



**CITY OF KINGSTON DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (ACA)
DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

***Respectfully submitted by Kitt Potter, Director of Arts and Cultural
1.11.24 and 2.8.24 and 3.11.24***

ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN (ACMP) IMPLEMENTATION PHASE III 2024

This report is aligned with the short to middle-term priorities established for my Office as described in the Action Plan Detail section of the City of Kingston (CoK) Arts and Culture Master Plan (ACMP), passed by the City of Kingston Common Council 3.1.22.

*Furthering the Role and Expanding the Capacity of the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs; playing a primary leadership role in the **implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan PHASE III:***

PRIORITY A – CREATIVE ECONOMY

Strategy 1 - Identify funding Opportunities and other Financial Support to Aid Struggling Artists and Business:

- I assisted 21 local artists and art organizations in identifying/cultivating grant funding sources and with grant proposal reviews in 2023. For 2024, the focus will be for artists most in need and for arts organizations serving children and individuals most in need.
- I have toured TEMPO Kingston <https://tempokingston.org/>, and assisting Tom Krueger with outreach, connectivity, introductions to key stakeholders and prospective supporters, more.

PRIORITY B CONNECTIVITY AND COLLABORATION

Strategy 1 – Celebrate and embrace Kingston's identity as an arts city

- Assisting city-wide organizations with promoting events and exhibition openings; attend numerous to show support and encouragement and make introductions.

Strategy 2 -

- I am ***maintaining and sharing information between organizations, businesses, and individuals*** to ensure better coordination of events throughout the year, assisting creatives in establishing relationships and enhancing communications; maintaining and sharing (among creative leaders for time being until the CoK website is updated and calendar-ready) – a **2024 city-wide events and festivals calendar**: events the city hosts; events the city funds; events for which CoK permits are required. **Deferring to Radio Kingston to maintain the city-wide calendar at this time.**

Strategy 4: City Hall Exhibition

While several participants of the Art Out Loud Youth Exhibition have picked up their artworks, Star Nigro of My Kingston Kids has indicated their section of the exhibition can run continually.

Exhibition 2024 – Discussion on a fall exhibition has been tabled at this time.

Strategy 5: Art and Local History Education Roundtable – Connecting the community with artists and local history experts to ensure that the arts and local history are being represented in a factual and meaningful way:

FEBRUARY

Black History Month Kingston

Thursday, February 29 5pm-730pm. City Hall 1st Floor.

The ACA hosted an end-BHM programme – “**Honoring the Champions of the 4 Pillars of Sustainability**” feat. The Bard Conservatory Jazz Ensemble, a “Remembering our Ancestors” ceremony by Anthony Dandridge – SUNY New Paltz Black Studies Professor/Executive Director – AJ Williams Meyers African Roots Center with a talk by Civil Rights Attorney Michael Sussman followed by a community QandA about the state of America today along the Four Pillars of Sustainability – Economics, Environmental Justice, Social Justice and Human Rights.

Attendance: 150

JUNE

JUNETEENTH 2024

Friday, June 14 from 7-830pm at Old Dutch Church

City of Kingston Juneteenth Celebration

Juma Sultan Aboriginal Society, prelude by Ubaka Hill’s Women’s Drumsong Orchestra. Free and Open to the Public

OCTOBER

BURNING OF KINGSTON ’24

October 18-19, 2024

Led by the City of Kingston

Organizers – Ulster County Deputy Clerk Taylor Bruck, City of Kingston Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs Kitt Potter, Ulster County Archivist Jonathan Palmer

Partners - County Executive Jen Metzger, Ulster County Chief Diversity Officer Esi Lewis, Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack. Ulster County Tourism, Old Dutch Church, Radio Kingston, the Senate House, The D.A.R Kingston, The Ulster County Chamber of Commerce, The Hudson River Institute, Bard College, SUNY New Paltz, Theater on the Road, and more.

