

LOUIS D. FOUNDATION

A Prize for the survival and preservation of the Haitian culture

The **Louis D. Foundation** Cultural Grand Prize 2010

has been awarded to



BIBLIOTHÈQUES SANS FRONTIÈRES

A non-governmental organisation (NGO)
whose mission is to improve access to books and libraries
in developing countries

Founded in 2006 by Patrick Weil (historian and Director of Research at CNRS), Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF) is actively engaged in facilitating access to knowledge around the world through the creation of libraries, vocational education and training for local librarians and documentarians, book donation, and the development of new technologies (computerized services and digital libraries).

"By enabling access to knowledge, we want to reinforce aspirations to democracy, justice and intercultural dialogue throughout the world"

Patrick Weil, historian and founder of BSF

Haiti has been the primary focus of BSF operations since 2007. After the earthquake of January 12, 2010, the association has concentrated on providing emergency aid for the reconstruction of public, school and university libraries in the region.

By awarding the **750,000 euro** cultural prize to BSF, the Louis D. Foundation - Institut de France is not only supporting the association's current emergency relief efforts but also the educational and cultural projects it has been developing in Haiti since 2007.

"When all has fallen, culture remains."

Dany Laferrière, Haitian writer, signatory to BSF appeal

The Haiti programme

Since 2007, BSF has been working closely with the Embassy of France, the Haitian Ministry of Culture and MINUSTAH (UN) in Haiti. It has established a programme to support the creation of nearly **200 libraries** in the country and is currently working towards building a large public library in Port-au-Prince.

After the earthquake, BSF launched a priority-action project aimed at reaching almost 200,000 people focusing on three key areas:

- 1) Education in the refugee camps** where more than one million people currently live: in addition to overall coordination and reading materials, the project involves the creation of two street libraries and six container libraries to accompany the settlement process in the camps, staff training, and the setting up of a mobile library.
- 2) Strengthening the country's existing libraries:** book donation, provision of storage equipment, training on collection development and management, creation of eight local libraries in the rural community and a central public library in Port-au-Prince.
- 3) University literature and human resources:** creation of two digital campuses providing the 30,000-strong student population in Port-au-Prince with access to 50 computers, and creation of the central Port-au-Prince university library.



The Louis D. Foundation Cultural Grand Prize 2010

In addition to the basic educational and cultural development needs in Haiti, where 30% of the population is illiterate, the local French-speaking community is currently being challenged by the growing influence of English and Spanish. The Louis D. Foundation - Institut de France therefore wished to support BSF's project in this area through the cultural prize, an award dedicated specifically to defending the French language.

The Louis D. Foundation will provide support to BSF in line with the association's interventions and specific needs.

The award will be presented under the dome of the Institut de France on

Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 3 p.m.

alongside the scientific and cultural Grand Prizes of the following Institut de France Foundations:

Mérieux, Louis D., Simone and Cino del Duca, NRJ and Lefoulon-Delalande Foundations

ABOUT THE LOUIS D. FOUNDATION - INSTITUT DE FRANCE

Established in January 2000 under the aegis of the Institut de France, **the Louis D. Foundation** supports associations, non-profit organisations and NGOs (non-governmental organisations) which are engaged in either charitable or cultural activities or whose purpose is to encourage research.

Every year the Louis D. Foundation awards two Grand Prizes each worth **750,000 euros**: a science prize and either a humanitarian or cultural prize (awarded alternately). The Louis D. cultural prize aims to encourage and promote French culture and language throughout the world and foster the growth of the French-speaking community.

The Cultural Grand Prize has previously been awarded to:

- In 2008: The French University in Egypt, Cairo
- In 2006: The Alliances françaises in Poland
- In 2004: The International Federation of Teachers of French (FIPF)
- In 2002: Saint Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon

Members of the jury of the Louis D. Cultural Grand Prize 2010

- Mrs. Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, Perpetual Secretary of the Académie Française
- Mr. Jean d'Ormesson, Académie Française
- Mr. Erik Orsenna, Académie Française
- Mr. Frédéric Vitoux, Académie Française
- Mr. Xavier North, General Delegate of the French language
- Mr. Alain Rouquié, writer and president of the Maison de l'Amérique Latine

ABOUT THE INSTITUT DE FRANCE

Known as a "Parliament of the Learned" and society of knowledge, the Institut de France is a French public corporation made up of **five academies**: Académie Française, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Académie des Sciences, Académie des Beaux-Arts, and Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques. Its primary role is to support the development and advancement of the arts and sciences on a purely non-profit basis.

The Institute manages several major **Foundations**, whose independent administrative and financial structures allow them to play an exceptional role in **modern-day patronage**. Since 1810, several hundreds of thousands of individuals have benefited from the revenues generated by more than a thousand donations and contributions from private donors.

In addition to the major prize awards, the Foundations also support projects in very different areas:

- **Scientific research**: rewarding renowned researchers, helping emerging talent, and supporting laboratories
- **Humanitarian aid**: fighting against endemic diseases and poverty
- **Cultural heritage**: conservation of works of art, creation of collections or support for young artists
- **Projects in education and training**: granting study and research scholarships
- **Projects in sustainable and environmental development**: safeguarding our natural and rural heritage

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