

Toronto zine library



Toronto Zine Library

Newsletter

Spring 2025

**TRANS LIBRARY POP UP
AND
PAPERJAM SUCCESS!**

Spring is in full bloom here at TZL and we are bustling with activity! There is lots to cover so let's jump right in:

We are lucky to have McKenna spearheading a Trans Library Pop-Up within the TZL space, running for two months til the end of June! Its super exciting and gaining attention – you can read more about what is available for browsing and the upcoming Trans Future collage event below!

PaperJam was also a huge success! We saw many of you there and may have given you one of 500 masks we handed out! The newsletter shares perspectives and highlights from some of the zinesters tabling at PaperJam! Plus Miles shares the continued success of Zugzwang. Collage nights, a Public Cataloguing Party and more are on the horizon – keep an eye on socials if you don't want to miss out!

Of course, there is lots happening outside of TZL too: Leone shares an article from Zine-o-File about Toronto Isle's Zine Aisle and Twoey brings us a continuation of last Fall newsletter's Zinesters Guide to Vancouver. Plus there are always our external events and calls for submission pages!

The newsletter is only possible with the wonderful contributions from TZL volunteers and supporters so, THANK YOU! Enjoy those summer zine and art fairs and we look forward to seeing you in the fall! Happy reading!

-Karennna

TRANS LIBRARY TORONTO POP-UP

by McKenna Gray



The Trans Library Toronto is a pop-up reference library running from May 1st until the end of June which seeks to bring trans literature to the community. The collection consists of over 300 community-donated books, periodicals, zines and more that have either trans authors or significant trans content. By increasing access to trans literature, we seek to allow low-income trans folks to access trans literature in a welcoming space, as well as display the breadth of trans literature available through traditional and alternative publishing to the greater public.

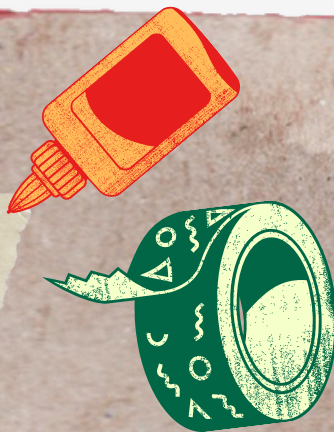


Inspired by the Trans Library Helsinki and Ottawa Trans Library, this project takes a DIY approach to librarianship, making available resources we already have instead of requiring grant funding to get started. The project extends beyond the run of the pop-up by cataloguing new donations from trans zinesters and writers, as well as highlighting trans content that is already in Toronto Zine Library's collection on our Instagram @translibraryto.



UPCOMING EVENT

Trans Futures Collage Workshop



☀️ **Already Sold Out** ☀️

Trans Futures: a free collage workshop for trans and gender non-conforming people

Sunday June 22, 12-2pm

The Living Room at Tranzac Club

Follow this [link](https://tinyurl.com/mr3xa5cr) to register for the waitlist

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3xa5cr>



What does a Trans Future hold? In this discussion session and collage party we will be envisioning a space for trans people to gather. Working towards a more permanent version of the Trans Library Toronto, participants will use arts-based research methods to speculate on the future of trans life and what a trans space looks and feels like. Through collaboration, commiseration, and collage, the group will build a collection of pieces that represent our desire for futurity that can optionally be included in a zine.

Supplies will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own materials to use or share. An extra pair of scissors would be very welcome to reduce sharing tools!

This event will be mask-mandatory and a rental air filter is being procured to increase the safety of the event for our community members. For additional access information, please visit Tranzac's [website](#) for access information.

NOTES FROM THE TABLERS

PaperJam! Highlights & Perspectives



PaperJam was an epic (Paper)Jam-packed day and people seemed super stoked to be there.

Events like PaperJam are truly special for gathering the magic that exists in – and is created by – the zine community. It was a day of goosebumps and we left feeling much gratitude!

