



*For Immediate Release
12 July 2023*

2023 City of Kingston Arts Fund Operating and Project Grant Recipients Announced

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF). An annual fund administered by the KAC on behalf of the City of Kingston, CKAF provides Operating and Project Grants to local arts organizations, collectives, and individual artists to foster creativity at all levels and enrich how Kingston residents experience and engage with the arts. Operating Grants foster sustainability among leading arts organizations by providing funding for operations and programming; Project Grants fund the creation and presentation of arts projects that engage the community.

This year, the total CKAF amount available was \$619,345 with \$433,542 available for Operating Grants and \$185,803 available for Project Grants. Applications were reviewed by Grants Committee juries that were comprised of artists and arts professionals with high standing and expertise of the arts and the Kingston community. Ex-officio members of the Grants Committee support the work of the jury and bring forward broad community perspectives, provide information on the City of Kingston objectives for the CKAF program, and are present to ensure transparency and fairness in the process. Adjudication meetings were hosted digitally on 10 May (Operating Grants) and 11 May (Project Grants).

Operating Grants

Jurors:

Brett Christopher
Kemi King
Denis Leroux
Katy Littlejohn
Kevin Moorhouse

Ex-officio:

Nicole Daniels, Executive Director, Kingston Arts Council
Violet Tang, Grants and Programs Coordinator, Kingston Arts Council
Katherine Dionne, Administrative Assistant, Kingston Arts Council
Danika Lochhead, Manager, Arts and Sector Development, City of Kingston
Paul Chaves, City Councillor, City of Kingston

Number of Applications: 12

Total Requested: \$504,550

Number of Grants Awarded: 12

Total Awarded: \$433,542

Recipients:

Agnes Etherington Art Centre, \$75,000

Situated on Anishinaabe Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat territories, Agnes Etherington Art Centre is a curatorially-driven, research-intensive professional art centre proudly serving a dual mandate as a leading, internationally recognized public art gallery and active pedagogical resource at Queen's University. By commissioning, researching, collecting and stewarding works of art, and by exhibiting and interpreting visual culture through an intersectional lens, Agnes creates opportunities for participation and exchange across communities, cultures, histories and geographies.

Cantabile Choirs of Kingston, \$29,534

Cantabile Choirs is a community-based performing arts organization in Katarokwi/Kingston that seeks to foster love and appreciation for the vocal arts while maintaining a high standard of vocal excellence and innovative programming. It offers music education and performance opportunities to singers of all ages in an inclusive, supportive, and accessible environment, providing opportunities for safe creative expression and personal growth.

Centre culturel Frontenac, \$13,464

Le Centre culturel Frontenac organizes, supports, and promotes accessible artistic and cultural events in French in a diversified and inclusive manner. It brings together the French-speaking community and people interested in the French language in the Kingston and Thousand Islands area by celebrating art and culture in French.

H'art Centre, \$12,014

H'art Centre is an award-winning, registered not-for-profit, charitable community arts hub that provides adults with disabilities and those facing barriers with opportunities to create, study and produce works in the arts and collaborate with trained community artists. H'art works to nurture a vibrant, exciting and supportive culture that encourages artists, staff, volunteers, placement students, and audiences to reach beyond limiting beliefs and expectations. To value and recognize artists individually for their abilities and to share this understanding with the world.

Kingston Canadian Film Festival, \$48,457

The Kingston Canadian Film Festival is a charitable cultural organization providing access to Canadian film in a dynamic festival setting. KCFF presents screenings, events and activities that provide a fresh experience of Canadian film that, in turn, creates an audience that supports and encourages the ongoing development and appreciation of our national cinema and its creators. KCFF exhibits films reflecting a range of perspectives, voices and identities, creating a dialogue between filmmakers and the public.

Kingston Symphony Association, \$71,250

Kingston Symphony Association produces and promotes professional-quality instrumental and choral music programs for the education, enjoyment, and enrichment of audiences in the Greater Kingston area. It is dedicated to the support, development, and showcasing of Canadian artists and composers.

Kingston WritersFest, \$44,814

Kingston WritersFest celebrates the power of the written word by connecting readers and writers in inclusive conversations to inspire, engage, and expand their worldviews. It promotes diverse literary expressions, develops and grows an audience for the literary arts, and fosters the artistic development of writers of all ages.

Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre, \$53,818

Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre is a nonprofit organization facilitating the presentation, interpretation, and production of contemporary visual, time-based, and interdisciplinary arts. It aims to meet the professional development needs of emerging and mid-career local, national, and international artists from diverse cultural communities through exhibition, discussion, and mentorship opportunities. Modern Fuel supports innovation and experimentation and is committed to the education of interested publics and the diversification of its audiences.

ReelOut Arts Project, \$23,697

ReelOut exists to celebrate queer media arts and to contribute to community vitality by programming materials that focus on issues of sexuality, gender, race, culture, religion, class, ability, health and age, thereby purposefully drawing together and initiating challenging dialogue among the residents of Kingston/Katarokwi and the surrounding areas.

Single Thread Theatre Company, \$10,000

Single Thread Theatre Company creates immersive theatre experiences, advancing the art of immersive storytelling through innovation and the presentation of new works. Single Thread's approach to non-traditional theatre making, inspired by creative industries such as video games and escape rooms, offers an empowering alternative for Kingston artists and youth to conventional theatre opportunities. Single Thread additionally champions digital theatre, specifically in the realm of XR, with the goal to place Kingston artists at the forefront of creation with these new technologies.

Theatre Kingston, \$38,007

Theatre Kingston creates professional opportunities for, and collaborates with, local theatre practitioners to build a strong cultural voice in the region. Theatre Kingston is driven by the mission to strengthen the city's theatre community, allowing the possibility for our stories and our artists to move beyond the city limits into the Canadian cultural landscape.

Union Gallery, \$13,487

Union Gallery (UG) is a not-for-profit contemporary art gallery committed to experiential learning and driven by play, curiosity, curation, and research-creation. UG supports student, professional artists, and the artistic community at-large to foster a diverse network of creative exchange and mentorship. UG is committed to supporting artistic growth and professional development through merging technical and critical understandings of the arts, as well as a deeper understanding of how art can reflect the most important issues of our time.

Project Grants

Jurors:

Diane Black
Gabriel H.Y. Cheung
Bethany Garner
Caroline Kwok
Kristen Leboeuf

Ex-officio:

Nicole Daniels, Executive Director, Kingston Arts Council
Violet Tang, Grants and Programs Coordinator, Kingston Arts Council
Katherine Dionne, Administrative Assistant, Kingston Arts Council
Danika Lochhead, Manager, Arts and Sector Development, City of Kingston
Gregory Ridge, City Councillor, City of Kingston

Number of Applications: 16
Total Requested: \$202,873
Number of Grants Awarded: 16
Total Awarded: \$185,803

Recipients:

Airwave YGK, \$15,000

A project by CFRC 101.9FM

Airwave YGK is a curated series of DJ, turntablism and sound art workshops and performances enabling community members to learn and showcase the art, design and processes associated with creating electronic sound art.

Festival of Live Digital Art (FOLDA), \$13,500

A project by SpiderWebShow Performance

FOLDA broadens the discussion about digital performance aesthetics and poetics by presenting artworks that epitomize innovation, risk and engagement. FOLDA includes both a presentation series and the StartUp professional development and networking series.

The GroudUP Dance Festival 2024, \$14,940

A project by Movement Market Collective

The Ground UP Dance Festival is Kingston's professional dance festival. Ground UP nurtures and promotes dance and movement in Kingston, and exposes audiences and participants to a variety of genres through community collaborations, performances, and workshops.

Johnny's Dream, \$13,500

A project by Amin Pourbarghi

Johnny's Dream is a documentary film centred on Johnny, a 21-year-old musician with Down syndrome. The documentary pictures Johnny's passion, love, and struggles; captures the support of communities he is involved with; and promotes the power of love and collaboration.

The Juvenis Festival, \$11,400

A project by Blue Canoe Productions

The Juvenis Festival is Kingston's multidisciplinary youth arts festival. It generates opportunities for local artists aged 13-30 to showcase their work through public presentations, and provides free educational programming that will allow them to develop their skills in the arts. It strives to promote young arts leaders in the community and present the talent of Kingston youth.

Kingston Baroque Festival, \$5,558

A project by Kingston Baroque Consort

Kingston Baroque Festival introduces audiences to all things Baroque – music, dance, and visual art – through performances and community workshops.

