

OUR COMMUNITY

Kingston has a thriving and diverse arts and culture sector, which is recognized in the region, the country, and internationally. Artists from all disciplines produce high quality professional work and engage our community. From theatre, music, visual arts, dance, literary arts, film and media – Kingston’s artists are innovating.

The arts have social, economic, and cultural impacts that are essential to our community’s wellbeing and identity. Artists keep us connected to each other and to our city.

The KAC provides strategic leadership and services for the arts, as funder, leader, advocate, resource and facilitator of opportunities. Over the past two challenging years, we’ve been listening to our community. We have gathered artists, arts workers, and arts organization to understand their needs and see the impact of their work through three programs: Arts Roundtables and Community Consultation, Essential Artists, and Arts Talkback.

Through this consultation, the KAC has identified key values for our community:

Artists are essential.

Artists play an important role in our community, especially during the pandemic. The arts continue to provide essential support for seniors, newcomers, children, and those who are most isolated. Artists, collectives, and arts organizations have created new partnerships, built new networks, and collaborated. These relationships contribute to our economic and social recovery.

Art belongs to everyone.

Public funding ensures that Kingston has a vibrant professional arts community that is able to engage with residents and provide access to the arts at every level. The arts should be accessible to every member of our community throughout their lives. Artists are at the forefront of difficult conversations and new challenges. Their work is a reflection of our identity, history, and culture.



KINGSTON VOTES
ON 24 OCTOBER 2022

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The KAC has identified opportunities and challenges in our community that require support, resources, and change.

Pandemic Recovery

The arts have been a source of connection, joy, and strength for our community in the past three years. At the same time, artists and arts organizations were severely impacted by the pandemic. **There must be continued support in the arts and culture sector for COVID-19 recovery.**

Kingston's artists and arts organizations have risen through challenges to continue to do innovative work that uplifts and engages us. The success of COVID-19 relief Adapt and Resiliency grants have demonstrated the value of the arts in addressing community needs. The arts sector is more creative and adaptable than other parts of the economy and artists contribute to the financial, social, and cultural wellbeing of our city. **They must be included in pandemic recovery planning.**

Spaces and Places

Art is an important part of a livable city. We support incorporating art and culture into developing new spaces and services, from recreational to residential buildings to parks and public areas. **Art and culture should be made accessible to all members of our community in every neighbourhood.**

Kingston is a centre for arts and culture in the region. Municipal investments into the Kingston Grand Theatre and the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning have grown Kingston's cultural infrastructure and spaces to live and work must continue to grow to meet the needs of the arts community. **We support the continued development of spaces for artists to bring high quality, professional work to our community.**



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Building Capacity

The City of Kingston Arts Fund has helped grow Kingston's arts and culture sector with professional opportunities, contributing to the broader economy and the quality of life for our community. **We support continued direct investment in arts and culture.**

Investment in the arts is an investment in Kingston. On average, the City of Kingston Arts Fund has annually:

- Helped to fund more than 50 full time and more than 100 total staff positions for arts and culture organizations
- Generated a total revenue of more than 7 million dollars for the sector
- Resulted in nearly 600 new works and more than 1.5 million in artist fees
- Brought arts and culture to an audience of more than 170,000

Every dollar of CKAF investment has produced nearly \$3 of payment to artists and \$12 of revenue for the arts and culture sector.

In total between 2017 and 2020, CKAF grants have:

- Generated more than 28 million dollars in revenue for arts and culture in Kingston
- Resulted in more than 7.4 million dollars in artist fees paid to more than 4,000 artists
- Funded more than 2100 public activities including performances, shows, public art, workshops, and more

Art and culture are important to our happiness and identity, our economy and tourism, and the livability of our city. **Direct investment enables artists to meet the needs of our community.**

All statistics represent grants distributed through 2017 to 2020.



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KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is the region's primary resource for arts information & support. Through communications, programming, and advocacy, the KAC promotes the creation, development, and appreciation of the arts in Kingston and supports artistic growth and engagement for arts organizations and artists at all levels of their careers.

We envision a Kingston where:

- The arts are understood to be an essential part of our community's health and vitality;
- People of all ages, backgrounds and abilities experience, value and see themselves reflected in the arts;
- All those who wish to participate in the arts have the resources and opportunities to do so;
- Artists and arts workers are able to build sustainable careers; and
- Our arts sector, artists, arts workers and arts organizations are thriving and recognized locally and nationally for their efforts, talents and innovation.

The KAC provides resources and professional development programs for artists and arts workers. As a funder, the KAC administers the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development with Community Foundation for Kingston & Area and the City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF) with the City of Kingston. These grants provide essential support for artists and the arts sector, annually awarding more than \$580,000.

The KAC acts as an advocate for arts and culture in our city, our region, and our province. As a founding member of the Association of Arts Councils of Ontario, the KAC has been a leader in recognizing the impact of the arts. This is a critical time when artists need our support more than ever.

SUPPORT THE ARTS

We thank you for taking the time to read this statement and we hope you will learn more about the upcoming municipal election on our website, where we have resources to help you vote, find your electoral district, and research your candidates.

The Kingston Arts Council believes that arts and culture in Kingston have grown because of support from our community. Working together, we can build a sustainable, enduring creative sector, where everyone has access to the arts.