

# Greater Roxbury Book Fair

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Free and open to the community!



Dear Book Lovers,

Hello and welcome to the first annual Greater Roxbury Book Fair! Here in the cultural hub of Nubian Square, Roxbury, we invite you to join us in celebrating our community's love and passion for books and reading. This event is an opportunity to raise the profile of local authors, artisans, and creatives and highlight the Boston Public Schools' summer reading program. Attendees can meet and greet authors, and hear the inspiration behind their books.

The day's event at the Roxbury branch of the Boston Public Library features panels, workshops, author readings, storytimes, author exhibitors, Boston and Massachusetts literary organizations, 20+ local vendors, music, food, and more. . . .

The Book Fair is one in a series of seven monthly themed events presented by Savor the Square (STS), a culturally-inspired economic development initiative at The American City Coalition (TACC). Savor the Square brings together existing brick-and-mortar businesses and entrepreneurial vendors into one marketplace in the business district's core. It complements existing businesses, by introducing new customers, and increasing foot traffic. Savor the Square is a way of reimagining The Heart and Soul of Roxbury, as a destination for residents and visitors alike. Shop - Dine - Explore, and Savor the Square!

Special thanks to our partners and sponsors of this event: The American City Coalition (TACC), Roxbury branch of the Boston Public Library, Roxbury Main Streets (RMS), Frugal Bookstore, New Commonwealth Fund (NCF), the Book Fair Planning Committee, and local vendors.

We're excited to celebrate our love of books together at the Book Fair.

Happy Reading,

Carole Walton, Project Manager  
Savor the Square  
Boston Public Library

Akunna Eneh, Librarian  
Roxbury Branch of

## PROGRAMGUIDE

Join us for author talks, workshops, and storytimes at the Greater Roxbury Book Fair! *All author programs will be followed by an author signing in the library lobby, hosted by Frugal Bookstore.*

**12:00pm**

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### Toontorials: Crafting Your Comics

Channel your creativity in an engaging, hands-on comics workshop with cartoonist LJ-Baptiste! Learn techniques for developing a character design from scratch, and bringing them to life in a way that's fully authentic to your individual style. Best of all, you'll have the opportunity to learn from examples by some of the pros, so that you can apply them to your own comics storytelling as well! *Sponsored by Comics in Color.*

**Roxbury Library Conference Room**

**12:30pm**

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### Joel Christian Gill Spotlight

Celebrate Black history and personal stories with works by award-winning local artist Joel Christian Gill. Gill is the creator of the *Strange Fruit* and *Tales of the Talented Tenth* series, and the author of the visceral and emotional graphic novel memoir, *Fights: One Boy's Triumph Over Violence*. Gill will discuss his work, including the upcoming comics-format adaptation of *Stamped from the Beginning* with collaboration with Ibram X. Kendi.

**Frugal Bookstore**

**1:00pm**

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### Character Creation as a Tool for Self-Expression and Trauma Release

This interactive workshop from local poet Abria M. Smith will introduce participants to the concept of character creation as a tool for self expression and trauma release. Through creative writing through the lens of another, one is able to revisit trauma with somewhat of a buffer and more freely explore emotions they would rather not fully associate with.

**Roxbury Library Conference Room**

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**1:30pm**

### Carlos Hernandez Keynote

Discuss empanadas, interdimensional portals, close-up magic, and his fantastical adventure *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* with author Carlos Hernandez in conversation with Roxbury author Valerie Foxx. The Pura Belpré award-winning *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* is a Boston Public Schools summer reading featured title.

**Fellowes Community Room in the Roxbury Library**

**1:30pm**

### Storytime with 96.9's Pebbles!

Local radio host Pebbles (Hot 96.9 FM) shares the Boston Public Schools summer reading picture book selections: *I Promise*, by LeBron James and Nina Mata, *Milo's Museum*, by Zetta Elliott and Purple Wong, and *Where Are You From*, by Yamilé Saied Mendez and Jaime Kim.

