

MPPSA HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND RESOURCE LIST

With this year rapidly changing the world around us, MPPSA has put together the following resource and store directory to help support small Canadian and Toronto-based businesses. In line with MPPSA's commitment to anti-racism and inclusivity for all, this list features BIPOC and women owned business that offer a variety of non-gendered, non-denominational, and sustainable items. While this is not an exhaustive list, we've used the recommendations of students and listed some of our favorites in hopes that it encourages you to seek out local businesses and to think in a relational way with the world around you.

Enjoy! – Ruth Rosalle and Marcus Lomboy



Clothing

ANMS <https://annmsshop.com/>

They've been called the most fashion-directional shop in Edmonton. And it must be true because they carry this [\\$2510 CAD Acronym Jacket](#). They sport other higher-end brands like Stone Island and Needles, and all the way to Nike. But let's be honest, reasonable people would be more likely to shop at Foosh (see below).

Bather: <https://ca.bather.com/>

Men's swimwear company that makes everything in Toronto. Great prints, great cuts. Though we're not going on vacation any time soon...and it's cold... hear us out. They make great casual shorts and shirts that look great on everyone! They just started making sweatshirts too, but we love [this bandana camp shirt](#).

Cherry Gardens: <https://shopcherrygardens.com>

Toronto based athleisure-inspired loungewear, with clean lines and relaxed silhouettes.

Clark Street Mercantile: <https://clarkstreetmercantile.com/>

Montreal-based retailer with a great selection of men's clothing. More reasonable than the other stores I'm going to include here. Nice and subtle style for when you can't convince your partner to dress up to go on dates every once in a while.

Coffee and Clothing: <https://www.coffeeandclothing.ca/>

Toronto-based coffee shop that also sells vintage clothing and deadstock military gear. Maybe their clothes smell like coffee, maybe their coffee tastes like old clothes, but either way we are loving this place.

Foosh: <https://www.foosh.ca/>

The pioneering Edmonton-based streetwear boutique. They carry your everyday brands like Adidas, Champion, Levi's Nike, The North Face, Stussy, etc. Won't break the bank and they'll probably carry some items that you won't see everywhere else. Good place to go shopping if you want to be dressed for success in starting your Tik Tok career or if you're looking to be fashion forward.

Four Horsemen: <https://www.fourhorsemen.ca/>

Victoria-based store. Good blend of casual and dressed up styles. Price-point is generally high but everything is really nice.

Note from Marcus: They have a Sporty & Rich section that thankfully doesn't have anything in it. Please don't support Emily Oberg. If there's anything you get out of this list, please let it be that.

Franc: <https://wearfranc.com/>

Toronto-based womxn's clothing brand. Focus on ethical production processes, with their factory just outside of Toronto. They make nice, simple basics and everything is made in Canada. They also offer different fits that are more inclusive, as well as more stylish cuts of basics too.

Kotn: <https://kotn.com/>

Toronto-based with a secondary location in Montreal. Ethically made basics that are made in partnership with communities, fair trade, 100% certified organic cotton, factories offer fair and equal pay. But also, the clothes are super soft and are great quality.

A note from Marcus: I used to have 6 of their tees until my partner "thiefed" them to make cropped tees. I can't be mad because she looks good in them, but I also kinda miss them, y'know?

Livestock: <https://www.deadstock.ca/>

Locations in Vancouver and Toronto. Sneakers, hype stuff. It's for when you want to buy Nikes but you don't want to go to Nike. Also, great if you want new shoes and like being sad because the thing you wanted sold out before you could buy it.

Lost & Found: <https://shoplostfound.com/>

No, it's not the club on King West. Amazing selection of men's clothing for the guy in your life that you want to dress better, but won't take the hint, so you buy him gifts in the hopes that he'll wear them more instead of the same shirt he's worn for the last 2 years you've been dating him. Or your brother. Who knows. Run by great guys, supports local artists and creatives, funny newsletter, owners are always at the store with their dog. They know what's up.

Make Way: <https://shopmakeway.com/>

Toronto-based shop that recently opened. BIPOC women-run in a new shop at Stackt market. "For womxn, by womxn" platform. Cozy streetwear and sneakers vibe.

They've done a lot of work to scaffold womxn and Filipino communities in Toronto. My personal pick is the grocery bag by the homie Xylk (pronounced like "silk" like the smoother mans he is) featuring "inspiring and trailblazing womxn."

Neighbour: <https://www.shopneighbour.com/>

Vancouver-based store with a Toronto location. Marcus likes these brands, but also can't afford them. Don't click on the link if you don't like seeing \$200 toques. Or you can, if you want to laugh at them.

