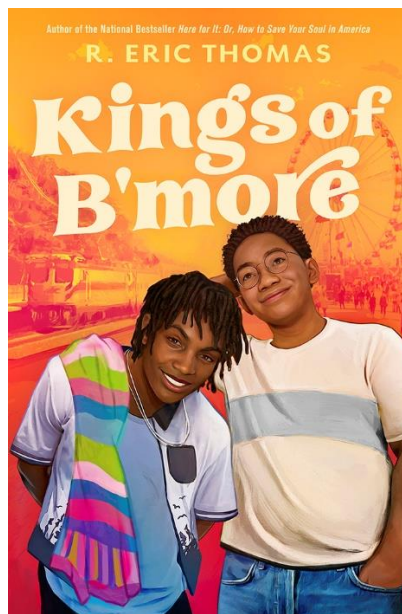




For Planning Purposes
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June 2, 2022

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS AUTHOR R. ERIC THOMAS FOR KINGS OF B'MORE BOOK RELEASE DURING PRIDE MONTH



(Hartford, CT) – **At 6 PM on Thursday, June 9 at the Downtown Library,** Hartford Public Library will welcome best-selling author R. Eric Thomas for a conversation with poet Versatile Poetiq focused on the release of his new book “Kings of B’more,” which tells the story of two Black queer best friends who face their last day together with an epic journey through Baltimore.

WHO

R. Eric Thomas
Versatile Poetiq

WHERE

Hartford Public Library Downtown
500 Main St.

Hartford, CT 06103

WHEN

6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 9

The event is supported by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's The Equality Fund for LGBTQ+, Kamora's Cultural Corner, the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective and Hartford Public Library. R. Eric Thomas' books will be for sale by Barnes and Noble UConn Hartford. Masks are optional and vaccination is not required at Hartford Public Library.



R. Eric Thomas is the bestselling author of “Here for It, or How to Save Your Soul in America,” a Read with Jenna book club pick featured on “Today” and a Lambda Literary Award finalist. He is the co-author of “Reclaiming Her Time,” a biography of Rep. Maxine Waters. He is also a television writer (AppleTV+'s “Dickinson,” FX’s “Better Things”), a playwright and the long-running host of The Moth in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. For four years, he was a senior staff writer at Elle.com where he wrote “Eric Reads the News.” “Kings of B'more” is his YA debut.



Brittana “VersatilePoetiq” Tatum was born at Hartford Hospital. She was raised in Simsbury and Avon and played basketball throughout high school with aspirations of playing in college.

She graduated from Avon High School in 2005 and went on to attend the University of Hartford as a marketing major. There she put away her basketball sneakers and picked up a pen to become a poet. She graduated from UHart with a business administration degree in May 2009. She has been performing spoken word for 10 years and teaching spoken word for eight years. She works for Charter Oak Cultural Center and Arts for Learning Connecticut and has taught at numerous other schools. Her stage name is VersatilePoetiQ due to her universal appeal and unique mix of spoken word and rap. She has all her students call her Ms. Versatile.

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About Hartford Public Library

With roots dating to 1774, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. www.hplct.org.