

Akila Richards @ Poetry Room. Photo: Diensen Pamben @photo_diensen

WRITING OUR LEGACY CIC

Board Recruitment Pack

December 2022

Photo: Bip Mistry



Welcome from our Chair

Dear applicant

Thank you for your interest in applying to become a Writing Our Legacy Board member.

You will be joining the organisation at an exciting time as we prepare to become an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation 2023-26 for the first time. We are also celebrating our 10th birthday. You will have the opportunity to make a strong contribution to our growing organisation as it addresses the creative and professional needs of Black, Asian and ethnically diverse writers and creatives, supporting our CEO and helping to ensure we meet the Arts Council's monitoring and evaluation requirements.

To apply, please submit the following to office@writingourlegacy.org.uk:

1. Short written statement (300 words) or a 3 minute video/audio statement of about why you'd like to join our Board and what you would like to bring to the organisation
2. Recent CV

The deadline is Tuesday 31 January 2023 at midnight. We will be in touch with all applicants to say if you have been selected for an interview or not. If you'd like an informal chat with our Board members or our CEO about what our upcoming plans are or to answer any questions, please get in touch by email.

If you have any access needs, please also get in touch, and we will do our best to help.

Thanks again for considering our organisation and best of luck with the application.

Kind regards

Graham Lally
Chair
Writing Our Legacy CIC

About Writing Our Legacy

Who we are

Writing Our Legacy CIC is an established arts organisation that enables Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people to tell their story through writing and the creative arts. We give writers and other creatives a platform and community to feel supported, nurtured and evolve their work through the creative pipeline, from start to publication. We share stories and heritage of diaspora communities and bring them to life through various art forms for audiences to learn and take part in cultural heritage.



Why we do our work

We aim to break down barriers to BPOC people accessing the creative arts and industries and want to see a more diverse and representative cultural landscape in the UK.



Dulani Kulasinghe. Photo: Bip Mistry

How

By responding to needs and interests of the people in the communities we work in

Our work

What we do

Writing Our Legacy creates opportunities for writers and artists of all backgrounds to develop their skills and experiences, with a specific clear focus and remit to support Black, Asian and ethnically diverse (BPOC) creatives on their artistic journeys.

We produce activities and events for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about the heritage, culture and arts of diaspora communities in the UK.

Over the past 10 years, we've facilitated hundreds of literary events and festivals, theatre productions, residencies, workshops and publications.

Our regular year-round programme includes:

- Weekly and one-off creative writing workshops
- Socials for writers and creatives of colour
- Creative writing retreats
- Spoken word events
- Community talks and events
- Writing groups and forums
- Publications
- Residencies
- Productions
- Bursaries
- Commissions
- Talent development programmes
- Continuing professional development

We offer capacity building for our diverse communities: we offer support to writers and Black-led community partners to apply for funding and develop their expertise and skills in project management, arts and other areas.



Photo: Bip Mistry

Essential

WOL is an essential resource for new and established writers of colour and literature organisers for support, advice, funding info, promotion and signposting. We broker relationships between writers & publishing companies, agencies, funding and commissioning organisations.

Literary agents, publishers and arts commissioners discover writers through our books and website.

Funders & commissioners Arts Council England, Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex Arts Partnership, Big Local, Sussex Community Foundation, South Downs National Park Authority, National Trust, National Lottery Heritage Fund, .

Partners Crawley Wordfest, Shoreham Wordfest, Brighton & Hove Black History, Diversity Lewes, Brighton Libraries, West Sussex Library Services & Worthing Museum, New Writing South, Brighton Dome, Brighton Museum, MK Lit Fest & MK Gallery, Creative Futures

Our story so far



Recent achievements

In 2019 we published the Hidden Sussex anthology, our first publication.

2020 was a critical year: we galvanised writers of colour through our lockdown programme and new online spaces including retreats, monthly socials and Whatsapp/Facebook groups. We presented leading writers including Kadija George, Catherine Johnson, Jacob Ross, Dean Atta, and Sean Wai Keung in events.

Our proactive response to C19 and Black Lives Matter created a growing community of writers of colour in excess of 300.

Increased respect for our expertise and engagement with Black, Asian and ethnically diverse writers and audiences.

2020 saw several commissions – talks, lectures, readings, workshops and consultations – and the development of new partnerships:

- Brighton & Hove Libraries and East Sussex Libraries
- Sussex University, across several departments
- Brighton University
- National Trust
- South Downs National Park Authority

In December 2020, we published our first magazine, Covert Literary Magazine.

Our story so far



Aflo.The Poet. Photo: Bip Mistry

Organisation Development

Writing Our Legacy was established in April 2012 as an incorporated association by Founder Amy Zamarripa Solis, with support from Bert Williams MBE, Neil Ansell, Cynthia Marin Jimenez and Jenny Aburra.