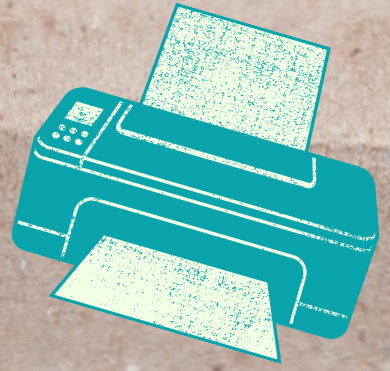
Shoutout to the volunteers who made the process clear for folks tabling and made this day happen.

–Em Cussen and Jason Li, Silly & Serious
Goose Collective

Paperjam was an exhilarating zine fair to table, a happening of many zine friends new and old. The Tranzac is a truly lovely venue, and thanks to the masks contributed by TZL it was one of the most genuinely accessible events I've participated in. Zinemaking is a real blood, sweat and tears effort for me, along with some other bodily parts at times – DIY is an act of discipline and also collaboration. Zine fairs like PaperJam are where it all comes together, where my labors leave my hand to reach a reader's heart.

–Helen Chazan, Gynoid Distribution

PAPERJAM CONT.



PaperJam 2025 was a delight! [PRUDEmag](#) tabled for our second consecutive year. We were visited by almost 1000 guests, and we and many vendors sold out of zines!

I respect PaperJam's commitment to protecting the ethos of zinemaking. The selection committee curated a balance of emerging and established artists, and maintained the focus squarely on zines themselves. Buttons, stickers, totes, and prints are always fun to collect at zine fairs, but I have been to some more commercial "zine fairs" that sold worryingly few zines. PaperJam was also successfully mask-mandatory, which is increasingly remarkable in 2025!

PaperJam was a family affair for me. My cousin Em tabled with my good friend Jason Li, and my sibling McKenna was onsite collecting donations for the Trans Library Toronto pop-up. Many of the other vendors were friends I know from within and outside the zine scene. I felt the sense of community was alive here, and with Canzine now defunct, the existence of PaperJam keeps me hopeful about the justice-minded future of zines in Toronto.

-Twoey Gray, PRUDEmag



ZUGZWANG

by Miles Forrester



Following the runaway success of last Fall–Winter’s Zugzwang (our very own weekly Litzine workshop), Zugzwang 2 is already underway. This season’s Zugzwang features seven Toronto-based writers who, for six Wednesdays, gather in TZL to read and critique each other’s work. There are short stories, poems, inter-genre experiments, lists — essentially anything these folks can fit on three pages (double spaced, please). Some of us have been doing this for over a decade (cough) and some of us are just getting started, but getting a chance to read and articulate what makes a piece of writing tick is what brings us back weekly.

After critiques, we take what we noticed in that week’s work and devise exercises to spin out those ideas for 45 minutes of often collaborative free writing. That’s the stuff that’s going in Zugzwang (the Zine) to be printed, assembled, and launched this Summer in the Tranzac Living Room (exact date to be determined soon!)

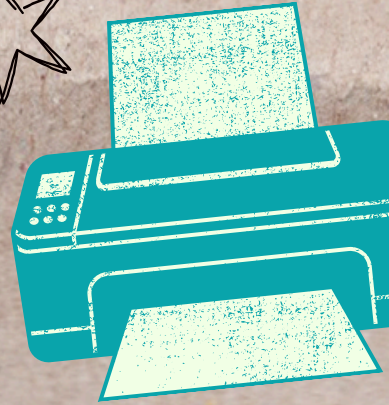
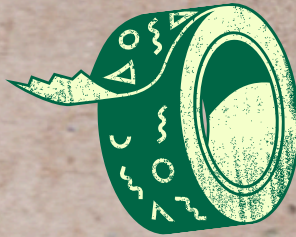
Do you want to do the Zugzwang? Stay tuned. Zugzwang 3 will most likely be taking applicants in early Fall.



