

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



kingston
arts
council



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COVER PHOTOS

Top: Photo of local artist Chaka Chikodzi, video still from Mayor's Arts Award, by Make Hay Media.

Right: Photo of Artists Are Essential billboard on Gardiners Road, CDT. Design by Vincent Perez.

Bottom: Photo of local visual artist Natasha Jabre as featured through the YGK Arts Project, submitted by artist.

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kirsi Hunnakko
Kirsi Hunnakko
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is pleased to share our Annual Report for 2020-21, which highlights our granting programs, services and activities.

It is an understatement to say that 2020-21 was a challenging year for our organization and our arts sector. As we began our fiscal year in April 2020, Kingston was in Ontario's first COVID-19 lockdown and the future of the pandemic was unclear. Like many others, we set aside the plans we had crafted only weeks before and looked to our arts community so we could respond to their needs in real time as we all ventured forward into the unknown.

It was a year of heartache for many and locally, the difficulties faced by our arts community were acute and urgent. The loss of gigs across all disciplines and subsequent loss of income put an already precarious sector in further jeopardy. But this past year has also been a year of triumph. Time and again, we cheered as we learned of our artists and arts groups innovating and continuing to create despite facing significant challenges.



Barb Danielewski
Barb Danielewski
CHAIR,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The KAC supported Kingston's arts community through both the bad and the good. We brought our community together around online roundtables and through our Essential Artists Thinking Group. We continued to deliver City of Kingston Arts Fund grants on schedule and assist grantees with pivoting their operations and projects, while advocating for (and achieving!) an additional \$200K in funding for Kingston artists and arts nonprofits in 2021. Behind the scenes, the KAC played a key role in founding the Alliance of Arts Councils of Ontario, and we continued to promote local (virtual) arts offerings and connect our sector with much-needed resources and opportunities.

This work was activated by our staff - who adapted seamlessly to new ways of working remotely together and with our community - and supported by our Board, which this year gained two new directors, Erin Ball and Mauricio Montecinos.

We remain grateful for the stable operating support we receive from the City of Kingston and the Ontario Arts Council, as well as the vital contributions of our donors and additional support through the federal government's COVID-19 subsidy programs.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and reflecting with us on our organization's progress through an unprecedented year in our history. Thank you for all you continue to do to support the KAC and the arts in Kingston.



GRANTS

PHOTO: Photo of Erin Ball, owner of Kingston Circus Arts, at Electric Circuits 2020. Photo by Sandbox Photovideo.

The Kingston Arts Council administers two key funding programs: the City of Kingston Arts Fund and the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development.

The City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF) provides grants to local arts organizations and collectives to foster creativity at all levels and enrich how Kingston residents experience and engage with the arts.

It is administered by the Kingston Arts Council (KAC) and applications are assessed by a jury of peers from the Kingston arts community. CKAF has two funding categories: operating grants and project grants. Operating grants provide a crucial foundation for non-profit arts organizations, increasing administrative capacities and professional and artistic development opportunities. Project grants fund the creation and presentation of artistic projects and connect diverse audiences with arts activities across the city. Through CKAF, arts organizations and collectives are able to develop programming, arts activities, partnerships and initiatives that encourage arts engagement, learning opportunities and participation. These funds are an investment in Kingston's cultural capital and they foster cultural vitality, increase the capacity of the arts community, encourage residents to connect with the arts and ultimately enhance Kingston's

cultural economy, promoting financial stability and sustainability of the sector.

In 2021, Kingston City Council allocated **\$200,000** in one-time funding to support individual artists and non-profit arts organizations, in recognition of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This investment is in addition to the City's annual contribution in support of the fund's Operating and Project Grants. This funding will be made available through two new grant streams: Resiliency and Adapt, administered by the KAC on behalf of the City of Kingston.

