

## Culture Days 2018 Event Recap

Culture Days, a three-day event that celebrates arts and culture, took place in Kingston and across Canada on Friday 28 September, Saturday 29 September and Sunday 30 September, 2018. The Kingston Arts Council (KAC), the region's primary resource for arts information and support, was the host organization for Culture Days this year, taking over from the City of Kingston. Culture Days in Kingston featured a variety of free activities that provided an opportunity to build connections, awareness and pride in our cultural community and promote direct interaction between creators and the public as a means to strengthen long-term support for arts and culture.

Overall, there were forty events that took place in Kingston that were registered with Culture Days Ontario. Among them, an instrument petting zoo, a drumming circle, poetry reading, live drawing with music and ballerinas, a children's book launch and an art book making workshop. All the events were free to the public and many featured multiple partnerships, like the artist pop-ups that were a collaboration between The City of Kingston, local artists and Kingston Transit.



Image left: Instrument Petting Zoo and Composition Garden; a partnership between Joe's Musical Instrument Lending Library and the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts . Photo: Liz Cooper  
Image right: Poetry reading at Union Gallery. Photo: Liz Cooper

The Tett Centre was one of the designated Culture Days Ontario Hubs. It acted as a centralized spot for events during the weekend. They hosted a variety of drop-in and pre-registered programs with a focus on hands-on, interactive activities. Tenant organizations opened their doors and invited members of the public to explore their spaces, many offering creating activities like a play read-a-thon or arabic calligraphy.



Image left: making gemstone trees with the Kingston Lapidary Club at the Tett Centre. Image right: the B.A.G. project recycled crafts at the Tett Centre. Photos: Liz Cooper.

## Youth Arts Ambassador Program

The Kingston Arts Council partnered with Ontario Culture Days on the Youth Arts Ambassador Program (YAAP), which focuses on supporting the next generation of community-engaged artists in our province. The program commissions emerging professionals up to 30 years old to create works of art in their local regions to be unveiled to the public over the Culture Days weekend. In addition to the presentation of the project, YAAP gives the public insight into the artist's creative process through photos, video, writing and social media. This program was produced by Ontario Culture Days, in partnership with the Kingston Arts Council, and created with support from TD Bank.



Images: Movement Market / DANCE AS COMMUNITY performance. Photos: Liz Cooper

In Kingston, local dancer Kay Kenney was selected as a 2018 Culture Days Youth Arts Ambassador for her project, Movement Market / DANCE as COMMUNITY. Kay's artistic program featured two choreographic movement workshops and two performances. Featuring thirty volunteer community members with a passion for performance art, Movement Market used dance as a medium for self-exploration, building towards a choreographed performance

accompanied by local musicians Claire Bouvier, Don Lougheed and Rowan Cowan-Day on Sunday, 30 September in Market Square.



Image: 2018 Youth Arts Amabassador Kay Kenney. Photo: Liz Cooper

Originally from Kingston, Kay Kenney graduated from the Professional Contemporary Dance Program at The School of Dance (Ottawa) in 2012. In 2016 Kay successfully brought the first local full length contemporary dance production to Kingston and was the first local dance artist presented at The Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts in spring 2017. Most recently she directed and mentored the first local Contemporary Dance Series in Kingston, *Movement Market/SERIES 2018* and continues to teach throughout the city.