



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

***Respectfully submitted by Kitt Potter, Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs 9.14.23
(includes reporting for 8.10.23)***

ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN (ACMP) IMPLEMENTATION PHASE II

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 II:***

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.
- I am proposing to **Host a New Radio Program – Radio Kingston** – “ACA Connects” (Spotlight on individual artists in the news, arts organizations, offerings/events; arts businesses; Creative Aging Segments; TBD)

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 **2023 city-wide events and festivals calendar**: events the city hosts; events the city funds; events for which CoK permits are required.
- ***Recognize people's and organizations' unique identities and the work they do.***

On August 9, the Mayor, the Kingston Arts Commission and the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs hosted the US Department of the State's International Visitor Leadership Program “Promoting Social Change Through the Arts”, arranged by the Mississippi Consortium for the Arts and Organization by Kingston Arts Commissioner Dina Suggs, Educational and Cultural Director – US Department of the State. 24 art leaders from around the world were present.

Professional objectives outlined for the project by the Department of the State included:

- Examine the role of arts education in encouraging young people to be responsible and engaged members of society;
- Explore the geographic, ethnic, and religious diversity of the U.S. population and how innovative arts programming can be instrumental in encouraging community sustainability, managing conflicts, developing youth leadership and conflict resolution

skills, addressing personal and community healing, and promoting cross-cultural understanding;
 Illustrate the role of performing arts as they relate to constitutionally guaranteed free speech and expression, and demonstrate their power and potential to shape contemporary values and build civil society; and
 Explore the roots of distinctly American genres of music, art, and theater and their role in creating and reflecting a dynamic, diverse social system.

MORNING PROGRAM

Kingston Point Beach with Jaguar Mary X

City Hall Tour of the Kingston Revealed and Art Out Loud Exhibitions

Council Chambers ○ Welcome – Mayor Steve Noble ○ Greetings – Kingston Arts Commission Chair Marielena Ferrer-Harrington ○ Introduction on International Visitors - Victoria Berrios, Education Manager and

Communications Coordinator – Reher Center **Angola**

Ms. Imanni da Silva Loureiro

Founder and General Coordinator, I am Trans Movement

Australia Mr. Jay Masih

CEO & Artistic Director, Encounter Theatre

Belarus Ms. Tatsiana Shteinbuk

Event & Project Manager, Individual Entrepreneur

Colombia Mr. Fabio Andres Arboleda Mendoza

Founder and Director – NEGRO FEST

Egypt Ms. Siza Mohamed Abdelhakam Zayed

Marketing Director, RAW Entertainment

Eritrea Mr. Afewerki Zemicheal Fissehaye

Art and Design Teacher, Genfelom Educational Enterprise

France Mr. Mossi Traore

Fashion Designer, Zhen & Mossi

Germany Ms. Joana Julia Friederike Tischkau

Choreographer, Independent

Ghana Mr. Nathaniel Nii Armah Attah

Editor Joy Sports – Events and Thought Leadership, Multimedia Group

India Mr. Sudarsan Pattnaik

Sand Artist, Sand Art India

Lithuania Mr. Darius Vaicekauskas

Head, Lithuanian Photographer's Association Klaipeda Department

Mexico Mr. Roberto Eliud Nava Gonzalez

Director, Adolfo Prieto School of Art of the Council for Culture and the Arts of Nuevo Leon (CONARTE)

Nepal Mr. Kailash Kumar Shrestha

Founder, Artudio

Netherlands Ms. Stephanie Archangel

Curator History Department, Rijksmuseum

Nigeria Dr. Josephine Ebiuwa Abbe

Associate Professor, University of Benin

Republic of Korea Mr. Heezy Yang

Freelance Artist

Republic of Turkiye Ms. Ezgi Yalinalp

Co-founder and Manager, Puruli Culture&Art

Slovenia Mr. Sandi Abram
 Director of Ljubljana Street Art Festival, Institute for Urban Questions
Tanzania, United Republic of Ms. Safina Said Kimbokota
 Artist in Residence, College of Humanities, University of Dar Es Salaam
Trinidad and Tobago Ms. Anika Natasha Plowden
 Director, Chosen Hands Foundation
Tunisia Ms. Hazar Hichri
 Program and Operational Manager, Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Uganda Mr. Philip Balimunsi
 Curator / Manager, Uganda National Cultural Center

- **Panelists;** Lara Giordano, - D.R.A.W; Ward Mintz – Kingston Arts Commission
 Co-Founder; Board Member – Dorsky Museum and Reher Center; Coby
 Foundation; TransArt Founder/CEO – Greer Smith; City of Kingston Arts Clergy –
 Min. Rob Sweeney – Old Dutch Church ○

Panel Discussion

1. What thoughts would you offer to artists and art administrators working in environments where the government and non-profit sectors do not explicitly support arts, especially those that challenge certain societal norms?
2. In 2020, UNESCO consultant Freemuse’s research identified nationalist, populist politics as already leading to increased restrictions on artistic expressions, with a marked deterioration in countries where this right has traditionally been protected. Panelists, please comment on the impact of this global trend on artists and broader society; and strategies to combat fear of diversity of expressions, opinions, and creativity.
3. How can the arts promote cross-cultural understanding and address personal and community healing both for youth as well as adults?

