Manchester City of Literature

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস

اليوم الدولي للغة الأم

International Mother Language Day 2023

Día Internacional De La Lengua Materna

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস

مادری زبان کا عالمی دن

Journée Internationale De La Langue Maternelle

MANCHESTER
A UNESCO City of Literature

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Manchester Metropolitan University

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

#MCRIMLD23

1st Feb - 31st March 2023

manchestercityofliterature.com

Welcome to International Mother Language Day 2023

Manchester is a city full of languages – we have the densest multilingual population for a city of our size. Every year on 21st February, we recognise and celebrate all these languages for UNESCO's International Mother Language Day.

"UNESCO believes in the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity for sustainable societies. It is within its mandate for peace that it works to preserve the differences in cultures and languages that foster tolerance and respect for others." - UNESCO

Globally, some languages are under threat and 40% of the World's population doesn't have access to education in a language they understand. Here in Manchester, we want to celebrate multilingualism and promote the importance of multilingual education.

International Mother Language Day also shows the intrinsic connection of language to cultural heritage and traditions. By promoting this, we can help advance inclusion through understanding and dialogue. This year's events showcase a huge variety of languages in libraries, museums, language centres, theatres and a variety of other community spaces, allowing people in Manchester to engage with languages and practitioners from all over the world.

I take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their continuing efforts towards International Mother Language Day. These events and those of our past celebrations allowed me to honestly champion our multilingual strengths at the UNESCO Creative Cities Network Conference last year and I will confidently say again what I said there; "all these initiatives say to people: your language, your culture is important to our city. They help promote equality through creativity and self-expression."

Councillor Luthfur Rahman OBE, Deputy Leader, Manchester City Council

Benagali
BSL
Lingala
Estonian
French
Farsi
Urdu
Arabic
Italian
Hindi
Sorani
Kurmanji
Spanish
Icelandic
Romani

Join in the conversation with us **@MCRCityofLit,** using the hashtag **#MCRIMLD23** and **#MotherLanguageDay.**

Exhibitions

Manchester Central Library
(Manchester Histories Hub,
Lower Ground Floor)
St Peter's Square, M2 5PD

1st February – 31st March, available during the Library's opening hours

FREE, no booking required

Al-Usra wal-Sufra: Family and Feasts

We have an exciting exhibition from Ali Al-Jamri, Manchester Multilingual City Poet, who worked with artist Rosie Stanley to create a dollhouse to inspire writing for last summer's Liverpool Arab Arts Festival. The dollhouse was to provide inspiration for young people from two Arabic Saturday schools to read poetry and write their own in Arabic and English. The poems you will see in the dollhouse at the exhibition are all written by children at the Liverpool Arabic Centre and Manchester Arabic School.

Children might struggle to understand and reproduce the formal Arabic of the classroom, but every child knows how to ask their parents, "When is dinner ready?" With the family dinner as the starting point, the name emerged easily: Al-Usra wal-Sufra, Family and Feasts.

The young people were encouraged to write in both languages, whichever came naturally. The results were surprising: teachers said they had seen a creativity they had not known was within their pupils.

To bring everything together, Ali brought in the dollhouse. Just as we have remade our redbrick homes in England's Northwest to remind us of our origins, this dollhouse has been turned from a traditional English layout to a British Arab one, complete with a majlis to host big meals for the entire family.

Have a read of the young people's poetry – and why not add to our display by writing your own and sending it to us via #MCRIMLD23.

Produced by Ali Al-Jamri, Manchester Multilingual City Poet. Dollhouse design by artist Rosie Stanley.
In partnership with Liverpool Arab Arts Festival and Manchester City of Literature

Library shelves

On our Manchester City of Literature stacks in Manchester Central Library (just around the corner from the Manchester Histories Hub where our exhibitions are), we have worked with the Library team to fill these will books for International Mother Language Day. These multingual books will interest a range of ages including new books linkedto the events you'll see throughout this booklet.

