



KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL *ANNUAL REPORT*

A comprehensive
overview of our work in
the Katarokwi/Kingston
arts sector

**2024
-2025**

KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL about us



Clelia Scala, Chair of the Board of Directors

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is the region's primary resource for arts information and support. Through communications, programming, advocacy, and funding administration, we promote the creation, development, and appreciation of the arts in Kingston. The KAC supports artistic growth and engagement for arts organizations and artists at all levels of their careers. We also administer key funding programs, including the City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF) and the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development.

Vision

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 empowered to build sustainable careers; and
- Our arts sector and its artists, arts workers and arts organizations are thriving and recognized locally and nationally for their efforts, talents and innovation.

Mission

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) provides strategic leadership and services for the arts — as a funder, leader, advocate, and resource — in Kingston and the surrounding area.

Who We Serve

The Kingston Arts Council serves artists, arts workers, and arts organizations in Kingston and the surrounding region. We serve all artistic disciplines as well as all levels of participation, including amateur, emerging, and professional artists and organizations. We support all those in the arts who strive to grow creatively and professionally, and to contribute to a thriving creative industry.

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A MESSAGE FROM

the executive director & chair of the board of directors



A black and white signature of Nicole Daniels.

**NICOLE
DANIELS**
Executive Director

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is pleased to share our Annual Report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025). This report offers a review of our grant programs, services, and activities for the year. Program highlights and statistics serve to illuminate the impact of the KAC on the broader Katarokwi/Kingston community.

The Kingston Arts Council's 2024-2025 fiscal year saw continued efforts to build resiliency and community. With exciting changes on the horizon for KAC, in combination with looming challenges across the sector, we've focused on strengthening the KAC and building organizational resiliency, while also cultivating support networks across our industry to foster collaboration and sector resiliency.

Our forthcoming **2025-3030 Strategic Plan**, developed through diligent efforts from Board and Staff members past and present, seeks to ensure KAC remains responsive to the needs of our local arts industry. With extensive community feedback and informed by the CKAF Review, we've strived to refine and strengthen our core services. We will continue to work collectively towards an adaptable, responsive, and thriving arts sector.



A black and white signature of Clelia Scala.

**CLELIA
SCALA**
Chair of the Board of
Directors

2024-2025 saw the execution of the **City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF) Review** led by the City of Kingston and conducted by consultants Saffy Inc., with support from KAC. The CKAF Review Report — including Recommendations — has since been presented at Kingston City Council, with our 2025 Transition Plan and draft Framework approved. KAC is excited to continue this work, including building the new CKAF Framework and grant streams in alignment with the CKAF Review Recommendations, in 2025-2026.

We are grateful to all KAC Board and Staff members who supported the organization in 2024-2025, and to our key funders and partners: the **City of Kingston, Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, Ontario Arts Council, Play! Charitable Gaming Association, and our donors**. We look forward to continuing to work together to foster resiliency in a thriving and dynamic arts sector.

GRANTS

The Kingston Arts Council administers two key funding programs: the City of Kingston Arts Fund and the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development.

THE CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND

THE CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND (CKAF) provides 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. It is administered by KAC and applications are assessed by a jury of peers from the Kingston arts sector.

There are two types of funding that are made available through CKAF: **Operating Grants (70%)** and **Project Grants (30%)**.

OPERATING GRANTS

Operating Grants provide a crucial foundation for nonprofit arts organizations, increasing administrative capacities and professional and artistic development opportunities.



Photo by Nathan Zhe, Honk! Jr (Blue Canoe)

PROJECT GRANTS

Project Grants fund the creation and presentation of artistic projects and connect diverse audiences with art activities across the city.

CKAF INVESTMENT 2007 – 2024

Amount Awarded	\$9.8M	Amount Requested	\$15M
Grants Awarded	605	Total Applications	988
Operating Grants Awarded	199	Project Grants Awarded	306
Average% of funds requested relative to amount available			177%

2024 CKAF. recipients

2024 OPERATING GRANTS

AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE	\$75,000
CANTIBILE CHOIRS	\$31,000
CENTRE CULTUREL FRONTENAC	\$13,950
KINGSTON CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL	\$50,000
KINGSTON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION	\$75,000
KINGSTON WRITERSFEST	\$44,814
MODERN FUEL ARTIST-RUN CENTRE	\$53,000
REELOUT ARTS PROJECT	\$24,000
SINGLE THREAD THEATRE COMPANY	\$10,000
THEATRE KINGSTON	\$38,007
UNION GALLERY	\$14,391

JURY: MELISSA EAPEN, KEMI KING, ALEX MCLEAN, NICHOLAS SENN, CHRISTIANNE WOJCIK.
EX-OFFICIO: NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR), VIOLET TANG, KATHERINE DIONNE, DANIKA LOCHHEAD

