



Media Release

For immediate release

Libraries name 2024 Writers in Residence

ST. ALBERT, AB, December 4, 2023 – Katie Bickell and Premee Mohamed have been selected to serve as the 2024 Writers in Residence at Strathcona County, St. Albert and Edmonton public libraries. Bickell and Mohamed will offer a wide range of supports and programs to writers of all ages and experience levels during their year with the libraries. The Writer in Residence program is a partnership between these three members of the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries and the services are offered at no charge.

“We are delighted to welcome Katie Bickell as the new Writer in Residence for Strathcona County Library and St. Albert Public Library,” says Peter Bailey, CEO of St. Albert Public Library. “Katie is an award-winning writer who also has great experience as a writing instructor and editor. We know she will inspire area writers of all ages and genres to grow their skills and confidence.”

As the regional Writer in Residence, Katie Bickell will offer writing programs and one-on-one consultations at Strathcona County Library from January through June, and at St. Albert Public Library from August through December. Area writers can access Writer in Residence programs and services at either library through the year.

Katie Bickell is a novelist, short-story writer, writing instructor, manuscript consultant, and ghostwriter specializing in memoir. In 2021, her novel *Always Brave, Sometimes Kind* won the Georges Bugnet novel of the year prize, the Indie Project Award for Alberta, and was shortlisted for the ReLit Best Novel Award. She lives in Sherwood Park and is at work on a novel of magical realism.

Bickell is particularly excited to take on this position, as she used the Regional Writer in Residence program herself when she was a new writer. “It was in the Writer in Residence’s office at Strathcona County Library where I learned there is a flourishing local community – and an even greater literary world beyond that – eager to welcome my voice,” she says. “Now, as an established writer, I’m thrilled for the opportunity to support the next generation of writers with the same careful consideration and encouraging – no, *joyful* – support I received from prior writers in residence.”

As the Edmonton Public Library Writer in Residence, Premee Mohamed will spend her year on the third floor of EPL's Stanley A. Milner Library in the Writer in Residence office.

Mohamed is a Nebula, World Fantasy, and Aurora award-winning Indo-Caribbean scientist and speculative fiction author based in Edmonton. She has also been a finalist for the Hugo, Ignyte, British Fantasy, and Crawford awards. She is an Assistant Editor at the short fiction audio venue Escape Pod and the author of the 'Beneath the Rising' series of novels as well as several novellas.

While in residence, each writer will devote roughly half their time to mentoring other writers and the other half to working on personal projects.

The Writer in Residence program is wrapping up a successful tenth year; 2023 writers Tololwa Mollel and Kate Boorman have engaged with numerous aspiring and experienced writers in the metro area through free one-on-one writing support, creative opportunities and dozens of writing programs. Mollel and Boorman will pass the torch to the 2024 writers in the New Year.

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About the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries

The Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries consists of Edmonton Public Library, Fort Saskatchewan Public Library, St. Albert Public Library and Strathcona County Library. Libraries in the Federation collaborate on programs, projects and events, and share methods to help customers learn to use eReaders and download eBooks.

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