La Ville d'après: Visions artistiques de notre futur urbain

In 2020, the hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across the world's population stimulated discussion about how cities would function post-COVID-19. Angoulême in France, a sister UNESCO City of Literature with a rich history of celebrating comic books and graphic novels, launched a competition to find those visions, hopes and fears of a post-COVID world from other UNESCO cities.

For International Mother Language Day, we have collated ten entries from our sister UNESCO Cities of Literature for you here, along with a brief insight from the artists about their work.

Multilingual Film Exhibition

On the screen in the Manchester Histories Hub, where our exhibitions will be displayed, we will have a playlist of films from Manchester and other sister UNESCO Cities of Literature.

From Manchester we will have the 'Made in Manchester' poem based on Zahid Hussain's poem, comprising of 65 languages, and different translations of Manchester Multilingual Poets, Anjum Malik's 'This Here' and Ali Al-Jamri's 'In Prisms of Knowledge'.

Outside of Manchester, we will be playing films from Nottingham, Tartu and Reykjavik, all UNESCO Cities of Literature.

Words from the Childhood Home: A Chain Poem for International Mother Language Day 2023

From Monday 20th February

'Words From the Childhood Home' is a brand new, exciting, multilingual chain poem written by nominated poets representing UNESCO Cities of Literature to celebrate International Mother Language Day 2023.

Manchester City of Literature invited our fellow UNESCO Cities of Literature to nominate a poet to respond to Anjum Malik, a Manchester Multilingual City Poet who writes in Urdu and English.

Anjum started the chain poem with a four-line stanza on the theme of 'Childhood Home', reflecting on the power of family (and all the forms that this takes), native languages and memory. Each participating poet was tasked with producing a four-line stanza (in their mother tongue and with a translation into English) in response to the words of the poet that responded before them. Together, members of the Cities of Literature network have produced a stunning poem which captures the rich nuances of international poets' lived childhoods.

Thank you to Manchester Histories for their work and cooperation in helping us organise this exhibition in their space within Manchester Central Library.

Saturday 18th February

Insituto Cervantes: Cuéntame un cuento | Tell me a Story

Instituto Cervantes Manchester
326-330 Deansgate, M3 4FN, 12pm
FREE Book here

El Quijote para niños
(Don Quixote for Kids)

Teacher: Magaly Flores

In 2023, Instituto Cervantes in Manchester continues its series to promote children's literacy skills 'Tell me a Story'. They start with the celebration of International Mother Language Day, where teacher Magaly Flores will read one of the classics of Spanish literature, Don Quixote for Children by Miguel de Cervantes.

"In a town in La Mancha, whose name I do not wish to recall...." is the beginning of this book that tells the adventures and misadventures of Don Quixote through the lands of La Mancha who, accompanied by his loyal squire Sancho Panza, will fight against windmills, enchanted ships and dream of falling in love with his beloved Dulcinea.

Language: Spanish

Monday 20th February

CAN: Multilingual Family Singing Workshop

Manchester Central Library
(Performance Space)
St Peter's Square, M2 5PD
2 - 4pm (please arrive at 1.30pm for registration)
FREE, no booking required

Join Community Arts Northwest for a special multilingual family singing workshop, delivered by Emmanuela Yogolelo and Sarah Yaseen to celebrate International Mother Language Day 2023.

Manchester based international singers, Emmanuela Yogolelo and Sarah Yaseen, will teach children aged 6+ and their parents, songs in languages including Lingala, French, Farsi, Urdu and Arabic.

Experience the power of communal music as we have fun with simple, easy to remember and accessible songs. The singing leaders will guide the participants in breathing, diction and learning melodies using a selection of songs from across the globe and various techniques including call and response.

All taking part will leave with new cultural understanding, a respect for the linguistic diversity of Manchester, new skills in singing and a repertoire of songs they can sing together as a family.

Capacity for the workshop is limited and will run on a first come first served basis, so please arrive at 1:30pm for registration. Light refreshments will be provided.