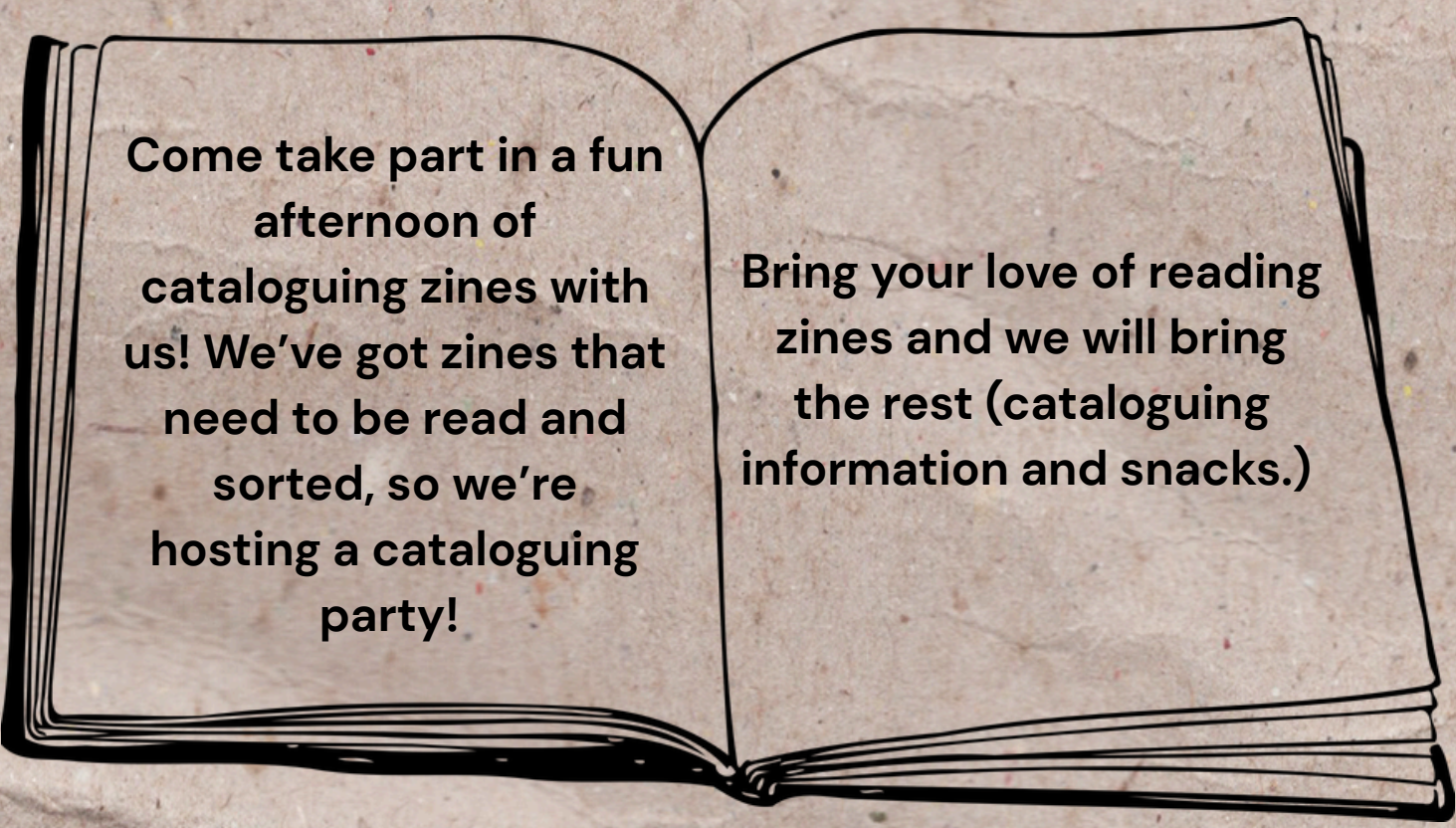


TZL EVENT

Public Cataloguing Party



Do you love reading zines? (we hope so!) Do you like organizing things?? Are you interested in the behind-the-scenes, glamorous world of zine cataloguing!?



Come take part in a fun afternoon of cataloguing zines with us! We've got zines that need to be read and sorted, so we're hosting a cataloguing party!

