



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

*Note: My periodic updates are posted on City of Kingston Calendar Meetings page <https://kingston-ny.gov/calendar/meetings?listing=ShortEvents%7C5/25/2021%7C40008%7C3745> . Comments, suggestions to [kpotter@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:kpotter@kingston-ny.gov) from the KAC, partners, COK staff, and the community-at-large are welcome.*

**POINTS OF CORRECTION TO MATTERS BROUGHT DURING  
THE SEPTEMBER 2024 KAC MEETING**

**During the official proceedings of the September 2024 KAC meeting, a mention was made several times that I did not inform the KAC that I would not be present. I had previously sent several alerts to this effect by email to the KAC officers. Further, my apologies to all who did not receive September's agenda, minutes and my update prior to the meeting. In the future, if I have announced I will not be able to attend a commission meeting (please note – staff is not required to attend commission meetings); if at any time commissioners have not received the meeting packet, please notify me well in advance of the meetings. If I cannot be present but do not hear that there are issues until an hour before or during the meetings (which is what occurred in September), I may or may not be able to address the matters.**

**Regarding the attendance of CPW at the September meeting – it was further stated during the September meeting that CPW thought they were on the September agenda. I had indicated to CPW that the meetings are open to the public and they are always welcome to attend, but CPW could not be added to the KAC agenda until the October meeting.**

**Neither the Mayor nor I have reviewed any new applications for Arts Commissioners. Repeating – we are both hoping that the KAC will modify and settle on the revisions for the KAC Resolution and the Rules of Procedure before bringing on new members to circumvent any further confusion or mystification regarding the KAC's role and relationship with staff.**

**To the question raised at the September 2024 meeting - Is there a budget to procure a wall mural inside City property, e.g., Hodges, Rondout, Murphy, or to have him created for a private business? Commissioner Suggs and Director Cahill both brought up that RUPCO and the Quality Inn site are seeking art – perhaps this is where we can assist. My previous reports indicated that the COK is not currently in the position to commission new art or accept donations to the permanent art collection until the current municipal art collection has been assessed/valued/inventoried and funding for the commission of new public art on public property the ACA is eligible for has been identified/cultivated/secured. However, COK staff have indicated there are COK sites that could use temporary loans of artwork: The Hodge Center, The Rondout Center, The Andy Murphy Center. Art on private property is not, nor will it be, a priority or area of focus for the ACA. The newly passed policy and plan covers municipal-only.**

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

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 and the Public Art Policy/Municipal Art Collection Plan:***

## **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 4: City Hall Exhibitions**

- The Art Out Loud Youth Exhibition is extended to October 2024. Several have picked up their artworks; Star Nigro of My Kingston Kids is updating theirs continually. We had one offer to purchase an artwork by a Kingston High School Art Club participant. Attempts to reach Kingston High School Art Club are to no avail. Notifications will be made to all participating youth organizations with deadlines for picking up art the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October. As the agreement states, all artwork left post deadline will be removed. The COK has no available storage for artworks.

**I will put out a final announcement early November for pick up. Any remaining artwork will either be given away or unfortunately discarded as I have no storage space.**

**Suggestions by the KAC for how to reach the Kingston High School Art Club about the offer to purchase, as well as how artworks left behind are to be removed are appreciated.**

- **Sojourner Truth: First Step to Freedom Major Installation – <https://engagekingston.com/sojourner-truth-first-step-to-freedom>**

A new base was created by SUNY New Paltz carpenters Dan Maier and Lawrence Oquendo who made several trips to the archives to make sure it was designed with precision. The movers, along with the carpenters, supervised and accommodated by the COK Engineers and with coaching by Trina Greene, installed the statue on September 23rd in the city hall grand foyer. Special thanks to Richard Frumess who came to support and spot Trina’s cleaning of the statue. The Ulster County Clerk and team were thanked for taking care of the statue which the artist said was in excellent condition. A sky blue veil, created by Robin M. Williams, covered the statue until the night before the event.

On September 28, the doors opened to the public at 5pm. Programming proceeded in the Council Chambers from 6-8pm. Due to technical difficulties, the lighting experts of the Radio Kingston Community Tech Team was not able to provide a spill over room and thus, many were sent away once the Chambers filled to capacity.