For More information please contact:

Michelle Udogu, Creative Producer michelle@can.uk.com

0161 234 2975

Manchester In Translation: Comma Press Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd February, 11am - 7pm, Free

Online

Manchester's Comma Press present a series of free, online workshops and panels offering advice and insight into literary translation as a professional practice. Over three days, emerging translators - or those with a passion for working between languages - will be invited to engage in current debates and topics surrounding literary translation, as well as take part in eye-opening translation workshops.

Join Comma for morning talks and panels, streamed live on the Comma Press YouTube Channel at 11.00am. Each afternoon Comma will host workshops in specifically-chosen community languages. The workshops will be delivered online via Zoom and are limited to 15 spaces. All events are entirely free, but you have to sign up.

Keynote Speech Tiffany Tsao

Monday 20th February, 11:00am
Watch Live via the Comma Press YouTube. Book here.

Writer and translator Tiffany Tsao will deliver the opening keynote. Tsao has translated five books from Indonesian to English. Her translation of Erikson Pasaribu's Happy Stories, Mostly won the 2022 Republic of Consciousness Prize and was longlisted for the International Booker Prize.

This keynote will be streamed live to the Comma Press YouTube channel. You will be able to follow a link to the YouTube event from this event's Eventbrite page, or from the Comma Press website, social media pages (@commapress).

Panel: Queering Translation

Tuesday 21st February, 11:00am
Watch Live via the Comma Press YouTube. Book here.

A panel discussion looking beyond issues of representation to ask what strategies might inform a translator's practice with regard to both contemporary and historic queer literature and the ethical implications of doing so.

This panel will be streamed live to the Comma Press YouTube channel. You will be able to follow a link to the YouTube event from this event's Eventbrite page, or from the Comma Press website, social media pages (@commapress).

Panel: Keeping Underrepresented Literatures Alive through Translation

Wednesday 22nd February, 11:00am
Watch Live via the Comma Press YouTube. Book here.

Translators from languages underrepresented in English translation will discuss what role translators, editors, publishers and authors plays in keeping the literature of those languages alive.

This panel will be streamed live to the Comma Press YouTube channel. You will be able to follow a link to the YouTube event from this event's Eventbrite page, or from the Comma Press website, social media pages (@commapress).

Translation Workshops with Comma Press

Comma will also be hosting four 2.5-hour-long translation workshops each afternoon of the conference designed to give people a taste of the translation process. This year's workshops will cover translating Italian, Hindi, Soranî and Kurmanjî into English.

Groups will work on collaborative translations of texts across different genres, guided by experienced translators. This is a great opportunity to take your translating to the next level, hone your creative writing skills and meet like-minded people.

All workshops translate into English, therefore all participants must have proficiency in the source language (reading proficiency not just spoken) and have a high proficiency in English. Groups will be limited to 15 people to allow for individual attention, and applicants will be asked to answer a few quick questions when booking to determine their suitability for the workshop. This information won't be shared with anyone but the workshop facilitator.

Please note that workshops are for UK-based translators only.

Monday 20th February 2-4.30pm. Italian to English Translation with Ruth Clarke. Book here.

Tuesday 21st February 2-4.30pm. Hindi to English Translation with Mohini Gupta. Book here.

Wednesday 22nd February 2-4.30pm. Sorani-English Translation. Book here.

Wednesday 22nd February 2-4.30pm. Kurmanji-English Translation. Book here.

Tuesday 21st February

The Multilingual Museum

Manchester Museum
Oxford Road, M13 9PL
Drop in 10am - 4pm
FREE, no booking required

Come and experience the pioneering Multilingual Museum, celebrating the language diversity of Manchester. Whether you speak a language fluently, are learning one, or just want to know more about languages, come along! You could try to translate with them, speak in your own language about the objects, learn more about the languages found around Manchester, or hear from their Multilingual Museum volunteers about the work they've done to make this project possible. Your contribution could go on their website too!