TOTAL: \$429,162

2024 PROJECT GRANTS

2024 K-TOWN SHOWDOWN DANCE BATTLE - KINGSTON SCHOOL OF DANCE	\$5,400
2025 GROUND UP DANCE FESTIVAL - MOVEMENT MARKET COLLECTIVE	\$15,000
AIRWAVE YGK - CFRC 101.9FM	\$12,000
CREATE 15 - THE MESS STUDIO	\$8,240
FESTIVAL OF DIGITAL LIVE ART (FOLDA) - SPIDERWEBSHOW PERFORMANCE	\$12,000
HALF STEPS: MUSICIANS & MENTAL HEALTH - CÉLINE KLEIN	\$11,250
MANY MOONS 2025 PROGRAMMING - MANY MOONS EVENTS	\$11,250
MELOS' LIGHT IN THE DARK II - MELOS CHOIR & PERIOD INSTRUMENTS	\$7,870
PROVIDENCE: A SITE-SPECIFIC THEATRE PERFORMANCE - EYE OF THE DAWN	\$11,250
SENIORS' THEATRE CLUB - THE SPIRE	\$6,150
SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL - SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL	\$13,500
TEN SEASONS OF LOVE - SISTEMA KINGSTON	\$13,396
TESTIFY - PRISON FOR WOMEN MEMORIAL COLLECTIVE	\$15,000
THE DRAGON OF WANTLEY - KINGSTON BAROQUE CONSORT	\$7,000
THE JUVENIS FESTIVAL - BLUE CANOE THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS	\$13,500
THE LOST BIRDS - THE ISABEL VOICES	\$9,870
WHITE PINE TRAVELS - NOAH SCHEINMAN	\$11,250

JURY: BETHANY GARNER, B.C. GORRIE, ZOHA KHALID, CAROLINE KWOK, MELISSA MORRIS
EX-OFFICIO: NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR), VIOLET TANG, KATHERINE DIONNE, DANIKA LOCHHEAD

TOTAL: \$183,926

2023 CKAF. recipients

2023 OPERATING GRANTS

AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE	\$75,000
CANTIBILE CHOIRS	\$29,534
CENTRE CULTUREL FRONTENAC	\$13,464
KINGSTON CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL	\$48,457
KINGSTON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION	\$71,250
KINGSTON WRITERSFEST	\$44,814
MODERN FUEL ARTIST-RUN CENTRE	\$53,818
REELOUT ARTS PROJECT	\$23,697
SINGLE THREAD THEATRE COMPANY	\$10,000
THEATRE KINGSTON	\$38,007
UNION GALLERY	\$13,487

JURY: BRETT CHRISTOPHER, KEMI KING, DENIS LEROUX, KATHY LITTLEJOHN, KEVIN MOORHOUSE EX-OFFICIO:
NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR), VIOLET TANG, KATHERINE DIONNE, DANIKA LOCHHEAD, COUNCILLOR PAUL CHAVES

TOTAL: \$433,542

2023 PROJECT GRANTS

K-TOWN SHOWDOWN DANCE BATTLE 2023 - KINGSTON SCHOOL OF DANCE	\$5,000
GROUND UP DANCE FESTIVAL 2024 - MOVEMENT MARKET COLLECTIVE	\$14,940
AIRWAVE YGK - CFRC 101.9FM	\$15,000
JOHNNY'S DREAM - AMIN POURBARGHI	\$13,500
FESTIVAL OF DIGITAL LIVE ART (FOLDA) - SPIDERWEBSHOW PERFORMANCE	\$13,500
KINGSTON'S GOT TALENT! - ORCHESTRA KINGSTON	\$6,300
'OUT OF THE CITY' AFRICAN ARTS CAMP - CHAKA CHIKODZI	\$11,620
MELOS MAGNIFICATS - MELOS CHOIR & PERIOD INSTRUMENTS	\$11,915
PENTHEUS: THE 2ND PLAY IN THE CITY OF WINE CYCLE - SALON THEATRE *	\$10,500
SPRING REVERB 2024 - KPP CONCERTS	\$15,000
SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL - SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL	\$15,000
STILL ALIVE IN KINGSTON - JAY MIDDAGH	\$14,250
THE CLEARING - MARNEY MCDIARMID	\$10,320
KINGSTON BAROQUE FESTIVAL - KINGSTON BAROQUE CONSORT	\$5,558
THE JUVENIS FESTIVAL - BLUE CANOE THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS	\$11,400
THE GIFT - PEERLESS PRODUCTIONS	\$12,000

JURY: DIANE BLACK, G.H.Y. CHEUNG, BETHANY GARNER, CAROLINE KWOK, KRISTEN LEBOEUF EX-OFFICIO:
NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR), VIOLET TANG, KATHERINE DIONNE, DANIKA LOCHHEAD, COUNCILLOR GREGORY RIDGE
* WITHDRAWN BY RECIPIENT

TOTAL: \$185,803

2023 CKAF impact report

\$619,345

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

28

OPERATING + PROJECT
GRANTS ADMINISTERED



1.4K

1,430
ARTISTS ENGAGED

1.2M

1,175,051
TOTAL AUDIENCE

989

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

693

NEW WORKS CREATED

\$2,713,707

PAID TO ARTISTS
\$4.38 FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN CKAF



182

STAFF POSITIONS
(OPERATING GRANTS)

100%

ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS
FUNDED

2K

2,085
VOLUNTEERS

69K

69,037 ESTIMATED
VOLUNTEER HOURS

60.7

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
STAFF (OPERATING GRANTS)



\$7,591,519

TOTAL REVENUE
\$12.26 FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN CKAF

Reported as of 31 August 2025. Reports are outstanding for two Project Grants.

