

African Book Fair 2026

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

5-9 AUGUST 2026

REWRITING THE FUTURE: African Stories, Power & Possibility



kenya national library service



WED, 5TH AUG 2026

THUR, 6TH AUG 2026

FRI, 7TH AUG 2026

SAT, 8TH AUG 2026

SUN, 9TH AUG 2026

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

13:00pm

14:00pm

15:00pm

16:00pm

17:00pm

18:00pm

ALL DAY BOOK MARKETPLACE & EXHIBITION

ALL DAY BOOK MARKETPLACE & EXHIBITION

10:00am - 16:00pm

THE YOUNG STORYTELLERS FESTIVAL

A day of books, creativity and imagination for children aged 4-12

- Interactive Read-Aloud ● Illustrators' Workshop
- Interactive Quiz and Fun Challenges ●
- Drama and Storytelling ● Creative Writing



Stationery will be provided

17:00pm - 18:00pm
Panel Discussion

The New Literary Tastemakers
Panelists: Stacy Sakari, Vanessa Kimanga, Winnie Chepkemai

Host: Purity Wainaina

10:45am - 11:45am

Author in Conversation

Host: Kui Kabala

12:00pm - 13:00pm
Panel Discussion

Reimagining African Libraries: Partnerships for Knowledge, Community and the Future

Panelists: Kaltuma Sama, Esther Odanga, Sanaa Mughal

Host: Muthoni Muiruri

13:15pm - 14:15pm

Author in Conversation

Born at the End of the World with Donica Merhazion

Host: Patricia Kihoro

14:30pm - 15:30pm
Panel Discussion

When Books Become Journeys: How books inspire travel, connection, and cultural discovery

Panelists: Jalisa Whitley (Booked Trips), Hope Nabalayo

Host: Cynthia Mwangi

15:45pm - 16:45pm
Panel Discussion

Narrative Sovereignty as Reparative Justice: Reclaiming African Stories, Identity and Freedom of Movement

Panelists: Mutemi wa Kiama, Anne Maua
Host: Onyango Otieno

17:00pm - 18:00pm
Panel Discussion

The Stories We Inherited: Memory, Archives & Family Histories

Panelists: Dr Njuki Githethwa, Chao Tayiana, Donica Merhazion

Host: Mwihaki Muraguri

18:00pm - 20:00pm

Poetry Party

Various Poets & Performers

Host: Hamster

11:00am - 12:00pm

Author in Conversation

Half Portraits Under Water with Dennis Mugaa

Host: Eunniyah Mbabazi

12:30pm - 13:30pm
Panel Discussion

Can Stories Change Policy? Literature, Human Rights & Social Justice

Panelists: Keith Ang'ana, Marilyn Kamuru

Host: Truphena Khalayii

14:00pm - 15:00pm

Panel Discussion

Who Taught Us About Money? Why We Think About Money the Way We Do

Panelists: Esther Kiringa, Linda Oyaya

Host: Lynet Kyalo

15:30pm - 16:30pm
Panel Discussion

Changing the Script: Are We Living Better Stories Than Our Parents?

Panelists: Ciku Kimeria, Empress Ciku Kimani

Host: Wairimu Njuguna

17:00pm - 18:30pm

Drunken Lecture

The role of literature in the struggle and in shaping culture in Nairobi

