

LAUNCH ISSUE

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## Welcome to Writes and Kulcha (Weekly)— The rhythm of Jamaican life and thought.



This is a digital space where we celebrate and interrogate Jamaican culture as it lives and breathes. This publication was created to honour our heritage as living intelligence because it is not archived, distant, or reserved only for holidays and special moments. We see culture as present tense. An ecosystem composed of music, language, food, land, medicine, memory, and the everyday choices people make to define who they are.

Across these pages, you will move through conversation and contradiction. You will find a country debating itself in the arts, the public space, language, parenting, indigeneity and sovereignty, creativity, identity and more. You will see how culture is not only expressed in moments of celebration, but also in outrage, disagreement and reinvention—**delivered to your inbox every Thursday.**

This issue also carries a moment of my own, a televised conversation on Smile Jamaica reflecting on motherhood, loss, and family in commemoration of the month of May spotlighting both Pre-eclampsia and Maternal Mental Health. That moment found its way back into this publication, not as personal focus, but as part of the wider question of how lived experience shapes the stories we tell.

### So, how does it all work?

Some stories will appear in full, while others appear as short reflections designed to guide you back to the website, where the conversation continues. This rhythm is intentional—It mirrors how we now engage with culture itself. Fragmented yet in depth, meandering in real time as culture often does.

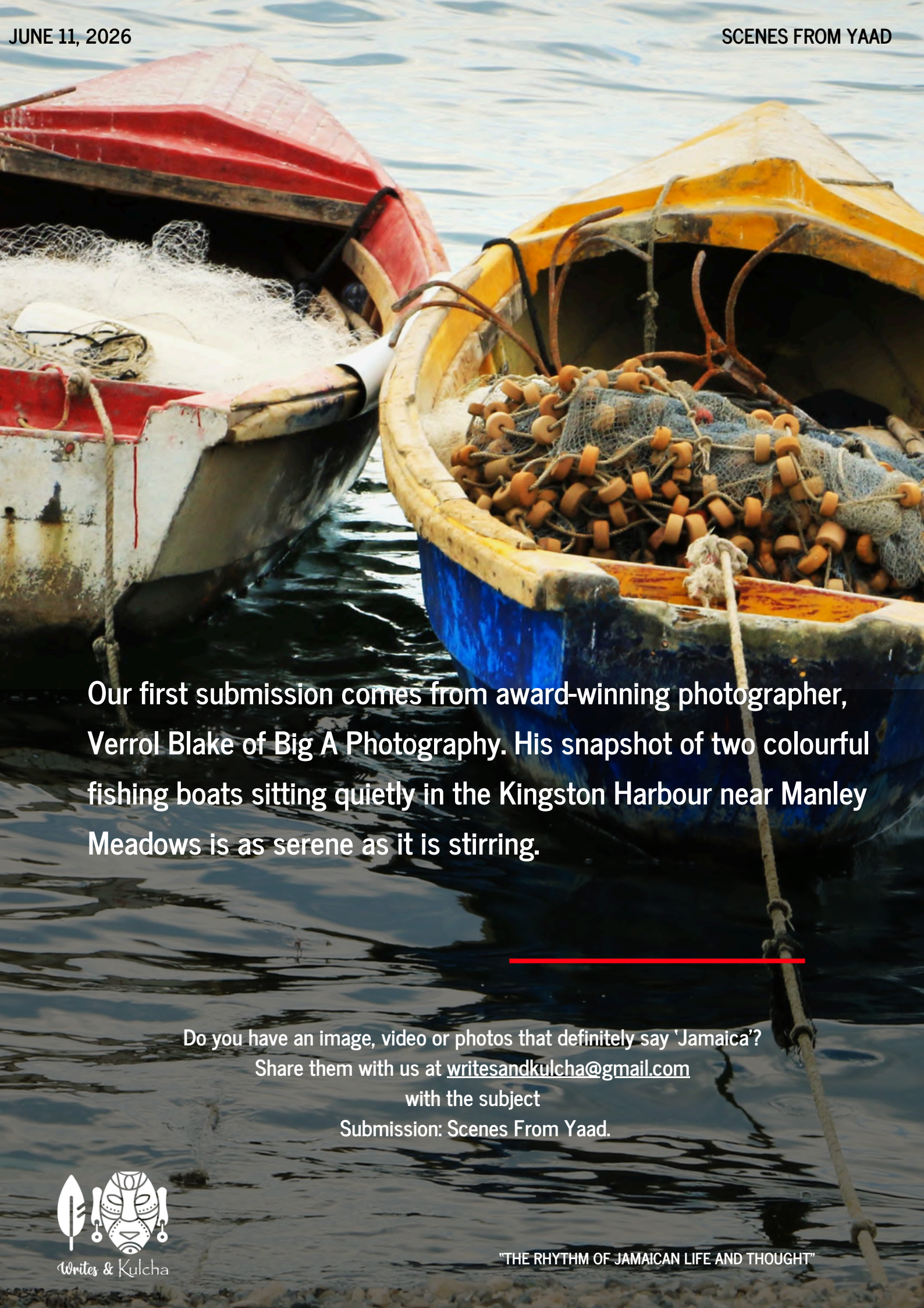
You can also expect to keep abreast of what's happening with the **Yamaye Guani (Jamaica Hummingbird) Taino Peoples**, for whom we are the official media partner. The community has been doing important work for nearly a decade to dispel incorrect extinction narratives.