Special thanks to Arts Commissioners Brumfield, Suggs, and Wilson for managing the Common Council doors which at times, became a bit overwhelming; Lisa Kelley who arrived early to help hands on; Sue Cahill who assisted throughout the event, especially with the elders; our young maintenance worker who managed the ground floor with Sue’s help. The M.A.D. PUGGS were excellent as docents as were the guards from Tower Security. The Radio Kingston Community Tech team went above and beyond providing sound and A/V tech and provided us with a great video of the entire program.

Attendance: @380. Reviews: RAVE for Trina’s work and the programming.

We also thank the NYS Archives for bringing the most delicate of Sojourner Truth documents for display during the opening and the City of Kingston Police Department Color Guard providing armed guard duty of the records as was required by NYS in order to allow this display.

<https://bit.ly/3zOQBpW>

Visitors to the statue since the opening: @ 175; SUNY New Paltz Sculpture Class. Several appointments for group visits have been made as well.

Concerns: Lighting. The position of the statue is challenging. There is bright light shining through the window atop the front entryway in the mornings/afternoons. By late afternoon/evening, the foyer lights are dim. Radio Kingston tried various ways to light the statue the night before to no avail.

**Coverage:**

Times Hudson Valley <https://bit.ly/3U36cJp>  
HV1 <https://bit.ly/4dGBrRs>  
Kingston Wire <https://bit.ly/4ewCswU>  
Daily Freeman <https://bit.ly/4dAOios>  
The Oracle <https://bit.ly/4dx8qI5>  
The Hudson Valley Press <https://bit.ly/3zMJRJk>  
WAMC <https://bit.ly/3BAPXNm>  
NYSEDnews <https://www.instagram.com/p/DACIjHpJiJl/>

**Photos:**

SUNY New Paltz <https://bit.ly/3XZ3vJU>

Full Video of Program: <https://vimeo.com/1014578869/8a4ff18623?share=copy>

Visits to the Statue: The public is invited to view the statue during regular City Hall Office Hours, Monday – Friday from 830am-430pm from now until August 2025. Group tours must be by appointment by contacting me at [kpotter@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:kpotter@kingston-ny.gov) or 843.334.3929.

- **FREEDOM! Call for Art** – <https://www.kingston-ny.gov/exhibitions>  
The call for art is out. The deadline for submissions is October 25<sup>th</sup>.

I have personally reached out to 12 artists who will be submitting. There are 3 others who have or will be submitting as well. Selected artists must bring their works to my office framed and wired and ready to hang by November 11. My Kingston Kids and M.A.D./D.R.A.W have indicated they will contribute youth artworks to the youth wall.

I've hired our maintenance staff to do the install on Friday, November 22. Thank you to Richard Frumess who has volunteered to assist with the install and for reaching out to artists to encourage them to submit.

December 7<sup>th</sup> will be the opening reception from 3pm-5pm. More information to be provided as more progress is made with this effort. The opening reception and program is co-sponsored by the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, with technical support by the Radio Kingston Community Tech Team.

***Assistance from the KAC in encouraging local artists to submit is appreciated. Please contact me if you would like to serve on the selection panel and/or have recommendations from members of the community to serve.***

Coverage: <https://hvny.info/events/2024/truth-freedom>

< End City Hall Exhibitions 2024 >

***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:

**October 17-20**

**BURNING OF KINGSTON: VOICES LOST IN THE FIRE '24**

- **Organizers** – Mayor Steve Noble, City of Kingston Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs Kitt Potter, Acting Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck, Ulster County Archivist Jonathan Palmer, local historian Erin VonHoldt-Gilbert, Raleigh Green, with full support from County Executive Jen Metzger, former Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack. Special thanks to Old Dutch Church, new partner St James Church, and Radio Kingston tech team.
  - Co-Sponsors – City of Kingston Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Kingston ARPA, Ulster County Clerk, Hudson River Greenway, Ulster County Tourism, Ulster County Chamber of Commerce, Old Dutch Church.

