



literary and cultural programming at TPL

TPL board education

TPL Board Meeting

Apr 20, 2026

Linda Hazzan, Director, Communications, Programming & Customer Engagement (CPCE)

Gregory McCormick, Manager, Cultural & Special Events Programming, CPCE



salon series



New books. Big ideas. Join the conversation

on civil society



Challenge perspectives. Learn from one another through civil discourse

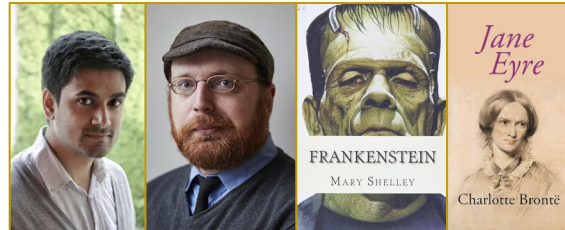
literary, cultural and ideas-based programming

cultural community programming



+ special events

tpl culture: virtual series



TPL programming

supporting creativity, culture & connection

for torontonians

- Encourage and enable participation and access at the city and neighbourhood level
- Supplement and extend the information found in library collections
- Offer an alternative way for people to access and better understand information
- Encourage participation in the civic and cultural life of the city
- Address the cultural and leisure-related interests of the community

for the library

- Encourage visits to our library branches
- Attract new users of the library, and/or introduce new collections or services to existing users
- Raise the profile of the library as a vital place of cultural engagement
- Provide opportunities to develop and strengthen partnerships
- Support the City's priorities of livability and prosperity by helping to build and sustain a creative city.

programming venues

Toronto Reference Library



Bram & Bluma
Appel Salon



Jack Rabinovitch
Reading Room



Atrium



Beeton Hall

North York Central Library Concourse



tpl: + virtual, offsite & special events

150
events

76,006
attendance and
engagements

19,063 in person + virtual
attendance
56,943 on demand
engagements



BookCrush: Romance Lit Festival



2,324
attendees

28
events

all sold
out!



overall highlights
2025 over 2024

27%↑
in person
attendance

76%↑
virtual
attendance

10%↑
on demand
engagement

**sold out
events** **26** → **71**
(2024) (2025)



2026 programming

winter/spring season

spring 2026: past events

Esi Edugyan, Tiya Miles: History's Fiction, Fiction's Truth

Jay Ingram: The Science of Pets

Lea Ypi: Indignity, A Life Reimagined

Before the 6ix: Sound System Foundations

Chris Kraus: The Four Spent the Day Together

Malcolm X Remembered: Andrews and Whitaker

Patricia Lockwood: Will There Ever Be Another You

**Sheila Heti, Elif Batuman, Patricia Lockwood,
Gwendoline Wiley:** What Is the Imagination?

Dr. Brian Goldman: Stories from an ER on the Edge

Frontlines: Howard French The Second Emancipation

Darrell Bricker & John Ibbitson: Breaking Point

Gillian Deacon & Mark Medley: A Love Affair with the Impossible

The Gathering Place: Institutions of Learning in Toronto's Future

Nicholas Boggs: Baldwin, A Love Story

Classic Twists: The Transit of Venus

Natalie Haynes: No Friend to This House

Tiffany Watt Smith & Sheila Liming: Making Time, Making Friends

Sonya Singh, Jordyn Taylor & Ellie K. Wilde: Novel Love

Toronto Baseball Tales: The Strange Story of Our City's First Championship

Tony Tulathimutte

Modern Fairy Tales on Film: Phantom Thread

William Raphael: Canada's First Jewish Painter

Night of the Living Dead

Cancelling Billionaires

Yann Martel: Son of Nobody

Jay Pitter: Black Public Joy

Classic Twists

Yousuf Karsh

Andrew Graham-Dixon

Elamin Abdelmahmoud, Stephen Marche & Tanya Talaga: On Canada

Ibram X Kendi: Chain of Ideas

Toronto Baseball Tales: The Bizarre & The Unlikely

Daron Acemoglu at DXC26

spring 2026: upcoming events

A Field Guide to Birds of Ontario

Classic Film

Freestyle Socials: Is This Supposed to be Funny?

Susan Morrison, Paul Myers: Lorne: The Man Who Invented Saturday Night Live

Frontlines: Federico Finchelstein

Genevieve Graham, Kate Hilton & Heather Marshall: Making History

Christopher B. Zeichmann: Radical Antiquity

Toronto Baseball Tales: Icons of the Diamond

Toronto Chinese Orchestra Ensemble Concert

Parallel Paths: The Chinese and Jewish Communities in The Ward and Beyond

Classic Twists

Richard Hell: Godlike

Mark Oppenheimer, with Molly Ringwald: Judy Blume: A Life

Labyrinth Ontario: Live Concert of Turkish Makam

Merilyn Simonds: Walking with Beth

Tracey Lindberg: The Cree Word for Love

Anakana Schofield: Library of Brothel

Sameer Farooq and Dan Hicks: Restitution and Reimagining Collections

Dana A Williams: Toni at Random

Darragh Mc Gee: Imitation Games

Pete Crighton: The Vinyl Diaries

Classic Twists

Terry Tempest Williams: The Glorians

Toronto Baseball Tales: Birth of the Blue Jays & The Curse of the Seagull

Julia Hotz: The Connection Cure

Classic Film

Classic Twists: The Savage Detectives

spring 2026 highlights salon series

SALON SERIES

What is the Imagination?
Sheila Heti, Elif Batuman,
Patricia Lockwood & Gwendoline Riley



