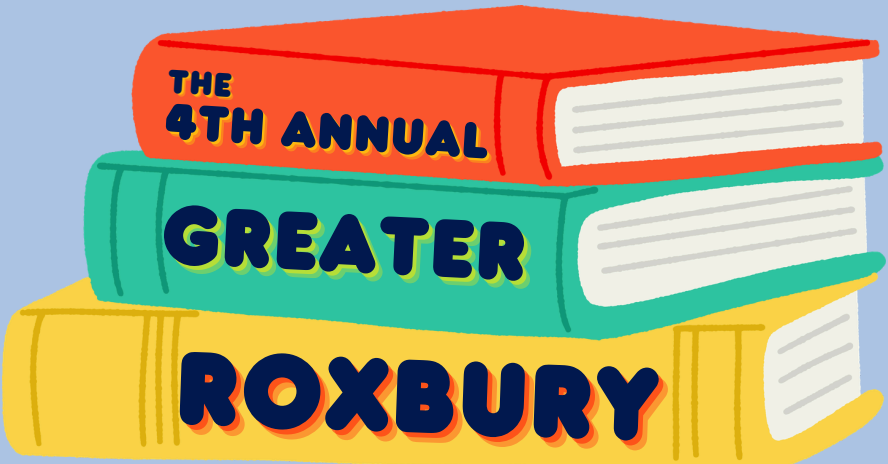


THE AMERICAN CITY COALITION (TACC) PRESENTS



THE  
4TH ANNUAL  
GREATER  
ROXBURY  
BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY

MAY 16TH

9AM - 5PM

FREE TO ALL!

SHAW-ROXBURY BRANCH OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

149 DUDLEY STREET ROXBURY, MA 02119

VENDORS • FOOD • ENTERTAINMENT • AUTHOR SIGNINGS • & MORE!



PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN CITY COALITION (TACC), WITH SUPPORT FROM THE FELLOWS ATHENAEUM TRUST FUND OF THE BPL AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS



Welcome! The fourth annual Greater Roxbury Book Fair celebrates the joy and impact of reading—whether as inspiration, escape, or a gateway to lifelong learning. The event brings together community members to share books, connect with local authors, and highlight the power of literacy to spark ideas and strengthen community ties.

Hosted as part of Savor the Square—a monthly event series by The American City Coalition (TACC), the Book Fair also supports local entrepreneurship. The initiative transforms Roxbury into a vibrant destination by uniting established businesses and emerging creative entrepreneurs, and literary exhibitors in a shared marketplace that reflects the neighborhood’s culture, creativity, and economic potential.

## *Shop - Dine - Explore, and Savor the Square!*

We’ve brought together an incredible lineup of authors and artists to create a program we’re truly excited about, and we hope you’ll join us for a memorable day at the Shaw-Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library, a beloved community hub for reading, learning, and gathering.

At this year’s Greater Roxbury Book Fair, you can enjoy a wide range of activities, including author talks, panel discussions, interactive workshops, storytimes, and book signings. Step outside to explore the lively outdoor fair, featuring local literary exhibitors, BIPOC artisan vendors, delicious food, and music, and all coming together to create a vibrant, joyful atmosphere.

There’s truly something for every kind of reader from children discovering their first favorite stories to adults diving into new ideas; from comics enthusiasts to poetry lovers.

Thank you for celebrating the power of books and reading with us, in community. We’re so glad you’re part of this experience.

### **Happy reading!**

#### **Carole Walton**

Director, Creative Economic Initiatives  
The American City Coalition (TACC)

#### **Rev. Willie Bodrick, II, D.D., M. Div., President & CEO**

The American City Coalition; Senior Pastor,  
Historic Twelfth Baptist Church

#### **The Greater Roxbury Book Fair – Staff**

**Director:** Carole Walton (Director, Creative Economic Initiatives, Savor the Square/The American City Coalition (TACC))

**Program Manager:** Gina Gagliano (Independent Consultant)

**Program Advisors:** Kyara Andrade-Howell (DJ TROY Frost), Akunna Eneh (Shaw-Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library) Leonard Egerton (Frugal Bookstore), Valerie Foxx (Butterfly Foxx Productions), Mark Schafer (UMass Boston), and Lisa Stringfellow (The Winsor School)

**Special Thanks:** Brittany Johnson, Charlotte Rice, Stephanie Chace, and Renee Gaillard

**Presented by The American City Coalition (TACC), with support from  
the Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Fund of the BPL and Community Sponsors**

## WHAT TO DO AT THE GREATER ROXBURY BOOK FAIR

### PANELS

Come listen to great discussions and conversations from local authors.

Location: Ground floor, Fellowes Community Room

### WORKSHOPS

Meet amazing local authors and hone your creative craft in everything from poetry to comics.