Bring your love of reading zines and we will bring the rest (cataloguing information and snacks.)

Keep an eye on our socials for the (likely) late summer date and further information about our first Public Cataloguing Party!

Straight from Zine-O-File!

by Leone

Toronto Isle

HAS A NEW

Zine Aisle



1. Concept



Last fall, following in the footsteps of another TZL volunteer (thanks Twoey!), I moved to Toronto Island to work at an artist residency in an old converted school house on Gibraltar Point. *G.P. Centre for the Arts* serves as a temporary home for creatives with an array of artistic backgrounds and practices. Heavy with contemplation and lightened by community, it's an ideal environment to reveal, revive, or finally actualize the projects and ideas that have been percolating in your periphery, perpetually pushed aside by more pressing practical responsibilities. For some, making a zine is the perfect way to document their time at the residency and process the particular type of magic experienced on this isolated island. Indeed, while looking through the existing library materials, I found many zines made by previous inhabitants.

Following this discovery, I was tasked with the project of adding a zine section to the existing library-cum-reading nook, a surprisingly cozy space tucked inside a doorless closet along the main hallway. I had already created a zine for the centre to memorialize an interactive exhibit of sticky-notes that had lined the walls for weeks, preserving them within the pages of an accordion zine with a paper heart on the cover, kept closed and locked with a cardstock arrow. I also started an archive of event posters and temporary art installations whose constant cycle keeps the walls colourful. Now, my task was to make a home for these paper projects to reside.

2. Creation

Inspired as much by the environment as I was limited by the materials on hand, I decorated the display with island motifs, creating a zine-scene that mimicked what I saw of nature outside.

I painted the shelves dark blue—a night sky reflected in a dark stormy lake—that served as a background for the bright yellow stars that shine on featured titles, while the moon directs the waves away from vulnerable paper pulp.

One of the long-time employees and friends of GP, Luisa, brought me to a locked closet in the back of the catering kitchen and let me search through her sewing supplies until I found fabric that matched the colour scheme, which I derived from the blue and yellow bed sheets I had to fold at the start of each week. Luisa tells me that the blue patterned fabric I discover at the bottom of the barrel was once used for making the uniforms of Swiss nuns circa 1950. The remaining materials to make decorations were sourced from around the school's supply closets.

Origami sail boats and canoes carry a crew of mini zine sailors to the shore of a shadowy cabin with windows lit up from inside. Fish, saved from the invisible aquarium I water the plants with, swim in the waves that lap at labels separating zine genres. There is also an interactive section with instructions on how to make a classic 8-panel zine, encouraging residents to leave something behind as a mark of their visit.

3. Categorization

Going through the library's materials, I locate anything that looks DIY, bringing publications with disparate styles and topics together under the broad category of 'zine'. Working with the collection at hand requires a flexible definition of what qualifies as a 'zine' (always a controversial pursuit). The chosen criteria should be able to effectively organize the existing material, while also accommodating for the collection's future acquisitions. Taking a hint from the free-organization of books in the library, the zine aisle uses minimal categories, focusing primarily on the visual display to enforce spatial distinctions, leaving space for creators to individually and artistically determine where their zine fits into the landscape. The hope is to encouraging visitors to prioritize the cohesion of the landscape over the accuracy of labels. It is an art residency, after all!

The final step was to anoint the scene with a name. Finished on my final day working at the centre, I strung the hand-embroidered triangle-flag banner (reminiscent of summer camp) across the top shelf, officially announcing that 'ZINE ISLE' was open for browsing.