- **Local Leaders**

Co-Host - U.S. State Department

Dina Suggs, Director of Educational and Cultural Affairs – US State Department/Kingston Arts Commissioner

Co-Host - City of Kingston

Mayor Steve Noble and Kitt Potter, Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs

Andrea Shaut, Common Council President

Barbara Graves-Poller, Corporation Counsel

Kingston Arts Commissioners

Marielena Ferrer Harrington, Chair – Kingston Arts Commission/Executive Director – Humanamente

Ward Mintz, Vice Chair – Kingston Arts Commission/Executive Director – Coby Foundation

DJ Brumfield, Secretary – Kingston Arts Commission/Nonprofit Consultant

Drew Andrews, Executive Director – Center for Creative Education

Isabel Cotarelo, Kingston Arts Commissioner/Artist

Lisa Kelley, Kingston Arts Commissioner/Executive Director – Kingston Midtown Arts District

Julio Nazario – Kingston Arts Commissioner/Owner – West Strand Gallery/ Latino Arts Alliance of Kingston/Photographer.

Cicily Wilson – Kingston Arts Commissioner/Assistant Dean for Civic Engagement – Bard College

Ruth Ann Devitt Frank, Grants Director/Kingston Arts Commission Co-Founder

Natalie Kikel – Grants Manager
Bill Reynolds, American Rescue Plan Program Manager, City of Kingston
Summer Smith, Director of Communications and Community Engagement

Assemblywoman - Sarahana Shresta

State University of New York

SUNY New Paltz

Dr. Darrell Wheeler, President – SUNY New Paltz

Anthony Dandridge, African American Studies Professor

SUNY Ulster

Dr. Alison Buckley, President

Ulster County

Jen Metzger – County Executive

Nina Postupack – Ulster County Clerk

Lisa Berger, Director – Ulster County Tourism

Taylor Bruck, Deputy Clerk – Ulster County

Sheriff Juan Figueroa

Esi Lewis – Chief Diversity Officer

Victoria Berrios, Education Manager & Development and Communications Coordinator
– Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History

Jimmy Buff, Executive Director – Radio Kingston

Erica Brown, Community Engagement Coordinator – Radio Kingston

Maggie Inge, Development Director – TRANSART/President – Kingston Midtown Arts
District/Co-Founder – Kingston Arts Commission **Michael**

Torres, Photographer

AFTERNOON TOUR

[Center For Creative Education](#)

[Mathewis Persen House Museum](#)

[TRANSART African Antiquities Exhibition](#)

[Rough Draft Books](#)

[Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History](#)

EVENING PROGRAM

Meet and Greet Ulster Savings Bank Conference Center

Performances and presentations by: **Gold Hope Duo** feat. Lara Hope, 2020 Kingston Arts Commission Distinguished Artist Awardee, and Matt Goldpaugh; **Peter Tomlinson** – solo piano; **Jaquar Mary X** – 2022 Kingston Arts Commission Distinguished Artist Awardee; Alessandra; African Drum Escort – Drew Andrews, Chukie Ace, Fre AtLast, Ubaka Hill, Pablo Shine

Kingston Art Leaders and Artists in Attendance

- Alessandra, Singer/Actress/Model
- Drew Andrews, Executive Director – Center for Creative Education/Choreographer
- Aru Apaza aka DJ Nena Morena
- Chukie Agbogun, CEO – One Strike
- Fre AtLast, Musician/President – Rosendale Theatre
- Pamela Blum, Artist/Art Educator
- Shaniqua Bowden, Director of Cultural Engagement and Sustainable Living - Kingston Land Trust
- Zachary Bowman, Manager of Education and Visitor Experience - Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz
- Erica Brown, Community Engagement Coordinator – Radio Kingston

