



The Rainbow Library

LGBTQ+ Inclusive Literature Creation & Publishing Project 2021-2023
Seeking an LGBTQ+ writer/poet

About the Project

The Rainbow Library is a UK and Ireland-wide children's literature and publishing project. It's being developed to address the near-invisibility of - and demand for - LGBTQ+ inclusive stories in children's books. Over two years, 10 LGBTQ+ authors (writers, illustrators; some working in pairs, some alone) will produce eight new book titles for a wide age range of readers.

Each book will be conceived and the story developed during creative workshops, run by the authors, with groups of LGBTQ+ young people in eight cities: Nottingham, Manchester, Basildon, Dumfries, Inverness, Belfast, Derry and Cork.

During the workshop programme, each LGBTQ+ youth group will also develop their own writing and illustration, producing their own anthologies of work; the very best work will be selected for an overall anthology. After the workshop programme, the 10 authors will then work on their books, with the young people engaged as critical readers at key points, feeding back as the authors produce strong drafts and dummy books. Editors and art directors will support during this process.

We then expect to publish The Rainbow Library collection in 2023 - and our highest ambition is for The Rainbow Library to be stocked in *every* school and library in the UK and Ireland by 2024.

The Rainbow Library is produced by Pop Up Projects CIC in collaboration with partners across the UK and Ireland. Eden Court is the project partner for this specific commission. The project in Scotland is funded by Creative Scotland.

What We're Looking For

We're seeking an exceptionally talented, ambitious and highly motivated poet/writer, of any age, who identifies within the LGBTQ+ spectrum. They will need to:

- Have a strong portfolio of written work to share

- Have examples of work that has been published or self-published
- Have a talent at or strong interest in writing poetry for children
- Have experience of engaging children and/or young people, ideally through writing projects
- Evidence excellent writing and communication skills
- Be confident and outgoing
- Be based near or in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and/or be able to travel to the City of Inverness for in-person workshops

What the Commission Involves

The commissioned artist will be contracted by Pop Up Projects (see below) to:

- Plan and deliver eight whole days of engaging writing/poetry workshops with LGBTQ+ 18-26 year-olds, who will have talent or ambitions within the field
- Support the young people in developing their work
- Work with Pop Up to select the best work by the young people for inclusion in an anthology
- Conceive of a substantial poetic work or anthology of poetry, and produce a strong draft
- Work with an editor to develop that book

The above activities will take place between spring and autumn 2022. The commission fee is £5,500 plus expenses, including travel to and accommodation in Inverness during the workshops.

The commission and contract does not cover the publishing phase of the project. A new contract will be provided, with a new fee, at that stage of the project.

How to Apply

If you or someone you know is interested in this commission please submit the following by **Monday 8th November**:

- A letter telling us about you, your work, and your experience - this should be no more than two pages long - and including your contact details plus links to any relevant websites or social media
- 3-5 examples of your work as JPGs or PDFs
- A recent photograph of you

You should submit this information to naomi@pop-up.org.uk. If you have any questions please send them to the same address and we will do our best to answer them.

About Pop Up

Pop Up Projects (est. 2011) is a non-profit Community Interest Company (CIC). We deliver imaginative, collaborative and ambitious programmes which transform lives through literature. Find out more about the work we do at www.pop-up.org.uk and www.pathways-org.com.