



*For Immediate Release*  
*10 July 2024*

## **2024 City of Kingston Arts Fund Operating and Project Grant Recipients Announced**

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2024 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 \$613,088 with \$429,162 available for Operating Grants and \$183,926 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 in person on 22 May (Operating Grants) and 23 May (Project Grants).

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### **Operating Grants**

#### **Jurors:**

Melissa Eapen  
Kemi King  
Alex McLean  
Nicholas Senn  
Christianne Wojcik

#### **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, Director, Arts and Culture Services, City of Kingston  
Councillor Jimmy Hassan (absent)

**Number of Applications:** 12

**Total Funding Requested:** \$469,197

**Number of Grants Awarded:** 11

**Total Grant Funding Awarded:** \$429,162

## Recipients:

### **Agnes Etherington Art Centre, \$75,000**

Situated on Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat territories, Agnes 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. With a new building on the horizon, Agnes has an unprecedented opportunity to reimagine the social, civic and pedagogical role of the 21st-century museum, ensuring the museums of Canada's future no longer look like those of its past.

### **Cantabile Choirs of Kingston, \$31,000**

Cantabile Choirs is a community-based organization in Katarokwi/Kingston dedicated to fostering a love and appreciation for the vocal arts through high standards of vocal excellence and innovative programming. Cantabile provides music education and performance opportunities to singers of all ages in an inclusive, supportive, and accessible environment, promoting personal growth and safe creative expression. Cantabile's mission was expanded in recent years to enhance cross-cultural awareness by featuring a diverse repertoire from various cultures and collaborating with culturally diverse professional artists, ensuring programming remains relevant and impactful.

### **Centre culturel Frontenac, \$13,950**

Le Centre culturel Frontenac brings together the French speaking community along with people who are interested in the French language and culture, in Kingston and the Thousand Islands, by celebrating arts and culture in French. Le Centre culturel Frontenac is mandated to organize, support, and promote accessible artistic and cultural events in French, in a diversified and inclusive manner. Le Centre culturel Frontenac strives to vary the background, origin and experience of the artists included in their programming.

### **Kingston Canadian Film Festival, \$50,000**

Kingston Canadian Film Festival (KCFF) is dedicated to delivering access to Canadian film in a dynamic festival setting. KCFF presents screenings, events, and activities that provide a fresh experience of Canadian film, fostering an audience that supports and encourages the ongoing development and appreciation of our national cinema and its creators. KCFF researches, programs and exhibits Canadian films reflecting a range of perspectives and identities, creates dialogue between filmmakers and the public, provides professional development opportunities for established and emerging filmmakers, and nurtures local film production.

### **Kingston Symphony Association, \$75,000**

Kingston Symphony Association is inspired by a vision of exceptional music, community impact, innovation, exploration, growth, and organizational development. Their mission is to provide exceptional musical experiences and programs of the highest calibre for the enjoyment and education of their audiences. Within the broader orchestral and choral repertoire, Kingston Symphony Association proudly supports and showcases Canadian and contemporary content, artists and composers. Kingston Symphony Association is a cornerstone of cultural life in our local

communities, striving to be a vibrant, versatile, and highly skilled musical resource accessible to all.

**Kingston WritersFest, \$44,814**

Kingston WritersFest seeks to promote diverse literary expression, develop and grow an audience for the literary arts, and foster the artistic development of writers of all ages. The vision of Kingston WritersFest is to be a community that celebrates the power of the written word by connecting readers and writers in inclusive conversations that inspire, engage, and expand our worldviews. The festival welcomes an audience of 6,000 to more than 50 events featuring some 70 authors from around the world, across the country, and down the street.

**Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre, \$53,000**

Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre facilitates the presentation, interpretation, and production of contemporary art. Modern Fuel aims to meet the professional development needs of emerging and mid-career artists through exhibition, discussion, workshops, residencies and mentorship opportunities. Modern Fuel is proactive in presenting work by provincial, national and international artists from diverse communities, including but not limited to communities defined by culture, geography, language, age, sexual orientation and gender identity. Modern Fuel is an advocate for contemporary art and artists rights.

**ReelOut Queer Film Festival, \$24,000**

ReelOut exists to celebrate independent media art and to contribute to community vitality by programming materials that focus on issues of sexuality, race, culture, religion, class, gender, ability, health and age, thereby purposefully drawing together and initiating challenging dialogue among the residents of Kingston/Katarokwi and the surrounding areas. ReelOut's core values are based on the traditional medicine wheel representing the spiritual (humility, pride), mental (integrity, tenacity), emotional (caring, courage), and physical (inclusive, representational).

**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. Over the past seven years, Single Thread has expanded to champion 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 is driven by a vision to strengthen and celebrate the city's theatre artists and audience by empowering local and returning artists to create artistic work of excellent quality. Theatre Kingston creates and reimagines stories that challenge the field and raise the standards of their artists, who go on to influence the practice of not only their continued work in the city, but beyond into the broader Canadian cultural landscape. Theatre Kingston's diaspora are deeply embedded into the cultural landscape of Canadian theatre: writers, directors, actors, designers, stage managers, and administrators, many of which start their career with Theatre Kingston then return to create again with the organization.