Photo credits (top to bottom): Virginia Meeks (Juvenis Festival 2024, Blue Canoe Theatrical), Jordan Medulin (Ground UP Dance Festival 2024, Movement Market Collective), Josh Lyon (Festival of Live Digital Art 2024, SpiderWebShow), Jordan Medulin - (Juvenis Festival 2024, Blue Canoe Theatrical)

NAN YEOMANS GRANT

for artistic development

The Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development is an annual grant awarded to support a young visual artist and/or artisan in the Kingston region to further their artistic growth and education.* This fund is administered by the Kingston Arts Council, and made possible through an endowment fund managed by the **Community Foundation for Kingston and Area**.

In 2024, the **Nan Yeomans Grant amount was increased to \$4,000** — a 60% increase from the previous grant amount of \$2,500 — further enhancing the impact of this granting program. **The 2024 jury included 2023 recipient, Kelsey Dawn Pearson, and local artists Abby Nowakowski and Sergio Jaua.**

**Eligible applicants include visual artists between the ages of 17-40 who reside in the City of Kingston or the Townships of Loyalist, South Frontenac, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac, or Frontenac Islands.*

2024 Recipient: Alanna Hakim



Alanna Hakim - Hummingbird Stained Glass



Alanna Hakim - Woven Tapestry

Alanna Hakim is a multidisciplinary artist based in Kingston. Drawing inspiration from the vibrant colours and shapes of nature and literature, she crafts unique pieces by combining textiles and stained glass. Dedicated to her artistic mission, Alanna seeks to encourage others to journey beyond their comfort zones when creating art. This approach has fostered a vibrant community of learners eager to experiment and create alongside her. Alanna is an active participant in artisan events throughout Kingston and an arts educator who enjoys sharing her passion for glass and textile art with her community, and inspiring others to explore their creativity.



Photo credits (left to right): Josh Lyon (Tiny Horse at SPAF 2025, Skeleton Park Arts Festival), Niki Boytchyk-Hale (*Mashkawizii Miinikaanan: Strong Seeds*, Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre), Jamstone Productions (K-Town Showdown Dance Battle 2024, Kingston School of Dance), Tim Fort (Providence, Eye of the Dawn), Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts (Dragon of Wantley, Kingston Baroque Consort), Garrett Elliot (10 Seasons of Love, Sistema Kingston)

COMMUNICATIONS

social media metrics

OVERVIEW

In 2024–2025, the Kingston Arts Council strengthened its online presence, thanks to the increased capacity of a dedicated **Program and Communications Coordinator**. This consistent engagement led to steady growth across platforms, most notably on **Instagram**, where our following increased from 2,734 to 3,066, a growth of **12%**. Overall, this year marked a more active and intentional approach to online communications, ensuring that the KAC remains a visible and accessible resource for artists.

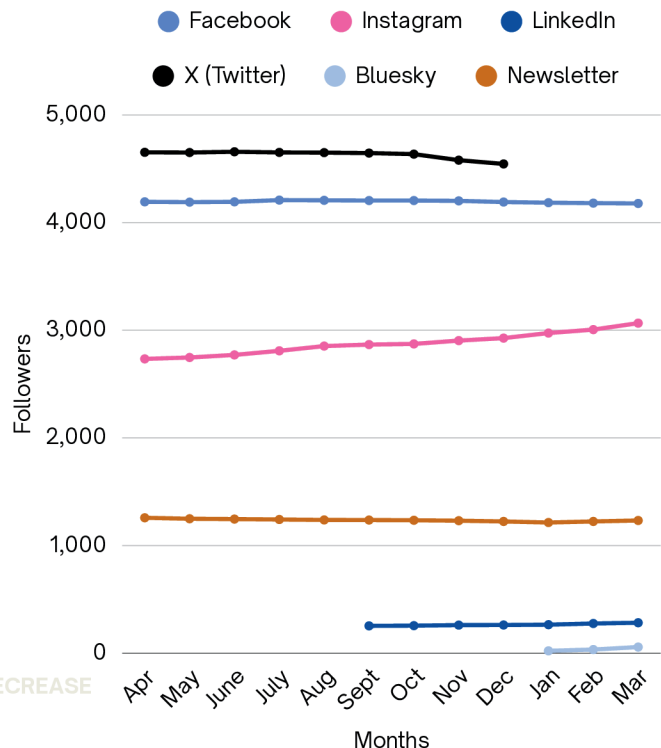
NEWSLETTER REBRAND

The KAC rebranded the long-running **ArtsBuzz** newsletter as **The KAC Newsletter**. The update features a sleek dark mode layout, new software to accommodate our growing subscriber base, and a continued focus on delivering essential information for artists and arts workers, including events, grants, opportunities, & sector updates.

