Agency, served as the State Coordinator for the Niger State Book Hawker Scheme, and was a member of the Local Organisation Committee for the MBA International Literary Colloquium in Niger State.

Awwal Abdullahi Sakiwa



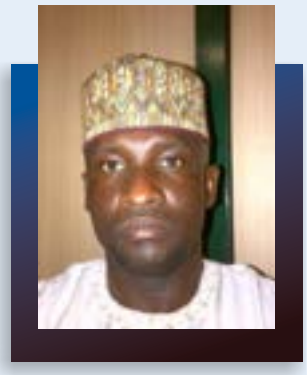
Awwal Abdullahi Sakiwa is a prolific painter and book illustrator who has illustrated over seventy per cent of the books from Niger State. He has also created illustrations for various organisations, including University Press, Abuja (for the Social Studies books 1 and 2), the Association of Nigerian Authors, local schools, and the Niger State Government.

A specialist in murals, his work can be found in several states, including Ondo, Niger, and Oyo. A noteworthy achievement of Awwal's is the conception and design of the Niger State logo currently in use, as well as the logo for the Niger State Book and Intellectual Resource Development Agency, among others.

Some of his other significant works include the gate design at Wadata Palace in Bida, the dome design for Jama'atul Nasurul Islam Mosque in Tunga, Minna, Arabic graphic designs and patterns at Wasagi Central Mosque, and animation work for St Patrick Catholic Church in Zungeru. He also created designs for Dana Pharmaceutical in Minna and various other locations.

In addition to his artistic endeavours, Awwal is a teacher, writer, and mentor. He currently serves as the Director of the Hill-Top Arts Centre in Niger State.

Isyaku Bala Ibrahim

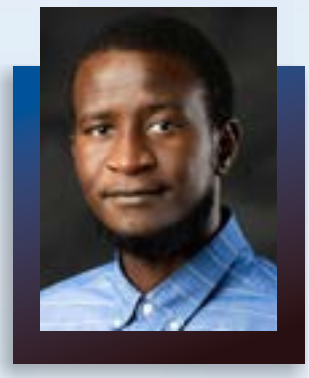


Isyaku Bala Ibrahim is widely recognised as the "Nupe Writer" among Nigerian authors. In 2012, he invented the Nupe Modern Calendar and numeric symbols. His primary focus in writing is the development of indigenous languages in Nigeria. He has authored several books in the Nupe language, including notable published works such as "Eganmaganhi Nupe" (Nupe Proverbs) – a collection of 1,000 proverbs with English translations and explanations (2009); "Enyalo" (Nupe Arithmetic) (2012); and a translation of

Muhammad Kuta Yahaya's play "Ignorance is a Disease", which he co-translated into Nupe as "RakpeboBataWun Yi o" with Sadisu Mohammed (2012). In addition, he has over fifteen other titles in the Nupe language that are yet to be published, including a translation of BM Dzukogi's "Sex is Beautiful".

Isyaku is a member of the Nupe Language Committee established by Etsu Nupe, Alhaji (Dr) Yahaya Abubakar, CFR. He is also a member of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) and the Nigerian Institute of Management (MNIM), among other organisations. Currently, he works with the Corporate Affairs Commission in Abuja.

Saddiq Dzukogi



Saddiq Dzukogi (born in Minna) is a Nigerian poet and assistant professor at Mississippi State University's Department of English. He is the author of Your Crib, My Qibla, a highly-acclaimed poetry collection which has earned him the 2022 Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry, and the 2021 Julie Suk Award as a co-winner. The collection was also shortlisted for the $100,000 Nigeria Prize for Literature.

Saddiq Dzukogi holds a degree in mass communication from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 2015. In 2022, he received a PhD in English with specialization in Ethnic Studies & Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln where he was a recipient of the Othmer Fellowship. At the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Dzukogi was awarded the "Student Luminary Award" in 2022 in recognition of his exceptional leadership and commitment to improving the university campus, and the Vreeland Award for Poetry in 2020 and 2022.

Dzukogi is the author of Inside the Flower Room, which was selected by Kwame Dawes and Chris Abani for the APBF New-Generation African Poets Chapbook Series (2018). His poems have appeared in Oxford Review of Books, Kenyon Review, Oxford Poetry, Salamander, Southeast Review, Crab Orchard Review, Prairie Schooner, New Orleans Review, South Dakota Review, and Obsidian, among others.

Dzukogi was a finalist for the 2017 Brunel International African Poetry Prize. His poem "Paradise" won him the 2021 Wilbur Gaffney Poetry Prize. He was the first-Runner up for the 2022 Maureen Egan Writers Exchange Award. He has also been a three-time finalist for the Association of Nigeria Authors' Poetry Prize in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

In October 2022, Dzukogi's anthology, Your Crib, My Qibla was announced as the winner of the Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry. In the same month, the collection was announced as a co-winner of the Julie Suk Award for the Best Poetry Book Published by a Literary Press in 2021. The collection was equally one of the three shortlisted for the $100,000 Nigeria Prize for Literature.

The anthology was selected as one of Oprah Daily's 29 best poetry books in America for 2021. It was also named as one of the 50 Notable African Books of 2021 by the Africa Centre and Brittle Paper, as one of the 20 must-read literary books of 2021 in the Africa Report.

Dzukogi was at different times a recipient of several fellowships and grants from the Nebraska Arts Council, Mississippi Arts Commission, Pen America, the Obsidian Foundation, and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and the Ebedi International Writers Residency.

Director, International Fundings & Programmes of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation.

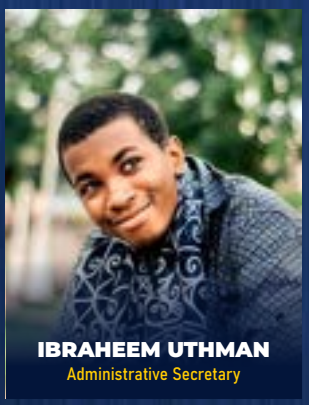
ORGANOGRAM



MAKAMA SHEKWOAGA
Director Admin/Facility Manager



BM DZUKOGI
Founder/Chief Executive Officer



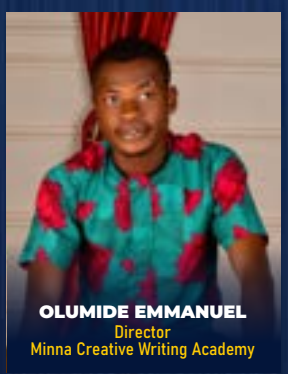
IBRAHEEM UTHMAN
Administrative Secretary



ABEL ONAFURUME
Director of
Performances/Media Manager



AUWWALU SAKIWA
Director of Arts



OLUMIDE EMMANUEL
Director
Minna Creative Writing Academy



FATIMA SALIHU
Principal,
Minna Creative Writing Academy



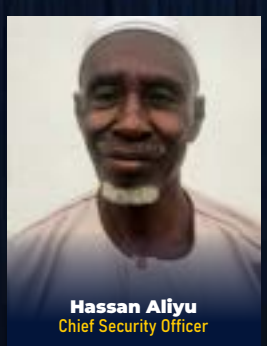
ZAINAB DZUKOGI
Director
Muktar Aliyu Art Residency



ZAKIYYAH DZUKOGI
Director
African Poetry Library



Muhammad Alfa
Public Relations Officer



Hassan Aliyu
Chief Security Officer



The National Headquarters

The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) is one of the first five leading contemporary art organizations in Nigeria. It celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024. Located along David Mark Road in Maitumbi, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria, HCAF was established in 2004 by BM Dzukogi while he was teaching Physical and Health Education at the Hill-Top Model School in Minna. Its formation marked a significant turning point in the landscape of literary art organisations in Nigeria, inspiring the emergence of many private art platforms across the country.

Today, there are numerous organisations such as Poets in Nigeria Initiatives, Open Arts, Poetic Wednesday, Arojah Arts Theatre, Aunty Talatu Reads, Gombe Jewel Writers, Ebedi International Writers Residency, All Poets Network Initiatives, Northern Writers Forum, and many others in the Eastern, Western, and Southern regions of the country.

The national headquarters of HCAF is located along David Mark Road in Maitumbi, Minna, Niger State. Since its inception in 2004, HCAF has been at the forefront of promoting the arts among young people across Nigeria. The foundation has branches in approximately twenty states and utilises its mentoring facilities at the national headquarters to promote creative writing, photography, ICT, innovation, music, cultural activities, painting, drama, spoken word, short videos, citizenship and leadership education, reading, festivals, prizes, and scholarships for teenagers and youth in Nigeria.

The Foundation serves as a home for teen and young artists in Nigeria. It is the first and only organization of its kind in the country, dedicated exclusively to this vital group of artists. Additionally, the HCAF publishes two exclusive online journals containing reviews and interviews with writers from around the world.

In April 2017, the Foundation launched the inaugural edition of the Nigerian Festival of Teen Authors (NIFESTEENA). HCAF also organises HIASFEST, the largest teen arts festival in Africa; the Niger State Photography Contest; Annual Painting and Photography Exhibitions; and the Niger State Schools Creativity and Essay Competition. As a result, it has become the largest producer of published teen authors in Nigeria.