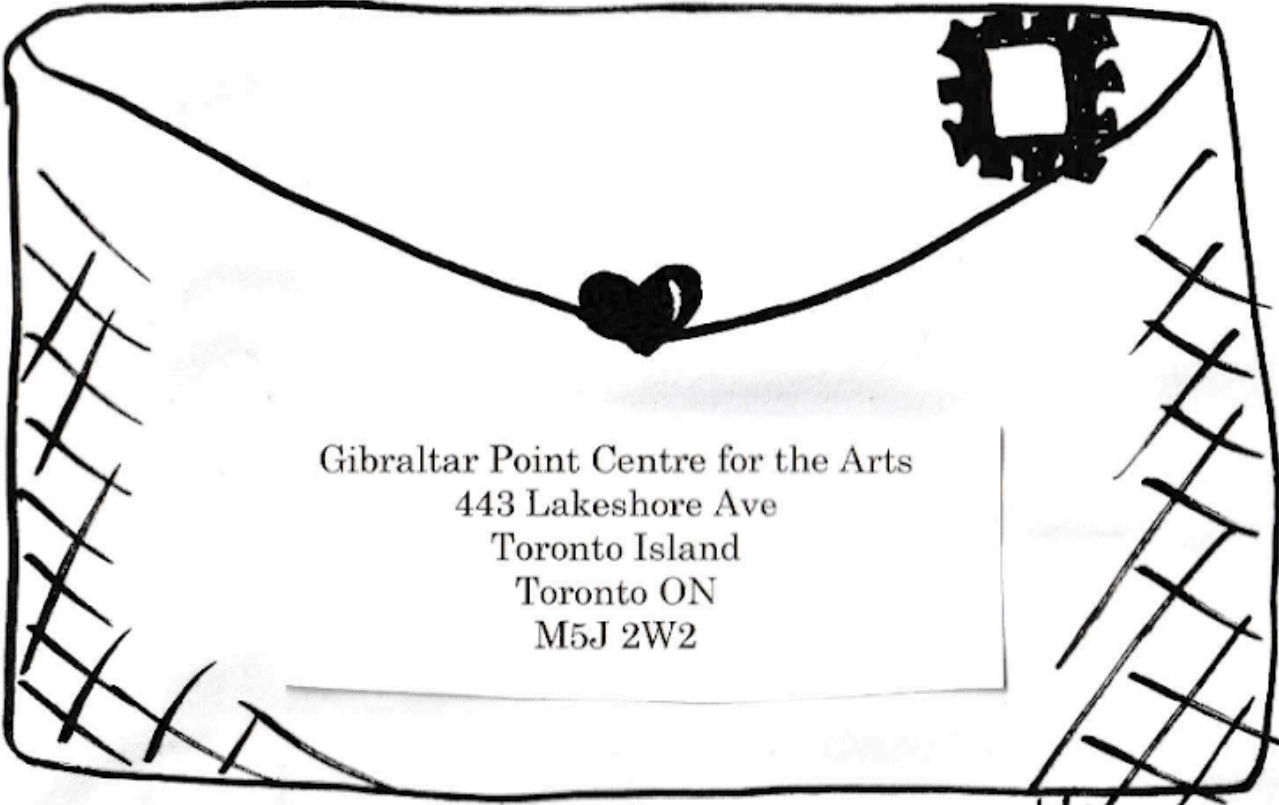




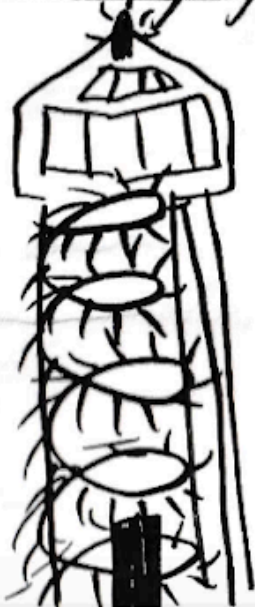
4. Collaboration



Zine Isle's current collection includes a large section of poetry and small-press chap books from all over Canada, as well as a selection of art zines, nature themes, and brightly coloured comics. Joining the ranks of other residents, I also added my own GP inspired zine to the collection. If your zines would like to live here too, or if you have other zines to donate to help populate the shelves, you can drop them off in person on your next Island visit or mail them to:



Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts
443 Lakeshore Ave
Toronto Island
Toronto ON
M5J 2W2



Thank you to everyone at
G.P. for making my stay so
magical. I highly recommend
booking a residency if you have
time to dedicate solely to your zine-
making!