SOLD OUT

Appel Salon
Tue Feb 10

SALON SERIES

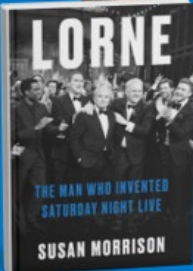

Learning to Look: TO Bird Party
Mark Peck, Emily Rondel & Kyo
McClear



Beeton Hall
Tue Apr 21

SALON SERIES

Live from TO:
The Lorne Michaels Story
Susan Morrison & Paul Myers



Appel Salon
Mon Apr 27



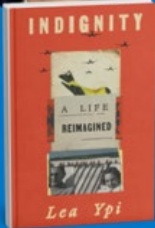
+ ENGAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

spring 2026 highlights on civil society

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

Indignity

Lea Ypi & Sanjay Ruparelia



SOLD OUT

Appel Salon
Thu Jan 29

LECTURE SERIES
On the Frontlines of Democracy

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

Breaking Point: Canada at Risk

Darrell Bricker & John Ibbitson
with Sarah Fulford



NYCL Concourse
Wed Mar 4

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

Fascism at the Gates

Federico Finchelstein
& Sanjay Ruparelia



Appel Salon
Wed Apr 29

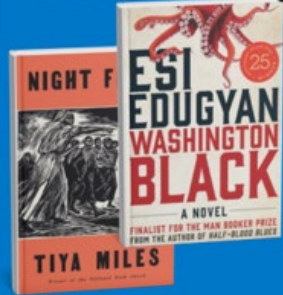
LECTURE SERIES
On the Frontlines of Democracy

spring 2026 highlights cultural programming

BLACK HISTORY

The Fiction in History

Esi Edugyan & Tiya Miles
with Nahlah Ayed



Appel Salon
Mon Jan 12

SOLD
OUT

ASIAN HERITAGE

Toronto Chinese Orchestra Concert: Full of Joy



NYCL Concourse
Mon May 11



JEWISH HERITAGE

Judy Blume: A Life Mark Oppenheimer with Molly Ringwald



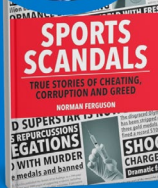
Appel Salon
Tue May 19

+ ENGAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

spring 2026 highlights virtual programming

VIRTUAL SERIES

Adam Bunch
& Toronto's Most Scandalous
From Sandlot to SkyDome



TPL Culture
Mar-Jun

VIRTUAL SERIES

Fairy Tale Cinema
with Adam Nayman



TPL Culture
Mar-Jun

VIRTUAL SERIES

Classic Books | Plot Twist
with Rebecca Panovka
+ James Wood, Parul Seghal, Natasha
Wimmer and more



TPL Culture
Mar-Jul



2026 programming

the Connections Project



create connections by
integrating engagement
& community-building
into library programming



Since 2023

- 13 pre-show activities or workshops
- 600 participants total (avg. 46/event)
- all events sold out
- many formats & topics

Test your NBA
knowledge at
Trivia Night



90's Bingo
Night

Speak like
a Roman



Zine-making
and politics



Water
colours



On
Freedom
Timothy
Snyder

CONNECTIONS

From Joy to Justice: Creating Socially Connected Cities
Jay Pitter with Cheryl Thompson



Appel Salon
Thu Apr 9

theme: **public joy**

CONNECTIONS

Is this Supposed to be Funny?
Freestyle Social with Anthony Morgan



Appel Salon
Mon Apr 27

theme: **humour & connection**

CONNECTIONS

Library of Brothel
Anakana Schofield with Michelle Dean



Appel Salon
Thu May 28

• ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

theme: **finding connection**

IRT CONNECT

Walking with Beth
Merylin Simonds & Moira Welsh



Jack's Room
Thu May 21

theme: **walking as connection**

CONNECTIONS

The Connection Cure
Julia Hotz & Tara Henley



Appel Salon
Mon Jun 22

• ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

theme: **checking social health**

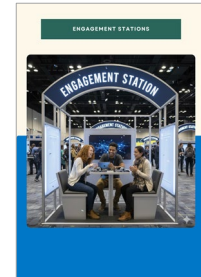
spring 2026 connections



engagement workshops & activities



Connections-themed pre-show activities & engagement stations for Salon, Culture and OSC events + PODCAST



engagement stations



thank you
questions?