[www.burningofkingston.com](http://www.burningofkingston.com)

**Thanks for Richard Frumess and Sara Pasti for helping to get brochures and flyers out to the community.**

**Coverage:**

**Daily Freeman** <https://www.dailyfreeman.com/2024/09/04/burning-of-kingston-to-focus-on-voices-lost-in-the-fire-when-it-returns-in-october/>

<End Burning Of Kingston>

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

Free and open to the public and sponsored by the Departments of ACA, Parks and Recreation, and with the generous tech support from [Radio Kingston](#), I am pleased to announce the **City of Kingston Arts, Culture, and Heritage Series 2024:**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**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 (Attendance - @ 100; Audience Response – JOY)**

**JUNE**

**Friday, June 14 - 630pm-830pm**

**Living History Event**

**City of Kingston's Juneteenth Kickoff Event at Old Dutch Church**

**Juma Sultan Aboriginal Society** with a talk by Juma about his grandfather who was among the slaves waiting to hear they were free in Galvaston on Juneteenth 1865. Pre Concert talk by Ubaka Hill.

**(Attendance - @150; Audience Response – Standing Ovation)**

**DECEMBER**

**Thursday, December 31 6pm-7pm**

**OLD DUTCH CHURCH**

**City of Kingston presents Ars Choralis and Narrators**

**Theme: TOGETHER WE RISE!!!**

- End-year peace community gathering

## MUSIC IN THE PARKS SERIES 2024

- Sponsor – City of Kingston Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, local business pending, with technical support by Radio Kingston

### JUNE

**Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm-830pm**

**TR Gallo Park**

**Soul City Band (Motown Soul)**

**(Postponed twice due to weather.)**

**Rescheduled August 14. Attendance @ 75 total. Note: This was a 12 hour work day for me.**

### JULY

**\*Thursday, July 4 (Fireworks rain date July 5) 630-930pm**

**City of Kingston 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**

**Waterfront**

**Gottasee Band (multi-genre dance horn band)**

**CCE NRG Dancers**

- Coordinated by Kitt Potter; Co-sponsors – Ole Savannah, O'Connor and Partners, City of Kingston ARPA. Supported by City of Kingston DPW, Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire and Rescue. Special thanks to Radio Kingston. Extra special thanks to Ulster County Transit for running shuttles throughout the evening.

**(Attendance – upwards of 5,000 along the waterfront throughout the evening; Crowd reaction to the presenters – RAVE. No incidents during the music and dance presentations. Very special thanks to Radio Kingston who aired live on location, and the Radio Kingston Tech Team)**

**Saturday July 13 7-830pm**

**Academy Green Park**

**(Excessive Heat or Rain - City Hall Council Chambers)**

**The Saints of Swing Feat. Miss Rene Bailey (New Orleans Swing)**

**Location was moved to the Council Chambers due to excessive heat and threat of storms.**

**Attendance: 50. Radio Kingston tech team filmed live - Ms Rene will be interviewed during this program about her career as a singer at the old Catskill Resorts, and performing with Peg Leg Bates and Louie Armstrong.**

### AUGUST

**Friday, August 9 7-1030pm**

**Kingston Point Beach Park**

**The Roadhouse 60's Band (Oldies Rock and Pop)**

**Movie: ET**

**Canceled twice due to rain.**

**Rescheduled August 15 –Attendance @ 50. Parks and Recreation could not provide staff to show the movie ET after the concert as it was mid-week. This \$600 rental had to be returned in two weeks. We had to take the loss. Note: This was a 12-hour work day for me.**

**\*Saturday, August 17 7-1030pm**

**Hutton Park**

**Alessandra Ensemble (Latin)**

**Movie: Barbie (Spanish subtitles)**

**Due to rain, the movie was canceled and due to scheduling challenges, we had to return by deadline and take the \$500 loss. As the artist hired a videographer, we made the decision to allow the concert under the pavilion during the rain. Special thanks to the Youth Bureau and Alderman**



**Drew Andrews for bringing friends and family to provide a friendly audience for the artist as she filmed. Attendance: @ 20.**

## SEPTEMBER

**Friday, September 13 5pm  
D’Janeira Mason Park Dedication  
Adjacent to 43 Van Buren Street**

Note: this is a new COK park where we will be hosting programming starting in 2025. Alderman Andrews had previously coined mid-town Kingston as a ‘park desert’ so this is a welcome addition.

