



KINGSTON VOTES ON 24 OCTOBER

2022 Candidate Art and Culture Survey

Ivan Stoilkovic, Mayor

Do you think art and culture add value to Kingston? How does it contribute?

Of course art and culture add value to Kingston. It's what we live for. The problem is that art and culture are not valued by Kingston. The entire scene is privatized and there is nearly zero support for artists, let alone those who wish to become artists in our town. If people were allowed to chose freely what they want to do, most would probably chose to be artists. In reality, however, art is a preserve of the privileged few who can afford to not have to work for a living and can practice art as a hobby. It is almost impossible for a kid growing in a poor family to become an artist - the lessons are extremely expensive and there are no bursaries or stipends available. This is very unfortunate and needs to change. The fact that Kingston has a thriving arts scene is a testament to the fact that Kingston also has a sizable population of very wealthy individuals who can fund their artistic endeavours as well as enormous sacrifice and perseverance of the few who are not privileged. In any case, it is absolutely not a testament to our City's commitment to arts and culture.

Please rate the following statements:

The arts inspire and innovate. We should support artists as leaders in our community.	Strongly agree
The arts are essential to the social fabric and cultural identity of Kingston residents.	Strongly agree
The arts are important to the community, contributing to the wellness and sense of belonging of Kingston residents.	Strongly agree
The arts are not interesting to me, but I understand they have value to the City.	Strongly disagree
The arts are enjoyed by some people, but they don't need public support.	Strongly disagree

What are the most important ways the City of Kingston can engage with arts and culture through strategic planning, policy, investment, programming, etc.?

City of Kingston should invest in arts and culture education by opening municipally-run music, dance and art schools in which Kingstonians will be able to learn the skills necessary to be artists and musicians and in which teachers will be respected, have employment contracts and job security. Furthermore, the City should invest in infrastructure necessary (studios, concert halls, practice facilities, musical instrument libraries, theatre spaces etc.) for art to be practised by trained artists who should be employed by the city to make art. We should be attracting artists to Kingston like we are currently attracting large landlords, gig-economy multinational businesses and Tim Hortonses. Poor kids growing up in Kingston should have access to art and culture for free - they should be able to learn how to play an instrument, how to paint, how to act and dance. That is absolutely not the case now and that is wrong.



KINGSTON VOTES ON 24 OCTOBER

2022 Candidate Art and Culture Survey

Ivan Stoilkovic, Mayor

Do you support continued funding for arts and culture in the municipal budget?

Yes, very much so. I think the arts budget needs to be drastically increased. Art and culture are not endeavours that the system we live under values and it is therefore all the more important for government to compensate for this and encourage arts and culture.

Can the arts community count on you to be an advocate at Council in the future?

Very much so. I am a local musician myself and a violin teacher. I know many local artists and I understand how hard it is to survive as an artist in this city. I will change the landscape of art and culture in our city. We will chart new ground and lead the way. Art and culture will thrive with me as a Mayor of Kingston.