X-IT STAGE LEFT

After many years of using **Twitter** (now X), in January 2025 the KAC closed its account. Concerns about the platform's direction and values prompted the move, and we officially joined **Bluesky**. This transition reflects our commitment to supporting spaces that align with our values and to uplifting artists in safe and meaningful ways.

Social Media Followers



4,178

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS

3,066

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

283

LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS

1,233

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

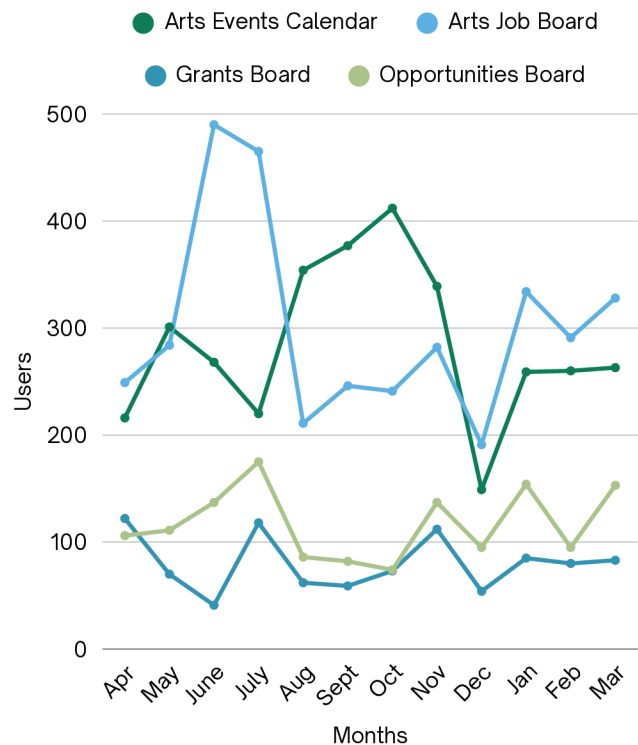
@KINGSTONARTSCOUNCIL

RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

The Kingston Arts Council website continues to serve as a central hub of information for artists, arts workers, and organizations. The site features four key tools: the **Arts Job Board**, **Opportunities Board**, **Grants Board**, and **Arts Events Calendar**, which together provide a comprehensive picture of employment, funding, events, and participation opportunities in Katarokwi/Kingston. In addition, our online database lists arts service organizations and advocacy groups at the local, provincial, and national level. Through these resources, the KAC continues to ensure that artists can find the information they need to sustain their practice, access funding, and engage with the broader arts ecosystem.

KAC Website Page Views



GROWING USE OF ONLINE RESOURCES

In 2024–2025, the Kingston Arts Council saw significant growth in the use of our online resources.

Audiences for the **Arts Job Board** doubled from 1,800 to over 3,600, the **Opportunities Page** increased 250% from 400 to 1,400, the **Grants Board** increased 186% from 350 to 1,000, and the **Arts Events Calendar** grew 75% from 2,000 to 3,500. These increases highlight both the demand for accessible information and the impact of our efforts to strengthen our digital platforms.

3,600+

ARTS JOB BOARD
USERS

1,400+

OPPORTUNITIES
BOARD USERS

1,000+

GRANTS BOARD
USERS

3,500+

EVENTS CALENDAR
USERS

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS 2024

The Mayor's Arts Awards is an annual recognition program that celebrates artistic achievement as well as extraordinary support for and contributions to the arts in Kingston. By increasing the profile of the arts sector, the Mayor's Arts Awards affirms the value of the arts as a source of creativity, innovation and civic pride, and nurtures the sustained development of the cultural sector to the benefit of all Kingston residents. This program is presented by the **City of Kingston** in partnership with the **Kingston Arts Council**.

The **2024 awards program** looked a little different than in previous years. The KAC took on an expanded administrative role in the 2024 program; we are now responsible for chairing the Mayor's Arts Awards Nominations Subcommittee and administering the selection process. We additionally continue to commission recipient profile videos and support communications for the event. The KAC and City worked collaboratively to introduce a public call for nominations — through which **58 public nominations** were received — and update the program's Terms of Reference and award categories.

The Creator Award recognizes artists and artistic collectives. Three Creator Awards are given each year to honour artistic merit and/or innovation that advances the arts in the city, contributes to the development of the art form, and expresses the cultural vitality of Kingston. This award considers newcomers or new-to-Kingston artists who have made a profound impact in the arts in a short period of time, as well as emerging, youth, and equity-deserving artists.

The Arts Champion Award is presented to an arts leader who makes an extraordinary contribution to the arts sector and empowers its sustained growth and development. This award recognizes arts workers, organizations, volunteers, advocates, supporters, sponsors, and/or philanthropists.

While we no longer have the Limestone Arts Legacy Award category, the subcommittee can choose to add a posthumous award in either category.