Kingston's Got Talent!, \$6,300

A project by Orchestra Kingston

Kingston's Got Talent! is a four concert series that features a number of local musicians and musical groups in an orchestral setting. This project aims to help Kingston area musicians to reach out to a wider audience, provide a showcase for solo performers, and expose audiences and participants to a wide variety of music and performers.

K-town Showdown Dance Battle 2023, \$5,000

A project by Kingston School of Dance

K-town Showdown Dance Battle is a high-energy all-styles dance battle for dancers 12 years and older, held in conjunction with a series of dance workshops for youth, teens, and adults of any experience level. This initiative seeks to support, expand, and celebrate the hip hop culture in Kingston and surrounding areas.

Melos Magnificats, \$11,915

A project by Melos Choir & Period Instruments

Melos Magnificats offers a concert of four virtuosic settings of *the Magnificat*, performed by national/international class Baroque instrumental guest soloists alongside local professional and amateur instrumentalists and vocalists. This project enhances Kingston's growing reputation for Early Music through performances, mentorship, and open coaching sessions.

'Out of the City' African Arts Camp, \$11,620

A project by Chaka Chikodzi

'Out of the City' is a five-day immersive art camp for racialized youth built around a week-long stone sculpting workshop where each participant is given a piece of volcanic rock from Zimbabwe to sculpt, using only hand tools and working outside under the summer sky.

PENTHEUS The second play in the City of Wine cycle, \$10,500

A project by Salon Theatre

PENTHEUS is the second play in the nine-part City of Wine cycle. *PENTHEUS* tells the story of how new blood is needed and new blood gets spilled, as does wine, beginning the city of Cadmea's spiral into patriarchal destruction that the remaining seven plays explore.

Skeleton Park Arts Festival, \$15,000

A project by Skeleton Park Arts Festival

Skeleton Park Arts Festival strives to bring together artists from a range of disciplines to present unique and collaborative artistic experiences in a variety of alternative venues while helping to increase community engagement and neighbourhood pride. The festival connects different demographics and communities through a variety of multi-arts programs.

SPRING REVERB 2024, \$15,000

A project by KPP Concerts

SPRING REVERB is a four-day exhibition that promotes, develops and showcases the Kingston music scene. With concerts, panels and educational guest talks, the project uncovers emerging artists, encourages "deals" between local artists and visiting industry, provides opportunities for learning, and celebrates live music in Kingston.

Still Alive in Kingston, \$14,250

A project by Jay Middaugh

Still Alive in Kingston is a 90-minute feature film, a non-canonical sequel to 2017's acclaimed comedy/music documentary *LIVE in Kingston*. It features real live performances from a diverse group of captivating bands and artists, performing at iconic Kingston Music Venues.

The Clearing, \$10,320

A project by Marney McDiarmid

The Clearing is a 20-cubic-foot retrofitted mobile shipping container housing an accessible, immersive, and interactive installation that explores the connected self and our relationship to nature. This project invites community engagement across several locations in Kingston.

The Gift, \$12,000

A project by PeerLess Productions

The Gift is a musical/sound/movement performance piece devised by and featuring neurodiverse, deaf and disabled, and able-bodied artists based in the Kingston region. *The Gift* creates a new, accessible work and presentation format which celebrates the huge range of creative gifts that diverse artists possess.

To view the 2023 CKAF Report to Council, [click here](#).

About the City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF)

In 2007, Kingston City Council established the [City of Kingston Arts Fund](#) (CKAF). The Kingston Arts Council was contracted to administer CKAF. Each year, the Kingston Arts Council submits a plan for administering CKAF to be approved by City Council. CKAF enables the City to continue to invest in and support the arts, heritage and culture in Kingston. Through this program, the City of Kingston has invested over \$9 million in the local arts community since 2007.

About the Kingston Arts Council (KAC)

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) provides strategic leadership and services for the arts – as funder, leader, advocate, resource and facilitator of opportunities – in Kingston and the surrounding area. Throughout the pandemic, the KAC has directly supported artists and arts organizations by providing key programs and distributing essential funding. The organization is now preparing to continue and strengthen its support for the arts with new members of the Board of Directors and new staff in 2023. The KAC is pleased to welcome Nicole Daniels as Executive Director, Violet Tang as Grants and Programs Coordinator, and Katherine Dionne as Administrative Assistant.

For more information, please contact Violet Tang, Grants and Programs Coordinator, Kingston Arts Council at grants@artskingston.ca.