- Leone

Zinester's Guide to Vancouver



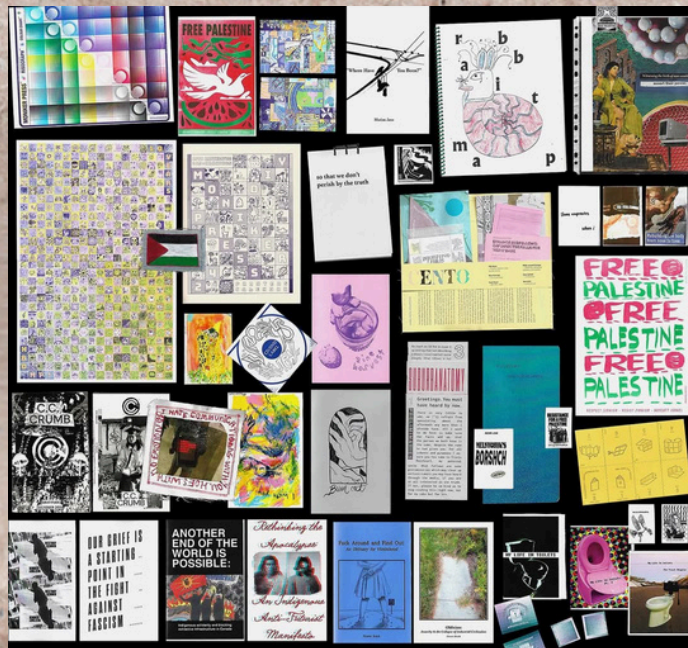
Hello! This is volunteer Twoey, back with further suggestions from out West!

In Part 1, I discussed exhibitions, libraries, and rumoured zine fairs in Vancouver. I have since explored even more zine-friendly bookstores, zine fairs, and meetups for zinesters!



Zine Harvest

This is what zines are all about! [Zine Harvest](#) has been active since 2023 and hosts several zine fairs per year, including a highly popular outdoor [zine picnic](#) at Dude Chilling Park. Zine Harvest has a truly beautiful community surrounding it and fully embodies the essence of zinemaking. I highly encourage you to visit their events!



Images from @zineharvest

Spartacus Books

[Spartacus](#) is a volunteer-run bookstore on Commercial Drive that has been operating since 1973. They are passionately anarchofeminist and offer a ton of exceptional radical literature, including a stellar selection of consignment zines. An essential part of the Commercial Drive experience!

Zinester's Guide to Vancouver

Regional Assembly of Text

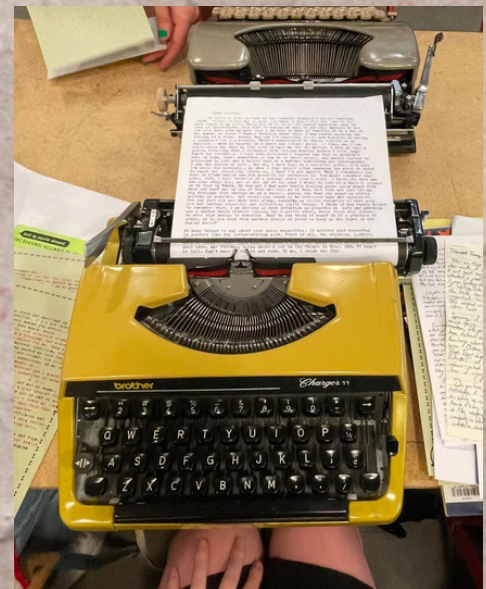
If you enjoy stationery, [Regional Assembly of Text](#) on Main St is adorable AND hosts a walk-in "cupboard under the stairs" that functions as a zine library. Notable to zinesters is their [Letter Writing Club](#), which occurs on the first Thursday of every month. The shop provides free stationery and lets you use their many vintage typewriters to type whatever you like. Capacity is limited, so make sure to arrive early; I lined up an hour beforehand, and I wasn't nearly the first person there.