CKAF BY THE NUMBERS

CKAF INVESTMENT TO DATE 2007-2020

\$7 million

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

380

TOTAL # OF GRANTS AWARDED

\$11.2 million

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

160%

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF REQUEST RELATIVE TO AMOUNT AVAILABLE

241

TOTAL # OF GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH PROJECT FUNDING

561

TOTAL # OF APPLICATIONS

11

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH OPERATIONAL FUNDING

2019 CKAF

RECIPIENTS

2019 RECIPIENTS - OPERATING

Agnes Etherington Art Centre	\$75,000
Cantabile Choirs of Kingston	\$27,183
Le Centre Culturel Frontenac	\$16,000
H'art Centre	\$11,655
Kingston Canadian Film Festival	\$43,911
Kingston Symphony Association	\$75,000
Kingston WritersFest	\$41,551
Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre	\$48,200
Reelout Arts Project Inc	\$21,400
Theatre Kingston	\$41,000
Union Gallery	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$410,900

2019 JURY - OPERATING

Crystal Day, Megan Hamilton, Rheni Tauchid, Karma Tomm. **Ex-officio:** Councillor Peter Stroud, Danika Lochhead (City of Kingston), Kirsi Hunnakkko (Chair), Felix Lee, Diana Gore.

2019 RECIPIENTS - PROJECT

2020 Juvenis Festival, Blue Canoe Productions	\$17,000
Electric Circuits Festival, Electric Circuits Collective	\$15,000
Festival of Live Digital Art (foldA), SpiderWebShow	\$13,000
Fun House Concert Series, Kingston Punk Productions	\$5,100
In Dulci Jubilo - Freeing the Voice, MelosChoir and Period Instruments	\$7,528
Ka'tarohkwi Languages Nest, Kingston Filmmakers Collective	\$13,762
King Con 2019/2020, King Con Collective	\$11,000
Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival, KCHC	\$11,160
Kingston Women's History Project, The Circus Kingston Collective	\$17,000
Live Wire Music Series 2019-2020, Live Wire Music Series	\$2,250
Midwinter Solstice Celebration, Calliope Collective	\$13,800
Shortwave Theatre Festival, CFRC 101.9FM	\$15,000
Skeleton Park Arts Festival, Skeleton Park Arts Festival	\$18,500
Tone Deaf Festival and Satellite Concerts 2019-2020, Tone Deaf	\$16,000
TOTAL	\$176,100

2019 JURY - PROJECT

Camille Georgeson-Usher, Andrea Haughton, Henry Heng Lu, Su Sheedy, Lib Spry.

Ex-officio: Councillor Liz Schell, Danika Lochhead (City of Kingston), Kirsi Hunnakkko (Chair), Felix Lee, Diana Gore.



2019 CKAF IMPACT REPORT *

PHOTO: Screenshot of *Infinitely Yours* by Miwa Matreyek, presented by FOLDA, June 2020.

\$587,000

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

25

GROUPS FUNDED

244,730

TOTAL AUDIENCE

623

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

82,639

VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,807

VOLUNTEERS

\$1,787,521

PAID TO ARTISTS

920

ARTISTS ENGAGED

\$7,812,899

TOTAL REVENUE

465

NEW WORKS CREATED

CKAF 2019 OPERATING RECIPIENTS

52

NUMBER OF FULL-
TIME EQUIVALENT
STAFF POSITIONS

164

TOTAL NUMBER OF
STAFF POSITIONS

COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic reached Kingston, the KAC supported 2019 CKAF Project Grant recipients in assessing public health restrictions and adapting their project activities. The KAC likewise encouraged 2020 grant recipients and 2021 applicants to create contingency plans that comply with Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework. We continue to support recipients in adjusting their activities to ensure the safety of their staff, volunteers and audiences.

* as reported as of 24 June 2021.