2024 RECIPIENTS

CREATOR AWARD

TYFFANIE MORGAN

HILL WERTH

W.C. CREATIVES (JAYLENE
CARDINAL & DAKOTA WARD)

ARTS CHAMPION AWARD

SISTEMA KINGSTON

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS NOMINATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

MADDI ANDREWS, ELENA BAKER, SASHA
JIMENEZ FRENCH, SARAH KAYE, GREG
TILSON, NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR, EX-
OFFICIO)

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS recipients



**TYFFANIE
MORGAN**
Creator Award

Tyffanie Morgan is a powerful driving force behind Katarokwi/Kingston's vibrant drag scene. For over two decades, Tyffanie has worked tirelessly to protect and uplift the artform of drag in Katarokwi/Kingston, and through her ingenuity and talent, has helped cultivate a thriving drag scene and empower a new generation of local artists. Tyffanie's impact is evident at the local and national level; she is Canada's first podcasting drag queen, hosting "Breakfast with Tyffanie" and co-hosting "What's the Maple Tea?" with Rowena Whey. She additionally serves her community by administering DragShow.ca, a vital communications hub for drag events across Canada, & has worked closely with local arts and community groups including ReelOut Queer Film Festival, EQuIP, Kingston Pride, Skeleton Park Arts Festival, & Agnes Etherington Art Centre. A dedicated activist & pillar of the local arts community, Miss Tyffanie Morgan is known by many as Kingston's very own drag mother.

Hill Werth is an internationally recognized trans non-binary mixed media artist and activist. They use their art and voice to bring visibility, awareness, and representation to their community. A champion for equity and inclusion in Katarokwi/Kingston, Hill continually strives to create safe spaces for learning, creativity, and community building. Through programs like Pride Creativity Club, the "Hate Has No Home Here" campaign, and *the Pronoun Project*, Hill's work promotes love, acceptance, and respect in all walks of life while cultivating affirming creative and educational spaces. Having arrived in Katarokwi/Kingston in 2021, Hill has quickly embedded themselves into the local arts scene; community members can engage with Hill & their work at a variety of local creative spaces, workshops, businesses, events, and markets.



**HILL
WERTH**
Creator Award

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS recipients



**W.C.
CREATIVES**
Creator Award

W.C. Creatives is a duo formed by multidisciplinary Cree artists **Jaylene Cardinal** and **Dakota Ward**. While they are best known for their striking visual art, jewelry, crafts & fashion, their artwork can be found across Katarokwi/Kingston in a variety of forms and contexts. Their murals, including *Wahkohtowin* at the Rideau Heights Community Centre, as well as their dynamic visual, audio, and storytelling installation for *Waawaateg*, have garnered attention to their expanding public art practice in recent years. Through community-engaged projects such as *Ancestral Echoes* and the Indigenous Canoe Garden Project, W.C. Creatives promote community building while cultivating space for learning about, honouring, and expanding on traditions. They are further venturing into media art & filmmaking through projects including *The Land*. Through their ever-expanding creative practice, Jaylene and Dakota strive to cultivate community, share their talents, & reimagine traditions.

Sistema Kingston provides accessible programming that supports positive social development through the pursuit of musical excellence. Inspired by the Venezuelan El Sistema model, Sistema Kingston offers tuition-free, group-centred music instruction to elementary children at two school sites, emphasizing inclusivity, teamwork, persistence, creativity, & personal responsibility. Sistema Kingston strives to empower young musicians, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder their musical development. Through multi-year intensive learning & performing opportunities, & by opening pathways to other arts organizations across the city, inspiring youth to reach their full potential as individuals, musicians, and citizens. Since 2015, Sistema Kingston has supported over 200 students in developing their musical talents, creating access to high-quality musical education and cultivating a new generation of creators.



**SISTEMA
KINGSTON**
Arts Champion
Award



Photos by Bernard Clark from the 2024 Mayor's Arts Awards reception, courtesy of the City of Kingston.

PROGRAMMING workshops

PLATFORM

PLATFORM was designed to help artists expand their skills, explore new ideas, and connect with peers across the arts sector. Over the years, PLATFORM has brought together incredible facilitators and participants, fostering learning, collaboration, & creativity in Katarokwi/Kingston.

In 2025, we concluded the series. While it's bittersweet to close this chapter, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who participated, contributed, and helped make each workshop a meaningful experience. Ending PLATFORM opened the door for us to reimagine our programming and explore new ways to support artists by creating opportunities that are even more responsive, impactful, and aligned with the evolving needs of Katarokwi/Kingston's creative industry. We're excited to continue building programs that inspire, connect, and empower artists in fresh and innovative ways.



Leah Riddell - Enhancing Workplace Accessibility

CREATING MORE INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

As part of our 2024–2025 **PLATFORM** professional development series, the KAC launched the **Creating More Inclusive Practices** series, designed to equip artists and arts organizations with practical tools to foster accessibility and inclusion in their work. This series focused on creating more welcoming environments and practices for Disabled artists, including neurodivergent individuals, and explored topics such as accessible events, inclusive workplaces, disability disclosure, and accommodations. Through workshops, discussions, and applied exercises, participants gained actionable strategies to remove barriers, enhance accessibility, and build more equitable practices within Kingston's arts sector.