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### **Union Gallery, \$14,391**

Union Gallery is a space for creative risk-taking and curiosity that supports and promotes the arts communities of Katarokwi/Kingston by nurturing reciprocal relationships between students, artists, and arts workers at all stages of their careers. Union Gallery is a community-driven hub for the production and exhibition of contemporary art that fosters critical engagement, facilitates interdisciplinary experimentation, and creates opportunities for the next generation of cultural producers. Beyond a student gallery, Union's vision is to be known as a bridge between communities and a nonprofit serving wider publics, an important distinction following their 2022 incorporation. Union Gallery's values focus on accessibility, equity and anti-oppression, sustainability, and reciprocity.

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## **Project Grants**

### **Jurors:**

Bethany Garner  
B.C. Gorrie  
Zoha Khalid  
Caroline Kwok  
Melissa Morris

### **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, Director, Arts and Culture Services, City of Kingston  
Councillor Jimmy Hassan (absent)

**Number of Applications: 34**

**Total Requested: \$452,454**

**Number of Grants Awarded: 17**

**Total Awarded: \$183,926**

## **Recipients:**

### **2024 K-TOWN Showdown Dance Battle, \$5,400**

A project by Kingston School of Dance

K-TOWN Showdown Dance Battle supports, expands and celebrates hip hop culture in Kingston and the surrounding areas. Now entering its third year, the K-TOWN Showdown offers a yearly weekend of dance consisting of high-energy dance skills and educational elements for dancers

aged 12 and up. All styles are welcome in the 1v1 knockout dance battle, judged by 3 established dance professionals. A series of dance workshops will be conducted by local dance collectives, geared towards youth, teens, and adults at all levels.

**2025 Ground UP Dance Festival, \$15,000**

A project by Movement Market Collective

Ground UP Dance Festival is Kingston's first annual festival for professional dance. The festival provides a platform for community building through movement experimentation, collaboration, and accessibility. Funding will support three layers of programming: mainstage performances at Lake Ontario Park; second stage programming at the Baby Grand Theatre; and community outreach, educational engagements, and workshops facilitated by Movement Market.

**Airwave YGK, \$12,000**

A project by CFRC 101.9FM

Airwave YGK supports local artists in experimenting with new ideas, collaborating, and performing newly created work using CFRC's studios and platforms. Airwave YGK includes paid 2 and 3-day artist residencies for local musicians and artistic collaborators; an Artist in Residence Talkback broadcast and podcast series; a creative and participatory workshop series; and a capstone live venue performance.

**Create 15, \$8,240**

A project by The Mess Studio

The Mess Studio provides opportunities to create art and build relationships, with a focus on removing barriers to participation for those who experience physical and mental health challenges, loneliness, and poverty. Create 15 is a celebration of building community with hands and hearts for fifteen years; the project will feature fifteen months of art enhancing workshops by emerging and professional artists in an inclusive and encouraging environment.

**Festival of Live Digital Art (FOLDA), \$12,000**

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 two main activities: a presentation series and the StartUp professional development and networking series. The StartUp offers participants hands-on experience with emerging technologies, while workshops and artist talks explore access, aesthetics, and digital technology.

**Half Steps: Musicians and Mental Health, \$11,250**

A project by Céline Klein

*Half Steps: Musicians and Mental Health* is a short documentary featuring Kingston musicians Savannah Shea and Ricky Brant. As each works toward an important achievement or pivotal career moment, *Half Steps* follows the subjects to show how mental illness and musicianship can correlate, intersect, and coincide. In an epilogue, Ricky and Savannah will meet in-studio to converse and reflect on their personal journeys, and collaborate on a new original song.

**Many Moons 2025 Programming, \$11,250**

A project by Many Moons Events

Many Moons Events is a collective that fosters safe and inclusive music events, creating welcoming environments for diverse performers and community members. The project is a

concert series of eight events, each a curated and collaborative experience. The series will include special showcases such as an Indigenous music night, a full day electronic festival, and “Slow Dance,” the annual queer friendly fake prom featuring queer, trans, and nonbinary performers and DJs.

**Melos’ Light in the Dark II, \$7,870**

A project by Melos Choir & Period Instruments

Melos Choir & Period Instruments performs music from the 6th to the 18th centuries using historically informed performance practices. Light in the Dark II highlights the theme of redemptive light arising from the darkest season, contrasting Western and Eastern Christian, Sephardic Jewish, Arabic (Muslim) and Persian music from the 4th to the 18th centuries. Songs will be performed in Latin, French, Romanian, Armenian, Ladino, Arabic, and Farsi.