2020 CKAF RECIPIENTS

2020 RECIPIENTS - OPERATING

Agnes Etherington Art Centre	\$75,000
Cantabile Choirs of Kingston	\$27,998
Le Centre Culturel Frontenac	\$16,608
H'art Centre	\$12,097
Kingston Canadian Film Festival	\$45,755
Kingston Symphony Association	\$75,000
Kingston WritersFest	\$42,589
Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre	\$50,000
Reelout Arts Project Inc	\$22,042
Theatre Kingston	\$42,230
Union Gallery	\$10,250
TOTAL	\$419,569

2020 JURY - OPERATING

Sadaf Amini, Dinah Jansen, Liam Karry, David Parker. **Ex-officio:** Councillor Bridget Doherty, Colin Wiginton (City of Kingston), Kirsi Hunnakkko (Chair), Felix Lee, Laura Chaignon.

2020 RECIPIENTS - PROJECT

Aqua Nova, Aqua Nova Collective	\$14,544
Electric Circuits Festival 2021, Electric Circuits Collective	\$19,000
Emergence, Vox Intima	\$9,000
Festival of Live Digital Art (foldA) 2021, SpiderWebShow	\$17,000
Fun House Concert Series, Kingston Punk Productions	\$8,000
GO/NO GO, GO/NO Collective	\$14,000
HYDRA (Water Parade), Calliope Collective	\$16,205
King Con 2020/2021, King Con Collective	\$13,000
Kingston Intercultural Arts Festival, Kingston Community Health Centres	\$12,856
Live Wire Music Series 2020-2021, Live Wire Music Series	\$2,550
Music You Love Played by People You Know, Orchestra Kingston	\$2,040
Skeleton Park Arts Festival, Skeleton Park Arts Festival	\$18,525
The Juvenis Festival 2021, Blue Canoe Productions	\$16,000
Tone Deaf Festival and Satellite Concerts 2020-2021, Tone Deaf Collective	\$14,004
Voces Feminorum, Melos Choir and Period Instruments	\$12,901
TOTAL	\$189,625

2020 JURY - PROJECT

Andrea Haughton, Reena Kukreja, Cassel Miles, Paul Smith. **Ex-officio:** Councillor Jim Neill, Colin Wiginton (City of Kingston), Kirsi Hunnakkko (Chair), Felix Lee, Laura Chaignon.

19

PROJECT
APPLICATIONS

15

PROJECT
APPLICATIONS
FUNDED

79%

SUCCESSFUL
APPLICANTS

PHOTO: Khione (goddess of frost and snow) arrives during Calliope Collective's Winter Solstice Celebration event *The Longest Night*, as performed through community-workshopped shadow puppetry. Photo by Randy deKleine-Stimpson. Projection/presentation piece by Josh Lyon (Calliope). Primary Shadow Puppets by Aleks Bragoszewska. Workshop facilitation by Aleks Bragoszewska and Krista Dalby.

THE NAN YEOMANS GRANT FOR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development

is an annual grant of \$2,500 that is awarded to an emerging visual artist. This grant aims to help young promising artists and artisans working in visual media further their artistic growth and education.

The grant is made possible through an endowment fund administered by the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area (CFKA). The Kingston Arts Council is responsible for the administration and distribution of the grant, including processing applications and jury selection. Since the grant was created in 2009, the total funds awarded to Kingston-based emerging visual artists is \$30,000.

2020 RECIPIENT: TONYA CORKEY

Tonya Corkey is a Kingston-based artist. She graduated from OCAD University's drawing and painting program in 2012.



PHOTO: Tonya Corkey, submitted by artist

Corkey has always been interested in untraditional paint mediums, and in challenging and bridging gaps between disciplines. Solo exhibitions of Corkey's work include *Your Friend, Freddie* at XPACE Cultural Centre (2012) and *See you in the future* at Galleria 814 (2013). Her work has been featured in publications such as *Hi-Fructose* (2014) and *Flare: Canada's Fashion Magazine* (2014). In 2017, she was a regional semi-finalist in the Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series. Corkey's work was highlighted in *A Big Important Art Book Now Featuring Women* by Danielle Krysa aka the Jealous Curator (2018). Recently, Corkey's project *Be as nice as you are forever* was exhibited in Kingston as a part of Art After Dark (2020).

