



**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***

**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.

**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.

***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.

Commissioner Cotarelo and I are in talks about the Fall '24 Exhibition. **The opening reception will be on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 3pm-5pm at the city hall ground floor gallery space and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.**

The ACA will host an end-BHM programme – “**Honoring the Champions of the 4 Pillars of Sustainability**” feat. The Bard Conservatory Jazz Ensemble, ‘Remembering Our Trailblazers’ Honors 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. The public is invited, and light refreshments will be served. More detail to follow.

## **JUNE**

### **JUNETEENTH 2024**

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

**Juma Sultan Aboriginal Society with a pre-concert historical Talk by Professor Dandridge.**

## **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 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

River Valley Heritage for events, so we're hoping to receive some funding from them. HUDSY will partner with the city and county in 24.

## **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” 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

### **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.**

#### **MUSIC IN THE PARKS 2024**

#### **CALL FOR PERFORMERS**

#### **2024 MUSIC IN THE PARKS SERIES**

The application process is now open for the City of Kingston Music in the Parks 2024. The deadline for submissions is **February 29, 2024. Due to a large number of artists interested in performing, we are asking all those interested to submit a 2024 application.**

**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. The venues are outdoors with lawn seating for @ 50-100 persons. We supply the stage area and electricity. Performers must bring their own sound equipment, instruments, microphones, stands, cables, extension cords, and power strips. We prefer full bands with a minimum of four members. Duos and trios will receive consideration as well. We do not consider soundtracks. Our audiences are typically children, families, and seniors. Selected ensembles will receive an honorarium. A service agreement and W9 must be signed and submitted to the City.

Please [click here](#) to complete and submit the electronic form to be considered. If you are mailing this application, please download and/or print the **pdf version**, complete the form, and email to [kpotter@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:kpotter@kingston-ny.gov), or mail or hand-deliver to City of Kingston Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City Hall, 240 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401. Our selection panel will be reviewing in early March. Selected performers will be notified by MidMarch. All applicants will receive a response once selections are completed. If your application is not considered, it will be kept in the event of an opening.

**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.

PRIORITY D4

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