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.

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### Local Writers / Storytellers / Word Artists

**Penn Kemp**  
Writer | Poet | Playwright  
Website: pennkemp.wordpress.com | Instagram: @pennkemp  
Titles include *River Revery* (Insomniac Press, 2019)

**Jenna Rose Sands**  
Writer | Artist | Activist  
Website: atrocitiesagainstindigenouscanadians.com | Instagram: @assiniyiskew  
Titles include zine series *Atrocities Against Indigenous Canadians For Dummies*

**Fauzia Agbonhin**  
Poet | Slam Poet | Writer  
Instagram: @fauzia.aaa  
Titles include *I Never Truly Hated You* (Julianmiles Publishing, 2019)

**Tom Cull**  
Writer | Teacher | Environmentalist  
Website: tomcull.ca | Instagram: @tomcullgreen  
Titles include *Bad Animals* (Insomniac Press, 2019)

**Síle Englert**  
Poet | Fiction Writer | Artist  
Instagram: @sileenglert | Facebook: facebook.com/sile.englert  
Titles include *Threadbare* (Baseline Press, 2019)
Erin Clark
Writer | Performance artist | World Champion Athlete
Website: erinclarkwriter.com | Instagram: @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
Titles include *Tear* (forthcoming from Invisible Publishing)

Zalika Reid-Benta
Writer | Western 2021-2022 Writer in Residence
Website: zalikareidbenta.com | Instagram: @zalikarb
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
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
Titles include *The Demon Book* (Baseline Press, 2021)

Alexandra Kane
Playwright | Performing Artist | Activist
Instagram: @i_am_alexandra_kane | @blacklivesmatterlondon | @blacklondonnetwork
Titles include *Finding Black Joy* (Grand Theatre, 2021)

Ivan Coyote
Writer | Performer | Filmmaker
Website: ivancoyote.com | Instagram: @ivancoyote
Titles include *Care Of* (McClelland & Stewart, 2021)
Shelly Harder
Poet
Website: hardershelly.wordpress.com | Instagram: @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

Kevin Heslop
Writer | Director | Interviewer | Actor
Website: kevinandrewwheslop.com | Instagram: @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
Titles include Where the Back Roads Take You (Baseline Press, 2014)

Misha Bower
Writer | Musician
Website: mishabower.com | Instagram: @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
Publications with LondonFuse, Western University and more

Adam Sturgeon | Status/Non-Status
Musician | Singer-Songwriter | Storyteller
Website: statusnonstatus.com | Instagram: @statusnonstatus | @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

Aaron Schneider
Writer | Founding Editor at The /tƐmz/ Review | Assistant Professor, Western University
Website: The /tƐmz/ Review | Twitter: @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
Titles include Under the Gamma Camera (Gaspereau Press, 2019)

David Barrick
Writer | Teacher & Researcher, Western University | Managing Director of Antler River Poetry
Twitter: @DavidBarrick2
Titles include Nightlight (Palimpsest Press, 2022)

Sridiya 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
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](http://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](http://supportsupport.ca) | Instagram: [@support_l_l_l](https://www.instagram.com/support_l_l_l)

**Ruth Skinner | Edna Press**
Ruth is an organizer, researcher, educator, curator and publisher; she operates as independent art imprint, Edna Press.
Websites: [ruthskinner.com](http://ruthskinner.com) | [ednapress.com](http://ednapress.com) | Instagram: [@ednapress](https://www.instagram.com/ednapress) | [@rskins](https://www.instagram.com/rskins)

**Karen Schindler | Baseline Press**
Website: [baselinepress.ca](http://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](http://rosegardenpress.ca) | Instagram: [@rosegarden_press](https://www.instagram.com/rosegarden_press)

**The /tƐmz/ Review**
A literary journal that publishes fiction, poetry, and reviews.
Website: [thetemzreview.com](http://thetemzreview.com)
845 Press
Publishing arm of The /tƐmz/ Review, 845 Press publishes chapbooks and longer fiction ebooks by emerging and established writers. Website: thetemzreview.com/845-press.html

Huron and Erie Regional Digest (H.E.R.D.)
A regional print publication. Website: huronanderie.com | Instagram: @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 | Facebook: facebook.com/plumpsessions