The activities of HCAF are grounded in a free, liberal, yet disciplined environment at its headquarters, with members guided by the simple philosophy of "training for life". This approach aims to foster critical thinking, enterprise, creativity, service, and unity as tools for societal growth and prosperity.

The National Headquarters, which also serves as a mentoring centre, is currently being developed into a national monument of art. HCAF has constructed one of three homes for its proposed International Artists' Residency programme. The headquarters offers a beautiful, cool, and inspiring space for young creative minds to develop their artistic potential. Members take great pride in this environment, which is well-ventilated and illuminated to highlight the vibrant colours on the walls. The inscriptions and artworks displayed greet visitors with rich aesthetics, reflecting the glamorous spirit and joyful creativity of the individuals who thrive there. The summary of the Foundation's activities focuses primarily on mentoring teen and young artists for quality productions and responsible citizenship.

Mission

The **Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation** provides a supportive space for young creative minds to participate in cultural exchange, creative writing, festivals, competitions, and journals. It also offers leadership and citizenship training, along with various meaningful projects that positively impact the community and contribute to the greater good of humanity. The foundation emphasizes individual artistic expression and exploration. Its core belief centers on the importance of shared experiences in personal, professional, and artistic discovery, all fostered within an encouraging environment of peers and mentors.

Objectives

1. To train members to develop their creative abilities in the arts (Teen Authorship - Poetry, Novel, Play Writing, Song, Craft, Painting, Performance, Public Speaking, Language Competence, Photography, Indigenous Language Studies, leadership and citizenship training, so that they aim at becoming professionals from school age.
2. To publish teen and emerging authors in acceleration and growth in the production of literary works with competence and excellence.
3. To provide uncommon reading texts (Library Literati) for members to cultivate the culture of reading as a foundation for excellence in every endeavour.
4. To develop role models among students for their peers to appreciate and aim at becoming functional members of society.
5. To provide leadership training for students and help them develop a potent spirit of nationalism and patriotism for Nigeria through the skills and competencies they are endowed with.
6. To enhance social relations, debates, discussions, and new thinking by various individuals of different cultures converging on the Centre in the spirit of humanity to foster unity and co-existence through understanding, cooperation and accommodation.
7. To relate to other cultures around the world through the arts.
8. To bring nearer to the members and the immediate community established writers, artists and leaders to listen to them speak in their renowned areas of specialisation.
9. To provide residency programmes, workshops, conferences and instructions for young writers and artists as a continuous platform for training and development.
10. To organise competitions of local, state, national and international status in the activities of the foundation.
11. To create journals for high academic and creative productions for members and scholars from around the world.

BRANCHES

HCAF has over 20 branches across Nigeria. These state branches were encouraged and are very active in state-wide secondary school literary festivals, the inauguration of Hill-Top clubs, engaging in partnerships with organisations, Publishing of anthologies, featuring members in national and international journals, winning prizes, and increasing the visibility and frequency of activities, as well as a variety of other programmes. Presently, new HCAF branches' executive members have been constituted in the following states as follows:

BENUE STATE BRANCH

1. **Chairperson:** Hassana Idris
2. **Vice chairperson:** Awashima Lucy Shima
3. **General Secretary:** Ameh Gloria
4. **Treasurer:** Husseina Maimuna Idris
5. **Public Relations Officer:** Anabel Ene Idoko
6. **Welfare Officer:** Precious Iwechukwu
7. **Asst. Secretary General:** Halima Abdulkarim
8. **Social Media Manager:** Agatha Gbatar

TARABA STATE BRANCH

1. **Chairperson:** Yahuza Usman
2. **Vice Chairperson:** Inna Jirgi Pitiko
3. **General Secretary:** Vyangel Namishyô Aorabee
4. **Treasurer:** Cecilia Uju Nwoye
5. **Public Relations Office:** Charles Atim
6. **Welfare/Events Officer:** Absalom Nabo
7. **Asst. General/Financial Sec.:** Wisdom Avaungwa Jemgbagh
8. **Social Media Manager 1:** Al-Mustapha Umar
9. **Social Media Manager 2:** Prosper Isaac Kabeh

FCT ABUJA BRANCH

1. **Chairperson:** Pacella Chukwuma-Eke
2. **Vice Chairperson:** Sa'ada Isa Yahaya
3. **General Secretary:** Daniel Aondona
4. **Treasurer:** Rachael Dandi Madakan
5. **Public Relations Office:** Testimony Odey
6. **Welfare Officer:** Elizabeth Imaji Ekawu
7. **Assistant General Secretary:** Fortune Simeon Eleojo
8. **Social Media Manager:** Sumaiyah Muhammad Salisu
9. **Branch Coordinator:** Blessing Ojo Omeiza

LAGOS STATE BRANCH

1. **Chairperson:** Victoria Ilemobayo Ojo
2. **Vice Chairperson:** Abiola Abubakr Olayinka
3. **General Secretary:** Abdulrafiu Mumeenah
4. **PRO:** Mustapha Olorunwa Najmudeen
5. **Social Media Director:** Muheez Olawale
6. **Welfare Director:** Grace Olatinwo
7. **Assistant Welfare Director:** Ugbene Adaobi Lilian
8. **Financial Secretary:** Mu'izz Opeyemi Ajayi
9. **Assistant General Secretary:** Wele Mariam Boluwatife
10. **Technical Director:** Abbas Abidemi Bambe

OSUN STATE BRANCH

1. **Chairperson:** Daniel IBIKITAN
2. **Vice Chairperson:** Immanuel Fawole
3. **General Secretary:** Michael Fatoki
4. **Assistant General Secretary:** Victoria Faremi
5. **Treasurer:** Patricia Daniel IBIKITAN
6. **Public Relations Office:** Semiat Mustau
7. **Welfare Officer:** Rodiat Ayomide Modupe
8. **Social Media Manager:** Olamide Olawale

OGUN STATE BRANCH

1. **Chairman:** Opeyemi Oluwayomi
2. **Vice Chairman:** Alabi Deborah
3. **General Secretary:** Adesiyan Pelumi
4. **Treasurer:** Joshua Blessing
5. **Public Relations Officer:** Akindona Oluwatofunmi
6. **Asst Public Relations Officer:** Ogunbayo Al-ameen
7. **Welfare Officer:** Shitta Faruq
8. **Asst Welfare Officer:** Akinyode Adijat Morenikeji
9. **Assistant General Secretary:** Jalaal A. Raji
10. **Social Media Manager:** Oluwakayode Taiwo

KADUNA STATE BRANCH

1. **Chairperson:** Mahmud Mubarak Jimada
2. **Vice Chairperson:** Khadijah Ibrahim Nuhu
3. **General Secretary:** Aliyu Ahmad Onimisi
4. **Treasurer:** Hanan Suleiman
5. **Public Relations Officer I:** Amina Saidu Dogo
6. **Public Relations Officer II:** Naziya Muhammad
7. **Welfare/Events Officer I:** Abdullahi Abubakar

KADUNA STATE BRANCH

8.	**Welfare/Events Officer II:**	Farida Yahaya Tijjani
9.	**Asst General/Financial Sec.:**	Bilkis Chedi
10.	**Social Media Manager 1:**	Shafaatu Muhammad
11.	**Social Media Manager 2:**	Yusuf Uthman
12.	**State Coordinator:**	Haneefah Abulrahman

KEBBI STATE BRANCH

1.	**Chairperson:**	Mary Paul
2.	**Vice Chairperson:**	Abdulbasit Ismail
3.	**General secretary:**	Ummi Aliyu
4.	**Assistant General Secretary:**	Yohanna Lukas
5.	**Welfare Officer:**	Maimuna Garba Hammani
6.	**Treasurer:**	Bianca Ogbonna
7.	**PRO:**	Shukurah Abdullahi
8.	**Social media manager:**	Murtala Abdullazee
9.	**State Coordinator:**	Murtala Abdullahi
10.	**Assistant State Coordinator:**	Olabisi Johnson Dayo

GOMBE STATE BRANCH

1.	**Chairman:**	Muhammad Muddathir Salihu
2.	**Vice Chairman:**	Ibrahim Saleh Mainah
3.	**General Secretary:**	Abdulmalik Mahmud Adam
4.	**Assistant General Secretary:**	Amatulhaq Muhammad Salis
5.	**Treasurer:**	Hafsa Tafida
6.	**Public Relations Officer:**	Haruna Muhammad Sani
7.	**Welfare Officer:**	Aishatu Lamido
8.	**Social Media Manager:**	Zainulabidin M. Jalo

Other State branches of Gombe, Plateau, Kwara, Katsina, Kano, Kogi, Nasarawa, Sokoto, Borno and Bauchi have also been constituted.

Our ACTIVITIES



Saturday Mentoring Sessions

The Foundation conducts Saturday training sessions for students who have an interest in the following artistic forms. Student-artists from different primary and secondary schools and universities converge on the Art Centre every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm for mentoring in the areas specified below. The mentors are volunteers from within the HCAF and the Minna metropolis. The areas of mentorship include Creative Writing, PaintingCreative Arts, Reading, Performances, Songs, Photography, Language Competence (English, Nupe, Hausa), Citizen and Leadership Training, Broadcasting and Career talk.



