

Short Biography

A. Gregory (Greg) Frankson is an award-winning poet, author and essayist, educator, public speaker, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism subject matter expert based in Toronto, Canada. His writings have been published in four poetry collections, six anthologies, and numerous literary and journalistic publications. He is the founder and CEO of Voice Share Inc., an inclusive leadership and effective communication consultancy. Greg is also the artistic director for the Canadian Black Literary Festival, a Public Imagination Network Fellow, a long-serving member of the Queen's University Council, and a board member for Prince's Trust Canada. Previously he was a 2012 national poetry slam champion, the poet laureate of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership, and a poetic commentator on CBC Radio One's *Here and Now Toronto*. He is a proud member of the Writers' Union of Canada and the League of Canadian Poets. Greg's first full-length work of creative nonfiction, *Alphabet Soup*, will be published by Dundurn Press in January 2025.

Published Creative Nonfiction

- *Alphabet Soup* (ISBN 9781459750333), Rare Machines (Dundurn Press), Canada, coming January 28, 2025
- Essay "[Black Poets Across Canada](#)" in AllLitUp.ca, February 18, 2022

Published Poetry Collections

- Chapbooks *The Halifax Chronicles* (2006), *Coast Poems* (2008), *Mindfull* (2010), and *Condition(ed) Response* (2014), published collectively as *Cerebral Confections* (ISBN 9798766871750), Platinum Grammar Publishing, Canada, November 2021
- *A Weekly Dose of Ritallin* (ISBN 9781460255452), FriesenPress, Canada, September 2015
- *Lead on a Page: The Poetic Leadership of a Laureate* (ISBN 9781452230337), International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership, New Zealand, December 2012
- *Cerebral Stimulation* (ISBN 9781905202324), BeWrite Books, United Kingdom, January 2006

Anthology Contributions

- Anthology Editor (fiction) of *AfriCANthology II: Strange Truth of Black Canadian Fiction*, Renaissance Press, Canada, coming July 2026
- Contributor (poetry) to *African Leadership: Powerful Paradigms in the 21st Century* (ISBN 9781801170468), edited by Rob Elkington Ph.D. et al., Emerald Publishing, United Kingdom, March 2023
- "At the Terminus" (short fiction) in *Nothing Without Us Too* (ISBN 9781990086304), edited by Cait Gordon and Talia C. Johnson, Renaissance Press, Canada, September 2022
- "The Blackened Room" (poem), "Send Me Back" (conversation with Reed "iZrEAL" Jones), and "The Green Canvas Knapsack" (personal essay) in *AfriCANthology: Perspectives of Black Canadian Poets* (ISBN 9781990086090), edited by A. Gregory Frankson, Renaissance Press, Canada, February 2022
- "Dear Shadow" (poem) in *The Great Black North: Contemporary African Canadian Poetry* (ISBN 9781897181836), edited by Valerie Mason-John and Kevan Anthony Cameron, Frontenac House, Canada, September 2013
- "Just Breathe" and "The Voice Within" (poems) in *That Not Forgotten* (ISBN 9781897475898), edited by Bruce Kauffman, Hidden Brook Press, Canada, June 2012
- "Drum" and "Feel the Old School" (poems) in *Mic Check: An Anthology of Spoken Word in Canada* (ISBN 9780978280659), edited by David Silverberg, Quattro Books, Canada, April 2008

Poetry Publications in Journals

- "[The Broken](#)," *The Scriblerus* (USA), Spring 2020
- "Signal Hill," *Open Minds Quarterly* (Canada; ISSN 1492-7705), Volume 21, Issue 4, Winter 2020
- "[The Muffin](#)," *Bywords* (Canada), October 2019
- "Boom," *Canadian Journal of Volunteer Resource Management* (Canada; ISSN 1192-1676), Volume 17.3, Fall 2009
- "Sense of Urgency," "System of Care" and "I.A.E. (I Am the Evidence)," *Journal of Rural Mental Health* (USA; ISSN 1935-942X), Volume 32, Number 3, Summer 2008
- "Mysterious Language of the Brain," "System of Care," "I'm a Survivor," "Grand Entry" and "Beyond the Margins," *International Journal of Public Leadership in Public Services* (United Kingdom; ISSN 1747-9886), Vol. 4, Issue 1, April 2008