PROGRAMMING workshops

RELAXED SPACES & ACCESS NOTES

In collaboration with **KEYS** via the **Workplace Inclusion Charter**, the Kingston Arts Council hosted a two-hour online workshop facilitated by **Erin Ball** and **Maxime Beauregard**. The session explored strategies for creating more accessible events and organizational practices, with a focus on access notes, relaxed spaces, and fostering a culture of consent. Participants gained both short- & long-term tools to strengthen inclusion within their own practices and organizations, particularly for members of the Disability and neurodivergent communities. **KEYS** staff introduced the Workplace Inclusion Charter and how to apply an equity, diversity, & inclusion lens to job postings, prompting discussion on inclusive practices and barriers.

CREATIVE ACCESSIBILITY

Co-led by Disabled artists **Maxime Beauregard** and **Erin Ball**, this workshop shared the artists' approach to collaborative creative accessibility which strives to enhance artistic projects while remaining functional. Erin and Maxime offered information on how artists can integrate these concepts into their own work. Exemplifying the workshops concepts with action, the workshop offered multiple ways to engage with the information with practical applications, videos, discussions, and more.



ENHANCING WORKPLACE ACCESSIBILITY

On February 27, the KAC hosted an in-person workshop led by **Leah Riddell** of **SignAble Vi5ion**. This two-hour session provided a comprehensive introduction to building inclusive workplaces in the arts sector, with a focus on disability disclosure, accommodations, accessible technology, and the unique experiences of the Deaf community. With ASL interpretation provided, participants gained practical tools to support Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing artists, strengthen accessibility practices across their organizations, and foster more inclusive environments. The session was particularly relevant for administrators, educators, performers, and artists seeking to implement lasting change in their work.

PROGRAMMING

community engagement

NAN YEOMANS GRANT DROP IN DAY

Continuing off the success of its implementation in 2023, KAC introduced a “Drop In Day” for the Nan Yeomans grant program, offering an opportunity for potential applicants to seek support in their grant writing process in a casual, welcoming environment. KAC continued to offer one-on-one meetings to potential applicants, but the introduction of the Drop In Day aimed to increase accessibility of KAC support services.



Photo by Bernard Clark - 2024 Mayor's Arts Awards

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2024–2025, we continued a range of community programming and outreach initiatives. This included hosting an **Arts Leadership Panel**, running a community booth at the **Skeleton Park Arts Festival** with opportunities for discussion and art making, presenting at the **Queen's BFA Annual General Meeting**, and leading classroom visits for **Specialist High Skills Major** students in local high schools. Throughout the year, the KAC also held **open office hours** to meet directly with artists & community members, and welcomed families to our office for a **Family Day** event filled with creative activities. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to building connections and creating accessible entry points into Kingston's arts sector.



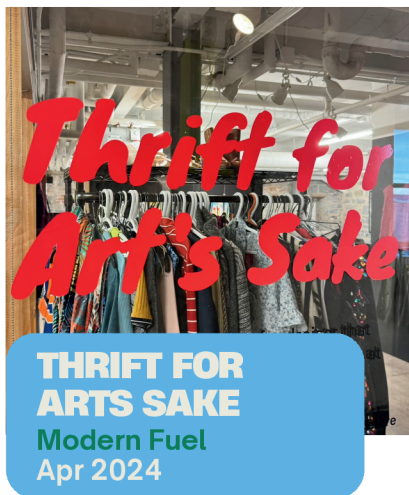
2024 Skeleton Park Arts Festival - KAC Booth

PROGRAMMING

exhibitions

UNIT 115 EXHIBITION SPACE

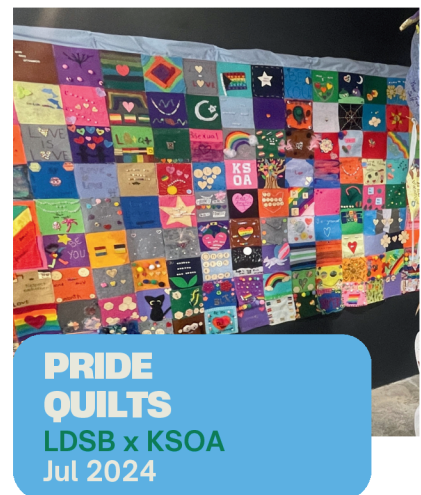
UNIT 115 is a small exhibition space in the foyer of the Kingston Arts Council office. Throughout 2024-2025, UNIT 115 operated as an exploratory exhibition space used for partnerships, collaborations, and community-engaged projects with local arts groups. Below are some highlights from the 2024-2025 exhibition season.



A pop-up fundraiser exhibition developed by **Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre**. Featuring gently used clothing, accessories, and household items, the project invited community members to shop sustainably while supporting Modern Fuel's operations and programming. This initiative highlighted how creativity and sustainability can intersect to strengthen our arts sector.