Creative Writing

Creative writing can be a solitary pursuit, but it doesn't have to be. Having a mentor can be an invaluable tool for any writer looking to improve their craft. A mentor can provide guidance, feedback, and inspiration. Looking at the benefits of having a mentor, the mentors at the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation provide valuable feedback on their mentees' writing, helping them identify areas for improvement and providing suggestions for how to strengthen their work. We also offer writing advice, allowing the mentees to develop better writing habits.

The mentees also have the opportunity to learn from someone with more experience than they have. As our mentors share their own experiences and insights into the writing industry, they offer valuable advice on publishing, marketing, and other aspects of the writing life.



MINNA CREATIVE WRITING ACADEMY

WRITE YOUR OWN BOOK SCHEME

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In April, 2024,the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) added another feather to its cap. It is tagged - the Write Your Own Book Holiday Program, a 3-week program where registered teenagers from different schools are admitted into the project and mentored on writing their own books.

The program was hatched to increase the needs of students desiring to become writers. Their vision to become authors of their own books someday is being created by HCAF. At the Write Your Own Book holiday program, students were coached mainly on two genres: poetry and prose, including grammar and public speaking. The program is run on a two-semester basis.

Calls for admission were sent to schools for interested students to register, with a stipulated registration fee paid by individual students, and another requirement was for them to select an area of specialty between the two genres (poetry and prose).

TIME ALLOCATION

A normal day at the Write Your Own Book Program consist of the following hours of rigorous study, mentoring, and writing:

1. One hour of general class. This is the first event of the day. Students from the two genres converge daily for a general class, which consists of lessons from the two genres and general writing tip as well as general or basic knowledge about many areas of life. You pick one genre of focus but you are also equipped with knowledge from the other areas of relevance to writing and education.

2. The next two hours are for mentor-mentee interaction. Every student is assigned a mentor based on his area of study. The mentor guides the student to put their greatest ideas into words. The enchanting environment of the Art Centre is a bonus for bringing out the hidden talents of the students. They are allowed to use whichever resources are available to them at the HCAF. This includes the library, ICT, the garden, and other spaces within the art arena to realize themselves artistically.

3. The fourth hour is for a return to another general class. Students converge for the last time for the day to share ideas, learn from each other, and learn from other mentors before calling it a day. This includes recitations and general interactions. It is a loose but serious session with everyone around, including parents.

Just as in every conventional institution in Nigeria, this program is divided into two academic sessions; first and second semesters. There is a mid-semester test at the end of each week, and then a semester exam at the end of the semester. Students are assessed and results are compiled and given at the end of each semester. The first semester has been done. The second semester began during the long vacation of 2024. As the students were coming up with their manuscripts, they were granted access to the HCAF ICT facility to type their manuscripts themselves. At the end of the three-week training program, they can still be coming to HCAF every Saturday to type their work or meet their mentors (This is based on the Mentor- Mentee agreement).

At the end of the second semester, all students will graduate from the certificate course at a graduation ceremony organized by the Directorate of Creative Writing of HCAF in the presence of dignitaries invited from around the State. The program is ongoing. So far, more than 30 students from both public and private schools have attended the program.

LIST OF MENTORS

These are the names of mentors for the program:

1. Fatima Salihu
2. Ibraheem Uthman
3. Zakiyyah Dzukogi
4. Abdulrazaq Salihu
5. Emmanuel Umeji
6. Abubakar Auwal
7. Aliyu Umar Muhammad

THE COURSES OFFERED

1. Figures of Speech
2. Punctuation
3. Creative Writing (Poetry and Story)
4. Art of Public Speaking
5. Grammar

PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

HCAF is looking to expand the exercise into a creative writing school and admit not just students of secondary schools in Minna but interested fellows from the 25 Local Government Areas of the Niger State and the whole of Nigeria at large.

A hostel is being sought to accommodate mentees coming from outside Minna. Our programmes will be registered, and the awarding of certificates will commence soon. We are looking to reach a point where we will award Diploma Certificates, including MFA programs, to interested applicants from around the world. The Write Your Own Book is going to be bigger than just a holiday programme. This project will cater for the needs of individuals who have only dreamed but didn't have the environment to achieve that dream.

FOR ENQUIRIES AND REGISTRATION

1. Ojo Olumide Emmanuel (Program Director) - 08133631637
2. Fatima Salihu (Principal) - 08131633913

FORMS IS NOW ON SALE

VISIT US:
Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation Headquarters,
David Mark Road, Maitumbi, Minna, Niger State.

TEEN AUTHORS FLASH



The Teen Authors' Flash is a monthly event where we present a teen author who has completed a creative book to the public. The objective of the Teen Authors' Flash, which comes up at the end of the last Saturday of every month, is to announce to the immediate community and indeed, the Nigerian literary environment, that a young writer has been discovered. We not only showcase the incoming teen writer, but we also seek the support of our guests at the occasion, well-wishers, sympathisers, and organisations to assist in publishing the authors as we proceed through the year.

End-of-Year Fiesta

Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation organises an annual get-together to fraternise with members every December. It is usually a moment of merriment, a feast, and performances with family members and invited well-wishers.

THE BOOK MAKER

(A Quarterly Guest Writer Series)

The Book Maker is a quarterly guest writer series of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation. It started on 14th January, 2017. The objectives are: to introduce established writers to our teen and young authors; to share experiences of writing with our teen authors; to talk about the writer's book(s); to discuss creativity, creative writing and art, generally; to promote new writings of new Nigerian writers; to help re- fire the imaginative competence of our teen and young authors in Niger state; to present the Art Centre to Nigerian writers and encourage them to do the same in their localities; to receive book donations and add to our collection in library literati; for book sales and exchanges; to encourage our teen authors to work towards professionalism in the art; and to mentor and sharpen the skills of our teen and young authors.



WEEKLY BOOK CHAT REVIEW

ON WHATSAPP

This is a weekly book review and chat session on the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation WhatsApp group. A member volunteers to review a book selected for the week, where members converge by 9 pm - 11 pm on Sundays to discuss and critique the book. Where possible, the authors are invited to join in the discussion about their books. The programme started in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Over twenty books have been reviewed so far. Some of the reviews have found their way to the Nigeria Review online journal: www.nigeriareview.com.ng

Niger Book Hunt & Harvest 2017

(Celebrating the United Nations Book Day)

The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation in Minna has launched an initiative called the Niger Book Hunt and Harvest. The goal of this programme is to collect books from individuals and organisations and distribute them to ten literature libraries located in ten schools, including the Library Literati at the Hill-Top Arts Centre in Minna.

We gather books from homes and bookshops to provide students with the resources they need to cultivate a reading habit. One of the main challenges students face in developing their reading skills is a lack of accessible books. This annual event aims to encourage students to engage with literature by delivering books to them through the help of volunteers.

If you would like to donate a book, you can contact our Book Hunters and Harvesters by calling or sending a text message to our designated numbers. Our volunteers will come to your home or office to collect the books.

Alternatively, you can visit the HCAF headquarters on a Saturday, which is our training day, or come any day that is convenient for you to donate books. Visiting on a Saturday also allows you to meet our teen authors, interact with them, and tour our facilities. Our doors open at 10 AM.

Additionally, donors from around the world can mail books to us at the following address:

Director, HCAF,
David Mark Road, Maitumbi,
P. O. Box 4070, Minna,
Niger State, Nigeria.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEMES

Teen Authorship Scheme

The Foundation publishes teen authors periodically. The first anthology from Hill-Top Model School was published in 1997, titled Echoes of Young Minds. However, from 2004, the Foundation began publishing students as individual authors. Saddiq Dzukogi was published in 2004. This was followed by Halima Aliyu and Zainab Manko in 2005. They are now among the leading emerging writers from Nigeria. From 2016 to date, nineteen other student-writers have been published.

Students with potential and interest in creative writing in secondary and primary schools are shortlisted for a mentoring period. After four months, a storybook of between fifty and sixty pages is written by a student-writer reflecting a problem among young people in the community. Subsequently, the teen author is presented to the public as a guest writer in a programme called Teen Authors Flash. It's an open critique session on the book where the community is present. Thereafter, a mentor is appointed for the student author who will work with the writer till the book is perfected for publishing. After publishing, copies are sold through the Nigeria Book Hawker Scheme.

Objectives:

1. To establish and promote child-to-child advocacy on a variety of societal issues. Over the years, adults have been the ones teaching and counselling teens, but the scheme will encourage the child to speak to themselves through the stories and poems they write and read among themselves.
2. To create role models among schoolchildren for other students.
3. To encourage professionalism in creative writing from school age.
4. To create a functional platform for the development of excellent literary works, knowledge and scholarship.
5. To proliferate the society with books written by young people among young people and for young people in Nigeria, towards developing book culture and societal reorientation.
6. To encourage children to keep bookshelves at home.
7. To help develop language competence and effective communication at a young age.
8. To redirect the energy of individuals towards becoming functional citizens in a society that they will inherit tomorrow.
9. To continuously stimulate citizens in critical thinking and intellectual development at a young age.

The foundation also runs the **Home Teen Authorship Scheme** for parents who want their children placed at the Art Centre. Similarly, the Centre runs another scheme for interested schools on its premises.