- Bill Calderara, President and CEO – Ulster Savings Bank
- Rev. Evelyn Clarke, Associate Pastor – New Progressive Baptist Church/Town Council – Port Ewen/Vocalist/Actress
- Rev. G. Modele Clarke, Pastor – New Progressive Baptist Church/Historian/Author
- Congressman Pat Ryan
- Anna Conlan, Neil C. Trager Director - Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art
- Matt Dilling, Creative Director - Lite Brite Neon Studio
- Amy Fenton, Visual Artist
- Connie Harkin, Vice President, Marketing – Ulster Savings Bank
- Julie Hedrick, Visual Artist/Poet/2018 Distinguished Artist Awardee
- Janet Hicks, Artist Rights Society of America
- Lara Hope, Music Director – O+/Musician/2020 Distinguished Artist Awardee
- Debra Hymes, Visual Artist
- Siken Khadija, Photographer
- Josh Krumb, Visual Artist
- A. Floyd Lattin, Treasurer-SUNY Ulster Foundation Board
- Jackie Lieske, Interim Executive Director – Reher Center
- Carmen Lizardo, Artist/Author/Faculty – SUNY New Paltz
- Barry Mayo, Photographer/Board Member – Dorsky Museum of Art and Reher Center
- Kevin O’Connor, Executive Director – RUPCO
- Patti Ricci, Executive Assistant – Ulster Savings Bank
- Casey Robertson, Public Engagement Manager, Center for Curatorial Studies – Bard College
- Pablo Shine, Visual Artist/Musician
- Eva Tenuto – TMI
- Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Executive Director – Arts MidHudson
- Daniel López Venture, Mixed Media Artist
- Gloria Waslyn, Founder – Parrots for Peace/Photographer
- Frank Waters, Executive Director – My Kingston Kids
- Peter Wetzler – Musician/Composer/Visual Artist/2018 Distinguished Artist Awardee

Program Organizers: Dina Suggs, Senior Program Specialist of Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau – US State Department/Kingston Arts Commissioner; Kitt Potter, Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs – City of Kingston, Esi Lewis – Chief Diversity Officer – Ulster County, Lisa Berger – Director – Ulster County Tourism, Taylor Bruck, Deputy Clerk – Ulster County/City of Kingston Historian.

Special Thanks to Our Program Sponsors and Supporters: U. S. State Department, City of Kingston, City of Kingston Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Kingston Arts Commission, Ulster Savings Bank, Ulster County Tourism, Ulster County Clerk’s Office, Radio Kingston, Photographer Gloria Waslyn, and Michael A. Torres Photography

Catering by Tildas: Any leftover fare was donated to People’s Place and Beyond the 4 Walls.

Photos by Michael Torres: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1olyUz1fugvpSDuHkecqnl8roNvnPhgte> Panel Discussion Video: <https://vimeo.com/859106893/02f1daa29b?share=copy>

Strategy 4: City Hall Exhibition

The Art Out Loud Youth Exhibition will be on exhibit in City Hall’s Ground Floor Gallery until Sept 21st. City Hall’s summer hours are 9am-4pm Monday through Friday. The Kingston Revealed Exhibition remains in the Director

of Arts and Cultural Affairs Office through September 2023. Visitors can view by appointment Monday through Friday. The decision was made by the Exhibition Committee Chair Isabel Cotarelo and Kitt Potter to cancel plans for a fall exhibition as Isabel will be out of the country late summer/early fall and Kitt and the KAC will be working with the Public Art Policy Consultant.

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:

BURNING OF KINGSTON '23

I have included programming focused on Indigenous Loyalists, Slavery, and Chamber Music of the Revolutionary War period into this year's BOK programming. The Director for the Hudson River Valley Institute has invited us to submit a proposal for next year's New York State History Conference about the "new and improved Burning" stating the most recent Burning "features an impressive array of perspectives of local history" that he thinks would benefit historians around the state to hear about. The State Historian Devin Lander is also on board and impressed with our new lineup. www.burningofkingston.com

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](#), [the City of Kingston Arts, Culture, and Heritage Series](#) **2023 FINAL: Note – Prospective sponsor has bowed out.** ○ Saturday, April 8, 2023 at Old Dutch Church

3pm-4pm Performance: David Gonzalez, storyteller and Frederick Chiu, pianist – symphonic fairy tales for children – “Peter and the Wolf” by Sergei Prokofiev, and Camille SaintSaëns’ “Carnival of the Animals”.

Weather: 55 degrees and sunny; Attendance: @175 children and families; Response: Raves

○ Saturday, May 27th, 2023, at Academy Green

7-830pm Performance: Maxwell Kofi Donker – Sankofa Drummers and Dancers

830pm Movie: *Black Panther*

Weather: 75 degrees and sunny; Attendance: @30 children and families; Response: Raves. Decision has been made to discontinue these events during Memorial Day weekend due to low turnout.

○ Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10 (June 11 Rain Date) at UPAC and TR Gallo Park

Triple Header feat.

6.9 730pm Free Film: Pre screening talk by author/storyteller David Gonzalez; Film- West Side Story (2021) Attendance: @75 children and families; In Person Audience Response: Raves

530pm-7pm Concert: Alessandra Trio

7pm-830pm Concert: Pablo Shine Trio;

- Live Performance Art by Nancy Ostrovsky, the resulting works of which will be donated to Center for Creative Education

830pm Movie: *Selena* feat J Lo

Weather: 75 degrees and sunny; Attendance: @225 children and families; Response: Raves.

