

Getting involved in your local arts scene is a great way to **develop your literary practice**. Making connections – both in person and online – can get you involved in events, workshops and collaborations that inspire you to write and present opportunities for you to share your work.

This resource is to inform you about London's thriving literary scene with **(1) a list of local writers and (2) a list of local collectives, events, venues and publishers.**

Local Writers / Storytellers / Word Artists



Penn Kemp

Writer | Poet | Playwright

Website: pennkemp.wordpress.com | Instagram: [@pennkemp](https://www.instagram.com/pennkemp)

Titles include *River Revery* (Insomniac Press, 2019)



Jenna Rose Sands

Writer | Artist | Activist

Website: atrocitiesagainstindigenouscanadians.com | Instagram: [@assiniyiskew](https://www.instagram.com/assiniyiskew)

Titles include zine series *Atrocities Against Indigenous Canadians For Dummies*



Fauzia Agbonhin

Poet | Slam Poet | Writer

Instagram: [@fauzia.aaa](https://www.instagram.com/fauzia.aaa)

Titles include *I Never Truly Hated You* (Julianmiles Publishing, 2019)



Tom Cull

Writer | Teacher | Environmentalist

Website: tomcull.ca | Instagram: [@tomcullgreen](https://www.instagram.com/tomcullgreen)

Titles include *Bad Animals* (Insomniac Press, 2019)



Síle Englert

Poet | Fiction Writer | Artist

Instagram: [@sileenglert](https://www.instagram.com/sileenglert) | Facebook: [facebook.com/sile.englert](https://www.facebook.com/sile.englert)

Titles include *Threadbare* (Baseline Press, 2019)



Erin Clark

Writer | Performance artist | World Champion Athlete

Website: erinclarkwriter.com | Instagram: [@erinunleashes](https://www.instagram.com/erinunleashes)

Titles include *If you really love me, throw me off the mountain: a memoir* (EyeCorner Press, 2020)



Erica McKeen

Fiction Writer

Website: ericamckeen.com | Instagram: [@emckeenwrites](https://www.instagram.com/emckeenwrites)

Titles include *Tear* (forthcoming from Invisible Publishing)



Zalika Reid-Benta

Writer | Western 2021-2022 Writer in Residence

Website: zalikareidbenta.com | Instagram: [@zalikaarb](https://www.instagram.com/zalikaarb)

Titles include *Frying Plantain* (House of Anansi Press, 2019)



Vanessa Brown

Writer | Editor | Local Historian | Co-Founder of Brown & Dickson Bookstore

Website: brownanddickson.com | Instagram: [@brownanddickson](https://www.instagram.com/brownanddickson)

Titles include *The Forest City Killer: A Serial Murderer, a Cold-Case Sleuth, and a Search for Justice* (ECW Press, 2019)



Jason Dickson

Writer | Local Historian | Co-Founder of Brown & Dickson Bookstore

Website: brownanddickson.com | Instagram: [@brownanddickson](https://www.instagram.com/brownanddickson)

Titles include *The Demon Book* (Baseline Press, 2021)



Alexandra Kane

Playwright | Performing Artist | Activist

Instagram: [@i_am_alexandra_kane](https://www.instagram.com/i_am_alexandra_kane) | [@blacklivesmatterlondon](https://www.instagram.com/blacklivesmatterlondon) | [@blacklondonnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/blacklondonnetwork)

Titles include *Finding Black Joy* (Grand Theatre, 2021)



Ivan Coyote

Writer | Performer | Filmmaker

Website: ivancoyote.com | Instagram: [@ivancoyote](https://www.instagram.com/ivancoyote)

Titles include *Care Of* (McClelland & Stewart, 2021)



Shelly Harder

Poet

Website: hardershelly.wordpress.com | Instagram: [@shellyharder9](https://www.instagram.com/shellyharder9)

Titles include *Zero Dawn* (Above Ground Press, 2021)



Allyson Proulx

Correspondence Artist – *projects, workshops & services rooted in the art of letter-writing*

Website: leftysmudges.com | Instagram: [@leftysmudges](https://www.instagram.com/leftysmudges)



Kevin Heslop

Writer | Director | Interviewer | Actor

Website: kevinandrewheslop.com | Instagram: [@heslop.kevin](https://www.instagram.com/heslop.kevin)

