

Manchester City of Literature



Writer Residencies at the Festival of Libraries 2021

Manchester City of Literature is offering three Festival of Libraries residencies for writers in 2021. Writers will support a community group and develop their own creative work inspired by their host library, its location or the people they meet there. There will also be one residency for an illustrator. These residencies will start in April, and culminate in the Festival of Libraries in June (9-13 June).

Each writer will complete a paid thirteen-day residency based at a Greater Manchester library, which may be public or independent. Manchester City of Literature anticipates that these residencies will be partially virtual, dependent on COVID restrictions.

Written work developed during this time could take many forms, including but not limited to:

- Poetry
- Personal essays
- Podcasts
- Short stories
- Fiction
- Plays

When?

Each residency will last 13 days overall, starting in April and culminating at the Festival of Libraries in June. This will involve 6 weekly sessions from w/c 26 April (6 days including preparation); 2 public workshops or readings during the festival; and 5 days for the writer's own research and writing.

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Who?

In order to be selected, applicants should:

- Live and/or work in Greater Manchester
- Have demonstrable experience of creating written work to a deadline
- Have experience delivering workshops in community settings, including to those with limited writing experience

Fee

The selected writers will be paid a set fee of £3,250, equating to £250/day for 13 days. There will also be a small budget to support documentation of creative output from the community e.g. in the form of a short film, audio compilation or photo book.

Application Process and Dates

Applicants should submit their expression of interest in the form of a video of no more than 10 minutes. This video should include responses to the following prompts:

- Tell us about yourself
- Tell us about your writing
- Describe one relevant creative experience you have had (for example working with community groups, libraries or similar)
- Tell us why you're excited to create work in partnership with a library and its users

Applicants are also asked to submit a relevant CV to support their application video. This CV should be no longer than two sides of A4.

Manchester City of Literature will pair the chosen writers with an appropriate library and community group, so applicants should be flexible on location. However, writers are encouraged to state any preferences or existing relationships they have with Manchester libraries in the covering email of their application if they wish. Appointed writers will be asked to commit to embed the vision and values of Manchester City of Literature into all their work during the residency.

All applications and/or queries should be sent to mcrcityoflit@gmail.com by the closing date of 24 March at 5pm.



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A panel from Manchester City of Literature will short-list artists and then a community panel will make the final selection.

Application deadline:	24 March at 5pm
Interviews with library panels:	w/c 12 April
Appointment:	w/c 19 April
Residencies commence:	w/c 26 April
Festival of Libraries:	9-13 June

Library partners in the Festival of Libraries include: Archives+, Central Library, Chetham's Library, John Rylands Library, Manchester Poetry Library, NHS Libraries, The Portico, Working Class Movement Library, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and Greater Manchester libraries (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan)

Manchester City of Literature Vision and Values:

The selected writers will support the realisation of the collective vision for Manchester City of Literature, formed through conversations with stakeholders across the city, for:

An innovative, distinctive, equitable, globally connected city of reading and writing, where diverse voices are celebrated, where creative talent and industries are nurtured and where literary activity changes lives.

The selected writers will demonstrate and promote the City of Literature's core values, which are:

Distinctive- creating distinctive cultural experiences inspired by Manchester's unique, radical character and rich cultural heritage whilst looking to the future.

Inclusive - celebrating the rich diversity of voices in the city, building on the strengths of Manchester's people and widening participation in literary activity.

Transformative- developing skills, nurturing creative talent and transforming lives.

Connected - linking and supporting literacy activity and enabling collective advocacy for Manchester's literary community and international collaborations.



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Manchester City of Literature

World-leading - a beacon for high quality, culturally democratic, truly diverse literary activity.

www.manchestercityofliterature.com



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