**Providence: a site-specific theatre performance, \$11,250**

A project by Eye of the Dawn Collective

*Providence: A site-specific theatre performance* is a play centred around the K&P railway, set in 1875 the day before the railway opens. A cast of five presents a play about immigrants from Ireland and Scotland who worked on the K&P Railway. The play will be staged on a short stretch of the original K&P Railway tracks.

**Senior’s Theatre Club, \$6,150**

A project by The Spire

The Seniors Theatre Club caters to the distinctive needs of older adults, providing them with an avenue for both dramatic expression and social interaction. The initiative is driven by the primary objectives of addressing social isolation, and facilitating and broadening creative expression opportunities for seniors. The Seniors Theatre Club will include workshops, play rehearsals, and theatrical productions.

**Skeleton Park Arts Festival, \$13,500**

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 free multi-arts programming that prioritizes local artists in music, literature, dance, film, fine arts, craft, and theatre.

**Ten Seasons of Love, \$13,396**

A project by Sistema Kingston

Ten Seasons of Love is the culminating concert marking the tenth season of Sistema Kingston. Ten Seasons of Love offers a retrospective as well as a forward-looking community building event. The event will include: group based creative songwriting projects with Gary Rasberry, a work learned through workshops with an Indigenous Elder, performance numbers that bring together two school groups, and performances that include and feature Sistema alumni.

**Testify, \$15,000**

A project by Prison for Women Memorial Collective

*Testify* is a 40-minute documentary about the lives and experiences of formerly incarcerated women who were imprisoned at the Prison for Women in Kingston, from the events leading to

incarceration, through incarceration and release, to their lives today. *Testify* is produced by the Prison for Women Memorial Collective and directed by emerging Kingston-based Cree filmmaker Dakota Ward. The documentary will be released on the 25th anniversary of the Prison for Women's closure and premiere at the Screening Room on Prisoners Justice Day with a panel discussion.

**The Dragon of Wantley, \$7,000**

A project by Kingston Baroque Consort

This project centres around the story told in the Baroque opera *The Dragon of Wantley*. A narrator will tell the story while the Kingston Baroque Consort plays music from the 1737 comic opera. The performance will be accompanied by original art created by Colton Fox projected above the orchestra, depicting the major scenes of the story. Colton Fox will also lead a free Draw Your Own Dragon workshop prior to the performance.

**The Juvenis Festival, \$13,500**

A project by Blue Canoe Theatrical Productions

The Juvenis Festival is Blue Canoe's annual multidisciplinary youth arts festival – one of the few in the country – offering opportunities for youth to explore and grow artistic skills through free participation in theatrical productions, events, and workshops. Juvenis will feature up to six youth-led projects over two weeks, offering a variety of access points for artists aged 30 and under of all backgrounds.

**The Lost Birds, \$9,870**

A project by The Isabel Voices

The Lost Birds is a project by the vocal ensemble The Isabel Voices based around the themes of climate change and environmental conservation. The project includes 3 elements: a concert featuring a performance of *The Lost Birds*, a pre-concert talk and smaller interjections throughout the performance by Dr. Claudia Holgate, and partnerships with local schools to develop an environmental awareness campaign featuring poster presentations of endangered birds by grade 2 and 4 students.

**White Pine Travels, \$11,250**

A project by Noah Scheinman

*White Pine Travels* is a temporary public artwork to be installed on the Broom Factory lands in June 2025. The concept for the project is to design a mobile architectural pavilion that accommodates film screenings, workshops, a party and a library, transforming the site into a hub of collective activities which explore the interplay between forests, land use, art, and ecology. CKAF funds will support the creation and presentation of the project in Kingston during a week-long installation before it travels to Algonquin Provincial Park where it will decompose.

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To view the Report from the Kingston Arts Council on the Adjudication of Applications to the 2024 City of Kingston Arts Fund, [click here](#) (pages 84-99).



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## 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 \$9.2 million in the local arts community since 2007.

To ensure that CKAF continues to support Kingston arts organizations, projects, artists and the public, the City of Kingston is undertaking a review of the granting program. It is expected that the CKAF Review will consider the program mandate, objectives, outputs, and reporting and evaluation mechanisms, and consider other potential changes such as an expansion beyond the current focus on operating and project grants and/or streamlining existing CKAF grant streams. The CKAF Review is currently in Phase 2 - Consultation and Public Engagement. To learn more about how to get involved with the CKAF Review and take the online survey, [click here](#).

## About the Kingston Arts Council (KAC)

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is the region's primary resource for arts information and support. Through communications, programming, and advocacy, the KAC promotes the creation, development, and appreciation of the arts in Katarokwi/Kingston and supports artistic growth and engagement for arts organizations and artists at all levels of their careers. The KAC also administers key funding programs, the City of Kingston Arts Fund and the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development. Over the past year, the KAC has been working on refining and expanding resources for artists and arts organizations, including our brand new [Grants Board](#), as well as our [Opportunities Board](#), [Arts Job Board](#), and [Arts Events Calendar](#).

Our mission: 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.

*For more information, please contact KAC staff:*

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