LIST OF BOOKS PUBLISHED UNDER THE HCAF TEEN AUTHORSHIP SCHEME

1. **Memoirs of a Broken Heart**
   Mustapha Gimba
2. **Chronicles:**
   Fidelis Obaseki
3. **Rhythms**
   Victor Ugwu
4. **Deflowered**
   Peter Kwange
5. **The After Party**
   Priscilla Adeshina
6. **Whispers in the Shadows**
   Annas Dubanni
7. **The Delinquents Harvest**
   Amina Umar
8. **Inside My Pain**
   Miracle Attah
9. **My Virgin Eyes**
   Khadijah Sa'eed Jagaba
10. **Brittle Songs**
    Yusuf Bm
11. **I Shall Live My Season**
    Maimuna Hammani
12. **Little Trophy**
    Sa'adatu Abdullahi
13. **Last Word**
    Ramatu Abdullahi
14. **Destined**
    Salamatu Abdullahi
15. **My Book of Poems**
    Zakiyyah Dzukogi
16. **Sketches**
    Fatima Salihu
17. **Mind of a Bard**
    Ibraheem Uthman
18. **As Sorrow is to Smile**
    Maimuna Hammani
19. **Smiles of Tomorrow**
    Mary Paul
20. **Supplications for Year in Sand**
    Ojo Olumide Emmanuel
21. **Shades of Becoming**
    Haneefah AbdulRahman
22. **Winters and Summers**
    Zakiyyah Dzukogi

MINNA LITERARY SERIES

The Minna Literary Series (MLS) was an initiative of the Niger State Book Development Agency aimed at creating a platform for the production of reading texts for Youths in Niger State and beyond. These series served as a platform for developing a concrete reading culture in the state; a reading public that will trigger the flourishing of creativity, innovativeness and inventions that will engender development in the society. The Literary Series was to publish, annually, young writers from the state who had manuscripts of various genres but lacked a publishing outlet. The Scheme targeted mainly indigenous writers (residents in Niger State) so as to saturate the immediate environment with books. The Agency also intended, by the series, to establish a formidable publishing house with a printing press in the future.

Under the series, the following publications were made:

1. **Bongel:** *Maryam Bobi*
2. **Thirst:** *Fodio Ahmed*
3. **Fire on the tip of Ice:** *Halima Aliyu*
4. **Saint Sa'ade and Other Poems:** *Paul Liam*
5. **Sunbeams and Shadows:** *Saddiq Dzukogi*
6. **Ewa:** *Deborah Oluniran*



HCAF ANTHOLOGY SERIES

This is a biennial workshop for secondary schools to produce an anthology of poetry or a short story. The foundation organises a biennial workshop for both members and other students who are not members from different secondary schools in Minna. The target is to discover and publish other teen authors in secondary schools who could not attend our programmes at the Arts Centre. So, they are presented with an opportunity to feature in an anthology every two years. Also, we run Local Government anthologies for secondary schools. So far, our Local Government Teen Authors Anthology has produced the following:

1. **Lushes of the Muse:** *Lapai LG Teen Authors Anthology sponsored by Hassan B. Etsu.*
2. **A Tree of New Buds:** *Agaei LG Teen Anthology sponsored by Hassan B. Etsu*
3. **The Courage I Need:** *Kontagora LG Teen Anthology sponsored by Ahmad Babangida*
4. **Word Weavers:** *Bosso LG Teen Anthology sponsored by Engr. Ibrahim Dada*



PAN-AFRICAN ANTHOLOGY SERIES

The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) has introduced an annual Pan-African Anthology Series for poets from across Africa and the diaspora to submit entries for its upcoming Pan-Africanist Poetry Anthology. This project seeks to spotlight powerful poetic voices that interrogate and reimagine Africa's present and future through the lens of Pan-Africanism.

A call for submissions for the maiden 2025 edition was released in May, seeking poems which must engage with themes such as sovereignty, blackness, neocolonialism, governance, youth, leadership, development, African unity, and other urgent questions shaping the continent in the 21st century. A total of 275 entries were received from poets of neocolonialism and the diaspora. An Anthology would be produced.

HIASFEST PUBLICATION SERIES

The Nigeria Prize for Teen Authors is the most contested event at HIASFEST. It is a contest of manuscripts by secondary school teen writers, in poetry and prose. The category carries a □700,000 cash prize, shared among three winners, in poetry and prose. Apart from the cash prizes, the six winners get their books published by the sponsors of HIASFEST.

The prize is the bridge and entry point between teenage writings and the mainstream Nigerian writing space. This is what makes it hot.

Mujaheed Amin Lilo, Isaiah Adepoju, Zakiyyah Dzukogi, Sunday Saheed, Mahmoodah Oyeleye, Testimony Odey, Pacella Chukwuma-Eke, Abdurazak Salihu, Sa'ada Isah Yahaya, Sumayyah Salisu, Emmanuel Umeji, Vyangel Aroabee, Yahuza Usman, Auwal Abubakar, and many others passed through it. They are currently on their way to the top of their literary art. These are the teen authors' books (Poetry & prose), published and unpublished since 2021, their authors, and states of origin.

2021

1. **Faded Blues:** *Mahmoodah Temitope Oyeleye (Lagos)*
2. **Uloma:** *Testimony Odey (Abuja)*
3. **Rewrite The Stars:** *Sunday Saheed (Osun)*
4. **Carved:** *Zakiyyah Dzukogi (Niger)*
5. **Memoirs of a Dreamer:** *Ibrahim Saleh Mainah (Gombe)*
6. **From My Window Panes:** *Sulaiman Adamu (Gombe)*





2022

1. **Feathered:** *Testimony Odey (Abuja)*
2. **Hiccups:** *Abdulrazaq Salihu (Niger)*
3. **Constellations:** *Abdulrazaq Salihu (Niger)*
4. **Strong Bond:** *Sa'ada Isa Yahaya (Abuja)*
5. **Love in Its Bliss and Sins:** *Pacella Chukwuma-Eke (Abuja)*
6. **Nectars of a Broken Dawn:** *Nympha Edem (Abuja)*

2023 (UNPUBLISHED)

1. Agnes: Sa'ada Isa Yahaya (Abuja)
2. The Murder at School: Sumaiyah Muhammad Salisu (Abuja)
3. Wild Diamonds: Helen Chikazo Udeh (Abuja)
4. To the Girl with Farin Dreams: Bella Ogwuche (Abuja)
5. Archives of Pain: Vyangel Namshi Aroabee (Taraba)
6. Reign of Emotions: Busrah Zakariyau (Abuja)
7. Breasts and Names of Witches: Emmanuel Umeji (Niger)

2024 (UNPUBLISHED)

1. Anatomy of Broken Dreams: Yahuza Usman (Taraba)
2. Portraits of Gods as Metaphors: Abubakar Auwal (Niger)
3. Colours of Mirag: Amina Umar (Abuja)
4. The Air you Breathe: Rhoda Sebwewi Cher (Benue)
5. Unbroken: A Healing Odyssey: Sumaiyah Muhammad Salisu (Abuja)
6. Two Worlds Apart: Zainab A. Mohammed (Abuja)

2025 (UNPUBLISHED)

1. Just a Little More Red and You'll be White: Nasefau-Ter Edwards (Benue)
2. The Frayed Fabric of Memories: Raheema Auwal Panti (Niger)
3. A Kid's Nap: Abigail Enyo-Ojo (Benue)
4. Sand Album: Al-Amin Muhammad (Niger)
5. Journey of Dark Flowers: Emmanuelle Jesse (Taraba)

HCAF MONOGRAPHS



The monographs espouse values of artistic expressions, creative writing, film, painting, book development, indigenous language development, etc. Nine titles have been produced so far. They are takeaway documents for our visitors and students. We also distribute them at public events, schools and literary gatherings.

HIASFEST
HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

HIASFEST 2026

8TH EDITION



Organised By:

HILLTOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION
MINNA, NIGERIA

14th-17th January 2026

SIYYAM INTERNATIONAL EVENT & CONFERENCE CENTRE
BOSSO, MINNA, NIGER STATE.

MODALITIES FOR PARTICIPATION

For further information, visit HIASFEST website:
www.hiasfest.com.ng; facebook: Hiasfest; Twitter: Hiasfest;
Instagram: Hiasfest; Facebook: Hilltop Creative Arts Foundation

About HIASFEST

HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL





HIASFEST is Hadiza Ibrahim Aliyu Schools Festival. It was initiated by Alhaji Bala Abdullahi Kwatu. You don't have its type anywhere in Nigeria. It is a brand from Niger State to the world.

HIASFEST is built around eleven major categories exclusively designed for teen artists in secondary schools. They are: On-the-spot Poetry Writing, On-the-spot Non-Fiction writing, On-the-spot Short Story Writing, Painting, Spoken Word, Contemporary Song in English, Cultural Dance, Quiz, Innovation, ICT/Technology and Drama. There are 36 trophies to be won, including the Overall Winning Schools. It is a 4-day festival minus arrival. Independent students can attend on their own with the support of their parents if their school is not attending and win cash prizes.. However, there are some categories that are open to all ages.