Z-Arts Duplo Poem Build

Z-arts Children's Library
335 Stretford Road, M16 8FJ
10:30am - 12:00pm
£1 per person, book here

Join Z-Arts in their beautiful children's library for a fun session building poems using Duplo.

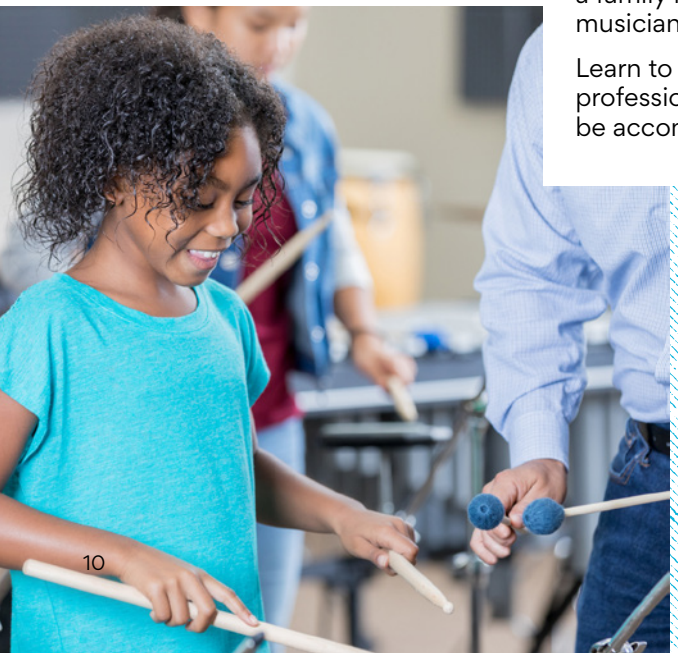
It's a creative session that uses Duplo blocks for hands-on activities where children and grown-ups work together using the blocks with words to create poems and structures.

Live Roma Music

Z-arts Children's Library
335 Stretford Road, M16 8FJ
2 - 2.45pm
£1 per person, book here

Experience Roma culture through a family music session hosted by two musicians from the Miro Orchestra.

Learn to sign in Roma with a professional Roma musician who will be accompanied by a Qora player.



Creative Manchester / University of Manchester: COMICS UP CLOSE - New Perspectives in Comics 2023

Manchester Museum (Kanaris Theatre)
Oxford Road, M13 9PL
11am - 5pm (registration from 10am)
£25 including lunch and refreshments
Book here

Why Comics? What Can They Do? The Lakes International Comic Art Festival in partnership with Creative Manchester and Sheffield Hallam University invite you to join a day packed with new and exciting perspectives on comics. Bringing together leading academics, world renowned comic creators and comic advocates from across the globe, the day will present new research and thinking on comics.

Contributors will include:

Dave McKean, one of the UK's leading illustrators, photographers, comic book artists and filmmakers, reflecting on new technological advances, especially Artificial Intelligence, and how these are redefining what it is to create, to draw and consume comics.

Benoit Peeters, previously the UK's first professor of comics at Lancaster University, currently professor at the Collège de France in Paris and also a writer, thinker and the creator of The Obscure Cities comic series with the Belgian artist François Schuiten, exploring what makes comics special and particular in the world of arts and culture.

Also featured will be presentations on comics and social change across Europe, comics and racial identities in Latin America and a survey of comics and social change in the UK over two centuries, plus much more.

Manchester Libraries: Fun Days

Moss Side Powerhouse

140 Raby St, M14 4SL
FREE, no booking required

Dual Language Storytimes
at Moss Side Powerhouse Library

Join the Library team at Powerhouse Library for story times in different languages! Every Tuesday in February they will celebrate their communities' many different mother languages with a story read both in English and a language spoken by a local parent.