The **Limestone District School Board, Kingston Arts Council**, and **Kingston School of Art** collaborated on *We Stand With You*, a community-engaged exhibition centred on a freestanding sculpture built by artist **Clelia Scala**. Visitors were invited to add leaves to the installation, sharing notes and messages of allyship, solidarity, and actionable ways Katarokwi/ Kingston can stand with and support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

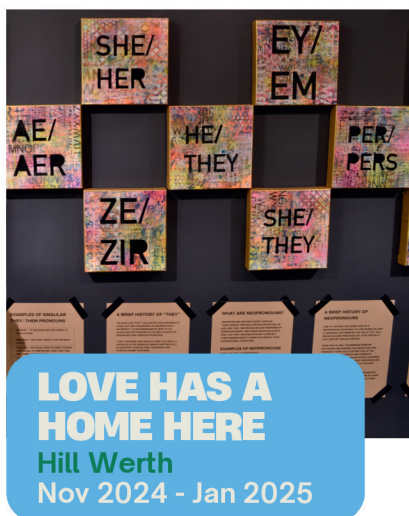
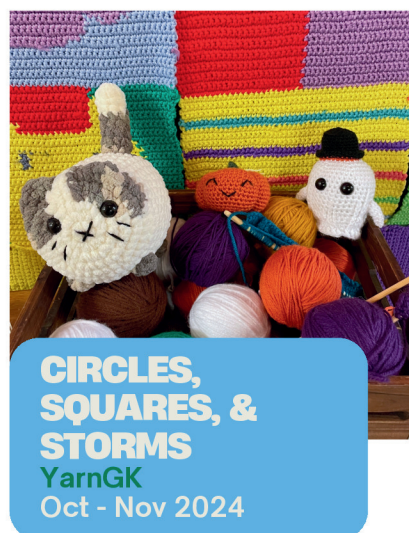


A collaboration between the **Limestone District School Board** and **Kingston School of Art**, quilt squares were designed by LDSB students, exploring what Pride means to them. Over 600 squares were designed and combined into quilts by artist **Ruth LeBlanc**. The quilts have since been featured in Napanee and Kingston Pride Parades in 2023 and 2024, and exhibited in various educational and artistic spaces.



Out of Frame by **Kingston Hidden Artist Collective (KHAC)** showcased works by artists who live on the outskirts of society, often unseen, unheard, and “out of frame”. This exhibition shone a light on the creativity and resilience of artists who navigate challenges including houselessness, mental health, and addiction crises. *Out of Frame* brought into focus and celebrated the unique artistic styles, voices, and presence of KHAC artists, whose practices often exist outside of conventional artistic spaces.

YarnGK Crochet & Knit Circle transformed UNIT 115 into a vibrant, evolving installation of crochet squares and fibre art. Community members were invited to contribute their own creations, adding to the growing “yarn storm” throughout the exhibition. Presented in support of the **Bridging Communities Project**, which will ultimately cover Belleville’s Front Street Bridge in crochet, the exhibition celebrated collective creativity and the power of fibre art to build connection and community.



Hill Werth (Slow & Intentional), presented a powerful, community-centered collection aimed at fostering inclusivity and awareness. Central to the exhibit were the *Hate Has No Home Here* campaign and the *Pronoun Project*. Together, the collection challenged visitors to embrace inclusive language and environments, inviting reflection on the power of visibility and representation for community members with marginalized identities.

The Digital Community Whiteboard from the **Kingston Arts Council** invited artists, writers, and community members to collaborate in real time on a shared online canvas. Hosted on Canva and in UNIT 115, this interactive project transformed UNIT 115 into a space for live-digital art making, where participants could contribute drawings, stories, and ideas. The initiative encouraged creativity across skill levels, fostering connection and collective expression in Katarokwi/Kingston.



PROGRAMMING

by the numbers

UNIT 115 Exhibition Title	Attendees
Thrift for Arts Sake	300
We Stand With You	242
Pride Quilts	85
Out of Frame	214
Circles, Squares, & Storms	302
Love Has a Home Here	274
Digital Community Whiteboard	306

Creating Inclusive Practices Workshop Title	Attendees
Relaxed Spaces & Access Notes	19
Creative Accessibility	13
Enhancing Workplace Accessibility	17

Community Events	Attendees
Onsite Visits / Presentations	232
Offsite Visits / Presentations	77
Skeleton Park Arts Festival (KAC booth)	550+
Family Day	55
Gallery Receptions	50
Mayor's Arts Awards	100+
CKAF Meetings	10
Total Estimated Attendance	2,737+



