



We Stand With You

Limestone District School Board x Kingston Arts Council x Kingston School of Art

Summer 2024 (on display in UNIT 115 June/July)

Throughout the summer of 2024, the Limestone District School Board, Kingston Arts Council, and Kingston School of Art collaborated on a traveling exhibition and pop-up program, *We Stand With You*. A freestanding sculpture built by artist Clelia Scala provided a platform for community engagement across Katarokwi/Kingston. The program focused on sharing messages of allyship and solidarity, as well as exploring actionable ways Katarokwi/Kingston can stand with and support the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Visitors were invited to collaborate on the installation by sharing written messages in the form of leaves added to the tree. Leaves were collected at the exhibition locations (Kingston Arts Council in June–July, Kingston School of Art in July, and at Queen’s University in August) as well as at various pop-up events across the city/region, including Kingston Pride, Napanee Pride, and Skeleton Park Arts Festival. Below are more details about this project from the program archive.

Help "Grow" the Tree at KAC!

During the month of June, community members were invited to contribute to a collaborative installation developed and led by local artist Clelia Scala. Taking the form of a tree "growing" throughout the month, the installation was housed in KAC's UNIT 115 exhibition space, located on the first floor of the Tett Centre.

"Leaf" a Message

2SLGBTQ+ community members and allies were invited to contribute to the collaborative installation during exhibitions and pop-up events at the KAC, KSOA, LDSB sites, and local Pride events. Participants could "leaf" messages for other community members, and were invited to take messages from the tree to keep or share with others. Messages could include reflections on how to stand with and support the 2SLGBTQ+ community during Pride month and beyond, messages of solidarity, allyship, and more.

"We Stand With You" Exhibition at KSOA!

Community members were invited to attend the "We Stand With You" exhibition, from July 2nd-July 12th, at KSOA's Window Art Gallery. This collaborative installation was exhibited alongside last year's LDSB/KSOA Pride Quilt collaboration. Visitors could continue to "leaf" and spread messages from the tree across the community. The exhibition then returned to the KAC's UNIT 115 exhibition space for the duration of July.

Why a Tree?

We wanted to create something that could grow through the love put into it. The collective installation aimed to cultivate community through not only the final product, but also the act of collaborating across communities and participating in relationship building as 2SLGBTQ+ community members and allies. While the installation may be temporary, it is our hope that the leaves taken will be kept by community members and will continue to represent love and allyship beyond the life of the exhibition itself..

About the Artist: Clelia Scala

Clelia Scala is a visual artist, theatre artist, story designer, and arts educator. Her work encompasses mask and puppet design, puppet performance, installations, collage, and illustration. Clelia's masks have been performed on stages across North America and Europe, her puppets performed in Canada and the United States, and her visual art exhibited in galleries in both countries.

Her illustrated book with poet Steve McCaffery, *Alice Through the Working Class*, was published by BlazeVox Books in 2024. Her short shadow puppet film, *Goatsong: A Meditation*, was selected for the 2024 Xperimental Puppetry Festival at the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta. In Kingston, Clelia has worked with local arts organizations such as Calliope Collective, the Skeleton Park Arts Festival, and Theatre Kingston. Her shipping container installation *Drift*,

created with artist Marney McDiarmid, will be featured in the Agnes Etherington Art Centre's 2025 programming.

As an arts educator, Clelia has led workshops in schools, communities, and organizations like the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre in Niagara. She teaches at the Haliburton School of Art & Design during the summers and is teaching mask and puppet design for Odyssey Theatre in Ottawa in 2024. Clelia received the 2019 Established Artist Award from the City of St. Catharines. She moved to Kingston in 2019 and teaches theatre, puppet, and mask design at the DAN School of Drama & Music.

About the Pride Quilt Initiative

The Pride Quilt Initiative was a collaboration between the Limestone District School Board (LDSB) and Kingston School of Art (KSOA), inviting school-based, equity-related clubs, interested individuals and families to design quilt squares expressing what Pride means to them. In 2023, over 600 squares were designed and delivered to KSOA where quilter Ruth LeBlanc helped sew the squares together into five 9' x 4' quilts which were carried in the 2023 Napanee and Kingston Pride Parades.

The Pride Quilt is an artwork that unites us all, illustrating both the beauty of individuality and the inclusive message that everyone should see themselves at Limestone. The quilts were showcased in a traveling exhibit throughout Kingston, exhibited in locations including the Tett Centre, Kingston Arts Council, Queen's University Faculty of Education, and the KSOA WAG.