Location: Second floor, Learning Lab

### AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Take the book fair home with you with a signed book from Frugal Bookstore! After every program, the authors will sign their books.

Location: Book sales and signing tables are outside all program areas

### FOR KIDS!

Listen to wonderful storytimes and storytelling for kids throughout the day and enjoy workshops and interactive creative activities.

Location: Library Kids Space – additional programs for kids are in the Fellowes Community Room, in the Learning Lab, and in the Food Lab

### OPEN-AIR MARKETPLACE

Discover local literary organizations, shop and mingle with 20+ BIPOC artisan vendors (books, wellness products, home accessories, jewelry, bracelets, scarves, and more)

Location: Roxbury Library Plaza


### YOUTH ART EXHIBIT

Roxbury Makes Comics Art Exhibit—selected pieces from young comic artists will be on exhibit in the Shaw-Roxbury Library. Come see the next generation of local storytellers and authors!

Location: Youth Services area

*Continental breakfast and lunch provided in the Open-Air Marketplace*

# PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

|  | Fellowes Community Room | Conference Room       | Learning Lab                            | Kids Space                                  | Food Lab/ Kitchen                          | Storywalk                          |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 10:00 AM   | Opening Keynote         |                       |   | Storytime with Valerie Stephens             |  |                                    |
| 11:00 AM   |                         |                       |   | Storytime with Gwendolyn Wallace            |  | Storywalk Guided Tour and Workshop |
| 11:30 AM   | Boston City-Making      | Local Authors Meet-Up | Poetry Workshop                         | Storytime with Janet Costa Bates            |  |                                    |
| 12:00 AM   |                         |                       |   | Storytime with Amitha Knight                |  |                                    |
| 12:30 PM   |                         |                       |   | Storytime with Taylor Adams-Bass            |  |                                    |
| 1:00 PM  | Boston Stories          | Poetry Meet-Up        | Comics Workshop                         | Storytime with Ariel Vanece                 |  |                                    |
| 1:30 PM  |                         |                       |   | Storytime with Mia Wenjen and Kathleen Choi |  |                                    |
| 2:30 PM  | Boston Poetry Slam      | KidLit Meet-Up        | 'All For You' Personal Stories Workshop | Reading to Your Kids                        | 'One Big Open Sky' – Pioneer Food Workshop |                                    |
| 4:00 PM  | Closing Keynote         |                       |   |   |  |                                    |

# PROGRAM GUIDE

Join us for author talks, workshops, and storytimes all day at the Greater Roxbury Book Fair!

All author programs will be followed by an author signing adjacent to the program location, hosted by Frugal Bookstore.



## The Greater Roxbury Book Fair Kids Program Schedule



Join us for dynamic and interactive storytelling, programs, and picture book readings from award-winning authors and storytellers.

Programs are hosted in the Roxbury Library Kids Space

**10:00am: Storytime with esteemed local storyteller Valerie Stephens**

**11:00am: Storywalk**

Meet up by the Shaw-Roxbury Library east windows for a storywalk through fiction created by local kids authors, led by Erik Casimiro Rodriguez and acclaimed local author Valerie Foxx. The storywalk will be followed by a workshop in the library.

### Storytimes

|         |                   |                                   |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11:00am | Gwendolyn Wallace | <i>Dancing with Water</i>         |
| 11:30am | Janet Costa Bates | <i>Rica Baptista</i>              |
| 12:00pm | Amitha Knight     | <i>Usha and the Big Dipper</i>    |
| 1:00pm  | Ariel Vanece      | <i>Mr. Johnson's Song</i>         |
| 1:30pm  | Mia Wenjen        | <i>Barbed Wire Between Us</i>     |
|         | Kathleen Choi     | <i>Giving Thanks with Halmoni</i> |

**2:30pm – Reading to Your Kids**

Local educators and authors Crystal Collier and Dr. De'Shawn Washington discuss the benefits of reading to your kids in this interactive program for parents.



# GENERAL PROGRAMS

All author programs will be followed by an author signing adjacent to the program location, hosted by Frugal Bookstore.

## 10:00am – Opening Keynote with Kellie Jackson Carter

*We Refuse* author **Kellie Jackson Carter** says, “Black joy is something that is very specific to the lived experiences of Black people. Happiness is something fleeting. Joy comes from struggle, from pain, from a deep sense of loss. Joy is meant to sustain you in the midst of all of that hardship. Joy is what keeps us from losing our minds. Joy is the maintaining of our humanity, which Black people have had to fiercely fight to do.” Come listen to Carter talk about joy and refusal as resistance.

Fellowes Community Room

## 11:30am – Boston City-Making

What made Boston? How did Roxbury today come to be? Explore local history with authors **Karilyn Crockett** (*People Before Highways*) and **Byron Rushing**.