Me at the Regional Assembly of Text's Letter Writing Club

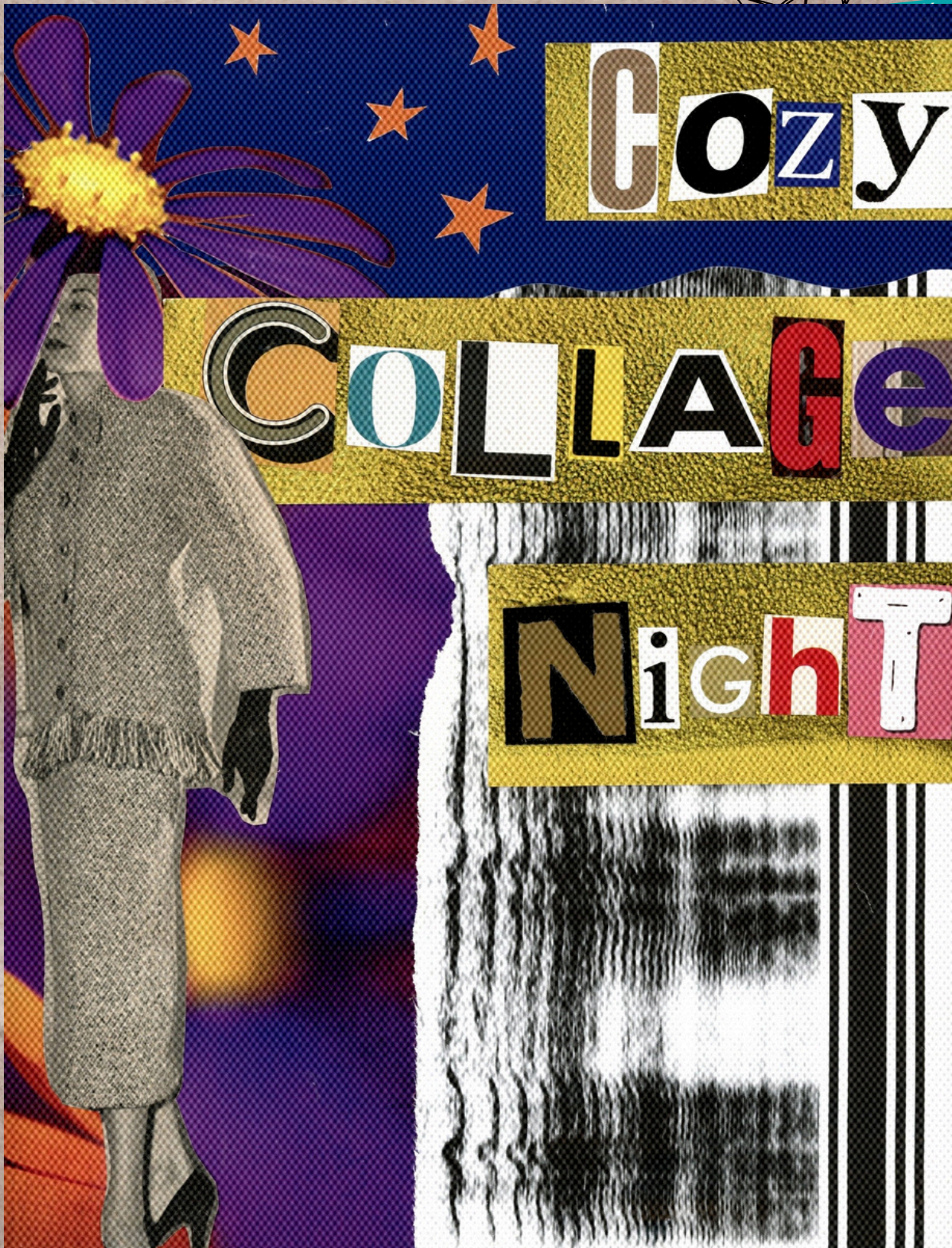
Lucky's Comics

Nearby on Main St, make sure you also stop by [Lucky's Comics](#). Lucky's has an A+ selection of zines and small press books, and also host book launches and events. They were recently the official bookseller for the Vancouver launch of Sook-Yin Lee's film "Paying For It", a very important film for zine culture!