Tuesday 7 Feb, 11am - 12pm
Tuesday 14 Feb, 11am - 12pm
Tuesday 21 Feb, 11am - 12pm
Tuesday 28 Feb, 11am - 12pm

Manchester Central Library

St Peter's Square, M2 5PD
Tuesday 21 Feb, 1 - 3pm
FREE, no booking required

During the half-term holidays, why not bring the family along to join us for a multicultural celebration of language with local community groups and specialist schools. There will be dance, music, language games, traditional costumes and traditional crafts. Plus, they invite you to sample food from around the world! Free, drop-in, all welcome.

North City Library

931 Rochdale Road, M9 8AE
Tuesday 21 Feb, 1 - 4pm
FREE, no booking required

Bienvenidos Amigos! Welcome Friends and join us for a fabulously fun-packed afternoon as we dance, draw, laugh, craft, listen and sing our way through all the wonderful languages we can speak with our friends and family. They have got Benn from Dance Global showing us how to rock some cool international dance grooves. Artist Mandy will be there with brilliant art activity celebrating our diversity and heritage, plus there's multilingual Storytime and craft, try your hand at Karaoke songs and music from around the world, there'll be food, games, puzzles and play in their World Party! Vamos! Allons y! and bring the whole family to learn and enjoy!

Forum Library Wythenshawe

Forum Square, M22 5RX
Tuesday 21 Feb, 2 - 4pm
FREE, no booking required

Join us for a fun packed afternoon of workshops, activities and performances to celebrate and shine a light on language and cultural heritage, you will be able to get creative in one of the making workshops, get involved with the fabulous Afro-Tots dance performance or just sit back and enjoy the entertainment and atmosphere.

Longsight Library

519 Stockport Road, M12 4NE
Tuesday 21 Feb, 2 - 4pm
FREE, no booking required

Join Longsight Library for another great afternoon of language and cultural heritage themed activities with their community partners and artists. Make your mark and help grow their language inspired bunting for the library.

This year they are endeavouring to create an International Mother Language Day inspired playlist of songs and music.

Tuesday 21st February

MCR City of Languages: Protecting Multilingualism panel

Online

Online
6.30pm
Free, book here

“Why and how should we protect multilingualism? A linguistic citizenship perspective”

The online event will bring together an international panel of activists for indigenous language rights and city and nation-wide multilingualism to discuss issues of linguistic citizenship and links between language and equality and decoloniality. Its purpose will be to inspire local activists by linking to an international perspective. Speakers include Francesca La Morgia, Mother Tongues Ireland; Daniel Kaufman, Endangered Language Alliance New York; Kamal Kelzi, Dom language activist and Anjum Malik, writer, lecturer and Multilingual City Poet. Facilitated by Professor Yaron Matras.

Muslim Writers: International Mother Language Day Mushaira

Pakistani Community Centre
481 Stockport Rd, M12 4NN
6.30 - 9pm
FREE

Book via: admin@muslimwriters.org.uk

A special Urdu poetry recital – all welcome!

Wednesday 22nd February

Creative Manchester / University of Manchester

Tales without books: the nature of oral storytelling with children (Research Café)

Manchester Museum
Oxford Road, M13 9PL
12.30 - 2pm
FREE (lunch included)

Book here

Reading books with young children is an activity enjoyed by many families. Over the years researchers from a range of disciplines have found that sharing books with young children has a range of benefits for child development, such as increasing the number of words that children understand and use, and their literacy and narrative skills later down the line. Books are not the only way to tell stories though and the practice of oral storytelling is also prevalent around the world. In this research café, hosted by the Linguistic Diversity Collective and Creative Manchester in partnership with Manchester Museum, we will discuss the practice of oral storytelling to young children across cultures and maybe share a story or two ourselves.

Booking is essential.