Off the Hook: <https://offthehook.ca/>

Montreal-based retailer. More casual clothing for both men and women. Good balance of price-points. Great store merch. It's like buying from Urban Outfitters without supporting Urban Outfitters.

Soft Focus: <https://insoftfocus.com/collections/shop-all>

Toronto-based clothing brand. Work From Home but make it chic.

Uncle Studios: <https://unclexstudios.com/>

Toronto-based primarily women's brand that focuses on sustainability. Looks like really quality basics in nice silhouettes and tonal palettes. Sign me up.



Candles, Fragrance, Soaps and Body Care

Cheekbone Beauty: <https://cheekbonebeauty.ca>

Indigenous-owned and founded, Canadian cosmetics company based out of St. Catharines, Ontario. They are committed to providing cruelty free beauty products and at achieving their zero-waste target by 2023. They also actively donate to non-profits, pushing to support their community.

East City Candles: <https://eastcitycandles.com>

Made with 100% Canadian beeswax, soy wax, lead-free wicks, and essential oils, these Ontario-based candles are based on the enticing aromas of fresh florals and lush greens.

Jazmin Saraï: <https://www.jazminsarai.com>

With non-gendered perfumes that are hand-crafted for all, in small batches with as many biodegradable ingredients as possible, Jazmin Saraï focuses on both quality and origin. They take care to connect scents with sound and culture to give awareness to the underrepresented.

Note from Ruth: Every candle, oil, and perfume is inspired by a specific song or instrument, blending the senses together. Their [Bouzouki candle](#) hit home and I can't wait to pick one up!

Rocky Mountain Soap Co.: <https://www.rockymountainsoap.com>

Handmade soap, face, body, and hair products with 100% natural and simple ingredients that are sustainably sourced. They also do gift pack and samplers, which offer either a sampling of soaps or a blend of products based on their scent!



Games and Hobbies

401 Games: <https://store.401games.ca/>

Toronto-based game store with locations in Toronto and Vaughan. Best selection and prices for board games and TCGs for the nerds in your life.

Face To Face Games: <https://www.facetofacegames.com/>

Montreal-based retailer with a Toronto location on the Danforth. Amazing staff and great for games and TCGs. Marcus is a big nerd and is here a lot.

Gotham Central Comics: <https://gothamcentralcomics.com/>

Mississauga-based comic bookstore. Looks like they have a great selection of stuff, they offer pull lists, their website doesn't hurt me, what more can you say?

Silver Snail Comics: <https://www.silversnail.com/>

Best place in Toronto for comic book memorabilia and graphic novels. Kind of pricey but where else are you going to get a [1.5 foot tall statue of Thanos with eyes that light up?](#) Or [this bust](#) of Riker from Star Trek: The Next Generation facepalming?

The Beguiling: <https://www.beguilingbooks.com/>

Amazing store that focuses on graphic novels and local artists. They've been around for a long time.



Home

Juxtapose and Juxtapose Home: <https://www.juxtaposeannex.com/shop>
<https://www.juxtaposehome.com/>

Toronto-based shop. The best place for small knick-knacks and stocking stuffers. I have bought many home decorations and gifts from here, including a Frenchie jewelry tray, socks with Frenchies on them, and Christmas cards with Ruth Bader Ginsburg on them.

Likely General: <https://likelygeneral.com/>

“An artist-focused shop selling the works of women, marginalized, queer, and non-binary folks.” A quick scan through their site is a little overwhelming, but once you take the time to navigate the mess that seems to be a good representation of an artist’s brain, you’ll unlock a world of home products, beauty products, clothing, jewelry, ceramics, books, greeting cards, and general good vibes.

Wyrth: <https://www.wyrthhome.com>

Located in Vaughn, Ontario, they offer home goods from bathmats, to pillows, and wine glasses. Any kitchen gadget you can think of, they probably have it, including this [Egg Shell Peeler](#).

Pretty Clean Shop: <https://www.prettypcleanshop.com>

Based in Toronto, Pretty Clean Shop is committed to offering sustainable products that range from health and beauty, reusable items, and refillable containers and packaging.



Jewelry

Bluboho: <https://www.bluboho.com/>

Toronto-made sustainably jewellery store with 3 locations in the city. Most stuff is made in Toronto but they also offer other ethically made jewellery brands. They have simple designs, and also zodiac designs for gifts for your loved one who has Mercury in retrograde while Venus is in Gatorade or something like that.

Cambio & Co.: <https://www.shopcambio.co/>

BIPOC woman-run jewelry and clothing that is made in the Philippines. Intricate jewellery and beadwork bags that are very reasonably priced. They also have blogs and culture posts, so even if you don’t buy anything, check out their website and learn about Filipinx culture.