Tonya will use the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development to attend a table loom class and a residency at the Icelandic Textile Centre, where she will research and create a new series of sculptural works.

THE NAN YEOMANS GRANT FOR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

2020 JURY

GHY Cheung
Josh Lyon
Michelle Reid

PAST NAN YEOMANS RECIPIENT LIST

GHY Cheung	2019
Ella Gonzales	2018
Jennifer Demitor	2017
Kyle Vingoe-Cram	2016
Kevin Rodgers	2015
Leigh Ann Bellamy	2014
Mariel Waddell Hunter	2013
Ebonnie Hollenbeck	2012
Michelle Mackinnon	2011
Michael Davidge	2010
Vincent Perez	2009



PHOTO: Photo of one of Tonya Corkey's pieces *Everyone will be a was*, lint on found objects with two-minute looped audio (2020).

COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTO: Ria Mae at The Mansion, presented by Kingston Punk Productions, 2019. Photo by Viara Mileva.

E-NEWSLETTER

Previously two separate newsletters, the KAC newsletter has been streamlined into **one bi-weekly newsletter** (*Arts Buzz*) to better serve the local arts community. In January, we started featuring guest editorials from members of the KAC staff and board, as well as local artists and arts workers.

EVENTS CALENDAR

The KAC's online **community events calendar** is a centralized resource for arts events in Kingston and area. This past year, we transitioned the calendar to primarily feature locally-based, online arts events. We encourage submissions from artists, collectives and organizations; events can be submitted for free on our website.

SOCIAL MEDIA

3,329

FACEBOOK
LIKES

2,164

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

4,824

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

1,339

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

MEDIA COVERAGE

13 news articles spotlighted the work of the KAC this year.

Highlight: *'Artists are Essential' - Kingston Arts Council urges support for artists*, The Toronto Star, March 1st 2021.

THE YGK ARTS PROJECT

The YGK Arts Project is an initiative that recognizes, celebrates and **profiles local artists, cultural producers and arts leaders** around Kingston. It is hosted on our social media and shared through our newsletter. Since its launch in 2016, The YGK Arts Project has featured 209 artists and grown into an important and evolving database of local talent.



PHOTOS: TOP LEFT: Local theatre artist Cassel Miles, submitted photo.
TOP RIGHT: Local visual artist Kayla McLean (Yurasiku), self-portrait.
BOTTOM LEFT: Local musician Nana, submitted photo.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Local visual artist Natasha Jabre, submitted photo.

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS



The Mayor's Arts Awards

is an annual recognition program that celebrates artistic achievement as well as extraordinary support for and contributions to the arts.

By increasing the profile for the arts in Kingston, the Mayor's Arts Awards affirms the value of the arts as a source of creativity, innovation and pride and nurtures the sustained development of the cultural sector to the benefit of all Kingston residents. The City of Kingston, through its Arts & Culture Services department, administers the Mayor's Arts Awards program. The Kingston Arts Council leads the production of video profiles of the recipients and promotion of the awards to its networks.

The Creator Award recognizes living artists, artistic collectives or arts organizations. Three Creator Awards are given each year to honour artistic merit and/or innovation that advances the arts in the City, contributes to the development of the art form and expresses the cultural vitality of Kingston.

The Arts Champion Award recognizes a living individual, organization or corporation who makes an extraordinary, leading contribution to the arts in Kingston as a volunteer, advocate, supporter, sponsor and/or philanthropist.

The Limestone Arts Legacy Award recognizes individuals of the past whose sustained and substantial contributions have built the artistic vitality of the City, nurturing and enabling forms of creation, participation, presentation and enjoyment, whose leadership has inspired others and whose influence has been felt in the region and beyond.