The organisation started as a grassroots response to the lack of diverse literature or arts programming happening in Brighton and Sussex.

From January 2021 until June 2022, we underwent a period of organisation development, supported by two Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grants. It was clear from demand and a growing community that stability and core funding are needed to sustain the organisation's much needed and valued services to writers, literature fans and audiences year-round.

With our organisation development, we have:

- commissioned external consultants to carry out stakeholder evaluation, writer impact case studies and film testimonials.
- developed a business plan that outlines our business aims, vision, fundraising and communications plans for 2021-2026.
- prepared long-term funding bids and strengthened our trade income streams
- Strengthened partnerships with Sussex University, Brighton University, South Downs National Park, National Trust,

In November 2021 we became a CIC (community interest company).

2022-2023 marks our 10th birthday and we are completing this development work.

Our team

Freelance staff team

We have a small freelance delivery and creative team:

- Amy Zamarripa Solis – CEO and Founder
- Nalu Binaisa, Operations Manager
- Mohammed Rahman – Programme Coordinator, Creative/Designer & Writer
- Akila Richards – Creative Producer
- Rowena Price – Press & Marketing
- Bip Mistry – Photography & Video
- Other BPOC freelance consultants



The late Uschi Gatward, Jacob Ross and Amy Zamarripa Solis. Photo: Writing Our Legacy

Amy Zamarripa Solis

Amy Zamarripa Solis has worked in communications, fundraising and management in arts, culture and creative sectors for over 20 years. Amy has worked for a wide range of charities, businesses and organisations, from tech start ups and grassroots community groups to national and international bodies including Arts Council England. She runs her own arts management and production company, This Too Is Real, supporting and developing art and cultural work that promotes social cohesion, equality and diversity.

Mohammed Rahmman

A writer and visual artist based in London, Mohammed has a BA in social anthropology and joined the Writing Our Legacy team in November 2020 as a Freelance Programmes Coordinator. Mohammed has had writing published in The Willowherb Review and Skin Deep Magazine and has blogged for the Goethe Institut and Artsadmin. Mohammed was also a resident artist at the Apocalypse Reading Room curated by Ama Josephine Budge at Artsadmin.

Akila Richards

Akila Richards works in the creative sector producing events and projects as well as support programmes and initiatives in collaborations. Akila is an accredited creative coach and mentor, workshop facilitator and manages community and artistic programmes. She also facilitates artistic programmes, events and runs creative/writing workshops. Akila supported events in regional and international opportunities in Africa, Caribbean, Europe and the UK.

Nalu Binaisa

More coming soon

Rowena Price

Rowena is a communications consultant and coach with over 15 years' experience working in the creative industries. She has been working with Writing Our Legacy since 2018 and is passionately committed to working with organisations and individuals who actively remove barriers to inclusion and participation in arts and culture.

Bip Mistry

More coming soon

Our team

Board of Directors

Our current Board includes:
Chair: Graham Lally
Founding member: Dr Bert Williams MBE
Founding member: Neil Ansell
Member: Umi Sinha

Graham Lally

Graham is a freelance technical consultant, as well as a Director at data-for-good company OCSI and mixes his 20 years of tech experience with a keen interest in writing, photography, and haiku. He has been blogging for 20 years, has been published in literary, photography and food magazines and was winner of the Guardian's single-issue political blog award.

He is half-Asian, extending back through China into Hove on his mother's side.

Dr Bert Williams MBE

Dr Bert Williams MBE is co-founder of Brighton & Hove Black History. Born in Jamaica, Bert has lived in Brighton since 1967. He served in the RAF, then worked for the NHS.
After retiring, he chaired Black & mixed parentage family charity Mosaic. Bert has also organised Chattri Memorial service to honour WW1 Indian Soldiers.
In 2011, Bert was awarded a MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. In 2017, he received an honorary Doctor of Letters from Sussex University.

Umi Sinha

Umi Sinha is a writer, storyteller, and creative writing tutor and mentor. She is the author of "Belonging" (published 2015 by Myriad Editions) and has taught creative writing at Sussex and Brighton Universities and also for The Creative Writing Programme based in Brighton. In 2007 she co-founded the GuestHouse Storytellers, an oral performance storytelling club based in Newhaven, East Sussex, recently described by storyteller Xanthe Gresham as 'the best storytelling club in the country'. Umi was born and grew up in India, moving to Britain at the age of 15 though she still has strong connections with India. Her father was of Indian/Nepalese, and her mother of English/Irish heritage.

Neil Ansell

Neil was formerly a community affairs researcher for the BBC, but for the past decade has been a full time writer. He is chair of the national charity FFT, which supports and campaigns for members of the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

Neil is the author of Deep Country, Deer Island and other nature books. He is the father of mixed race children.

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Writing Our Legacy CIC

Company Number 13701582.
Registered in England and Wales.

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