



press release

26 August 2004

Black women writers win funding for anthology

A Northamptonshire writer has won funding from Arts Council England, East Midlands to produce an anthology of writing by women of African and African-Caribbean descent.

Nicole Moore of Wellingborough will receive just over £16,000 to develop, edit and publish the anthology, which is being designed to reflect race, gender, identity and heritage.

Nicole has been a freelance writer for nine years with experience of producing work for newspapers and poetry anthologies. She also teaches creative writing.

Already contributions have come from a number of women, but now that Nicole has funding she will advertise the anthology and seek further submissions.

'I am grateful for this Arts Council backing. We aim to educate, inform, inspire and empower black and mixed race women by building their confidence and encouraging their participation in the arts in general.

'In the long term this project could promote Black and mixed race women's writing ensuring that it makes an historical literary contribution to Black British writing.'



Writing seminars will be held to encourage women to take part. Around 30 interviews will be held with writers to help them develop their skills. They aim to publish the anthology by December 2005.

Nicole adds: 'By encouraging and empowering writers who often find themselves working in isolation it will support their writing development. The anthology will be a powerful medium for Black and mixed race women to embrace, celebrate, reflect on and share their unique experiences.'

Nicole is the Project coordinator and will be assisted by an Arts Administrator, Nicki Murphy of Bromley, Kent, and an Editor, Joy Francis of London.

Helen Flach, Executive Director of Arts Council England, East Midlands, said: 'We place cultural diversity at the heart of our work. This is an exciting project which should encourage many aspiring women writers. The eventual anthology should provide a reflection of many aspects of Black cultural heritage.'

Anyone wanting information about the anthology should contact Nicole Moore on 07960 120468.

ENDS

Notes to editors

- 1. Arts Council England is the national development agency for the arts. Between 2003 and 2006 it will invest £2 billion of public funds in the arts in England, including funding from the National Lottery.**



2. **Arts Council England is able to offer radio interviews of studio sound quality over its dedicated ISDN telephone line. Please contact Tina Browne on 0115 989 7554 or email tina.browne@artscouncil.org.uk for further details.**

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