2020 RECIPIENTS

Kay Kenney

CREATOR AWARD

Chaka Chikodzi

CREATOR AWARD

The Kingston Symphony Orchestra

CREATOR AWARD

Bruce Kauffman

ARTS CHAMPION AWARD

Daniel David Moses

LIMESTONE ARTS LEGACY AWARD

2020 NOMINATION WORKING GROUP

Nadine Baker, Member, Arts Advisory Committee

Dean Burry, Member, Arts Advisory Committee

Councillor Jim Neill, Member, Arts Advisory Committee

Sadiqa de Meijer, Community Member

Cassel Miles, Community Member

Jan Allen, Community Member and 2019 Mayor's Arts Awards Recipient

Thank you to Make Hay Media for creating profile videos of all the recipients. You can view the videos on the City of Kingston and Kingston Arts Council's websites.



2020 RECIPIENTS



Kay Kenney is a professional contemporary dancer and choreographer based in Kingston. After years of training with the Kingston School of Dance, Kay moved to Ottawa in 2009 to train in the Professional Contemporary Dance Programme at The School of Dance. Her performance and choreographic accomplishments since graduation and her work in Kingston, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa are impressive indicators of her dedication to advancing the art of dance. In 2018, Kay moved back to Kingston where she shares her passion for innovative creation and performance through professional dance and movement instruction from her new studio in Portsmouth Village.



Chaka Chikodzi is a Zimbabwe-born Canadian sculptor who has been living and working in Kingston for the past decade. A talented stone carver, he imaginatively adapts the traditions of Zimbabwe to the Canadian context, using dense, beautifully figured volcanic rock to create dramatic forms. His work has been exhibited and collected across Canada, and he has been active in arts education in schools, a camp for urban youth and with newcomer youth. In 2015, he undertook a residency at the National Gallery Zimbabwe (Bulawayo) with the support of the Ontario Arts Council.



The Kingston Symphony Orchestra is a professional orchestra that, under the leadership of Music Director Evan Mitchell and General Manager Andrea Haughton, has excelled in making orchestral music meaningful to modern audiences. Its various outreach and education programs bring music to a broad and increasingly diverse audience, providing new relevance to the music of the past while championing the works of Canadian composers, women and ethnically under-represented composers.



Bruce Kauffman Bruce Kauffman is a poet, editor, radio host, open-mic and other events organizer and general nurturer of poetic talent. He has published four collections and four chapbooks, and edited eight literary anthologies. Kauffman's monthly open-mic reading series, begun in 2009, maintains a large and devoted following. His weekly literary radio show, "finding a voice," has aired on CFRC since 2010. Last year, Bruce was profiled in a feature-length documentary of Kingston's poetry community entitled "Who is Bruce Kauffman?"



Daniel David Moses (1952-2020) was a highly respected dramaturge, editor, essayist, teacher and writer-in-residence with institutions across the country. Along with being an award-winning playwright and poet, Daniel was unique in his position as a First Nations playwright with a body of work of consistent and superior quality. Over the course of 30 years, Daniel wrote more than 12 plays and four books of poetry, and co-edited four volumes of 'An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English.' His exceptional artistry, demonstrated commitment and ongoing creative growth served to elevate the art form.

PHOTOS, TOP TO BOTTOM

Kay Kenney, video still

Chaka Chikodzi, video still

The Kingston Symphony Orchestra, video still

Bruce Kauffman, video still

Daniel David Moses, video still



PROGRAMMING

PHOTO: Impact Evaluation with Helen Yung, March 2020. Photo by Susanna Gordon.

