



KINGSTON VOTES ON 24 OCTOBER

2022 Candidate Art and Culture Survey

Skyler McArthur-O'Blenes, Mayor

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

Arts and culture are both intrinsic to what makes Kingston, Kingston. We have a vibrant and creative population. Having lived here my whole life, I know that arts and culture bring people together... they are two major drivers of what creates community. Kingston, or any city really, is striving to foster the sense of community in their populace. A community will look out for itself, whereas without community, a city is just a collective of people begrudgingly sharing space and services. Arts and culture give people a creative outlet to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings. As we build diversity in our city, these arts and culture pieces add value by creating an ever more robust picture of what it means to be Kingstonian... a vision that takes many forms for many different people. Another form of added value from arts and culture is the events that are put on for Kingston. These events attract tourists and locals alike, bringing fond memories of Kingston and stimulating our local economy. Arts and culture are also avenues for children to grow in ways that traditional schooling may not stimulate, offering people an alternative path to fulfilment. Although I am not an artist myself, I 100% believe in the power of the arts and wholeheartedly support their belonging in Kingston.

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.	Neutral
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.?

1. Promotion of local art and culture events through official channels. 2. policy to protect artists and cultural institutions from a financial standpoint. 3. Programming to empower current artists and inspire up and coming artists. 3. Factoring arts and culture into the integrated strategic plan for the city -- taking arts and culture into account for making Kingston a more vibrant and appealing city. 4. Offering funding for internships/other programming surrounding arts and culture scene in Kingston. 5. LISTEN to arts and culture community in Kingston to understand wants and needs.



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

Yes, I support continued funding for arts and culture in the municipal budget. As previously stated, I strongly believe that arts and culture are integral to the fabric of what our community is. As our city and community evolve, new voices will emerge in the arts community -- telling an ever-changing version of Kingston's story. It also makes financial sense, given that the arts bring revenue to the city, often at a rate much larger than the initial amount invested in them.

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

Yes, they can.