Essentially, this publication includes voices and stories from yaad and abroad—within Jamaica and across the diaspora—spanning varying industries and disciplines. At its heart, we're asking Jamaicans everywhere to reflect on one simple question: Who are we as a people, now, and what are we becoming together as a nation?

Thank you for reading, and for staying with the work as it grows.

-  
Tameka A Coley  
Creative Director & Founding Editor  
**Writes and Kulcha (Weekly)**





Our first submission comes from award-winning photographer, Verrol Blake of Big A Photography. His snapshot of two colourful fishing boats sitting quietly in the Kingston Harbour near Manley Meadows is as serene as it is stirring.

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Do you have an image, video or photos that definitely say 'Jamaica'?

Share them with us at [writesandkulcha@gmail.com](mailto:writesandkulcha@gmail.com)

with the subject

Submission: Scenes From Yaad.

## As Patois Goes Global, Jamaicans Debate Ownership, Authenticity and Identity



### From Reggae to Dancehall, Parliament to Tesla, who gets to define Jamaican culture now?

Across TV and radio programmes, social media timelines, and everyday conversations, three separate debates have dominated Jamaicans’ public attention in recent weeks. On the surface, they appear unrelated—A fiery reggae rant, an explicit billboard, a disagreement over a reimagined folk classic, but beneath each discussion sits the same (much larger) question, and language is heavily involved...

Who gets to shape Jamaican culture, and how do we honour our heritage while still allowing our culture to evolve?

Culture is not something we interact with only on Independence Day or for other heritage observances. We revisit it constantly through our music, language, fashion, spirituality, humour, conflict, performance, and evolution every day. Jamaican culture is always being built, challenged, reshaped, and reclaimed. Perhaps that is exactly what these conversations reveal...

### Reggae, gatekeeping and cultural responsibility

Recent debate surrounding Yaksta began after the artiste released two socially charged tracks, Roar and The Return, songs many listeners interpreted as signalling the return of a more militant and radical positioning in reggae and Rastafari discourse.

This conversation escalated after Yaksta posted a viral Instagram rant condemning what he described as gatekeeping in reggae music, and unequal access to opportunities within the industry. Though the video drew heavy criticism for inflammatory remarks directed at the LGBTQIA community, it also sparked wider debate about access, visibility, and hierarchy within reggae spaces.



The discussion later crossed into mainstream media due to an interview with Anthony Miller on TVJ’s Entertainment Report, where Yaksta doubled down on his claims, insisting gatekeeping within the industry is a known reality. Since then, public discussion has expanded beyond the original controversy. ...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



# MORE THAN FUN

## How Playing Helps Children Understand the World

Child Development and Family Coach Sarah Lampert explains why play shapes connection, confidence, emotional regulation, and learning...



**Play is movement** – Running, climbing, dancing, exploring.

**Play is interaction** with people, objects, and their environment – sounds, textures, and spaces.

**Play is creativity** – While playing, children are imagining and building new worlds from ordinary things.

**Playing is also relaxation and release.** It provides an outlet for children to laugh, connect, unwind, express themselves, and, simply, be.

Playing looks simple from the outside. We may see children jumping around, dancing, pretending to cook dinner with toy pots or climbing on furniture they were told not to climb, but for children, play is far more than entertainment...



[READ MORE](#)



Enjoy our founding family's debut on TVJ's Smile Jamaica, for a heart-warming close to a much-needed conversation about pre-eclampsia and maternal mental health, both observed in the month of May.

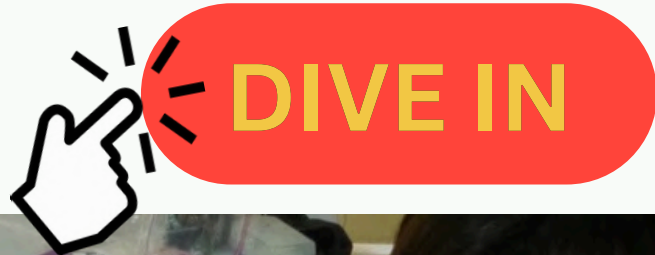




Child's drawing showing colour vitality  
(Licensed image: PedLLS Lab, University of Toronto)

Toronto-based speech pathologist Dr Karla N Washington explains why multilingual children around the world were being misdiagnosed, and how she used Jamaican patois to prove language, identity and culture cannot be separated—especially in research.