Cuchara: <https://www.cuchara.ca/>

BIPOC woman-run jewelry business. Jewelry is sustainably and ethically made in Toronto. Classy, timeless, good pricing. Their pieces are also named after people, which is probably a little awkward when you ask for them over the phone or in store.

“Yeah, let me try Calvin on.” has never sounded so distinguished instead of slightly weird



Cards and Stationery

313 Design Market: <https://313designmarket.com/>

This Toronto-based store that carries really cute home decorations. I didn't even know they had a website until now. The store is super claustrophobic, so do yourself a favour and shop online. Also, because COVID. But now you have a reason.

CardInside: <https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/CardInside>

Shout outs to Sabrina for linking us this Etsy store. They make personalized cards and other ornaments and good stocking stuffers, but they also have pre-made ones. Lots of Friends references if that's your thing. All hand made in Toronto.

Cardsy Store: <https://getcardsy.com/>

Cutest cards made by local artists. Big fan of this [Fleece Navidad card](#).

Lettering by Loes: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/letteringbyloes>

Toronto-based Filipina womxn making cards and personalized Christmas ornaments with her calligraphy. The custom acrylic album covers are big gas, because who wouldn't want their love displayed alongside “pick up the phone” by Travis Scott and Young Thug like [this](#). That could be you.

Spooliejoolie: <https://spooliejoolie.com/>

[Look at this card](#). Look at it. I don't think I have to say anything else. They also sell tie-dyed clothes if that's your thing.

Sticker Bae Studio: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/stickerbaestudio>

I think people still like stickers, right? Especially if they're stickers that are culturally relevant because your Macbook only accepts the coolest stickers.



Everything In Between

A Different Booklist: <https://www.adifferentbooklist.com/>

Toronto-based bookstore. BIPOC-run and has consistently supported the community. Great space by Bathurst and Bloor that they host events in. Lots of books from authors of colour that are difficult to find anywhere else.

Custom Creation Boutique: <https://www.instagram.com/custom.creation.boutique/>

If you're looking for a personalized mug, puzzle, bottle, or even Starbucks tumbler, look no further! You can completely customize your gift by reaching out to the owner, who can even make care packages.

Doggo Hearts: <https://doggohearts.com/collections/all>

From beef liver to “yak” milk cheese, all treats are approved by the CED (Chief Executive Doggo), Utah the Cockapoo! Healthy and tasty treats for your furry friends and family members.

Note from Ruth: I can't wait to let the furry CEDs of my house pick out their favourites.

Glad Day Bookshop: <https://www.gladdaybookshop.com/>

"The first queer-focused Canadian bookstore, and the oldest queer bookstore worldwide. Serving the LGBTQ community since 1970, we offer the widest possible selection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, and queer literature." Say less.

Hailed Coffee: <https://www.hailed.ca/>

French pastries with a Middle Eastern Flare and hand crafted chocolate bars that are sure to make your mouth water! Check out their [Orange Cardamom Tart](#) if you like your sweets with a savory note.

Kitten & the Bear: <https://www.kittenandthebear.com>

Made in Toronto, this store specializes in handcrafted French confiture style fruit preserves and traditional buttermilk scones. They strive to use local produce in their recipes where possible and source their ingredients from family-owned farms dedicated to sustainable and healthy farming. Their [Strawberry, Raspberry & Cream Jam](#) looks delicious!

Notability: <https://www.notability.ca/>

BIPOC run bookstore that is relatively new. They focus on BIPOC authors and supporting the community. Similar to A Different Booklist. But how can you be mad at that? Don't answer that. Just support small business and read more books.



Resource Lists and Articles

Not Amazon: <https://www.not-amazon.ca/>

Great for local Halifax, Calgary, Vancouver, and Toronto based clothing, music, book, candle, and home goods retailers!

BIPOC-owned Business Directory: <https://bipocstores.org/directory/>

BIPOC, sustainable, women & femme centred, 2SLGBTQQIA+ friendly/Gender-free businesses and products: <https://www.jennyjay.ca/thelist>

Toronto Small Business Guide:

<https://www.instagram.com/richellekingsland/guide/toronto-small-business-gift-guide/17860208321301353/?igshid=1b1sro6wgp3ob>

A Guide to the 50 Black-Owned and Created Businesses on Oprah's 2020 Favourite Things List: <https://www.oprahmag.com/style/a34480587/oprah-favorite-things-2020-black-owned-businesses/>

BIPOC-owned Canadian brands

<https://www.cbc.ca/life/holiday/14-beautiful-bipoc-owned-canadian-brands-to-shop-this-season-1.5813226>

<https://www.complex.com/style/2020/11/bipoc-owned-canadian-brands/house-of-hayla>