



For Immediate Release

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Attn: Arts, Books & Culture Editors

**TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS AND TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL
RENEW TORONTO LIT UP BOOK LAUNCHES THROUGH TO 2022**

Submissions now open until March 8, 2019

TORONTO, ON – The **Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)** and the **Toronto Arts Council (TAC)** have announced the renewal of their popular book launch initiative **Toronto Lit Up** for a second three-year term, which will run July 2019 to June 2022. Toronto Lit Up was spearheaded by TIFA and TAC in 2016 to spotlight local writers and empower them with career-building opportunities. The programme’s renewal guarantees the support of more book launches for local authors.

Publishers may submit authors for programme consideration between January 22 and March 8, 2019, by completing the online submission form at FestivalofAuthors.ca/torontolitup or by emailing torontolitup@festivalofauthors.ca.

“We are thrilled to continue partnering with Toronto’s writing community, thanks to the Toronto Arts Council’s renewed commitment to Toronto Lit Up,” says **Geoffrey E. Taylor, TIFA Director**. “We look forward to connecting more authors to readers and to introducing book lovers to new works that represent the voices of this talented city.”

“The Toronto Arts Council is delighted to work with TIFA to support Toronto publishers, to promote Toronto writers and to give Toronto readers more chances to discover them,” says **Claire Hopkinson, Director and CEO of Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Arts Foundation**. “Toronto Lit Up launches held to date have shown us just how keen Torontonians are to read local writers.”

“The collaboration between Toronto Lit Up, my publisher, and the bookseller venue made the launch of my thriller *Find You In the Dark* a success—and quite a fun one,” says author **Naben Ruthnum (pen name: Nathan Ripley)**. “I appreciated Lit Up’s reach and efforts to connect my book with interested readers.”

“We are so pleased to partner with Toronto International Festival of Authors’ Toronto Lit Up,” says **Luciana Ricciutelli, Editor-in-Chief, Inanna Publications**. “These creative collaborations have helped train the spotlight on Inanna’s diverse women authors and their important, new works, while simultaneously acquainting new readers and writers with our press. TIFA has been tremendously supportive! We look forward to expanding and building on this work.”

Toronto Lit Up began in April 2016 and will have supported 74 events that launched 93 books by 141 authors and 31 publishers by the time its second term begins in July 2019. In addition to events, Toronto Lit Up has

helped launch 37 debut writers through collaborating on *The Unpublished City* Anthology (Book*Hug, 2017), which was shortlisted for the **2018 Toronto Book Award**, and *The Unpublished City, Volume II* (Book*Hug, 2018).

Ayesha Chatterjee (past president, League of Canadian Poets) joins Toronto Lit Up selection committee members **Dionne Brand** (University of Guelph and committee chair), **Alison Jones** (*Quill and Quire*) and **Hazel Millar** (Literary Press Group) for the programme's second term.

Upcoming Toronto Lit Up Book Launches

- **Jennifer Robson** launches *The Gown* (HarperCollins Canada) | Thurs., January 24, 2019 at 7pm | Supermarket, 268 Augusta Ave.
- **Allison McDonald Ace, Ariel Ng Bourbonnais and Caroline Starr** launch *Through, Not Around* (Dundurn) | Fri., Jan. 25, 2019 at 6pm | Hennick Family Wellness Gallery, 600 University Ave.
- **Martha Batiz** launches *Damiana's Reprieve* (Exile Editions) | Tues., February 5, 2019 at 6:30pm | Dora Keogh Irish Pub, 141 Danforth Ave.
- **Cecil Foster** launches *They Call Me George: The Untold History of Black Train Porters and the Making of Modern Canada* (Biblioasis) | Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 7pm | A Different Booklist, 779 Bathurst St.
- **Oakland Ross** launches *Swimming with Horses* (Dundurn) | Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:30pm | Bandit Brewery, 2125 Dundas St. W
- **Mark Hebscher** launches *The Greatest Athlete (You've Never Heard Of)* (Dundurn) | Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7pm | Jasper Dandy, 725 Queen St. E
- **Amanda Laird** launches *Heavy Flow* (Dundurn) | Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 6:30pm | Type Books, 2887 Dundas St. W

Launches are open to the public and free to attend. To RSVP, visit FestivalofAuthors.ca/events.

About Toronto Lit Up

Toronto Lit Up is a multi-year initiative, spearheaded in 2016 by the Toronto International Festival of Authors and the Toronto Arts Council, to spotlight Toronto writers and empower local artists with career-building opportunities. To learn more, visit FestivalofAuthors.ca/TorontoLitUp.

About Toronto International Festival of Authors

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is Canada's oldest and largest festival of words and ideas. Since 1974, it has hosted over 9,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates and countless other award winners. Mandated to cultivate and advance the art of literature, TIFA connects curious readers of every kind with leading authors and provides forums to showcase Canadian talent to the world. TIFA presents events and programmes all year round and will celebrate the 40th edition of the Festival Oct. 24 – Nov. 3, 2019. TIFA is based at Harbourfront Centre. FestivalofAuthors.ca | @FestofAuthors

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