

Poetry Resource List



Hello! :) My name is Lisa Shen. I'm a writer and spoken word artist. I served as the 4th Youth Poet Laureate of the City of Mississauga. You can learn more about my work at lisashen.ca.

This document is a curated list of resources for poets in the GTA & across Canada.

UPDATE - starting May 2025, this list is not being actively kept up to date; you are welcome to still use it, however open mic/slam info may be outdated

Caveats

- 1) Resources are centered around the Greater Toronto Area. However, most sections are relevant to poets across Canada (and beyond)!
- 2) This list is an ongoing project. I regularly add/update resources. Depending on interest, I may also expand it over time to include funding opportunities, memberships, contests, etc.
- 3) Contribute! Let me know if you come across any incorrect info or broken links.

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Sharing

- Please share this document widely :)
- I recommend linking directly to this Google Doc for the most up-to-date version

EVENTS

Slams

- ☐ [Toronto Poetry Slam](#)
- ☐ [Hamilton You Poets](#)
- ☐ [Guelph Poetry Slam](#)
- ☐ [Peterborough Poetry Slam](#)
- ☐ [St Catharines Poetry Slam](#)

- ☐ [Hot Damn It's A Queer Slam](#)

Open mics

Toronto:

- ☐ [Buddies in Bad Times - Poetry Sundays](#)
- ☐ [Shab-e She'r Poetry Night](#)
- ☐ [Art Bar Poetry Series](#)
- ☐ [Up From The Roots](#)
- ☐ [RISE open mic](#)

- ☐ [Verse Deli](#)
- ☐ [Poeatea](#)
- ☐ [Word Garden](#)
- ☐ [Poetry Brothel TO](#)
- ☐ [Impact Art Night](#)
- ☐ [Mixed Metals](#)
- ☐ [Open Circle](#)
- ☐ [Dirty Queer Poetry Night](#)
- ☐ [Mother Tongued](#)
- ☐ [Graveyard Poets](#)
- ☐ [Clown House Arts Collective](#)
- ☐ [The Arch Cafe Bar Open Mic](#)
- ☐ [Gulmohar Arts Open Mic](#)
- ☐ [Toronto Writers' Centre](#)

Mississauga:

- ☐ [Sauga Poetry](#)
- ☐ [EXPROSÉ](#)
- ☐ [The Ampersand Reviewed Reading Series](#)

- ☐ [Cuchulainn's Open Mic](#)
- ☐ [Rec Room Open Stage Series](#)

Hamilton:

- ☐ [Dirty Laundry](#)
- ☐ [Lit Live Readings](#)

- ☐ [The Staircase Open Mic](#)
- ☐ [The Really Open Mic](#)

Guelph:

- ☐ [Off The Page](#)

Traveling (GTA):

- ☐ [Stay Woke](#)

Online slams & open mics

Online-exclusive:

- ☐ [Up From The Roots - Love Notes Open Mic](#)
- ☐ [Speak the Word Open Mic](#)
- ☐ [Versed Ink Slam](#)
- ☐ [Pencilz&Penz Slam](#)
- ☐ [HOWL radio](#)

- ☐ [Just Another Open Mic](#)

Occasional online events:

- ☐ [Under The Table](#)

- ☐ [Nuyorican Poets Café](#)
- ☐ [San Jose Poetry Slam](#)
- ☐ [Oakland Slam](#)
- ☐ [Rich Oak Alchemy Open Mic](#)

Learning opportunities (all online)

Classes:

- ☐ [Button Poetry classes](#)
- ☐ [Poems That Don't Suck - Megan Falley](#)

Workshops:

- ☐ [Write About Now workshops](#)

Writing groups:

- ☐ [Verses In Kind Writing Group](#)

PUBLISHING

Closed access journals

- ☐ [Canthius](#)
- ☐ [Augur Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Room Magazine](#)
- ☐ [The Fiddlehead](#)
- ☐ [Arc Poetry Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Contemporary Verse 2 Magazine](#)
- ☐ [The Ampersand Review](#)
- ☐ [Prairie Fire](#)
- ☐ [Electric Literature](#)
- ☐ [The Ex-Puritan](#)
- ☐ [Event Magazine](#)
- ☐ [PRISM Magazine](#)