**Roxbury Library Kids Space**

**2:30pm**

### #Pop-Up Poetry

Denise is so excited to be using the power of Poetry to bring people together! She is the Founder, CEO, and Curator of her #Pop-Up Poetry Series, A Denise Plays Hard Event. For six years, poetry has been popping up all around, adding more voices and more beauty to gardens, parks, playgrounds, and beaches in the city of Boston and beyond: on-line, virtually, and globally (sailing up the Hapi River in Kemet and in Kingston, Jamaica!), healing and empowering communities one poem at a time. #Pop-Up Poetry is a movement that creates a safe and non-judgmental space for all people, all ages to breathe, listen, recite and enjoy!

**Fellowes Community Room in the Roxbury Library**

**2:30pm**

### Storytime with Valerie Stephens!

Local storyteller Valerie Stephens is a singer, actress, and advocate for

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strong African American women. Come listen to her share stories!

**Roxbury Library Kids Space**

**3:00pm**

### Sal and Gabi Break the Universe – And You Can, Too!

Join Roxbury Children's Librarian Brittany Johnson for an activity featuring Boston Public Schools' featured summer reading title *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe*, by Carlos Hernandez. Prepare for some magic – and lots of fun!

**Roxbury Library Conference Room**

**3:30pm**

### Jennifer De Leon Spotlight

Local author Jennifer De Leon discusses her new book, *Borderless*, in conversation with Hot 96.9's Pebbles. *Borderless* explores the story of a teen girl and her mother who set off on a perilous journey from Guatemala City to the US border.

**Fellowes Community Room in the Roxbury Library**

**3:30pm**

### Storytime with Merissa's Sea-cret Powers!

Local authors Aviella Dottin-Foxx, Nevaeh Dottin-Foxx, Cadence Lymon, and Valerie Foxx share their children's book, *Merissa's Sea-Cret Powers*, a story about imagination, wishes, dreams, and a purple mermaid necklace.

**Roxbury Library Kids Space**

**4:15pm**

### Storytime with Haywood Fennell!

Listen to a story about a boy from Roxbury with a reading from local author Haywood Fennell. Fennell's children's book *Coota and the Magic Quilt* will wrap up the storytimes with themes of love, dignity, and respect for each other.

**Roxbury Library Kids Space**

## EXHIBITORS

Check out these fantastic literary and community organizations at the Greater Roxbury Book Fair!

826 Boston	KQs BUTTAs
Age Strong Commission	Lit for Black Kids
Art2relaxation	Mass Center for the Book
ArtFulTouch	Mass Poetry
BooksByBessie	More Than Words
Boston in 100 Words	Moss by Cee
Boston Public Schools – Library Services	Mr. Jeans
Boston Writers of Color	National Writers Union (Boston Chapter)
Cini Coffee	Oshun's Garden
Cocoa Lady Wellness	Raising a Reader
Comics in Color	Reach Out and Read
Daddy & Me	Room to Grow
Dahlias Garden	Sweet Glam
Designs By Malika	The Blue Oasis Gifts
Elegant Tymes	Wanjiku Designs
House MPV Media	Wondermore
InsideOutCretions	Writers Without Margins
JewelArt	Yacumu Drink
Ka Living Treasures	
KeepFresh	

## THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS!

Without the support for books, reading, and creativity from these great organizations, the Greater Roxbury Book Fair wouldn't be possible.



## THANK YOU TO THE STAFF!

### The Greater Roxbury Book Fair Staff

#### Co-Directors

Akunna Eneh (Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library)  
Carole Walton (Savor the Square/The American City Coalition (TACC))

#### Program Advisors

Leonard Egerton (Frugal Bookstore)  
Valerie Foxx (Butterfly Foxx Productions)

#### Program Manager

Gina Gagliano

Thank you to Brittany Johnson, Allen Knight, Lisa McClatchy, Laila Peterson, Charlotte Rice, and Abria M. Smith for advice and assistance.

# Get ready for summer reading!

Reading doesn't stop with the Greater Roxbury Book Fair. Keep reading all summer at the Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library and at Frugal Bookstore.

Check out the Boston Public School's summer reading list for phenomenal summer reading books!