Alliance Française de Nairobi

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Writing African Futures

a creative writing workshop by Makena Onjerika

Sat. 9th May, Alliance Française de Nairobi, Classroom 302 (3rd Floor)
15:00 – 18:00

Africa Forward Fest – *Connecting Minds, Shaping Future*

The **Alliance Française de Nairobi**, in partnership with **eKitabu**, will host the **5th edition of its annual literary festival**, now reimagined and expanded as the **Africa Forward Fest**.

Taking place in the lead-up to the **Africa Forward Summit,** held jointly by Kenya and France, this new pan-African format positions Nairobi as a key meeting point for writers, publishers, translators, educators, artists, and readers allowing stories, ideas, and identities to travel across borders, languages, and histories.

African literature is experiencing unprecedented creative energy and global visibility. Yet challenges remain in ensuring that stories circulate **across languages, markets, and audiences**. The Africa Forward Fest places these questions at its core.

What?

Stories help cultures understand themselves and see what they can be. Africa needs every story it can have written, especially about its future. This workshop seeks to equip aspiring writers with the fiction craft skills to write Africa's Future.

During this 3-hour class, the facilitator will guide the selected aspiring fiction writers through craft exercises to help develop their first drafts into more robust stories. Focus will be on core

elements of fiction: characterization, point of view, and theme. By the end of the class, the writers will be ready to start writing a second draft of their stories.

Facilitator

Makena Onjerika won the 2018 Caine Prize for African Writing and was shortlisted for the 2020 Bristol Prize and the 2022 NOMMO Award for Short Fiction. In 2024, she attended the Oxbelly Writing Retreat in Greece and was a finalist for the Flowers Fellowship to attend the Disquiet Literary Program in Portugal. Her fiction has appeared on Granta.com and in the Johannesburg Review of Books, Wasafiri, Black Warrior Review, among others. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) from the New York University.

Eligibility

- 18-35 years old
- Beginner writers who have not yet published a short story in a magazine
- Able le to attend the workshop in person at Alliance Française

Submission requirements

- Submit a short story of at least 2000 words
- Stories should be on the theme "African Futures"
- First drafts of stories preferred to polished stories
- Applicants who submit AI-generated or AI-assisted stories will be disqualified
- Writers who have previously undertaken any classes with Makena Onjerika are not eligible to participate in this class.

Maximum no. of participants

Limited to 12 writers.

Apply here

https://bit.ly/CallForApplicationWritingAfricanFutures

Application Deadline

- Deadline for application is 30th April 2026

Candidates announced

- Selected candidates will be notified on 4th May 2026