Awards and Achievements

- Essay "[Black Poets Across Canada](#)" in AllLitUp.ca, named Best of the Blog 2022
- Finalist, Best Author, ByBlacks.com People's Choice Awards (for *AfriCANthology*), 2022
- Arne Bengt Johansson Fellow, Banff Forum (Charlottetown PE), 2022
- Winner, Best Author, ByBlacks.com People's Choice Awards (for *Cerebral Confections*), 2021
- Winner, Canada Book Award (for *A Weekly Dose of Ritallin*), 2021
- Grand Slam Finalist, Inspirational Speaker of the Year, Speaker Slam, 2018
- Nominee, Black Canadian Award for Best Spoken Word, 2014
- Nominee, Best Poet, NOW Best of T.O. Reader's Choice, 2014
- Inaugural Inductee, VERSe Ottawa Hall of Honour, 2013
- Winner, Canadian Team Poetry Slam Championship, 2012
- Championship Runner-Up, Canadian Individual Poetry Slam, 2012
- Featured Profile, Who's Who in Black Canada, 2010
- Recipient, Alumni Achievement Award, Pope John Paul II C.S.S., Scarborough, 2008
- Recipient, Honoured Man of the Village Award, Every Child is Sacred (Ottawa), 2005

Grants from Municipal, Provincial & Federal Funders

- Research & Creation Grant, Explore and Create Program, Canada Council for the Arts, 2022
- Artists in the Community/Workplace (for Spoken Forum Collective), Ontario Arts Council, 2012
- Word of Mouth, Ontario Arts Council, 2011
- Spoken Word & Storytelling Program (for CFSW 2010 Ottawa), Canada Council for the Arts, 2010
- Intersectional Initiatives, Canada Council for the Arts, 2010
- Capacity Building Initiative: Travel Grants, Canada Council for the Arts, 2009
- Multi-Arts (Scribology Spoken Word & Music Concert, Cytopoetics), Canada Council for the Arts, 2008
- Multi and Inter-Arts Projects (for Scribology), Ontario Arts Council, 2008
- Creation and Production Fund for Professional Artists, City of Ottawa, 2008
- Word of Mouth, Ontario Arts Council, 2005
- Spoken Word & Storytelling Program (for Capital Slam), Canada Council for the Arts, 2005

Arts Judgeships / Assessment Committees / Juries

- Explore and Create Program – Research and Creation Grant, Canada Council for the Arts, 2022-2023
- Explore and Create Program – Research and Creation Grant, Canada Council for the Arts, 2021-2022
- Artists in Education: Program for Individuals, Ontario Arts Council, 2017-2018

- Word of Mouth, Ontario Arts Council, 2013-2014
- Community Arts Committee, Toronto Arts Council, 2012-2014
- Poetry Judge, Whittaker Prize writing competition for The Write Idea, 2008
- Spoken Word and Storytelling Program, Canada Council for the Arts, 2007-2008
- Arts Funding Program for Literary Organizations, City of Ottawa, 2007

Discography

- *Poet Psychology Volume III* by Ritallin (LP), Cytopoetics and A. Gregory Frankson, 2014
- "Trash Talk," Halabisky's Uprising ft. Ritallin, *Slaying Maya*, Tasty Biscuit Music, 2012
- "My Way," Robbie G. ft. Ritallin, *Think*, R-Evolution Media Studios, 2011
- *Poet Psychology Volume II* by Ritallin (LP), Cytopoetics and vanörange records, 2011
- *Poet Psychology Volume I* by Ritallin (LP), Cytopoetics and A. Gregory Frankson, 2010
- "Uncomfortable," M.O. ft. Ritallin, *Eskimocentricity*, M.O., 2009
- "Can You Feel It?," Antizaro ft. Ritallin, *It's Great to be Fine*, Ropeadope Records, 2007
- "Boom Clap", *Canadian Festival of Spoken Word 2006*, Spoken Word Canada (compilation), 2006
- "Feel the Old School", "My Pen" and "Boom Clap (Capital Slam version)", *Live at Capital Slam 2006*, Capital Poetry Collective (compilation), vanörange records, 2006
- *Capital Thoughts* by Ritallin (EP), vanörange records, 2005
- "Challenge" and "Body Politic", *Live at Capital Slam 2005*, Capital Poetry Collective (compilation), vanörange records, 2005