- **Friday, July 21 at TR Gallo**
6-830pm Concert: Bush Brothers
Postponed due to weather.
- **Friday, July 28 6pm-10pm at Kingston Point Park**
6pm - Late Night Kayaking Paddle
830pm Movie: JAWS
Attendance: 35
- **Saturday, August 4 at Old Dutch Church**
7-830pm Concert: Juma Sultan Aboriginal Society
Attendance: @200. Reviews: Standing Ovation.
- **Saturday, August 19th - Forsyth Park**
830pm Movie: Cinderella
Movie was rescheduled due to weather to Aug 26th. Only 10 in attendance. Reschedule of concert is pending.
- **UP NEXT! October 13 at Hodge Center**
Rescheduled Concert 3-430pm: Maxmillian
Metezin Duet
- **October 28 at TR Gallo**
1-230pm Concert: Bush Brothers

JUNETEENTH 2023 – The Mayor declared Juneteenth an official holiday in 2022. The city is an official partner and sponsor for Harambee Kingston NY’s annual Juneteenth celebration. I assisted Harambee in the preparation of the CoK ARPA Community Events Grant which was awarded @ \$5000, and I organized the presenters and performers for the event. The event was previously scheduled for June 19 but was postponed due to weather. The event took place on Sunday, 7.9.23 at the Andy Murphy Center. **Weather: 85 degrees, humid and stormy; Attendance: @60 children and families; Response: Raves.**

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)

RFP #23-21 – Consulting Services for a Public Art Policy and Document was released July 17 and proposals were due August 21. The PAP Committee comprises Ward Mintz, DJ Brumfield, Isabel Cotarelo, Maggie Inge, Richard Frumess, The PAP Selection/Evaluation Committee comprised all of the above plus Kyla DeDea for Sue Cahill, Taylor Bruck, Anna Conlan, Isabel Nazario.

Out of the five firms submitting, McGregor Consulting was the top recommendation sent to the Mayor by the Selection/Evaluation Committee with a final nod from the Kingston Arts Commission. The Mayor approved McGregor who is scheduled to begin the work the week of October 10, 2023: 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.

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

On June 21st, 2023 at City Hall, Kingston, NY, our community came together in a harmonious celebration, honoring the Summer Solstice with a beautiful Tree of Peace Planting ceremony. Hosted by Mayor Noble and myself, this event symbolized the power of unity as people from all backgrounds embraced peace and compassion. It was an extraordinary day, where our community gathered like never before, celebrating our first-ever Peace Tree Planting Summer Solstice Ceremony on City Hall grounds. This meaningful ceremony was made even more special in partnership with incredible local leaders – Gloria Waslyn – Parrots for Peace, Ulster County Chief Diversity Officers Esi Lewis, City of Kingston Historian Taylor Bruck, SUNY New Paltz Black Studies Professor Anthony Dandridge, Rosendale Theatre President Fre AtLast, Center for Creative Education Executive Director/Kingston Arts Commissioner Drew Andrews; Art Educator/Kingston Arts Commissioner Isabel Cotarelo, more. We embraced leaders from Indigenous tribes and communities: Chief Vincent Mann (Big Eagle Spirit) - Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough Munsee Lunaape Nation; Kawaisente (Melting Icicle) - Bear Clan Chief from the Kahnawake Mohawk (Kanien'kehá:ka) Reserve; Rev. Nick Miles (Tecumseh Red Cloud) - co-founder of ANA: Association of Native Americans of the Hudson Valley and lead drummer of the Cloud Breakers Drum; Grandfather Paul Tobin (Coyote Song) - spokesperson for the Caretakers Society and Founder of the Two Row Wampum Unity Pipe Carriers Circle; turtle 2 turtle Chief Operations Officer Tony Moon Hawk Langhorn, and Neetopk Keetopk (My Friends - Your Friends} - an aligned group of native and non-native peoples. Together, we enjoyed a beautiful ceremony of singing, dancing, drumming, food-sharing, heartfelt words of condolences and thanksgiving, planting and watering of the Tree of Peace, and creating memories that will forever resonate.

“If any nation outside of the original Five Nations wishes to uphold the natural laws of The Great Law of Peace, then they may retrace their roots to the Tree, and they will live in harmony with the Earth.” Kawaisente, Bear Clan Chief from the Kahnawake Mohawk (Kanien'kehá:ka) Reserve

Extra special thanks to event co-coordinator Jeanne Edwards, Radio Kingston, Sue Cahill – City Planner, and HUDSY for all their support.

HUDSY Video:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CvIFrF8A94Q/?fbclid=IwARo-pVi8HuJQwevt81bI7amTgRySpc69ag-KsLhbmOzuxX3zrX5CZrNSk>

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