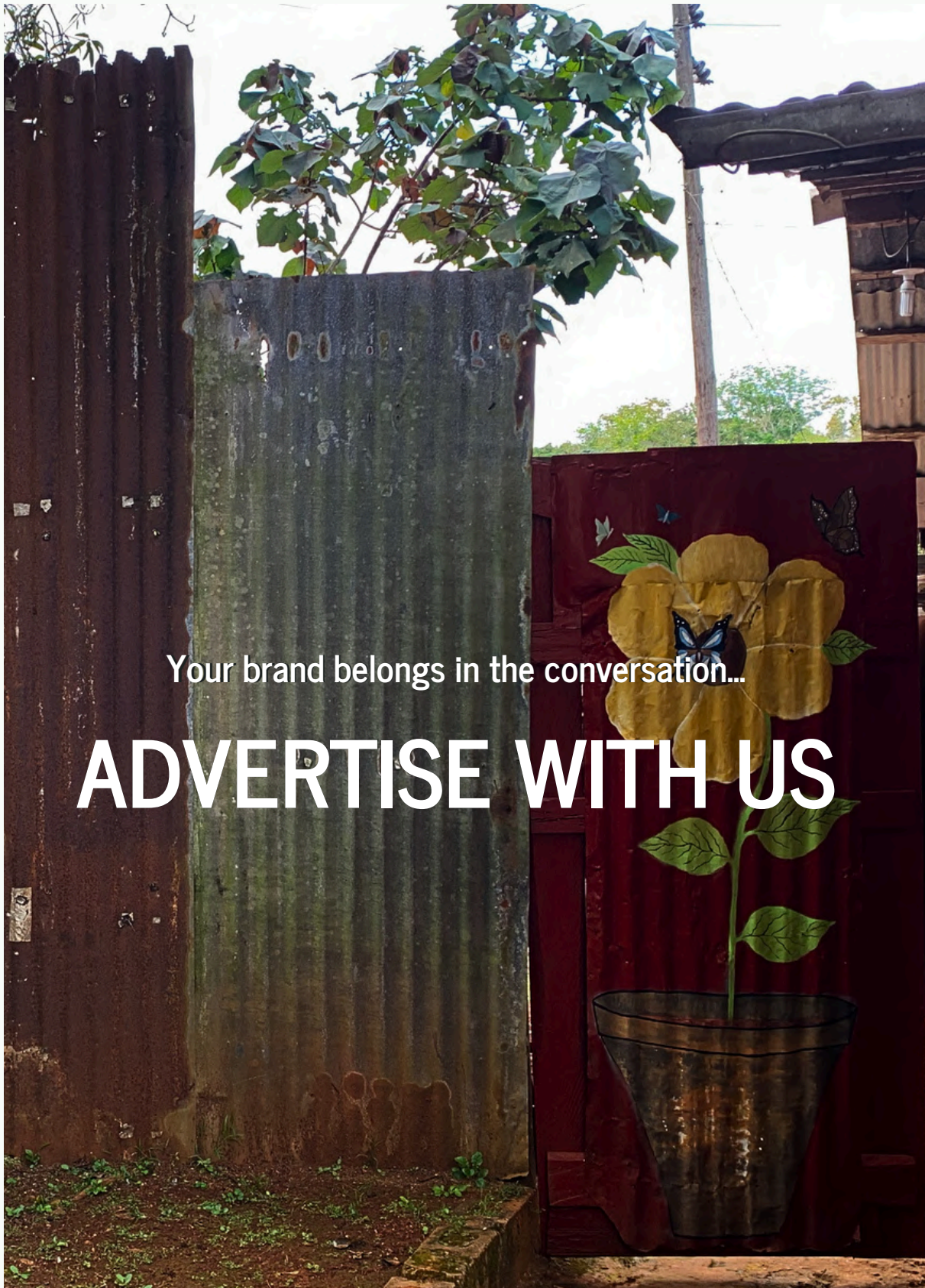
In conversation with **Writes and Kulcha**, Dr Washington spoke candidly about several interlocking themes: identity, multilingualism, play, cultural humility, and why Jamaican children deserve to see themselves reflected in science...



# THE SCIENCE OF PATOIS

## Dr Karla N Washington Is Reshaping Global Language Studies

Dr Karla N Washington conducting a field assessment in Jamaica.  
(Licensed image, PedLLS Lab, University of Toronto).



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"THE RHYTHM OF JAMAICAN LIFE AND THOUGHT"