If you have further suggestions for Part 3 of The Zinester's Guide To Vancouver, please let us know at torontozinelibrary@gmail.com!

TZL EVENT



Keep an eye out for collage nights! They are small
and fill up FAST!

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Zine Submission

Name: San Antonio Public Library Big Pride Zine

Deadline: June 30th, 2025

Theme: On the Shoulders of Giants

<https://guides.mysapl.org/Zines/BigPrideZineCallForSubmissions>

Zine submission

Name: FeelsZine

Issue 25: Hungry

Deadline: August 31

<https://feelszine.com/pages/submissions>

Zine Submission

Name: Blabaloo 5th Edition

Deadline: June 20

Requirements: Any trans, non-binary, agender, or otherwise gender-expansive person who resides in the GTA and surrounding areas

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem28oLzn25xAva6XJAHuRVUgPp9u4qN5pLT_sJ76pYHVgm8w/viewform

Zine Submission

Name: Trans Voices in Horror Poetry Zine

Deadline: June 17

Honorarium: \$50

- Trans poets are invited to submit work that offers an inclusionary, expansive, and feminist perspective on the horror genre—or more broadly, the horrific.
- New and established poets, as well as past contributors
- Up to five poems may be submitted in one document. Length and style should be determined by the needs of the piece, though please note that we will have limited space for print.
- Only previously unpublished work will be accepted.
<https://bloodlettermag.com/submit/>

UPCOMING ZINE EVENTS/WORKSHOPS



Event: Blabaloo Edition 4 Zine Launch

Date: June 4

**Location: C.C.'S Bar & Grill, 1564 Danforth Ave,
Toronto**

Free to attend

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blabaloo-edition-4-zine-launch-open-mic-tickets-1313241493659>

<https://www.instagram.com/juxtapositionpoetry/?hl=en>

Event: Beep Zine Launch

Date: June 7

**Location: Typist Studios & Coffee
390 Dupont Street, Toronto**

Free to attend

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/beep-zine-launch-tickets-1362264643219>

Event: Creative Club: Summer Bucket List in a Zine

Date: June 8

**Location: 10 DEAN | Waverley
484 Spadina Avenue, Toronto**

Paid Event

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/creative-club-summer-bucket-list-in-a-zine-tickets-1378370325749?aff=erelexpmlt>

UPCOMING ZINE EVENTS/WORKSHOPS



Event: Mini-Zine Workshop for TEENS

Date: June 12

**Location: Toronto Public Library, Palmerston Branch
560 Palmerston Avenue**

Registration is not mandatory, free to attend

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/mini-zine-workshop-for-teens-jun-12-tickets-1353547830999>

Event: The Green Line Zine Workshop

Date: July 21 (and more dates!)

**Location: Scadding Court Community Centre
707 Dundas Street West, Toronto**

Paid Event

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-green-line-zine-workshop-tickets-1116075093649?aff=ebdiglgoogleliveevents&source=ecat>

SUMMER ZINE FAIRS:

TCAF: Toronto Comic Arts Festival June 7th-8th

**Toronto Metropolitan University's Mattamy Athletic Centre, 50
Carlton St**

<https://www.torontocomics.com/>

**Keep an eye out for: Ottawa Small Press Book Fair in June;
Vancouver Art Book Fair in July; Bran Zine Fest (Brandon, MB) in
July;
and Zine Dream (Toronto) August 16**

WHAT'S NEXT?



- Have something zine-related (e.g., workshop, call for submission, event) that you would like to promote? Reach out to us through email at torontozinelibrary@gmail.com and we'll post it up on our next newsletter
- Look out for our Fall newsletter, coming in September!
- Reach out to us! Email us to tell us what you like about our newsletter, things that you think we should include, and things you think we can do better

See our full zine resources on [linktree](#):

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Toronto Zine Library is grateful for the space provided by TRANZAC since 2006. Please consider donating to their GoFundMe so that we can continue creating zine spaces for all