There are scholarship schemes, special awards, and national literary prizes like: The Nigeria Prize for Teen Authors (poetry and prose). There are Nigeria Prize for Indigenous Languages (Hausa, Igbo, Gbagyi, Nupe, Yoruba, Fulfulde, Pidgin, French and Arabic) in Creative Writing and Science Books as well. The indigenous languages category is open to all ages.

HIASFEST has the following awards too: HCAF prize for the Most Performing Branches; HCAF award for Excellence in Creative Writing; the Golden Awards for Nigerian Art Administrators; **HIASFEST** Star Prize winners for male and female teen writers in Nigeria; the Most Valuable Contestant awards for male and female at **HIASFEST;** the best Teacher in-charge of schools for male and female; Tuition Scholarship for science and art; and Honorary Awards for distinguished sponsors. The overall winning schools (three in all) get cash prizes as well. Similarly, the Overall First Position takes ₦2,000,000 for a grand science project to be conceived, invented back in their school and presented at the next edition of **HIASFEST.** The 1st runner-up gets ₦1,500,000 while the 2nd runner-up gets ₦1,000,000.

The four-day event see teen artists gather and engage in rigorous show of skills, guts and intellectual power in a contest that is wholesomely rewarding. We see beauty in contest, shocking performances, unlimited friendship, unity and camaraderie; we see cash prizes, trophies and plaques; we see tears and joy for feats achieved or missed; we see the euphoria of setting forth the new generation of Nigerian craftsmen and women, in the most formidable and functional way, daring to go and break bounds; and we see young investors and craftsmen. This is **HIASFEST.**

The apex gathering of teen artists, in the biggest black nation of the earth, Nigeria, is sponsored by Alhaji Bala Abdullahi Kwatu and the Aliyu Trust Foundation.



HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

HIASFEST 2026

MOST VALUABLE CONTESTANTS (MALE AND FEMALE)

Participants who feature in not less than three categories and win prizes, either individually or collectively are selected as Most Valuable Contestants (MVC). They receive certificates and cash prizes of ₦500,000 for male and ₦500,000 for female.

BEST TEACHER (MALE AND FEMALE)

Two teachers are selected as winners based on punctuality, organisation, consistency, exemplariness and performance of their schools. They receive certificate and cash prizes of ₦50,000 each.

HIASFEST STAR PRIZE (MALE AND FEMALE)

This prize is awarded to two teen authors who have demonstrated high productivity, visibility, progressiveness, influence on their peers, contribution to journals, anthologies, books, conferences, workshops, promotion of literary art and teen authorship in Nigeria. They receive ₦500,000 each and a certificate.

MOST WELL-BEHAVED SCHOOL

A school emerges as the most well-behaved mainly on decorum, neatness, organisation, observance to rules, descent socialisation with other schools, great sportsmanship and discipline. They receive a certificate.

GOLDEN AWARD (MALE AND FEMALE)

Individuals who have contributed tremendously to the development of Nigerian literature in text and administration especially to the young ones by creating platforms for them towards discovery, horning and growth of talents are selected for this award. They receive a certificate and ₦250,000 each.

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

This award of ₦100,000 goes to an undergraduate student in arts who apply for it from any University in Nigeria toward assisting in offsetting of school fees. The winner must have a manuscript in any genre. The winners of science are contestant who win in Innovation and ICT & Technology categories. They win cash prize of ₦300,000 for each category.



RANGE OF PRIZES

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

9.00am daily • 14th - 17th January, 2026

Siyyam International Event & Conference Centre, Bosso, Minna, Niger State - Nigeria

OVERALL WINNING PRIZES:

The school that has the highest points from HIASFEST categories wins 1st position. The one that follows gets 2nd position. The next gets 3rd position. They all have trophies and the initiator's cash prizes of ₦2,000,000, ₦1,500,000 and ₦1,000,000 respectively.

Note: *The overall grand prize are inclusive of science projects of ₦1,000,000, ₦750,000 and ₦500,000 respectively to be conceived and invented by the students of the winning schools and presented at the next edition of HIASFEST.*

HCAF BEST PERFORMING BRANCHES AWARDS

Are given to state branches that are very active in state-wide secondary school literary festivals, inauguration of Hill-Top clubs, engaging in partnerships with organisations, Publishing of anthologies, featuring of members in national and international journals and winning prizes, visibility and frequency of activities as well as other variety of programmes. The prize is for ₦300,000

HCAF HONORARY AWARDS

Are given to individuals who are friends of the Foundation, its members and activities and who have contributed variously to the continuous] horning and growth of talents in the Nigerian child.

HCAF EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

The ₦300,000 cash award and certificates is presented to six members of HCAF nationwide irrespective of age who must belong to a branch, and the branch's WhatsApp group for over a year; must be published in at least a minimum of 15 online journals in the outgoing year; must be published in a minimum of 2 anthologies (physical books) within or outside Nigeria in the outgoing year; must have published a physical book or more of his/her own whether through HCAF or other means; must have won at least one or more notable literary awards within the outgoing year and must be one who shares opportunities and encourages other young writers within the HCAF community.

HIASFEST
HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

2026 MODALITIES PARTICIPATI

HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU S

CATEGORY A

ON-THE-SPOT POETRY WRITING

This involves presenting two students from a participating school to write on the topic chosen on-the-spot, on the day of the contest. (14 Lines max).

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on adherence to theme, word choice, grammar, spelling, personality (voice), literary device, originality, form and flow, rhyme and any addition specified by the Judges on the day of the contest.

PLAGIARISM ATTRACTS
DISQUALIFICATION FOR TWO YEARS

CATEGORY B

ON-THE-SPOT SHORT STORY WRITING (450 WORDS MAX)

This involves presenting two students from a participating school to write on the topic chosen on-the-spot, on the day of the contest.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on theme, word count, characterization, setting, plot, vocabulary, grammar, style, craft, etc.

PLAGIARISM ATTRACTS
DISQUALIFICATION FOR TWO YEARS

CATEGORY C

ON-THE-SPOT PAINTING

A participating school shall present two painters who shall paint on the spot, on any OF THE FOLLOWING THEMES. (Size 24 by 30 or 20 by 24)

RECOMMENDED THEMES:

1. ***My Nigeria my pride*** - Celebrating national identity, culture, and the beauty of the country through students' eyes.
2. ***Voices of Tomorrow*** - A theme that allows students to express their hopes, dreams and visions for the future of Nigeria.
3. ***Our Environment, our responsibility*** - Encourages awareness of environmental issues like climate change, pollution and conservation in Nigeria.
4. ***Legends and Folktales*** - Inspires creativity by exploring Nigeria myths, heroes, and traditional stories through art.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on theme interpretation, quality, use of colours, concept, originality, detail, etc.

Note: the tittle of the painting must be written behind the painting and also, the finished works shall remain in the custody of the organizer

All schools are responsible for their painting materials necessary for the contest, including easel. Painting must be framed and well labelled. Aesthetics in finishing attracts extra marks.

FOR
ON

All categories now carry **cash prizes**

1st Position - **₦150,000**
2nd Position - **₦100,000**
3rd Position - **₦50,000**

SCHOOLS FESTIVAL 2026

CATEGORY D

ON-THE-SPOT NON-FICTION WRITING (450 WORDS MAX)

This involves presenting two students from a participating school to write on a topic chosen on-the-spot, on the day of the contest.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on grammar, content, expression, mechanical accuracy, style, craft, etc.

PLAGIARISM ATTRACTS
DISQUALIFICATION FOR TWO YEARS

CATEGORY E

SPOKEN WORD

Each school shall present one student or a duet to perform a Spoken Word written by the student on any of the themes. Schools shall be given 5 minutes to render their piece. Each school shall submit, on the stage, three copies of the Spoken Word to the judges before commencing performance. The themes are:

1. *Mind Shift*
2. *Jungle Justice*

It shall be a piece that has never been presented elsewhere.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on subject matter, appearance, composure, delivery, originality, etc.

CATEGORY F

CONTEMPORARY SONG IN ENGLISH

Not more than eight students shall form the team for each school for the Contemporary Song in English on the theme given by the organisers. No instrument shall be deployed. Each school has five minutes to perform her song. Three copies of the written song shall be submitted on the stage to judges before commencing performance. The theme for 2026 is **Let's make it happen.**

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on title, number of participants (adherence), costume, adherence to time, theme, composition, stage management, expression, audience appeal, originality, etc.



CATEGORY G

CULTURAL DANCE

There shall be a team of not more than fifteen participants including drummers for ten minutes(10m) from each school to present a cultural dance from any tribe below:

1. Gbagyi Dance 2. Maliki Dance
3. Ohafia War Dance 4. Apala Dance.

CULTURAL DANCE (RULES)

Rule 1: *A school in a Geopolitical zone shall not pick a dance from his zone.*

Rule 2: *Before presentation, the school shall introduce the Dance, Tribe and State.*

A school may deploy all the elements of performance for maximum score.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on general performance, choreography, originality, theme, music, instruments, costume, props, makeup, stage management, etc.







CATEGORY H

QUIZ

It is the traditional format of questions from the science, art and general knowledge.

