

Manchester City of Literature

The Rainbow Library

A LGBTQ+ literature & publishing project for 16-25 year-olds

Application Pack



Manchester

February – March 2022

About The Rainbow Library

The Rainbow Library is an ambitious project to make more books for children and young people that include LGBTQ+ identities and experiences. Because there are very few LGBTQ+ voices in children's publishing, and very few LGBTQ+ characters in children's books, we want to change that. We will do this by publishing a new collection of eight children's books called The Rainbow Library in 2023 - the collection will include picture books, short stories or novella, poetry, non-fiction and comics. And we want LGBTQ+ young people to help us do this!

The Rainbow Library project will take place across the United Kingdom, Ireland and Northern Ireland in eight places: Manchester, Nottingham and Basildon in England; Dumfries and Inverness in Scotland; Belfast and Derry/Londonderry in Northern Ireland; and Cork in the Republic of Ireland. In every one of these places, over two years, a group of LGBTQ+ young people will:

- Take part in this exciting new course that consists of **8 days of workshops** (in person and online) led by a children's author or authors with a maximum of 20 participants
- Develop their own writing and illustration during those workshops
- Be featured in **an anthology** of the best writing and illustration
- Work with the author or authors, helping them to develop a story of their own - which the author will then go away to work on
- Give critical feedback on the authors' draft stories - which will be edited and designed into **8 books** - with the young people credited as contributors
- Help promote the books by taking part in a local and national campaign to tie-in with Pride
- Come together with all the groups across the UK and Ireland to plan and organise a **3 day conference**

The workshops will take place at different times in each location, with the first ones starting in July 2021 and the last ones starting in January 2022. The conference will take place in three UNESCO cities of literature (Manchester, Nottingham and Dublin) in summer 2022. The books will then be published to coincide with Pride celebrations and the One Young World Global Summit meeting in Northern Ireland for summer 2023 .

About the Organisers


The Rainbow Library is produced and organised by Pop Up Projects. Pop Up is a children's literature development agency - we run literature programmes in schools across the UK, we create writing, illustration and publishing projects with young people and communities, and we train and mentor talented writers and illustrators so that they're prepared to work in children's publishing. We recently became a publisher with our first collection of children's books, 10 Stories to Make a Difference: www.pop-up.org.uk/shop. Find out more about us at www.pop-up.org.uk.


Manchester City of Literature

Manchester was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Literature in 2017. The vision for Manchester City of Literature is to create an innovative, distinctive, equitable, globally connected city of reading and writing. We want Manchester to be a city where diverse voices are celebrated, creative talent and industries are nurtured and where literary activity changes lives. You can find out about the new projects and programmes that will deliver these ambitions, including this one, by visiting [our website](#), following us on social media (@mrcityoflit) and signing up to our monthly newsletter.

The Rainbow Library in Manchester



Author and Illustrator

Name	About	Photo
Jay Hulme	<p>Jay Hulme is an award winning transgender performance poet, speaker and educator. Alongside his writing and regular performances he teaches in schools, performs sensitivity reads, and consults and speaks at events and conferences on the importance of diversity in the media, and more specifically transgender inclusion and rights. In 2017 he gave a TED talk and was featured in Nationwide Building Society's "Voices" advertising campaign, with him and his work appearing in both TV and radio adverts.</p> <p>In recent years Jay has worked alongside and/or consulted with Amnesty International, The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, Stop Funding Hate, and The Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards, among other groups, on inclusion and diversity in literature, especially YA and children's literature, and has performed confidential inclusion and sensitivity reads for a number of large publishers, improving the quality and accuracy of transgender representation in a number of books.</p>	 A portrait photograph of Jay Hulme, a young man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a dark jacket over a collared shirt. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

David Roberts	<p>David Roberts is a multi award-winning and New York Times best-selling illustrator who has earned great acclaim for his distinctive style. He was born in Liverpool and studied fashion design at university in Manchester. After university he worked as a milliner and began to get work as a fashion illustrator but always felt his true calling was in children's book illustration.</p> <p>David finally realised his dream when his first book was published in 1998, and since then he has collaborated with some of Britain's finest children's authors, including Julia Donaldson, Sally Gardner, Philip Ardagh, Jacqueline Wilson and Andrea Beaty. He is also the creator of the popular <i>Dirty Bertie</i> books (Stripes/Little Tiger Press).</p>	
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Supporting Team