**This event was very well attended by city officials and community members. Mayor Noble gave a very moving, emotional speech. There was an unveiling of the sign dedicated to D’Janeira and the park, a new city of Kingston site, holds a playground and can be booked for special events.**

**Saturday, September 21 (RAIN DATE 9.22) 2-330pm  
City of Kingston Music and Painting in the Parks as part of Art Walk ’24**

**<https://www.artsmidhudson.org/artwalkkingston>**

**TR Gallo Park**

**Levanta Ensemble (World Beat)**

**Nancy Ostrovsky (Live Performance Art)** Note: Artwork produced during this performance will be a part of the FREEDOM! exhibition.

**Ulster County Poet Laureate (Jazzoetry)**

**SUNY New Paltz Sound Your Truth Poets**

**Levanta performed beautifully as an ensemble and accompanying Ulster County Poet Laureate Kate Hymes and the SUNY New Paltz “Sound Your Truth” preview featuring Professor Anthony Dandridge and brilliant students Asia Walker and Tarik Alleyne. Live Performance Artist Nancy Ostrovsky painted what she heard and this resulting artwork will be a part of the “FREEDOM” exhibition.**

**The ArtWalk 2024 was overall a great success.**

**Attendance at the TR Gallo event: @100. Reviews: RAVE.**

**<End Music in the Parks Series 2024 >**

**SPECIAL EVENTS AND CONCERTS 2025**

**Plans in Development**

**Input from the KAC appreciated**

**February 3, 10am**

**Black History Month Kingston Proclamation and Breakfast**

**City Hall First Floor Foyer**

Mayor Steve, Dr Wheeler, BHM Organizer Frank Waters; Young Poets, more. Lite Brunch and Fellowship; sharing of the BHM 25 Catalogue and Announcements.

**Saturday, February 15**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sojourner Truth Walk** (City Hall “First Step To Freedom” is an added stop for ’25)  
Walk starts from Port Ewen to the UC Courthouse. Re-live the life highlights of legendary abolitionist Sojourner Truth as we acknowledge parts of her life including her escape route to freedom. This walk will include brief stops along the way including the Port Ewen and City Hall Sojourner Truth Statues (Trina will speak briefly at both). Free bus will be available at Kingston Plaza for pick-up & drop off. The bus will take individuals to the starting point in Port Ewen. For disabled and seniors the bus will be available for you to ride back. The walk ends with a finale and programming and food at the Old Dutch Church.

**March 2025 - Women’s History Month/First Step to Freedom Programming**

- **Date/Time TBA – Weaving/Knitting/Quilting Demos** - Council Chambers.
- **Date/Time TBA - Workshop: Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck and Ulster County Archivist Jonathan Palmer - Ulster County Archives – How to search the archives records/history/genealogy.** (Participants invited to bring tablets as this is a workshop)

#### **April 2025 First Step to Freedom Programming**

- **Date/Time TBA - Panel Discussion “Who Has the Right to Tell Who’s Story?”** Panelists (Trina Greene, **Ward has panelist recommendations??**, Dr Weldon McWilliams, more; Moderator (asking Dr. Wheeler). **Requesting suggestions for questions from the KAC.**
- **Date/Time TBA – Theater on the Road: “Grave Injustice” –** Isabella/Sojourner Truth, her attorney Romeyn, and her son Peter are ‘brought back to life’ in this theatrical re-enactment of the court case brought by Sojourner to win her son’s life back who was illegally sold south. The program will begin with a viewing of the statue and requests are being made to NYS Archives for the guarded display of the court documents.

#### **May 2025 First Step to Freedom Programming**

- **Group tours**

#### **June- August 2025**

#### **Music in the Parks Series at Various Park Locations**

#### **Dates/Times/Park TBA**

- Pablo Shine Latin Jazz Trio, Dorraine Scofield Americana Duo, Soul Purpose New Orleans Dance Band

#### **July 4, 2025**

- **City of Kingston Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and Fireworks**  
Feat: The New York Funk Alliance (Formally Gottasee Band - 8 piece Kingston-based Contemporary, Pop, Classic Rock, Funk horn band)

#### **August 2025 Date/Time TBA First Step to Freedom Programming**

- **Informal Tea and Talk with Artist Trina Greene**
- **Statue Uninstall and Sendoff**  
Drummers and Singers TBA