POETRY

1. Cardever of Red Roses *by Zainab Iliyasu Bobi*
2. Strong Bond *by Sa'ada I. Yahaya*

Call 09169 310499

NOVEL

1. Broken *by Fatima Bala*
2. The Road to the Country *by Chigozie Obioma*

PLAY

1. Wedlock of the gods *by Zulu Sofola*
2. Otaelo *by Ahmed Yerima*

CATEGORY I

INNOVATION

THEME: ***Innovation for People with Special Needs***

1. Entry must be conceived and created by a student of the school.
2. Perspective
3. Inspiration/Originality
4. Aesthetics
5. Functionality
6. Innovation
7. Ingenuity/creativity
8. Executive summary, design and charts
9. Presentation

CATEGORY J

ICT AND TECHNOLOGY

THEME: ***AI and Education***

1. Entry must be conceived and created by a student of the school.
2. Specification of what is being presented.
3. Executive summary of the entire application/solution
4. Clarity of Idea/originality
5. Wireframe/framework/ Algorithms/flowchart.
6. Ingenuity/Creativity
7. Quality of presentation/Knowledge of the area
8. Execution/Functionality
9. Safety/Security
10. Readability/Writability

GENERAL RULES FOR CATEGORY I & J

1. All innovations ***MUST PROJECT INTO THE FUTURE*** in utility, versatility and function to society.
2. A petty or common product shall be outrightly disqualified.
3. A project must be original to the owner or presenter.
4. No joint entry.
5. **NOTE:** ***Detailed proposed entry of the project must be submitted on or before December 31st, 2025 to billtopcart@gmail.com***

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on design, materials, techniques, form, function, need, etc.







CATEGORY K

DRAMA

Each school shall present a One-Act-Play (15 minutes only) with not more than eight characters both major and minor. The use of real live weapons or taking the life of animals or birds will attract outright disqualification. A school MUST deploy all the elements of performance (drama) for maximum score.

THEME: ***The Soar Path to Greatness***

NOTE: ***It must be creatively presented.***

Scoring Template (100 marks)

Contestants will be scored on adherence to time, theme interpretation, originality, costume, props, makeup, stage management, etc.

THE NIGERIA PRIZE

For Indigenous Languages in Creative Writing & Science

HIASFEST
HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL



HILLTOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

email: hilltopcart@ gmail.com

Entries are hereby invited for the following:

CREATIVE WRITING (PROSE ONLY)

Gbagyi, Nupe, Hausa, Fulfulde, Yoruba
Igbos Pidgin, French and Arabic

₦100,000 EACH

Submission Procedure

- It must be a new full book (published or unpublished).
- The unpublished work must be prepared into a final dummy, ready for publishing.
- This prize is open to all ages, except Hausa which is open to 15-35 years only.
- The book must have been published between 2024 and 2025
- Books previously entered for the prizes are not allowed.

SCIENCE BOOKS (GEOGRAPHY) Translated or Written

Gbagyi, Nupe, French and Arabic — **₦100,000 each**

Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo — **₦150,000 each**

Submission Procedure

- It is open to all, irrespective of age and place of residence.
- It must be a written or a translation of any Geography book with a written copyright permission from the publishers or author.
- It could be a published or an unpublished work.
- The unpublished work must be prepared into a final dummy.
- For Yoruba, entries must be from Primary four to six
- The book must have been published between 2024 and 2025
- Books entered for the same prize in an earlier contest are not allowed.

GENERAL RULES

- Your work must reflect the culture of the language you are writing in.
- Use clear and unambiguous language.
- Use illustrations in your science books.

These prizes are for original works of the entrants. The sponsors or the administrators of the prizes shall not be responsible for the consequences of any plagiarized work.

CLOSE OF ENTRY

All entries must come in by

30th Sept 2025

Send three (3) hard copies of the entry, a covering letter, your profile, a studio portrait, a copy of the copyright permission for translated works, email address, residential or office address and phone number(s)

TO Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, David Mark Road, P. O. Box 4070, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.
0803-452-4787 0806-434-4947

Facebook: **Hiasfest** Twitter: **Hiasfest** Instagram: **Hiasfest, Hiasfest (popular site)**

hilltopcreativeartsfoundation



HIASFEST 2026

TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

For Art Students of Tertiary Institutions

Criteria for Arts

Open to students from Niger State and other Nigerians born in Niger State.

Open to any student of tertiary institution with GPA of 3.5 and above, in ANY LEVEL studying Art Courses with a completed manuscript of any genre or a project by participant in category **I** or **J** of HIASFEST, for science.

Applicants must include admission letter, certified GPA sheet, manuscript, short profile and a portrait picture with the application letter.

No electronic application.

The deadline is 30th August, 2025.

This scholarship is for off-setting the Annual School Fees of the winner. The scholarship is for one student per year in Art at **₦100,000.**

Criteria for Sciences

The scholarship for science is for **₦300,000** for winners of ICT & Tech category and **₦300,000** for winners of Innovation category of HIASFEST. The 1st position gets **₦150,000**, 2nd position **₦100,000** and the 3rd **₦50,000** respectively.

Hiasfest General Rules

- All participating schools shall be responsible for their own feeding in Minna, Niger state.
- All cash prizes belong to the winning students and it shall be paid to their individual or parent's account. Ex-Students of a school re-sitting their exams and other mercenaries are not qualified for HIASFEST. Defaulting leads to disqualification of the school.
- Incomplete provision of information on the registration form shall lead to disqualification.
- Fighting, drug abuse, sexual escapades by students and teachers will be handed over to the police and schools of the students banned.
- Any contestant promoting religious, ethnic and political agenda or intolerance shall be banned from HIASFEST.
- All environmental and personal health safety protocols should strictly be adhered to during the festival.

This scholarship is for off-setting the **Annual School Fees** for the winner. The scholarship is for one student per year in Art

at **₦100,000**

HILLTOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

Send Application to:

Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, P. O Box 4070
David Mark Road Maitumbi,
Minna - Niger State.
Contact: 08034524787, 08064344947

Award Ceremony at:

Siyyam International Event & Conference Centre, Minna, Niger State - Nigeria

On Saturday, 17th January, 2026

Facebook: **Hiasfest** Twitter: **Hiasfest** Instagram: **Hiasfest, Hiasfest (popular site)**

hilltopcreativeartsfoundation



HIASFEST
HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

Nigeria Prize For Teen Authors 2026

NIGERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

POETRY
₦300,000

FICTION
₦300,000

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries are hereby invited for the Nigeria Prize for Teen Authors. The prizes are for Poetry and Fiction (Novella or collection of short stories) and is open to only Nigerian residence. The prize carries a reward of ₦300,000.00 for Poetry and ₦300,000.00 for Fiction. First prize winners in each category will get ₦150,000.00. Second prize winners will get ₦100,000.00 while third prize winners will get ₦50,000.00.

Submission Procedure

Three hard copies of the entry with evidence of Nigerian citizenship (photocopy of Nigerian passport or National identity card), birth certificate, letter of recommendation by school and parents, last term's report sheet, should be submitted by the authors in accordance with the genres, in hard copies.

Published or unpublished books shall be mailed or submitted to the **Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation Headquarters, P. O. Box 4070 David Mark Road, Maitumbi, Minna - Niger State** by the stipulated deadline. NO EMAIL SUBMISSIONS.

Books published before 2024 will not be accepted. Complete contact information, including full contact address, emails, phone numbers of school and parent and other relevant contact information plus passport photograph in school uniform should accompany each submission. A student-writer will enter only one published or unpublished work. An entry (whether published or unpublished for each genre) must never be repeated in this prize.

The Sponsors or the Administrators **SHALL NOT** be responsible for the consequences of any plagiarised work.

Note: No further publications of winning entries.

Send To: **Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, P. O Box 4070 David Mark Road, Maitumbi, Minna - Niger State.**

Contact:
National Coordinator
Makama 08034524787

Assistant Coordinator
Abel 08054344947

HILLTOP
CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

Close of Entry

All entries must come in by
30th September, 2025

Announcement of Winners

Winners shall be announced and presented with their prizes at the finals of Hadiza Ibrahim Aliyu Schools Festival (HIASFEST 2026) on 17th January, 2026 at **Siyyam International Event & Conference Centre, Bosso, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria** by 10.00am.

For further information, visit **HIASFEST** website:
www.hiasfest.com.ng facebook: **Hiasfest**
Instagram: **Hiasfest**
facebook: **Hilltop Creative Arts Foundation**
email: hilltopcaf@gmail.com



HIASFEST 2026

All Schools MUST follow our social media platforms for regular updates:

Facebook: Hiasfest
Twitter X: Hiasfest
nstagram: Hiasfest

Foundation Facebook:
hilltopcreativeartsfoundation

Foundation e-mail:
hilltopcart@gmail.com

Please Log on to
www.hiasfest.com.ng
to download the Hiasfest modality

For further information, also visit:
www.hilltopfoundation.com.ng
www.nigeriareview.com.ng
www.literaturevoices.com.ng
www.themaarreview.com.ng
www.minnacityofliterature.com.ng
www.northernwritersforum.ng
www.nwfjournal.com.ng

National Coordinator
Makama ▪ 08034524787

Assistant Coordinators
Abel ▪ 08064344947



Alh. Bala Abdullahi **Kwatu**
Initiator & Sponsor

Co-sponsors

ALIYU TRUST FOUNDATION
Providing care and support for the less privileged

HIASFEST - Africa's Largest Teen Arts Festival

Muktar Aliyu Art Residency
Minna - Nigeria

Muktar Aliyu Art Residency (MAAR) is an initiative of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, Minna, Nigeria. It is situated at the exotic national headquarters of the foundation, along David Mark road, Maitumbi, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. It is the fourth Art Residency in Nigeria, and the second in Northern Nigeria, after Imodoye in Ilorin, Kwara State. It is named after **Late Muktar Aliyu** who was a son to Mallam Ibrahim Aliyu, the Sardauna Minna, and Chairman, Urban Shelter Ltd.

