

# A Thousand Stories

*Programme for the day*

A day for people of colour who create books for children  
Birmingham & Midland Institute, B3 3BS  
Saturday July 11, 2026



TIME	EVENT
9:30 - 10:00 AM	Arrival and registration in the Dickens Room
10:00 - 10:20 AM	Welcome speech: Leila Rasheed, founder of Megaphone Writers C.I.C.
10:20 - 11:20 AM	<b>FROM UNPUBLISHED TO BESTSELLER:</b> Author Serena Patel in conversation with editor, and Co-Director of Megaphone Writers C.I.C., Stephanie King.
11.20 - 11.45 AM	Coffee break
11:45- 12:45 PM	<b>BECOMING A PUBLISHED AUTHOR:</b> Recently published authors, Mayo Agard-Olubo, Abena Eyeson and Shireen Lalji share their experiences and advice. Chaired by Leila Rasheed.
12.45 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch break (Vegetarian buffet lunch provided)
1:30 - 2:30 PM	<b>STORIES INSPIRED BY CHILDHOOD AND HERITAGE:</b> Kereen Getten, Anika Hussain and G M Linton on how heritage and family history inspired their writing. Chaired by Leila Rasheed.
2:30 - 3:30 PM	<b>AFTER THE FIRST DRAFT: EDITING, POLISHING AND SELLING YOUR BOOK:</b> Literary agents Safae El-Ouahabi (Rogers, Coleridge & White) and Louise Lamont (LBA Literary), alongside children's author and editor Ashley Thorpe share tips and advice on getting your book ready to submit to agents. Chaired by Stephanie King.
3:30 - 4:15 PM	Coffee break, then <b>COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS</b> , session facilitated by Anjem Anwar (The Emma Press)
4:15 - 4:30 PM	Closing key note speech: <b>THE VALUE OF A WRITING COMMUNITY:</b> Eva Wong Nava (Author and founder of StoryFeast). Writing competition winner announced.

5:00 PM

**Event space closes**