- ☐ [Riddle Fence](#)
- ☐ [Petal Projections](#)
- ☐ [Nimrod International Journal](#)
- ☐ [Quagmire Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Papers Publishing](#)
- ☐ [Moof Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Rat World Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Asset of Community Value](#)
- ☐ [The Uncoiled](#)

Open access journals (available on website)

- ☐ [The Temz Review](#)
- ☐ [Plenitude Magazine](#)

- ☐ [Rattle](#)
- ☐ [Palette Poetry](#)
- ☐ [Frontier Poetry](#)
- ☐ [Poetry Foundation](#)
- ☐ [The New Yorker](#)
- ☐ [The Missouri Review](#)

- ☐ [Voicemail Poems](#)
- ☐ [Mulberry Literary](#)
- ☐ [Honey Literary](#)
- ☐ [Pinhole Poetry](#)

- ☐ [Carte Blanche Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Postscript Magazine](#)
- ☐ [White Wall Review](#)
- ☐ [Canadian Literature](#)
- ☐ [Off Topic Publishing](#)
- ☐ [Only Poems](#)
- ☐ [Juniper](#)

- ☐ [Baby Teeth Journal](#)
- ☐ [Heaven Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Kindergarten Mag](#)
- ☐ [Rejected Magazine](#)

Open access journals (online zine/PDF)

- ☐ [Bipan Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Intangible Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Remington Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Water Damaged Paper Anthology](#)
- ☐ [Humana Obscura](#)
- ☐ [Vocivia Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Perfumed Pages Magazine](#)
- ☐ [ERA magazine](#)

- ☐ [Block Party Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Orange Peel Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Rejected Lit Magazine](#)
- ☐ [Ice Lolly Review](#)

Poetry contests

- ☐ [CBC Poetry Prize](#)
- ☐ [Love & Eros Prize - Palette Poetry](#)

RECOMMENDED MEDIA

Spoken word YouTube channels

Canada:

- ☐ [Brickyard Spoken Word](#)
- ☐ [Vancouver Poetry House](#)
- ☐ [Toronto Poetry Slam](#)

US & international:

- ☐ [Button Poetry](#)
- ☐ [Write About Now](#)
- ☐ [Voices In Power](#)
- ☐ [SlamFind](#)
- ☐ [Poetry Slam Inc](#)
- ☐ [Ours Poetica](#)

Spoken word videos

Team pieces:

- 1) [Sarah Kay & Phil Kaye - When Love Arrives](#)
- 2) [Olivia Gatwood & Megan Falley - Say No](#)
- 3) [Portland Poetry Slam - Choose Your Own Adventure](#)
- 4) [Ashley Davis & Oompa - Simon Says](#)
- 5) [Valley International Prep - Countdown To A School Shooting](#)
- 6) [Kenneth Somethings & Black Chakra - Dark Humor](#)

Notable poets:

- 1) [Phil Kaye - My Grandmother's Ballroom](#)
- 2) [Sarah Kay - Point B](#)
- 3) [Andrea Gibson - Acceptance Speech after Setting the World Record in Goosebumps](#)
- 4) [Olivia Gatwood - Manic Pixie Dream Girl](#)
- 5) [Neil Hilborn - How To Ruin Your Life \(For Fun And Profit!\)](#)
- 6) [Rudy Francisco - The Heart and The Fist](#)
- 7) [Ebony Stewart - Box](#)
- 8) [Michael Lee - And](#)
- 9) [Franny Choi - Prayer for the Untranslated Testimony](#)
- 10) [Melissa Lozada-Oliva - Like Totally Whatever](#)
- 11) [Brenna Twohy - The Fisherman Takes the Fish Home & Tells Her He Loves Her](#)
- 12) [Shane Koyczan - To This Day](#)
- 13) [Adam Falkner - Straight Poem](#)
- 14) [Rhiannon McGavin - Smile](#)
- 15) [Rachel Wiley - The Fat Joke](#)
- 16) [Blythe Baird - Pocket-Sized Feminism](#)
- 17) [Jesse Parent - The Parts of Her That Matter](#)

- 18) [Steven Willis - The Dead Unarmed Black Man the Police Shot Last Week Had a Funeral Today](#)
- 19) [Safia Elhillo - To Make Use of Water](#)
- 20) [Danez Smith - Dear White America](#)
- 21) [Desireé Dallagiacomo - Thighs](#)