Name	About	Photo
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<p>Libby Williamson (she/her)</p>	<p>Libby is a writer, theatremaker and part-time everything. She's worked with the Writing Squad, Manchester City of Literature and the Royal Exchange in various capacities, and freelance as a theatre producer and director. She's currently working on a play for VAULT Festival 2022- a queer sci-fi comedy!</p>	
<p>Jo Flynn (she/her)</p>	<p>Jo is the Communications and Partnerships Manager for Manchester City of Literature. She is also Director of Nationwide organisation For Books' Sake who champion feminist and queer writers, and writers of marginalised genders. A prize-winning Manchester-born poet herself, Jo can't wait to see how these books develop!</p>	

Workshop Dates, Times & Locations

Session	Date	Times	Place
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Workshop 1 (1 day online)	Saturday 12th February 2022	10am - 3pm	Online
Workshop 2 (1 day)	Saturday 19th February 2022	10am - 3pm	Central Library
Workshop 3 (1 day)	Sunday 20th February 2022	10am - 3pm	People's History Museum
Workshop 4 (1 day)	Saturday 5th March 2022	10am - 3pm	Central Library
Workshop 5 (1 day)	Sunday 6th March 2022	10am - 3pm	People's History Museum
Workshop 6 (1 days)	Saturday 19th March 2022	10am - 3pm	Central Library
Workshop 7 (1 day)	Sunday 20th March 2022	10am - 3pm	People's History Museum
Workshop 8 (1 day online)	Saturday 26th March 2022	10am - 3pm	Online

Are You Ready for This?

The Rainbow Library groups are supportive spaces for young people to learn and develop their skills together, while participating in an important project that will change the lives of thousands of young readers. You don't need any qualifications to take part- all you need is enthusiasm and the ability to commit to the full programme! If you're not sure yet whether to apply, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you identify within the LGBTQ+ spectrum?
- Are you passionate about writing, illustrating or making comics? Do you want to develop your skills in one or more of these areas?
- Are you interested in being part of a supportive and creative community for LGBTQ+ people?
- Will you give up 8 days of your time to attend workshops in Manchester - turning up on time and staying the whole day?
- Will you put in time independently to develop your writing, illustration or comics between the workshops?
- Are you interested in getting your creative writing, illustration or comics work to a publishable standard?
- Are you interested in developing your skills at communications, organising events, creating promotional campaigns (e.g. using social media), public speaking and leadership?
- You'll be asked to give up some weekend days and evenings?
- Do you want to change the world, and make it a better place for LGBTQ+ people to grow up in?

If the answer is YES to most of these - then you *are* ready for this! So you should go ahead and fill in the application form - and then email it with the additional attachments to: mrcityoflit@gmail.com

Application Form page 1

This is an informal application – don't be scared! If it says an answer is optional then you are absolutely not obliged to tell us, and please be assured that we won't store or share your data, or use it for any other purposes than this application. The most important thing is to be yourself and to have fun!

Full Name [required]: Preferred name: Pronouns:		Are you in full-time or part-time education? [required]	
Age [required - you must be between 16 and 25 years-old]		School / College / University name [optional]	
Email [required]		Are you in full-time or part-time work? [required]	
Town [required]		Type of employment [optional]	
Postcode [optional]		Do you identify within the LGBTQ+ spectrum? [required]	

<p>Can you attend all the dates of the workshops? If not, which dates are you not able attend? [required]</p>	
<p>Do you have any disabilities and/or access requirements? If yes, please describe so we can best meet your needs [required]</p>	
<p>About you</p> <p>Tell us about yourself! Include things that you like about yourself and are interested in:</p> <p>[max 100 words]</p>	
<p>I'm interested in this project because...</p> <p>Tell us why you want to take part!</p> <p>[max 100 words]</p>	
<p>Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?</p>	

Application Form instructions for submitting

Save and attach this form to an email and send it to mrcityoflit@gmail.com

Please also attach with your email one or both of the following:

- An example of your creative writing - no more than two pages long
- An example of your illustration, artwork or comics - try to scan and attach as a jpg or pdf rather than a photo

You will need to send these to us by **24th January 2022**

We really look forward to hearing from you!



A UNESCO City
of Literature