

WELCOME

CANADIAN-CARIBBEAN LITERARY SHOWCASE

WORKSHOPS | PANEL DISCUSSIONS | ARTIST SHOWCASE

A three-day celebration of Caribbean voices and their influence on Canadian literature and art. Featuring readings, performances, masterclasses, and mentorship that spotlight writers and artists from across the Caribbean diaspora.



DECEMBER 12-14, 2025

Online & In-Person at Heliconian Hall and
Women's Art Association of Canada

Visit www.diasporadialogues.com to learn more
about our work or make a donation.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 AT HELICONIAN HALL

10:30AM | Masterclass: How to Write a Short Story with Rabindranath Maharaj

This workshop is designed to help you cultivate a distinctive writing voice. It will focus on impactful language composition, authentic character development, and strategic revision techniques to maximize reader engagement.

12:30PM | Masterclass: How to Write Poetry with Jayda Marley

Join poet Jayda Marley for a hands-on workshop exploring the craft of poetry and the power of language. Through writing prompts and discussion, you'll learn how to turn emotion and experience into vivid, honest work. Jayda will share tips on finding your voice, building rhythm, and writing with intention. Open to all levels—come ready to create and connect through words.

2:30PM | Writing Home: The Literature of Diaspora & Connection (Panel Discussion)

Join panelists Yolanda T. Marshall and Rabindranath Maharaj for a reflection on what "home" means through story. This conversation explores identity, belonging, and the ways writing connects us across distance and generations. Moderated by Denise Da Costa.

3:45PM | Writing History: Storytelling as Resistance and Remembrance (Panel Discussion)

Join panelists Antonio Michael Downing and Pamela Mordecai as they explore how writers revisit and reimagine the past—using story as a tool to preserve memory, challenge dominant narratives, and bring overlooked histories to light. Moderated by Phillip Dwight Morgan.

7:00PM | Between the Lines: An Evening of Readings & Performance

Experience an evening of readings and performances that celebrate the depth and diversity of Caribbean and Canadian storytelling, featuring Lillian Allen, Stephanie Wong Ken, Jayda Marley, Alten Wilmot, Fiona Raye Clarke, Aldene and David Delisca.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 AT WOMEN'S ART ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

10:30AM | Writing Non-Fiction 101 with Dalton Higgins

Through a guided discussion, workshop participants will learn how to turn real life experiences into publishable/salable works and how to engage narratives that resonate with today's readers.

12:30PM | How to Set Up a Writing Practice with Matthew Dawkins (Youth Mentorship Workshop)

This workshop will dispel that myth, inviting you to reconnect with your artistic voice, redeem your art's value, and show up for yourself. In today's attention economy, we're made to believe there aren't enough hours in the day for our craft. Or worse, that it's not worth the effort. This workshop will dispel that myth, inviting you to reconnect with your artistic voice, redeem your art's value, and show up for yourself on the page consistently.

2:30PM | Writing Speculative Fiction: Imagining Futures and Other Worlds (Panel Discussion)

Panelists Suzan Palumbo and Lue Palmer explore how speculative fiction allows writers to imagine futures shaped by diverse perspectives and Caribbean influences. Through new worlds and alternate realities, they discuss how the genre reimagines identity, culture, and possibility beyond the present. Moderated by Terese Mason Pierre.

3:45PM | Writing Queer Identity: Caribbean Perspectives on Love and Liberation (Panel Discussion)

In this conversation, Tanya Turton and Linzey Corridon explore how queer writers from the Caribbean and diaspora use story to express love, identity, and freedom. Through their work, they challenge convention, affirm authenticity, and celebrate the multiplicity of queer experience across cultures and generations. Moderated by Matthew Dawkins.