Wednesday 22nd February

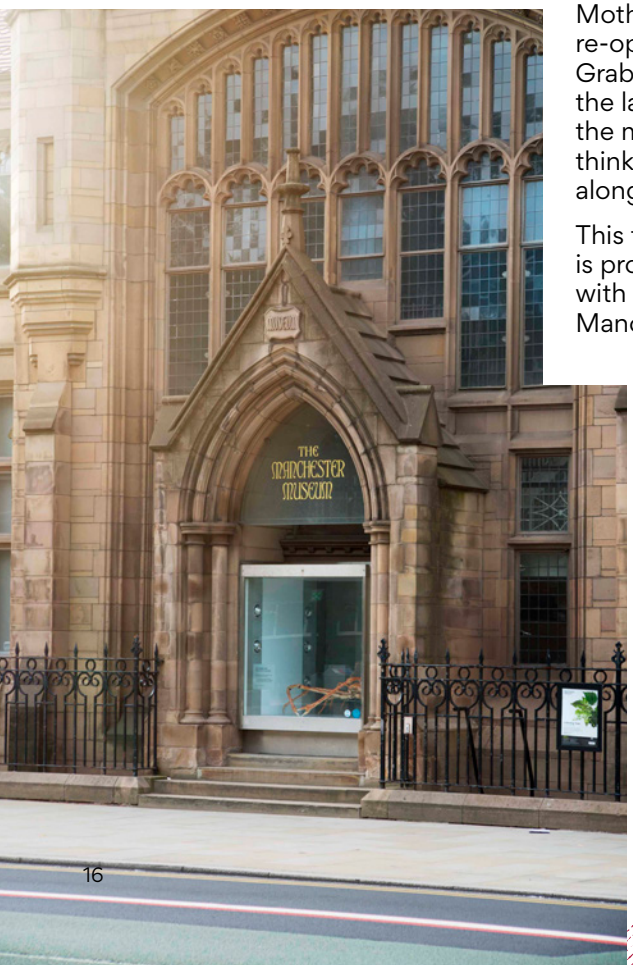
Creative Manchester / University of Manchester

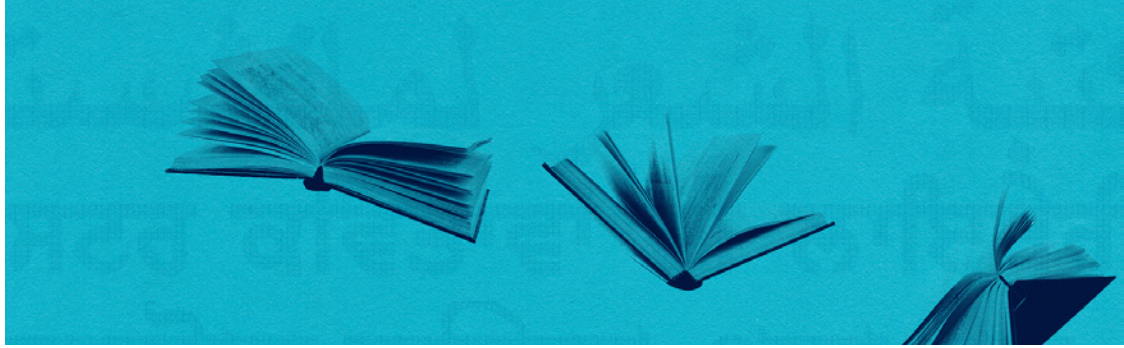
Looking for languages: Half-term family trail at Manchester Museum

Manchester Museum
Oxford Road, M13 9PL
From 2.30pm
FREE, book here

The Linguistic Diversity Collective invites you to join them for some half-term fun to celebrate International Mother Language Day at the newly re-opened Manchester Museum. Grab your activity sheet and follow the language-themed trail around the museum's enchanting collections, thinking about your own language(s) along the way.

This free, family-friendly activity is proudly presented in partnership with Creative Manchester and Manchester Museum.





Thursday 23rd February

Manchester Poetry Library: International Mother Language Day at the Manchester Poetry Library

Manchester Poetry Library
Oxford Road, M15 6BG
Throughout the day (10am - 7pm)
FREE (refreshments provided)
No booking required

Drop in anytime during the day to view special displays of books from their co-curated language programme, including Farsi poetry recommended by the audience at last year's event and a special Bengali poetry display that considers the roots of International Mother Language Day.