Muktar Aliyu was managing the Aliyu Trust Foundation who is the co-sponsor of Hadiza Ibrahim Aliyu Schools Festival **(HIASFEST)**, and the charity trust of Urban Shelter Ltd. He was always with us at **HIASFEST** before his sudden death in 2022. Hence the decision of the Board of Trustees of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation to name her residency after him.

MAAR is a place for both professional writers and artists, as well as amateurs and teen authors.



HILLTOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

Please visit our website **www.hiasfest.com.ng**

and also like our social media pages: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates.

hilltopcreativeartsfoundation | hilltopcart@gmail.com

Muktar Aliyu Art Residency
MINNA - NIGERIA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES & MANAGEMENT TEAM



Zainab Dzukogi

Director

Zainab Dzukogi is the Chairperson, BOT, and the Director of MAAR. She is a Mass Communication specialist with a Bachelor's degree from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and a Masters-in-view in Communications. She is a member of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation. As a mother, she brings empathy, structure and vision to every sphere of her life. Zainab is an educationist by hobby.



Vanessa Makama

Assistant Director

Vanessa Makama is a Trustee and Deputy Director of MAAR. She is a graduate of Geology from the Federal University of Technology, Minna. She is a member of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation. As the Deputy Director, she oversees the innovative aspects of the residency, and supports emerging and established artists in their creative development while at the residency.



Aliyu U. Muhammad

Secretary

Aliyu Umar Muhammad is a multidisciplinary artist, master of ceremony, and writer. His works have appeared in Poetry column, Ghudsavar magazine, Beyond The Sands Anthology, Incandescent Review, MAAR Review, and Kalahari review. Aliyu is the Secretary, Muktar Aliyu Art Residency Minna, Nigeria.



Yusrah Dzukogi

Treasurer

Yusrah Dzukogi is a passionate poet and a final year student of International Relations from Edusoko University, Bida, which has made her acquire a broad perspective on global affairs, culture, and human connections. She is a masterful Spoken Word artists and holds the position of Treasurer in MAAR, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees.



Emmanuel Umeji

P.R.O

Emmanuel Umeji is an Eastern-Northern Nigeria poet and writer, currently studying a BA programme in linguistics at the University of Abuja. He is the Assistant Librarian at the African Poetry Books Library, Minna, Nigeria, and the PRO, Muktar Aliyu Art Residency. He is the 3rd place winner of HIASFEST 2023 Nigeria Prize for Teen Authors (Poetry Category).

Past MAAR Fellows



Oladosu Michael Emerald is a writer, visual/musical artist, photographer and actor. He is the author of "Every Little Thing That Moves," and an Art editor at Surging Tide magazine. He's an Instructor at The Arnheim Art Gallery and Ybung Artists Art Hub. He is the winner of the Off the Limit Art Contest (2024), Spring Poetry Contest (2024), Garden Party Collective Neurodivergent Poetry Contest (2025), and Sine Qua Non Inaugural Poetry Prize (2025). He is a Pioneer Fellow of the Muktar Aliyu Art Residency.

Adamu Yahuza Abdullahi, THE PLOB, MAAR II, TPC V, whose works have appeared in Lolwe, Strange Horizons, CHESTNUT REVIEW, A Long House, Reckoning, The temz review, and other places, is a poet and visual artist from Borgu, Nigeria. He is a pioneer Fellow of Muktar Aliyu Art Residency, Minna, Niger state, Nigeria. He is a finalist of the 2024 Garden Party Collective chapbook contest. His debut poetry collection, The Rainbow is Not As Beautiful as my Ruins, is forthcoming from Felis Catus Press.





Ojo Victoria Ilemobayo is a Nigerian literary enthusiast and smartphone photographer. Her works have appeared in Ake Review and MAAR Review, among others. Her accolades include the April-June Wakaso Poetry Prize 2024, WGT3 2023, MUSPA Prize 2022, and Lagos Hilltop Poetry Prize 2021. When not writing or capturing moments, Ilemobayo enjoys reading, dancing, strolling, discussing poetry, traveling, and meeting new people.

JL Maikaho is a public speaker, writer, poet, peace activist, licensed conflict manager (LCM), event anchor and journalist. She won the VC GSU Award for Prose at NEFLICC (2023) and has published creative works in magazines across the world including Brittle Paper, MAAR Review, Kalahari Review and Poetry Column NND. She broadcasts for Radio Divine Project. She is a fellow of SprinNG Writing Fellowship (2022), Flame Tree Writers Project Abuja (2024) and the Muktar Aliyu Art Residency, Minna (2024). She is an editor at MAAR Review.





Mujahid Ameen Lilo majors in English Language at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He has recieved fellowships from The Wole Soyinka International Cultural Exchange Program (2019), Ebedi International Writers Residency (2023) and the Mukhtar Aliyu Arts Residency, Minna (2025). He won the Wole Soyinka International Essay Competition 2019 and was a finalist for the Nigeria Prize for Teen Authors 2020 and the Quramo Writer's Prize 2023. His works have been published in the Nigeria Review, Lagos Review, and Kalahari Review.

Ebri Kowaki is a storyteller and culture journalist exploring identity, memory, and modernity across African art, music, and media. His work has appeared in The Republic, Vanguard Nigeria, Afrocritik, Akowdee Magazine, and elsewhere. He was shortlisted for the Ikenga Short Story Prize. He is finishing up an experimental short story manuscript.



HCAF JOURNALS

The Nigeria Review

The Nigeria Review (www.nigeriareview.com.ng) is a journal of HCAF exclusively established to cater to the review of books in Nigeria, Africa and the world. COVID-19 inspired its coming about. The journal is the first Nigerian online literary journal that does not feature anything other than reviews. Some of the editors have been Prof. Tony Oha, Saddiq Dzukogi, Ismail Bala, Olumide Ojo Emmanuel, Muiz Opeyemi and Isaiah Gbenga Adepoju. The managers have been Akor Oche, Yusuf BM, and Ibraheem Uthman, respectively. It is in its 7th Edition. The Nigeria Review has over 150 critical essays and reviews published in it so far, covering critical essays, fiction, poetry, drama, and film, among other categories.

It has enjoyed the features of influential contributors from academics, writers, and readers, prominent among whom are: Prof. Anthony Oha, Prof. Asabe Kabir, Prof. Ngozi Chuma-Udeh, Prof. Razinat Mohammed, Prof. Aliyu Kamal, late Prof Abubakar Othman, Prof. Tunde Olusunle, Dr. Ismail Bala, Dr. Shamsudeen Bello, Barr. Ahmed Maiwada, Paul Liam, Clara Ijeoma Usuji, Nengi Josef Ilagha, Uthman Qasim, Akwu Sunday Victor, Chidiebere Enyia, Ngwaba Ijeoma Ann, Dr. Onyebuchi James, Onyebuchi Nwosu, Angeline Debbie Haywood, Khalid Imam, Amatare Mozimo, Dr. Omolola Ladele, Uchenna Emelife, Nekha Fathima Sulficar, Sunday Saheed, Haneefah AbdulRahman, Martin Ezimano, Aisha Umar, and more.

Literature Voices (www.literaturevoices.com.ng), exclusively designed to focus on interviewing writers. It is the only one of its kind in Nigeria as well; nothing else is published therein, except interviews.

LitVo was first edited by Halima Katun Ahmad with Prof. Anthony Oha as the Guest Editor. Thereafter, Haneefah AbdulRahman became the current Editor-in-Chief. A total of 67 interviews are on LitVo at the moment, including Dr Okey Ndibe, Dr Uthman Akanbi, Prof. Ahmed Yerima, Dike Chukwumerije, Onyeka Nwelue, Barr. Ahmed Maiwada, Dr Mu'azu Maiwada, Lola Shineyin, Prof. Asabe Kabir Usman, Su'eddie Agema, Uche Peter Umez, Hafsat Abdullahi, Safiya Yero, Dr Bukar Usman, Prof. Niyi Osundare, Olumide Olaniyan, Julie Weiss, Abu Bakr Saddiq, Prof. Obari Gomba, Oyin Olugbile, Ukamaka Olisakwe, Diego Okenyodo, Aisha AbdulKareem, Khalid Imam, Isyaku Bala Ibrahim, Gimba Kakanda, Sada Malumfashi, Eriata Oribagbor, Hamza Qoudri, Late Biyi Bandele, Brigitte Poirson, Mbunge Aliyeparara, Philis Katheu, Chika Unigwe, Surbhi Gupta, Fatima Bala, Zaynab Ilyasu Bobi, Julius Bokuru, Adedayo Agarau, Razak Malik Gbolahan, Dr. Ola Ifatimehin, Abubakar Adam Ibrahim, Samson Kukogho Eruesiri, Tee Jay Dan, Dr. Ibrahim Dooba, Prof. Abdu Saleh, Prof. Albishak, Jude Idada, Richard Ali, Dr. Wale Okediran, and Michael Enearu, among others.