Titles include *the correct fury of your why is a mountain* (Gordon Hill Press, 2021)



Debra Franke

Writer | Poet | Photographer

Website: debrafranke.com | Instagram: [@debrafrankewrites](https://www.instagram.com/debrafrankewrites)

Titles include *Where the Back Roads Take You* (Baseline Press, 2014)



Misha Bower

Writer | Musician

Website: mishabower.com | Instagram: [@meeshleona](https://www.instagram.com/meeshleona)

Titles include *Music for Uninvited Guests* (Cringles, 2012)



Sara Mai Chitty

Writer | Storyteller | Educator | Curriculum & Pedagogy Advisor

Western web presence: indigenous.uwo.ca | Instagram: [@saramaimai](https://www.instagram.com/saramaimai)

[Publications](#) with LondonFuse, Western University and more



Adam Sturgeon | Status/Non-Status

Musician | Singer-Songwriter | Storyteller

Website: statusnonstatus.com | Instagram: [@statusnonstatus](https://www.instagram.com/statusnonstatus) | [@ombiigizi](https://www.instagram.com/ombiigizi)

Titles include *Warrior Down* (You've Changed Records, 2019)



Mary Lou & Dan Smoke

Writers | Broadcasters | Teachers | Activists | Hosts of Smoke Signals, a First Nations radio program on CHRW, Western University's campus radio station
Western web presence: archive.fims.uwo.ca | Instagram: [@radiowestern](https://www.instagram.com/radiowestern)



Aaron Schneider

Writer | Founding Editor at The /t&nz/ Review | Assistant Professor, Western University

Website: The /t&nz/ Review | Twitter: [@AaronSchnei3010](https://twitter.com/AaronSchnei3010)

Titles include *What We Think We Know* (Gordon Hill Press, 2021)



Madeline Bassnett

Writer | Associate Professor, Chair, Undergraduate Studies, Western University

Twitter: [@m_bassnett](https://twitter.com/m_bassnett)

Titles include *Under the Gamma Camera* (Gaspereau Press, 2019)



David Barrick

Writer | Teacher & Researcher, Western University | Managing Director of Antler River Poetry

Twitter: [@DavidBarrick2](https://twitter.com/DavidBarrick2)

Titles include *Nightlight* (Palimpsest Press, 2022)



Srividya Natarajan

Writer | Dancer | Illustrator | Writing Program Coordinator/Assistant Professor, King's University College

Titles include *No Onions Nor Garlic* (Penguin India, 2006), and *The Undoing Dance* (Juggernaut, 2018)

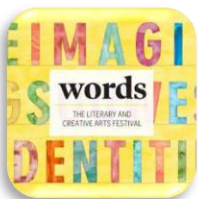
Local Collectives / Events / Venues / Publishers



London Arts Council

Provides grants to London-based individual artists, collectives and organizations in a range of artistic disciplines (including film and multimedia arts, literature, music, performing and visual arts) through its Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP).

Address: [267 Dundas St. London, ON](#) | Website: londonarts.ca | Instagram: [@londonartscouncil](#)



Words – The Literary and Creative Arts Festival

During the first weekend of November each year, Words Festival features emerging and established writers from London, Canada, and beyond.

Website: wordsfest.ca | Instagram: [@wordsfestival](#)



Museum London

Host of London's annual Words Festival, Museum London offers public and educational programming, special events and exhibitions that promote the knowledge and enjoyment of regional art, culture and history.

Address: [421 Ridout St. N, London, ON](#) | Website: museumlondon.ca | Instagram: [@museumlondon](#)



The W.E.A.N. Community Centre & Black Public Library

The W.E.A.N (Where We Are Now) Community Centre's mission is to empower members of London's Black communities by creating initiatives for equal opportunity and equal access to well-being, spiritual health and personal economic prosperity.

Address: [717 Richmond St. Unit 210, London, ON](#) | Website: weancommunitycentre.com | Instagram: [@weancommunitycentre](#) | Facebook: facebook.com/weancommunitycentre



Antler River Poetry (formerly Poetry London)

Hosts monthly readings and poetry workshops in partnership with the London Public Library; provided a wide range of poetry-related opportunities for local writers and poetry aficionados.