Gathering is at the core of most art making and art sharing practices. As the public health crisis prevented most types of convening, the KAC focused on creating virtual opportunities for discussion and connection for the local arts sector. **All KAC programming was free to access in 2020-2021.**

YGK ARTS ROUNDTABLES



Over the months of April and May 2020, the Kingston Arts Council hosted a series of online discussions with our arts community. The YGK Arts Roundtables served as a warm, honest, and creative space for the artists and arts workers of Kingston and area to share COVID-19 impact stories and strategies, explore collaborations, and both give and receive peer support. The first series of roundtables were discipline-specific in recognition of the particular needs of each group: Music, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Literary Arts, and Arts Administration. The second series centred on three themes: *Planning in Uncertain Times*, *Financial Strategy*, and *Arts Apart* (creating virtual performances and programming). For the KAC, the roundtables helped us to reconnect with the arts community as a support organization and granting body, and gather insights around current community needs, which informed our programs, services and advocacy moving forward.

VIRTUAL ARTISTS IN THE CLASSROOM

In recognition of the need to support continued arts learning through the pandemic, the Kingston Arts Council and the Limestone District School Board (LDSB) partnered to link local teaching artists to paid opportunities to provide online arts programming as Virtual Artists in the Classroom, supported through funding from the Ontario Arts Council's Artist In Residence Education Equity Program (AIREE). Two online information sessions were offered for interested teachers and artists in early winter 2020, facilitated by our Executive Director, Kirsi Hunnakkko, and Rachel McDonald, an Equity Curriculum Consultant for the LDSB. Through these sessions and additional conversations, new artist-teacher partnerships and an updated roster of local teaching artists were formed. Virtual programs of varied creative disciplines - focused on equity, student voice and identity affirmation through the arts - were designed through the winter and delivered to 446 LDSB students in the spring of 2021.

WORK IN CULTURE WORKSHOPS

The Kingston Arts Council continued to strengthen its partnership with WorkInCulture, a like-minded organization devoted to supporting the professional lives of artists, creatives and cultural workers. We were pleased to support the delivery of three critical and timely WorkInCulture workshops for a Kingston arts audience in 2020-21: *Maintaining Respectful Workplaces in the Arts* (three sessions), *Examining Unconscious Bias*, and *Identity, Power and Privilege*. 167 artists, arts workers and organizational leaders took part in these virtual offerings. We also served on the advisory committee for the development of WorkInCulture's *Marketing Masterclass* for arts and heritage organizations, due to launch in Kingston, Ottawa and Toronto in the summer of 2021.



Photo credit: Screenshot of the Artists Are Essential online event, December 2020.
Upper line, left to right: Jillian Glatt (artist speaker), Laura Chaignon (KAC staff), Carmelle Cachero (ASL interpreter).
Lower line, left to right: Kemi King (artist speaker), Eric Williams (artist speaker).

ESSENTIAL ARTS THINKING GROUP

The Essential Arts Thinking Group was a multi-disciplinary community thinking group created with the objective of building a vision for the future of the arts sector in Kingston. The group - made up of local grassroots artists, cultural workers and arts activists invited by the KAC - met through Zoom over the summer and fall of 2020 to share their experiences, barriers and dreams, develop collective priorities, articulate their vision for the arts sector and discuss how strategies to achieve this vision could be implemented. "Visiting" speakers provided presentations during the Fall meetings, which served as case studies to prompt further imaginings.

We were excited to see a new arts advocacy group emerge from these discussions. GRIP (Grassroots, Independent, Professional) Artists was created in the summer of 2020 after an Essential Arts Thinking Group meeting. Learn more about GRIP at <http://www.gripartistskingston.com>.

ARTISTS ARE ESSENTIAL: VOICES FROM KINGSTON'S ARTS COMMUNITY

The KAC then hosted an online public event on December 4th, titled **Artists are Essential: Voices from Kingston's Arts Community**, through which Essential Arts Thinking Group members Eric Williams, Kemi King and Jill Glatt presented the group's ideas to the Kingston community. Seventy-four people attended the event, which also included fascinating break-out discussions that expanded the conversations and led to new community connections. You can watch the presentations on our website at <http://www.artskingston.ca/essentialartsthinkinggroup/>. Our thanks to consultant Laurel Green for guiding the KAC and the Essential Arts presenters through the development of the group's vision and event.