Fellowes Community Room

## 11:30am – Local Authors Meet-Up

Are you an author, illustrator, comics or zine-maker based in Greater Roxbury? Come connect with other local creators and get to know the local literary scene. Hosted by **Willie Wideman** (National Writers Union – Boston Chapter).

Conference Room

## 11:30am – Writing Spoken Word: Sharing Your Colorful Perspective

What makes a poem? Come explore, get creative, and share your voice—put your pen to paper in this interactive poetry workshop. Presented by local poet, spoken word artist, and 4th-grade BPS educator **D. Ruff**.

Learning Lab

## 1:00pm – Boston Stories

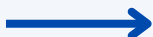
Boston is a city made of many stories. Authors **Alison Bernet** (*South End Incident*), **Leland O. Clarke** (*Something Worth Saving: Forgotten People, Places, and Events That Helped Shape America*), **Ed Gaskin** (*Black Women Lead*), and **Theresa Okokon** (*Who I Always Was*) talk about their own stories and journeys living in the city. Moderated by **Julian K. Braxton**, The Winsor School.

Fellowes Community Room

## 1:00pm – Poetry Meet-Up

Writing poetry? This is the meet-up for you! Connect with fellow poets and discuss the ins-and-outs of crafting the perfect poem. Hosted by local poet **Abria Smith** (*Somebody Soup*).

Conference Room



# GENERAL PROGRAMS

All author programs will be followed by an author signing adjacent to the program location, hosted by Frugal Bookstore.

## 1:00pm – Comics Workshop

Local comics creator **Caroline Hu**, author of *Who Discovered How to Breathe Underwater?* leads a comics-making workshop, sharing the basics of combining words and images to tell stories. Presented by **Comics in Color**.

Learning Lab

## 2:30pm – Boston Poetry Slam

Jump on stage and share your own poetry with the Greater Roxbury community! Hosted by **Briana Crockett** (*The Growing Place*), and presented by the Boston Poetry Slam.

Fellows Community Room

## 2:30pm – KidLit Meet-Up

Writing for kids or teenagers? This meet-up is for you! Come connect with other local authors and share information and advice on making books for children. Hosted by **The Horn Book**. This program is sponsored by the **Massachusetts Center for the Book**.

Conference Room

## 2:30pm – All For You – A Modern Pillow Book Workshop

Inspired by **Sei Shōnagon's** "The Pillow Book," workshop attendees will learn how to use their everyday experiences to create a personal keepsake of their own. Using *Zuihitsu*, a non-traditional Japanese form of writing (often related to rambling), workshop attendees will also be encouraged to do just that and explore the many ways our inner thoughts, societal critiques, or even what brings us random joy can be collected to make profound forms of creative writing. Led by **Rasheeda Graham**, 826 Boston.

Learning Lab

## 2:30pm – One Big Open Sky – Pioneer Food Workshop

Inspired by **Lesa Cline-Ransome's** *One Big Open Sky*, a novel-in-verse about the Black homesteader movement, this food workshop and demonstration imagines what food was like on the journey westward. Presented by **Haley House**.

Nutrition Lab

## 4:00pm – Closing Keynote with Lesa Cline-Ransome

"Writing has been a wonderful way to learn more about fascinating historical events I never learned about in school that helped to shape American history," says Newbery Honor-winning author Lesa Cline-Ransome. Come listen to Lesa Cline-Ransome talk about her process, her stories, and her novel *One Big Open Sky*. Hosted by Boston Poet Laureate **Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah** (*Not Without Small Joys*).

Fellows Community Room



# A Tribute to Napoleon Jones Henderson



I was blessed to be a friend and associate of **Napoleon Jones Henderson** for over fifty years. Like so many of you, I feel the absence of his everyday presence. I miss knowing that he was just around the corner, already imagining and working on the next thing. I miss seeing his signature walk and infectious smile. That loss is real. And yet, wrapped inside that grief is gratitude—gratitude and celebration. Celebration of this divine human being who graced our city with his presence: his creativity, his wisdom, and his warmth.

In 1974, Napoleon moved to Boston from Chicago to teach at MassArt. From that starting point, he began to change lives on and off campus. At our Black Artist Union meetings, he shared stories from his involvement with the **National Conference of Artists**—the oldest African American visual arts organization in the country, founded in 1959. We had never heard of anything like that. Through his leadership and encouragement, we began traveling to NCA conferences across the country. We met artists like **Jacob Lawrence and Elizabeth Catlett**—people whose names had lived only in books for us until then. Through him, we were exposed to the dynamic work and philosophy of **AfriCOBRA**. Napoleon's presence made the world larger and helped us imagine ourselves differently—our art careers more possible.