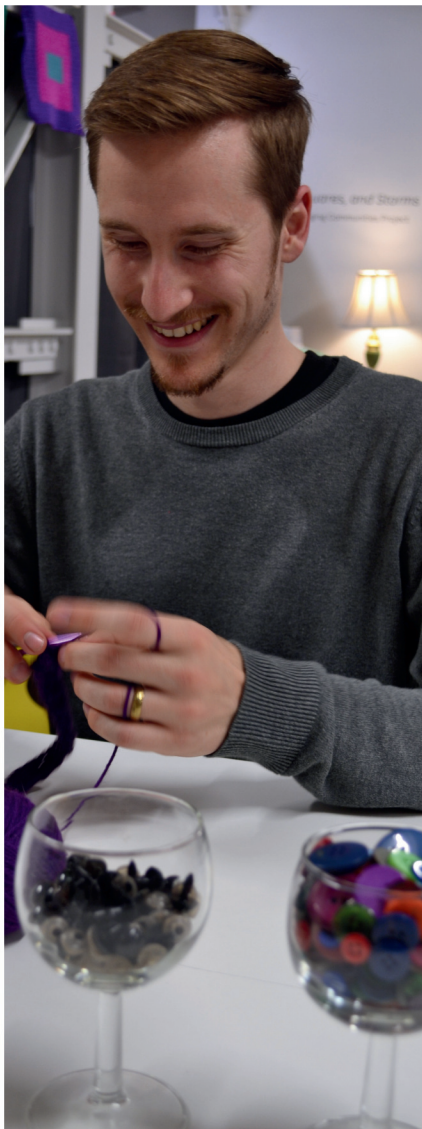
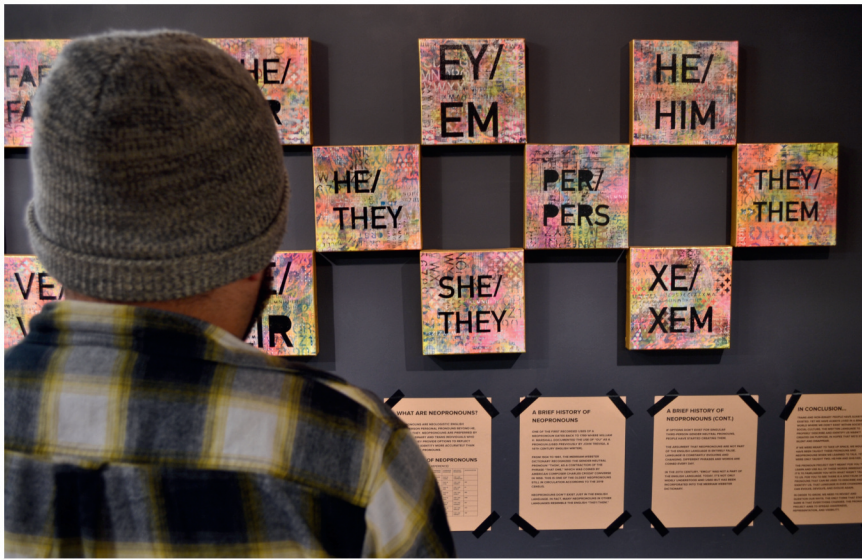


Photo credits starting from the top left: Hill Werth - Love Has A Home Here Closing Reception, YARNGK - Circles, Squares, & Storms Closing Reception, Jabra Mitwasi - The Shape of Meaning Closing Reception. All photos by B.C. Gorrie

Financial Highlights

1 April 2024—
31 March 2025

\$194,043

TOTAL REVENUE

\$194,002

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$41

SURPLUS OF TOTAL
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

\$6,296

SURPLUS OF
UNRESTRICTED
(OPERATING) REVENUE
OVER EXPENSES

KAC's audited financial statements are available by request. Please contact ED@artskingston.ca if you wish to view a copy.

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Our major funders, the City of Kingston and the Ontario Arts Council, continued to provide stable funding to the KAC in 2023-2024.
- KAC's total revenue increased by 15% or \$25,906 from the previous fiscal year.
- Additional revenue was earned from expanded partnership with the City of Kingston (\$5,000), an increase in the Nan Yeomans grant program budget (\$2,700) and an equipment-only grant from the Community Foundation (\$8,695) deferred from 2023-2024.

Expense Highlights

- The KAC invested nearly \$22,000 in artists through the payment of fees for event facilitation, grants adjudication, and the completion of artistic work and services.
- KAC continued to direct the majority of its funding towards public events, salaries, and artist fees, reflecting our commitment to invest in our local arts industry.

OVERVIEW + GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- While the organization is showing a \$41 surplus in total revenue over expenses, the 2024-2025 fiscal year is actually marked by a \$6,296 surplus in unrestricted assets, and an intentional deficit of \$6,255 in restricted assets, as described below.
- The KAC's unrestricted net assets increased to \$45,737, representing a \$6,296 or a 16% increase over the course of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- The KAC additionally holds externally restricted net assets – charitable gaming funds restricted for use in free public programming – in the amount of \$11,288. KAC's restricted net assets were reduced by \$6,255 in 2024-2025, supporting KAC's goal (and requirement) to expend its surplus of charitable gaming funds entirely.

THE KAC team

STAFF



**NICOLE
DANIELS**
Executive
Director



B.C. GORRIE
Program &
Communications
Coordinator



**KATHERINE
DIONE**
Administrative &
Grants Assistant



VIOLET TANG
Grants & Programs
Coordinator
(to May 2024)



**SHAMARA
PEART**
Program Administrator
(from June 2025)

VOLUNTEERS

Csilla Adkins
Meghan McArthur
Jasvina Pancholi
Yagni Patel
Crystal Wiesner
Wilding

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director (to July 2025)

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Director (to Oct 2024)

Jake Torrie
Director (to June 2024)

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FUNDERS



Thank you to our 2024–2025 supporters! The KAC's work would not be possible without the vital support of our partners, donors, and funders.





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