Musical Composition/Writing Credits

- "Joy" (Composed by G. Frankson and arranged by K. MacLean), originally performed by the Royal York Road United Church Senior Choir, December 16, 2018
- "El Cocinero (I Wanna Know Your Name)" and "Good Intentions", co-written with and recorded by Nathan Bishop on *Lovers, Leavers and Believers*, Uptown Underground, 2011

Theatre Acting Credits

- Performed as an ensemble member in *Catch Me If You Can*, Whitby Courthouse Theatre, 2017
- Performed as Adrian in *Ties* at the Canadian Theatre Festival, Pearl Theatre, Hamilton, 2011
- Performed as Ovide Rimbaud in *Québécois: A Jazz Fantasia*, Ottawa Fringe Festival, 2006

Artistic Curation

- An Evening with Local Black Poets and Spoken Word Artists, Whitby Public Library, 2023
- RMG Fridays (March 2023 Edition), Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa ON, 2023
- Hillside Festival Spoken Word Curator, Guelph ON, 2007-2009 and 2012-2014
- TEN: A Spoken Word/Hip-Hop Concert ft. Ritallin, Kinnie Starr, Missing LinX & Emoticon Dawn, Toronto, 2013
- traVERSE: Poetry from the Up From The Roots Poetry Slam Team (chapbook), Toronto, 2012
- Scribology Spoken Word and Music Concert, National Library & Archives, Ottawa, February 2009
- WESTFEST Spoken Word Curator, WESTFEST, Ottawa, 2006-2009

Contributions to Major Newspapers / Periodicals / Podcasts

- "[Start Your Own Reading Series](#)," Write Magazine, Summer 2023

- [“Public policy in Canada from an Indigenous perspective and A Multiplicity of Birdsong,”](#) Policy Options Podcast, Episode 155, December 20, 2022
- [“Black Poets Across Canada”](#), All Lit Up, February 18, 2022
- [“Black Canadians are writing, fighting for justice, equality, respect, prosperity,”](#) Toronto Star (toronto.com), February 11, 2022
- [“For Black Canadians, there’s no going back to the way things were,”](#) The Globe & Mail, February 4, 2022
- [“Greg Frankson - Mental Health episode”](#), Radio Toni Podcast, Episode 022, August 7, 2021

Other Notable Accomplishments

- Founder and Artistic Director, Canadian Black Literary Festival / BlackLit Durham, 2022-present
- Co-Founding Member and Fellow, Public Imagination Network, 2022-present
- Member, Durham Arts & Culture Collaborative, 2022-present
- Board Member, King’s Trust Canada, 2021-present
- Co-Founder, AfriCANthology Canada, 2021-present
- Founder, Cytopoetics, 2007-2014 and Voice Share Inc., 2018-present
- Member, Queen’s University Council, 1996-1997, 1998-2006, 2010-2016 and 2017-present
- Chair, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Council, Abilities Centre, 2021-2023
- On-Air Poetic Commentator on *Here and Now Toronto*, CBC Radio One, 2012-2014
- Poet Laureate, International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership, 2007-2014
- Co-Founder, YouthCanSlam (now Voices of Today), 2013
- One of four finalists to appear on *Canada’s Smartest Person* Season 1, CBC TV, 2012
- Co-Founder & Project Coordinator, Ottawa Youth Poetry Slam Project, 2010-2012
- National Director, Spoken Word Canada, 2006-2008
- Founder & Creative Director, Capital Poetry Collective (Capital Slam), 2004-2006