30

local artists involved
in the project

74

event
participants



GRANTS OUTREACH

CKAF CONSULTATION

In the fall of 2020, the KAC expanded its annual CKAF consultation process to better understand the impacts of the pandemic and identify any necessary responsive changes to the 2021 CKAF program. Participants identified a number of new challenges including decreased revenue, increased costs, uncertainty, reduced capacity and loss of collaboration. They also identified a number of new opportunities including improved accessibility with digital programs, reaching new audiences and a renewed local focus. This consultation informed the development of the 2021 CKAF Plan for Administration.

INTRO TO GRANT WRITING

In December 2020, the KAC hosted a one-hour webinar for first-time grant writers. The session was facilitated by KAC Grants Coordinator Felix Lee. The session focused on:

- Types of grants and funding organizations;
- Choosing the right grant;
- Understanding eligibility and adjudication criteria; and
- Writing one's best application.

CKAF: IMPORTANT PROGRAM UPDATES

This online session led by KAC Grants Coordinator Felix Lee in March 2021 reviewed important changes to the CKAF Operating and Project Grant Programs in 2021 in response to the impacts of COVID-19, and provided resources for new applicants and current recipients.

CKAF INFORMATION SESSION

This online information session led by KAC Grants Coordinator Felix Lee in March 2021 guided new and returning Project grant applicants through a detailed review of the 2021 Project Grant Guidelines, Application Forms and Assessment Criteria, and offered a Q&A about the CKAF grant process.

UNIT 115

UNIT 115 is a free, inclusive and flexible exhibition space situated in the KAC office at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning. Due to public health restrictions, we closed our office and the UNIT115 Art Space in the Tett Centre for Creativity & Learning for the duration of 2020-21. We look forward to returning to our office and exploring new ways to use our space as soon as it is safe to do so.



PHOTO: Photo of Artists Are Essential billboard on Gardiners Road, Creative Display Technologies. Design by Vincent Perez.

The Kingston Arts Council's role as an advocate for the arts community was perhaps never as important as in our 2020-21 year. Harkening back to our roots - when the KAC was formed in 1961 by a group of concerned citizens who advocated (successfully) to save the Grand Theatre from demolition - we worked to amplify the voices of our local artists and arts groups and ensure that the arts were included in critical conversations and decision-making.

MUNICIPAL ADVOCACY

As the pandemic reached Kingston, KAC Executive Director Kirsi Hunnakkko was invited to join Mayor Bryan Paterson's biweekly calls with community leaders, an opportunity for cross-sectoral information sharing as well as updates about public health restrictions and our local government's response to community needs. The group met 31 times through 2020-21 (and continues) and, through this mechanism and other conversations with City staff, the KAC shared insights and feedback from our local arts sector and joined others in advocating for increased arts funding. This collective effort resulted in the City investing an additional \$200K in the City of Kingston Arts Fund in 2021 to support local artists and arts non-profits. More information about this funding can be found on our website and will be reported on in our 2021-22 annual report.

ALLIANCE OF ARTS COUNCILS OF ONTARIO

In May 2021, KAC Executive Director Kirsi Hunnakkko initiated the development of a new umbrella organization, the Alliance of Arts Councils of Ontario (AACO), along with the Executive Director of the Electric City Culture Council (Peterborough), Su Ditta. This network of 24 member organizations and growing - representing tens of thousands of artists, cultural workers and arts groups in every discipline - meets on a monthly basis to design collaborative advocacy strategies and share pertinent arts policy and funding information. In its first ten months, the group achieved key outcomes including submitting a joint statement to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs as well as a letter of recommendations for the Provincial Budget Consultations. Kirsi served as Co-Chair of the group from its foundation to January 2021 and remains an active member.