The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) launches a new online journal for its residency, the Muktar Aliyu Art Residency (MAAR), which is located at the headquarters of the Foundation, along David Mark Road, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. The unveiling is scheduled for the end of May 2025 during the graduation ceremony of the current fellows of the residency: Mujahid Ameen Lilo (MAAR 005) from Kano State, Nigeria, and Ebri Kowaki (MAAR 006) from Enugu State, Nigeria. This makes HCAF's journals three in Nigeria.

The contributions of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation to Nigerian literature and art have become indispensable in the new era of art administration in the country. It is the oldest modern art organisation in Nigeria, established over 20 years ago (2004) by BM Dzukogi.

Its primary focus is on young writers and artists. There are about twenty branches in Nigeria. The young artists of 2004 are now some of the influential writers in Nigeria today. Saddiq Dzukogi is their flagship, being the first member of the Foundation. However, there are a few authors and artists who predated Saddiq under BM Dzukogi's tutelage.

In this piece, we are focusing on the journals of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation. The foundation, before now, has two prominent journals and a sister one owned by the Northern Writers Forum (NWF). The new journal is under Muktar Aliyu Art Residency (MAAR), managed by Zainab Dzukogi.

HILLTOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION
STRUCTURES



Sani 313 Library Literati

Donated by Senator Muhammad Sani Musa (313), the Library Literati is the soul of the Foundation as the feeder for members' knowledge.



African Poetry Library

The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, Minna, Nigeria, inaugurated the AFRICAN POETRY LIBRARY at its National Headquarters in Minna.

The inauguration was performed by the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Governor of Niger State, Hon. Bello Ibrahim.

The African Poetry Library is a project of the African Poetry Book Fund, University of Nebraska. The Nigerian project is facilitated by Saddiq M Dzukogi.

The Library facilitates Open Reading Sessions and opportunities to explore our growing collection of poetry books, read your favourite collections, or simply enjoy the magic of poetry in a calm, welcoming space.



CREATIVITY GARDEN

The Foundation's headquarters is housed in a serene and beautiful environment. The Creativity Garden has many unique fruit trees and beautiful plants which provide the needed environment for creative endeavours like reading sessions, mentorship and writing.





NYSC CUBICLE

(Mini Lodge)

In a bid to encourage and sustain young creatives, HCAF has constructed a comfortable lodge that can accommodate two Corp Members. We have been included in the NYSC database and have continued to receive and work with vibrant graduates, especially in the fields of Creative Writing, Visual Arts, Theatre, Computer/ICT, Mechatronics and Photography.

INNOVATION, ICT & TECHNOLOGY
Mini ICT Hub

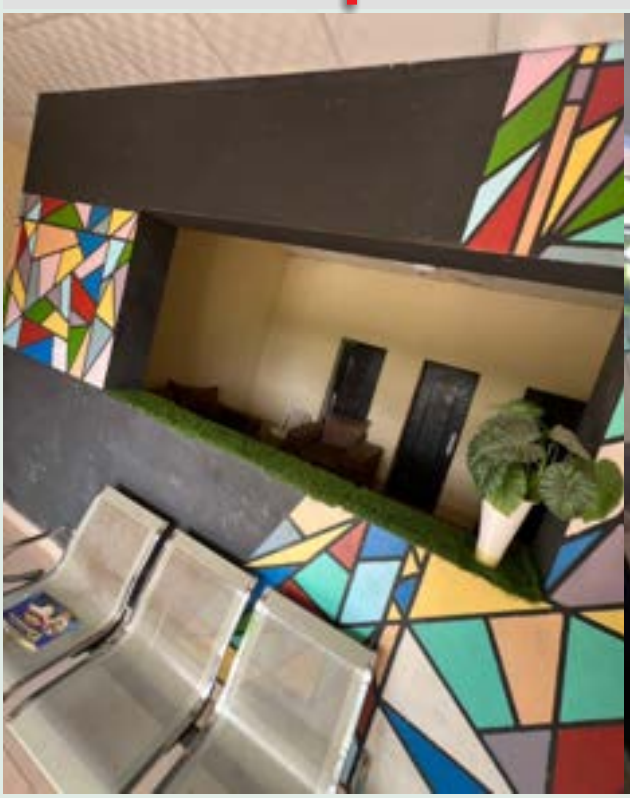
Donated by Hon. Suleiman Isah, the Commissioner for Communications Technology, Niger State, teenage writers use this mini hub to type their developing manuscripts.





Reception

HCAF has a well-furnished Reception Room at the HCAF headquarters where guests and visitors are received.







MINNA PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

In memory of Ambassador JT Kolo

The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) has concluded the maiden edition of the Minna Photography Contest in memory of late Ambassador James T. Kolo. The contest is an endorsement of TIMEOUT4AFRICA, driven by Mr Jonathan Kolo, a Nigerian resident in Washington, DC. The photography contest, which is in furtherance of one of the fundamental teenage engagements of TIMEOUT4AFRICA with youths in Nigeria in Basketball and Educational activities, will now be held three times a year. The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation is the administrator of the contest. The objectives of the contest are:

- To introduce the students to photography as art;
- To make them understand that photography is a subject of study like any other one;
- To encourage students to build a career in photography;
- To promote the value of photography as an essential element of development, cutting across all fields of human endeavour;
- To encourage students of secondary schools to develop entrepreneurial habits in photography as a future means of economic sustenance;
- To understand that photography is a means of socio-political commentary, a quest for human rights, and a potent tool for societal reordering; and
- That photography is recreational, therapeutic and soul-elevating for human stability in mental and emotional health.

The scope of the event calls for schools to enter several students at the cost of ₦500 each, along with their cameras, during the contest. At the finals, the teenage photographers are taken to locations to take their shots by our Contest-Guides who monitor the procession only without intervention. The teachers in charge of the school contestants are left behind at the headquarters of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation.

The contest is an on-the-spot business where the teenage participant is left to take full initiative of his own. Also, the outing with the contest organisers is restricted to a time of not more than 2 hours. The event is themeless. This is to enable the teenage photographers to explore any theme of their choice and exhibit their sense of creativity in full through their choice of contemporary

issues to capture. This is largely the philosophy of HCAF's contests, which enable us to retain the originality and innocence of the teenage artists.

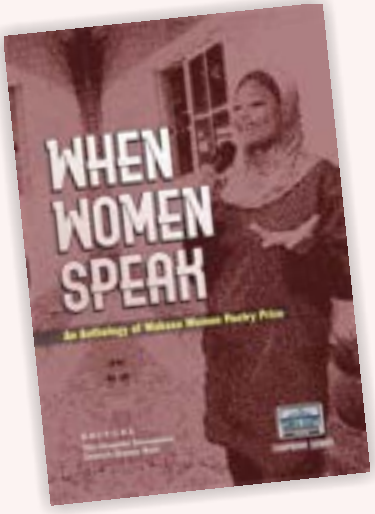
Upon return to the competition ground, the competitors go to the HCAF Mini ICT room to select two shots as entries for the contest. Again, the choice of their entries is exclusively their task without intervention from the teachers who brought them. Once a contestant has done that, the organisers register the entry against the school on a separate sheet.

Thereafter, the schools pay for the printing of the entries. One of the coordinators of the contest will go to the town to print the shots selected and return with them to give them numbers without the consent of the judges, the competitors, or other officials. The number marked on each of the two entries is written on a new register bearing the name of the participant and his school on a separate sheet of paper. On the second day of the contest, the Judges turn up in the morning to mark the entries. Remember, the entries have no names on them, just the new numbers given to them by an official of the organisers. After scoring, the judges come up with the winning numbers and give them to the organisers, who sort out the names to discover the names of the winning entries. Thereafter, the winners are announced at the closing ceremony to collect their prizes.

This year's Chief Judge was Saddiq Mustapha, one of the leading young photographers in Nigeria, and supported by Michael Emerald, a pioneer resident at the Muktar Aliyu Arts Residency, currently ongoing at HCAF headquarters, Minna. Saddiq is also volunteering to have monthly contact with the competitors for continuous mentoring. A total of eight schools participated, with about fifteen contestants.

WAKASO WOMEN POETRY ANTHOLOGY SERIES

Wakaso Women Poetry Prize



Ms Aisha Wakaso, a veteran journalist, child rights activist, girl-child promoter, matron of Niger youths, fearless public affairs commentator and social crusader, found it necessary to support arts in Nigeria by endowing a quarterly poetry prize of ₦50,000, which started from November 2019. The prize is in honour of her late father, Captain Mohammed Wakaso from Niger State.

The Wakaso Quarterly Women Poetry Contest is open to women Poets in Nigeria, especially young ones. An Anthology for 2024 winners, When Women Speak, which she sponsored and has been published, will be unveiled soon. Ms Aisha is currently the Special Adviser to the Governor of Niger State on Print Media.



Foundation Facebook:
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Foundation e-mail:
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Website
www.hiasfest.com.ng
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