#### **Thursday, October 16-Sunday October 19**

- **Burning of Kingston: Theme TBA**

#### **Wednesday, December 31 6pm-7pm**

- **OLD DUTCH CHURCH**  
**City of Kingston and Old Dutch Church present Ars Choralis**  
**Theme TBA**
  - End-year peace community gathering

**<End 2025 Program Planning>**

***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 prioritizing those most in need.

**Strategy 5: Create a Public Art Policy (PAP)**

- **SURVEY - Participation is not robust. I am asking the Kingston Arts Commission for guidance and help in extending this survey to its colleagues and constituents as well via this link: <https://engagekingston.com/municipal-art-plan-policy>**

Margie Menard has been displaying a ACA Survey poster with a qr code survey during her tabling at major events.

Hard copy surveys were passed out during the Sept 28<sup>th</sup> opening reception.  
Results: 5 Submissions

Online Survey results: 47 Submissions since the First Step to Freedom event.

Hard copy surveys will be passed out during the Burning of Kingston Weekend.

Thanks again to Cicily Wilson for offering Bard Interns to tabulate EndOct when survey closes.

- **STAFF PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE – The City of Kingston Staff Public Art Committee has been established, awaiting suggestions from the KAC on goals, priorities, etc.**
- **PERMANENT PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE – LAST CALL - The Mayor awaits recommendations from the KAC on the permanent members that should be appointed to the City of Kingston Public Art Committee.**

**The Mayor and the ACA also await suggestions from the KAC on goals, priorities, next steps for the Public Art Policy Committee.**

- **Public Art Projects on the table for consideration and Public Art Committee/KAC input – CPW.**
  - **Several inquiries for new/temporary individual public art projects have been made since the passing of the Public Art Policy July 2024.**
  - **Public Art related sites needing continuous attention by the permanent Public Art Committee and KAC – 615 Broadway, Broadway and Prince, Kingstonian.**
  - **Other matters in question – the Academy Green Statues controversy and complaints about the Billy Costello statue both currently on city sites; three in major disrepair.**
- **OUTGOING LOAN REQUEST - Having had no recommendations from the KAC, the ACA and the Mayor moved the request from Old Dutch Church for the loan of the 1950's Queen of the Netherlands portrait which they would like to prominently display, forward. The COK outgoing loan agreement with Old Dutch Church will be for one year with a renewal option. The portrait was delivered to Old Dutch Church which is to provide the ACA with a copy of its insurance policy.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE KINGSTON ARTS COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

**The Mayor and I worked on the draft of the KAC Resolution 2025 and I - the draft of the 2025 Rules of Procedure. I submitted these to the KAC via email on Friday, September 20th. It is hoped that the KAC will review and make the recommendations it's sees fit in order to finalize/submit the modified resolution to the Laws and Rules Committee by endNovember for consideration**



during its December session and, if approved, on to the Common Council for final approval January 2025.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS' POST OFFICE PARK PROJECT  
ARPA ARTS-FUNDED POST OFFICE SCULPTURE UPDATE**

The Grants Management Division is checking in with Emily Flynn and team to find out about when they're restarting the park construction, which will include fabrication of the cement pedestal. They have also requested a waiver from NYS so that they don't have to pay prevailing wage for the installation. Without that, then they can hire the fabricator to install as long as the fee fits with procurement rules. Otherwise, they'll have to get quotes.

**AREA ARTS BOARD AND COMMITTEE SERVICE – Kitt Potter**

**2016- Present Member-Board of Directors** Calling All Poets, Inc, Beacon, NY.  
**2021- 2023 Vice President- Board of Directors** Rosendale Theater Collective, Rosendale, NY  
**2022- Present Member** – Slave Truth and Reconciliation Commission Advisory Committee, Ulster County.  
**2022- Present Member** – Ben Wigfall in Perpetuity Committee???, Kingston, NY  
**2023- Present Grants and Awards Panelist** – Arts MidHudson, NY  
**2023- Present Member – Program Committee** – Hudson Valley Current, Kingston NY  
**2024- Present Member** – Ulster County Arts and Culture Master Plan Advisory Committee

<END OF UPDATE>