After leaving his teaching position, Napoleon didn't step away. He stayed close—hosting events, mentoring young people, and building community. His commitment to young artists never wavered. That was who he was: a true teaching artist. And fortunately, Napoleon's presence is still here and will remain. It lives in his brilliant public artworks—his words of wisdom and humor and in all of us who were shaped by him. **His work carries rhythm and movement, color and memory. It honors the past while reaching toward the future, just like Napoleon did. He planted seeds. He opened doors. He helped us grow. And for that—for him—I am forever grateful.**

- Ekuia Holmes

Caldecott Honor-winning author

# EXHIBITORS

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

**826 Boston**

**Authors Against Book Bans**

**Beacon Press**

**Boston Comic Arts Foundation**

**Charlesbridge**

**Comics in Color**

**Lit for Black Kids**

**Massachusetts Center for the Book**

**National Writers Union (Boston Chapter)**

**New England Storytelling**

**Nosy Crow**

**The Prison Book Project**

**Story Starters**

**Women's National Book Association**

**Wondermore**

Shop and mingle with 20+ BPOC artisan vendors (books, wellness products, home accessories, jewelry, bracelets, scarves, and more) in The Shaw-Roxbury Library Plaza!





# Paul Goodnight

Recipient of the  
**2026 Community  
Vision Award**

courtesy of the Greater Roxbury Book Fair

For more than forty years, Roxbury native son Paul Goodnight has been an advocate, and ambassador for the Boston visual arts scene, locally, nationally, and internationally. Born in Chicago and raised in Roxbury and New London, Connecticut, Goodnight served in Vietnam as a young man. The trauma he experienced as a soldier left him with a speech impediment upon his return to Boston, leading him to paint and draw instead of speaking. After studying at Roxbury Community College and the Vesper George School of Art in Boston, he received his BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1975 and then honed his craft, working in acrylic, pastels, and other mediums, first under the mentorship of Paul Rahilly, John Biggers, Chuck Stigliano, and eventually, the master artist, community elder, and artistic griot Allan Rohan Crite.

Goodnight was a member of the pivotal Boston Collective, a group of young Black artists organized by Crite in the late 1970s. The Collective bridged the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 70s and the new generation of Black artists of the 21st century, whom Goodnight now mentors. Along with other artists, Goodnight established live-in studio spaces at the Piano Factory in Lower Roxbury, where he lived, worked, and operated Color Circle Art Publishing with his wife, Bernice Robinson, until her recent passing.

It is hard not to have seen Goodnight's work. His paintings have been featured in television programs including the *Cosby Show*, *Seinfeld* and *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, in films such as *Ghost*, *The Preacher's Wife*, and *Gone Baby Gone*, and published in *Ebony*, *Architectural Digest*, *Essence*, *People*, *Miami Design*, and many more. His works are held in the collections of Bishop Desmond Tutu, Lionel Richie, Maya Angelou, Samuel L. Jackson, Angela Bassett, Judith Jamison, Wesley Snipes, Morgan Freeman, Ed Gordon, Steve Harvey, and Illyassa Shabazz, daughter of the late Malcolm X, among many others, and have been exhibited in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Hampton University Museum, The Smithsonian, The Morehouse College Museum, The Schomburg Institute in New York, the Switzerland National Center for Afro-American Artists, The Museum of Ghana, and numerous other museums in the United States and abroad.

Goodnight has taught at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt), the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Makerere Univ. Kampala in Uganda, among other locations. In 1987, he was awarded an honorary M.F.A. from his alma mater, the Massachusetts College of Art. Twenty-four years later, Acting Mayor Kim Janey declared September 4, 2021 Paul Goodnight Day.

**“My most important goal is to make profound aesthetic statements, that are ethnically rooted, and at the same time arouse spiritual emotions within us,” Goodnight has noted. “I seek to blend the line between abstraction and representation, with a focus on human form. Here is where passion and humanity may resonate.”**



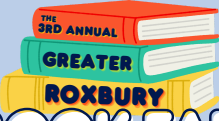
The 2026 Greater Roxbury Book Fair  
is dedicated to the memory of

**Candelaria Silva-Collins**

June 8, 1954 – March 24, 2026

*Roxbury Love . . . “in community.”*





# BOOK FAIR

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Thanks to our partners and sponsors,  
and their unwavering support for making this event possible!

The book fair is one of seven monthly themed events presented by Savor the Square. Join us again next month for the Roxbury Family Day Celebration on Saturday, June 20th!

Join us **TODAY** at the Boston Community Read-a-thon of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X!*

*RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE BOOK FAIR!*

Saturday, May 16  
12 PM–8PM

Sunday, May 17  
9 AM–8PM

Location: Bruce C. Bolling  
Municipal Building  
2300 Washington St.  
Roxbury, MA 02119

Come listen to others read or  
register to read a few pages today  
or tomorrow, at  
[malcolmxreadathonboston.com](http://malcolmxreadathonboston.com) or  
by scanning the QR code.



Admission: FREE!



Keep turning the pages at the Shaw-Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library and at Frugal Bookstore all year long!



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