



# KINGSTON VOTES ON 24 OCTOBER

## 2022 Candidate Art and Culture Survey

### Zachary Typhair, District 5 Portsmouth

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

Arts and culture provide direct economic growth for our local communities. They are important complements to community development and enriching local amenities. They also create job opportunities and stimulate local economies through consumer purchases and tourism. Tourism centered on culture and arts contributes greatly to the economic growth by attracting revenues. This creative sector attracts young talented workers to participate in the contemporary workforce. They are also great for artistic placemaking and city marketing. It's no surprise that art-focused bus and walking tours have grown very popular in dozens of cities in recent years. In addition to all of the direct and indirect economic benefits, diverse arts and cultural communities bring a fullness of experience for those living in and visiting our city. The arts and culture are hugely important by informing, educating, healing, enlightening, uplifting, AND entertaining.

#### 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.	Agree
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.?

Arts and culture need to be fundamental components of city planning. Arts vision, strategies, priorities, and programs must be developed with community experts and practitioners. Long-term funding is needed to sustain high-quality arts programs and facilities. Finally, municipalities should collect data on arts activities and outcomes at a local level. Greater investment in neighborhood arts and culture could come from reallocation or incremental expansion from existing programs and funding streams. But creative ways for incorporating arts in both public and private initiatives should be explored, including tourism taxes, as the arts are a driving force of the region's tourism economy. Participatory budgeting should be considered as a way for residents to drive creative programming in their neighborhoods. Partnerships with institutions, such as hospitals, universities, and museums, could bring additional resources. And, in order for communities to engage in creative placemaking, they should consider grants from the National



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Endowment for the Arts or ArtPlace America. The arts must be incorporated in Kingston's tourism strategy. Cultural tourism is becoming increasingly popular and thus becoming a key component of economic growth.

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

Yes. We need to ensure that the arts and culture sector gets the funding they need to help small businesses and the rest of the city to recover from the pandemic. We were in social isolation for too long. The arts and culture provides community-building powers that can help combat feelings of anxiety and social isolation.

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

Definitely! Not only by ensuring they have the proper funding and are incorporated in the early stages of city planning, but you can also count on me to showing up at a variety of events supporting local artists.