



«Dreaming Lebanon» Short Story & Photo Contest 2023-2024

"The Hidden Gardens of Beirut"

Regulations

Article 1: Presentation of the Contest

For the second consecutive year, within the framework of the "Dreaming Lebanon " contest, Banque BEMO, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, L'Institut Français du Liban, Librairie Antoine, Assabil Association, and the Beirut Center of Photography, is launching the new edition under the theme "The Hidden Gardens of Beirut." This contest aims to restore hope among young Lebanese by inviting them to explore and reclaim through text and image, the Lebanon of yesterday and today in order to dream the Lebanon of tomorrow. It is an educational project fostering discovery, understanding of others, and connection to the roots of the future generation, symbolizing the Lebanon of tomorrow.

Article 2: Categories and Participants

The contest is open to young Lebanese residents and non-residents, university students, and secondary classes students grades 10, 11 and 12. Each participant may only submit one short story accompanied by a photo. By participating, each contestant certifies that they are the author of the submitted short story and photo.

Article 3: Contest Theme

The theme for the 2023/2024 edition is "The Hidden Gardens of Beirut." Participants are invited to write a single short story in French, Arabic, or English, adhering to the theme and including a corresponding photo.

Article 4: Short Story and Photo Format

The submitted short story:

- Must not exceed 12,000 characters, approximately 2,000 words, with a margin of 10% more or less.
- Participants must provide their last name, first name, and affiliated institution.
- Text must be in Word format, A4 paper. The preferred font is "Calibri," size 12, single-spacing (non-bold, non-italic text).

The literary short story is a narrative text, an imaginative work where the use of figures of speech and language resources is crucial to create effects and evoke emotions and reflections.

The submitted photo:

- Must be an original work, not retouched or filtered.
- Must be accompanied by the location where it was taken.
- Should not be marked with a watermark, borders, logo, or website address, etc.
- Must align with the contest theme.
- Only one photo may be submitted.
- Photo format: JPEG

Article 5: Submission

Short stories and photos must be submitted, in a single entry, no later than March 9, 2024, to the following address: reverleliban@bemobank.com . This address can also be used for questions or inquiries.

Article 6: Selection of Applications

A pre-selection may be conducted in advance at the level of schools and universities if they wish.

The selection of the best short story in the three languages for each category (university/high school) will be made by a jury composed of representatives from the organizers, partners, writers, or journalists.

The selection of the best photo will be made by a jury composed of representatives from the organizers, partners, and photography professionals.

A weight of 70% will be allocated to writing and 30% to the photo. Specific criteria related to thematic coherence, visual creativity, evoked emotion, originality, and the overall impact of the text/photo combination will be considered in the scoring process. The described garden can be an existing or past garden, an imagined garden, or a vanished garden.

The jury's deliberations are confidential, and its decisions are final. No disputes will be accepted.

Article 7: Award Ceremony

Contest results will be announced at a ceremony on April 13, 2024. All participants, partners, and the general public will be invited to attend this event.

Article 8: Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category.

University Level:

- First prize for the short story & photo in French, Arabic, and English: \$300
- Second prize for the short story & photo in French, Arabic, and English: \$200
- Third prize for the short story & photo in French, Arabic, and English: \$100

High School Level:

- First prize for the short story & photo in French, Arabic, and English: \$300
- Second prize for the short story & photo in French, Arabic, and English: \$200
- Third prize for the short story & photo in French, Arabic, and English: \$100

Additionally, winners and all published authors will receive a one-year subscription to the Institut Français du Liban library network (Beirut, Deir el Qamar, Jounieh, Zahlé, Saïda, and Tripoli).

Article 9: Publication of Texts and Photos

By participating, contestants grant the organizers and their partners the non-exclusive, universal, irrevocable, and royalty-free right to use, reproduce, distribute, publish, and display the submitted texts and photos for promotional, educational, and other purposes, including publication on the organizers' websites and in local press. The best texts and photos will be compiled into a printed and digital collection published by Librairie Antoine. Participants retain copyright to their works (texts and photos) but agree that the organizers and their partners may use them in accordance with the terms stated above without further consent or compensation.

Article 10: Disputes and Disagreements

Participation in the contest implies the express and unconditional acceptance of these regulations in all their stipulations.

1. Adult participants (age > 18) automatically accept the regulations by participating.
2. Minor participants (age < 18) must submit, along with their works, a signed authorization from parents or legal guardians (Annex 1).
3. Photos representing one or more identifiable individuals must be accompanied by a written authorization from the photographed person(s) (Annex 2).

If conditions 2 and 3 are not met, the works cannot be accepted.

Article 11: Schedule

- Launch of the new edition: December 13, 2023, at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- Deadline for submission of photos and short stories: March 9, 2024.
- Prize ceremony: Saturday, April 13, 2024.
- Presentation of the published collection: during the 2024 book festival.

This regulation applies to the 2023/2024 edition of the "Dreaming Lebanon" contest. Participants are encouraged to follow updates on the website www.reverleliban.com and the contest's social media for more information.

Annex 1: Parental Authorization for Participants Under 18

"The Hidden Gardens of Beirut"

I, the undersigned, [Name of parent/legal guardian], acting as the legal guardian of [Participant's name], born on [Participant's date of birth], authorize my child to participate in the short story and photo contest organized by Banque BEMO in accordance with the terms of the regulations established for the said competition.

I certify that I have read the contest regulations, including all conditions, eligibility criteria, and rights related to participation. I approve the terms stated in the regulations, and I consent to my child participating in the competition in compliance with these rules.

I understand that this authorization is necessary to allow my child to fully participate in the competition, including the possibility of being visually identified in the promotion of the event.

Done at [Location], on [Date]

Signature of the parent/legal guardian with the mention "Good for Agreement":

Name of the parent/legal guardian: _____

Contact information of the parent/legal guardian:

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Annex 2: Authorization for Photo Publication in the Contest

"The Hidden Gardens of Beirut"

I, the undersigned, [Name of the identifiable person], authorize the publication of my photograph taken as part of the short story contest organized by Banque BEMO. I understand that this photograph may be used for promotional or publication purposes related to the event on communication channels of Banque BEMO and its partners in this contest, such as the website, social media, and any promotional material.

I consent to my image being used without limitation, including but not limited to reproduction, distribution, public display, and use for editorial purposes.

I certify that I am of legal age and have the right to consent to the publication of this photograph. I understand that this authorization is voluntary, and I will not receive any financial compensation for the use of my photograph.

Done at [Location], on [Date]

Signature of the identified person with the mention "Read and approved":

Name of the identified person: _____

Contact information:

Phone: _____ Email address: _____