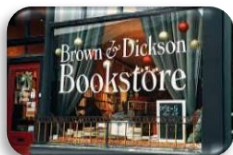
Address: [Landon Branch Library, 167 Wortley Rd. London, ON](#) | Website: poetrylondon.ca | Instagram: [@poetrylondon_ca](#)



London Open Mic Poetry

A poetry open mic series, connecting a community of local poets encompassing all skill levels.

Address: [572 Adelaide St N, London, ON](#) | Website: londonpoetryopenmic.com | Instagram: [@LondonOpenMicPoetry](#)



Brown & Dickson Bookstore

Operated by antiquarian booksellers and writers, Vanessa Brown and Jason Dickson. A purveyor of bizarre and charming books, and venue for intimate readings and concerts.

Address: [567 Richmond St. London, ON](#) | Website: brownanddickson.com | Instagram: [@brownanddickson](#)



TAP Centre for Creativity

Featuring a gallery, black-box theatre, multi-use workshop space, and 10 resident artist studios all within our heritage building, TAP supports emerging and developing theatre, visual and performing artists.

Address: [203 Dundas St. London, ON](#) | Website: tapcreativity.org | Instagram: [@tapcreativityon](#)



The Grand Theatre

A not-for-profit regional theatre, the Grand produces and presents professional theatre on two stages: the Spriet Stage (839 seats) and the Auburn Stage (144 seats).

Address: [471 Richmond St. London, ON](#) | Website: grandtheatre.com | Instagram: [@thegrandlondon](#)



The Palace Theatre

A local landmark theatre with a range of live performances, films & community events. Home of London Community Players, London Youth Theatre Education and London Fringe.

Address: [710 Dundas St. London, ON](#) | Website: palacetheatre.ca | Instagram: [@atthepalace](#)



See Collective

An online publication created by Kerry Ssemugenyi and Zion Bekele celebrating tastemakers and creatives through stories and visuals.

Website: seecollective.co | Instagram: [@see_collective](#)



Embassy Cultural House

Virtual artist-run space and community website; projects and programs include virtual exhibits, cultural events and online archives.

Website: embassyculturalhouse.ca | Instagram: [@embassyculturalhouse](https://www.instagram.com/embassyculturalhouse)



Support

A project space in downtown London organized by Liza Eurich, Tegan Moore and Ruth Skinner; operated in partnership with Embassy Cultural House.

Address: [260 Clarence St. London, ON](#) | Website: supportsupport.ca | Instagram: [@support_111](https://www.instagram.com/support_111)



Ruth Skinner | Edna Press

Ruth is an organizer, researcher, educator, curator and publisher; she operates as independent art imprint, Edna Press.

Websites: ruthskinner.com | ednapress.com | Instagram: [@ednapress](https://www.instagram.com/ednapress) | [@rskins](https://www.instagram.com/rskins)



Karen Schindler | Baseline Press

A poetry micro-press founded by Karen Schindler in 2011 specializing in limited edition hand-sewn chapbooks for both new and established Canadian poets.

Website: baselinepress.ca | Instagram: [@baselinepress](https://www.instagram.com/baselinepress)



Rose Garden Press

Run by Michelle Arnett and Michele Vanderwal, RGP creates handmade poetry chapbooks by blossoming and rooted Canadian voices.

Website: rosegardenpress.ca | Instagram: [@rosegarden_press](https://www.instagram.com/rosegarden_press)



The /t&nz/ Review

A literary journal that publishes fiction, poetry, and reviews.

Website: thetanzreview.com



845 Press

Publishing arm of The /t&nz/ Review, 845 Press publishes chapbooks and longer fiction ebooks by emerging and established writers.

Website: thetanzreview.com/845-press.html



Huron and Erie Regional Digest (H.E.R.D.)

A regional print publication.

Website: huronanderie.com | Instagram: [@huron_and_erie](https://www.instagram.com/huron_and_erie)



PLUMP!

Founded by Harina Mokanan and Alecia Bryan, PLUMP! is a space for London's BIPOC community. Through events, panels, interviews and its artistically themed conversation series 'The Exchange,' PLUMP! is a venue for sharing knowledge, perspectives and inspiration.

Instagram: [@plumpsessions](https://www.instagram.com/plumpsessions) | Facebook: [facebook.com/plumpsessions](https://www.facebook.com/plumpsessions)