From 1-3pm bring along a children's poetry or picture book, in any language and share it in the family 'Love to Read' session. Children of all ages are welcome and invited to join in this relaxed session, which will also feature colouring and writing activities in the library. An informal, fun session for all the family. Drop in, no need to book.

From 6-7pm, Manchester Poetry Library will be hosting their very first Multilingual Open Mic poetry session. Places at this event are limited, so register to attend. Audience members can opt to read in any language, simply let us know what language you wish to read in when you register. The poems can be your own or written by someone else. Places to read will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Manchester City of Literature: Al-Usra wal-Sufra Workshop

Manchester Central Library
(Manchester Histories Hub)
St Peter's Square, M2 5PD
11am - 12.30pm
FREE, no booking required

Al-Usra wal-Sufra: Family and Feasts

In this workshop, Ali Al-Jamri Manchester Multilingual Poet will use a dollhouse created for Liverpool Arab Arts Festival in the summer to work with children, encouraging them to write poetry about the home in both Arabic and English, whichever comes naturally. Ali's focus will be on creative expression over grammatical quality.

Instituto Cervantes: Language Aquisition in Multilingual contexts

Online

6pm
FREE, book here

Adquirir una Segunda Lengua: ¿Por qué nos parece tan difícil? | Acquiring a Second Language: Why do we find it so difficult?

Lecture given by Diego Pascual y Cabo (University of Florida)

Instituto Cervantes Manchester and Leeds presents a new lecture series: "Acquiring a Second Language: Why do we find it so difficult?", coordinated by Idoia Elola (Texas Tech University) y Ana Oskoz (University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), a forum aimed at teachers, language students, parents and the general public, which will consider how we learn a second, or a heritage language. Presenters will discuss various elements and difficulties that come with second-language acquisition including: myths and realities surrounding language acquisition and age, the effect of explicit knowledge and how it can affect learning, the use of language according to the context in which it is spoken, and the effect of education on our ability to learn a second language. The first lecture "Critical Language Awareness and the Second-language Classroom" will celebrate International Mother Language Day and will be given by Diego Pascual y Cabo (University of Florida).

Language: English (simultaneous interpreted into Spanish)

Thursday 2nd March

Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University: Mother Tongue Other Tongue Launch

Online

Online. 4 – 6pm
FREE, book here

Mother Tongue Other Tongue 2023 will be launched online during IMLD 2023. This is a free to enter competition, open to young people aged 8-18 wishing to celebrate their mother language or to be creative in a language they are learning. This event is for schools and other groups wishing to join the project to find out about the competition and available resources.

Sign up for an online, information and resource-sharing event.

For further detail about Mother Tongue Other Tongue and other MCR Poetry Library initiatives, see **mmu.ac.uk/poetrylibrary/**

Friday 17th March

MACFest 2023: Celebrating Poetry and International Mother Language Day

Online

6 – 7.30pm
FREE Book here

Join us for an exciting event with young people from the UK, on a literary and poetic journey, as we also celebrate International Mother Language Day!

Young poets will recite or perform their poetry in English or their mother tongue. They will be Introduced by their teachers or headteachers.

- Musfira Raza, Year 11 and Ayesha Nadeem, Year 10, Levenshulme High School
- Zaynab Behzad from Altrincham Grammar School for Girls
- Hafsah Khan from Loreto College
- Withington Grammar School for Girls

Hosted by: Miss Donna Johnson and Mr. Neil A. Johnson, Co-Headteachers of Levenshulme High School, Manchester. Chief Guest: Yaron Matras is a linguist at the University of Manchester specializing in Romani and other languages, including Middle Eastern languages.

MACFEST
MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

How to get to all festival venues

Make a day of it with IMLD

Did you know? **manchestercityofliterature.com** can be translated into over 90 languages using the "Site Assist" button!

MANCHESTER
A UNESCO City of Literature

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Manchester Metropolitan University

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

#MCRIMLD23
1st Feb - 31st March 2023

manchestercityofliterature.com