Friday October 18, 7-9pm - First Nation Programming – Old Dutch Church Sanctuary. Storytelling, Film. Detail to follow

Saturday October 19 10am-3pm - Day long re-enactments and demo's at various locations.

430-630 - Jazz Vespers - Burning of Kingston Slave Narratives – Old Dutch Church Sanctuary - Jazz Concert and Jazzoetry

- Ubaka's Drumsong Orchestra
- Robert Kopec Jazz Ensemble
- Poetry and Storytelling TBA
- Pastor Rob Offers Closing Words "Up From the Ashes"

7pm - Theater on the Road – Cemetery Tour in the Sanctuary TBD

830 – Colonial Ball – Old Dutch Church Bethany

Sunday October 20th

**3pm-430pm- Chamber Music of the Revolutionary War Period SANCTUARY AND BETHANY
Kairos Consort of Singers
and
Bard Conservatory Ensemble**

PRIORITY C7- DEIA – ENSURING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

DECEMBER 2023

December 31 at Old Dutch Church, 6pm-7pm

“Let Our Love Be Heard” 2nd Annual End of the Year Gathering in partnership with Old Dutch Church and Ars Choralis. The free classical chorale concert performance will feature narrations by Ulster County Poet Laureate Kate Hymes, the city’s Arts and Cultural Affairs Director Kitt Potter and more. This year’s theme is peace, respect for one another and inclusiveness, Mayor Steve Noble’s Office said in a press release. “Amid global heartbreak, Ars Choralis sings for the people – songs to offer comfort, hope, and courage; to remember the truth that love is stronger than evil, and that goodness will prevail,” Ars Choralis Director Barbara Pickhardt. “May our love be heard.” Donations of warm clothing benefiting People’s Place including new/gently used warm coats, hats, gloves, and socks for youth and adults was received in abundance. **\$1300 was raised to support the People’s Place.**
Attendance - @300.

**Music in the Parks and Movies Under the Stars
MUSIC IN THE PARKS 2024**

The application process opened for the City of Kingston Music in the Parks 2024; the deadline for submissions was February 29, 2024. Music in the Parks is a four-part free, family-oriented concert series funded by the City of Kingston. Concerts will be held at various Kingston park locations on weekends during the summer. Our audiences are typically children, families, and seniors.

There were a total of 54 submissions. The committee has selected performers for the four concert dates which will run from July through September. A formal announcement of the full series which will include movies will be made midMarch.

2024 SPECIAL PROGRAMS

MARCH

Saturday, March 30, 3-4pm

City of Kingston Special Children and Families Presentation at Old Dutch Church

David Gonzalez and Frederick Chiu – Peter and the Wolf and Carnival of the Animals (Storytelling by Classical Music)

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 31 6pm-7pm (Classical Chorale)

City of Kingston presents Ars Choralis – End Year Peace Community Gathering in partnership with Old Dutch Church, supporting charitable organization TBA.

PRIORITY D1 – POLICY AND FUNDING

Strategy 4: Resources for Individual Artists, Art Organizations, and Art Businesses Assisting numerous individuals and organizations with strategic planning, collaborations, grants; young creatives with career counseling and job referrals.

Strategy 5: Create a Public Art Policy (PAP)

Work continues on Phase I: Municipal Art Collection Plan and Document; Phase II Funding Plan and Document; Phase III Public Art Policy and Document, with the goal to present to the Common Council for approval June 2024. An updated report to be presented to the KaC on February 8 with a follow up meeting with the Public Policy Commission 2.14.24.

I issued a report in this regard during the Mayor's Senior Staff meeting on requesting input from all staff and have met thus far with Common Council Members: Alders Rennie Childress, Mike Tierney, Drew Andrews, and Jeanne Edwards with appointments pending with President Shaut; Alders Schabot, Hirsch, Mickens Dennison. The Mayor sees no conflict with Alderwoman Pasti sitting as advisor to the Public Art Policy Committee and KAC in this area.

We have also scheduled meetings with arts key stakeholders: OPositive, CPW, more during the month of February.

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