ARTISTS ARE ESSENTIAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Building on the work of the Essential Arts Thinking Group (see page 14), the KAC launched a public awareness campaign in early 2021 aimed at asserting the importance of artists, activating public appreciation for the arts and providing concrete ways to support local artists. These suggested actions included buying local art, engaging with Kingston's artists by searching #ygakarts on social media and advocating to governments at all levels for further support.

This multi-pronged campaign featured graphics designed by local artist Vincent Pérez and included a dedicated webpage, social media promotions, a giant billboard on Gardiners Road (one of the west end's busiest streets) and media interviews. Posters declaring *Artists are Essential* were posted in publicly accessible spaces, while local artists displayed free *An Artist Lives Here* posters in their front windows to demonstrate that artists are our neighbours throughout the city. The campaign was capped off by the launch of our *Artists are Essential* video, filmed by videographer Josh Lyon and featuring commissioned spoken word and dance pieces by Abena Beloved Green and Movement Market.



PHOTO: *Artists are Essential* video still

80

posters distributed
within the community

150

people visited the
campaign website

6,000

views of the
campaign video

Support local artists

- **ENGAGE** with Kingston's artists by searching #ygakarts on social media. Follow, share, subscribe, comment, and show them some love;
- **LEARN** about how artists are faring in the pandemic and envisioning the future of the arts by taking a look at these recent survey results and viewing the insightful and inspiring artist presentations from our December 4 Essential Arts event.
- **BUY** local art if you have the means to do so. Attend virtual performances and film screenings, purchase books by Kingston authors and poets, take online classes and workshops, buy and enjoy local music and give Kingston-made art and crafts as gifts.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Period of 1 April 2020 ending 31 March 2021

Full financial statements are available by request.

\$158,642

TOTAL REVENUE

\$172,562

TOTAL EXPENSES

(\$13,920)

DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE
OVER EXPENSES BEFORE
OTHER INCOME

\$56,649

OTHER INCOME
(GOVERNMENT
ASSISTANCE)

\$42,729

EXCESS OF REVENUE
OVER EXPENSES

Revenue highlights

- Our major funders, the City of Kingston and the Ontario Arts Council, committed to providing stable funding of the KAC in 2020.
- We were fortunate to receive \$56,649 in pandemic-related government subsidies, including the Temporary Wage Subsidy, Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy.

Expenses highlights

- As a result of our sustained and subsidized funding, we were able to maintain our full staff complement without a reduction in wages.
- We are proud to have invested over \$11,000 in local artists through the payment of fees for event facilitation and presentation, grant adjudication and the completion of artistic work and services for our *Artists are Essential* campaign.

OUR SUPPORTERS

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

The City of Kingston
Community Foundation of Kingston & Area
Limestone District School Board
Make Hay Media
WorkInCulture

DONORS

Anonymous
Anonymous in honour of Bunny Singer
Anonymous via the United Way KFLA
Jon Dessau
Diane Fittsell
Andrea Haughton
Ally Jacob
The Awesome Foundation (Kingston Chapter)
The Ontario Arts Foundation

FUNDERS



THE KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL TEAM

STAFF

Kirsi Hunnako
Executive Director

Felix Lee
Grants Coordinator

Laura Chaignon
Programming and
Communications
Coordinator

VOLUNTEERS

Due to the pandemic, we pressed pause on our volunteer program in 2020-21. We are grateful to our bingo volunteers who are on standby to support the KAC through volunteer shifts at Play! Gaming & Entertainment once public health restrictions permit its reopening. Contact the KAC to be added to our standby list. One two-hour volunteer bingo shift raises \$600-1,000 for the KAC!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as at 31 March 2021)

Barb Danielewski
Chair

Elizabeth Hesp
Board Member

Will Britton
Treasurer

Mariah Horner
Board Member

Megan Sirrett
Secretary

Mauricio Montecinos
(joined September
2020)

Erin Ball
(joined May 2020)

BACK COVER PHOTO: Malting Tower at the Tett Centre for
Creativity and Learning. Photo by Liz Cooper.

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