

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

*Respectfully submitted to the Kingston Arts Commission by Marion Kitt Potter 7.14.22*

**ARPA FUNDING RECAP/UPDATE FROM GRANTS MANAGEMENT** –The City continues to advertise to hire an ARPA manager, who will join the Grants Management staff. We'll hopefully have someone in place late summer. Please share the job announcement: [https://kingston-ny.gov/filestorage/8399/8469/8539/ERP\\_Project\\_Manager.pdf](https://kingston-ny.gov/filestorage/8399/8469/8539/ERP_Project_Manager.pdf)

We're also developing checklists to help us ensure we're meeting federal procurement and contracting requirements, which are very stringent. John Tuey doesn't want to begin spending funds until we're certain all of our ducks are in a row. He anticipates heavy audit scrutiny with the funds. So programs will begin to roll once the manager is here and the checklists are ready.

**ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PHASE I**

*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:*

**As encouraged by W. Mintz and Peter C., I'll be meeting with my counterparts as I travel to Asheville, NC, Washington, DC, and St. Petersburg, Fl this fall. Asking Commissioners to please make like NYC introductions as well.**

**1. Priorities A and B: Creative Economy and Connectivity and Collaboration**

- a) *Identify funding opportunities supporting individuals and organizations; guide funding pitches; review grant applications upon request:* **a) Beginning in the fall, the AACA Department will collaborate with Bard College's Associate Vice President – Office of Institutional Support and offer seminars in grant writing and grants management. These webinars will coincide with RFPs for major arts grant opportunities due Fall, Winter, and Spring as announced.**
- b) *Forge/advise collaborations among individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout the city...far too many to mention all:*
  - **While the HoloCenter continues to seek permanent space, upon my connecting them with My Kingston Kids, The Center for Creative Education, RUPCO, and more, ED Linda Law wrote and received a grant from NYSCA and has launched free Immersive Technology workshops here in the city. Participants are co-creating a virtual community in the Metaverse using Mozilla Hubs. Through this series, participants will create a "Virtual Kingston" platform that will tell the stories of the many communities that make up Kingston. The resulting works will be on display during Art Walk Kingston 22**
  - **I'm supporting the new Executive Director of the Center for Photography Woodstock in Kingston, the Woodstock Film Festival, the Rezny Gallery and Old Dutch Church for the upcoming civil rights photographer Dr. Ernest Withers' photography exhibition/documentary – July 23 (opening reception August 27)- October 23; Film screenings at Woodstock film Festival and Old Dutch Church; related programming TBA.**
  - **I'm supporting/advising programming related to General Harriet Tubman "Journey to Freedom" statue – September-December 22**

**with/for the Kingston Library, Old Dutch Church, The Center for Creative Education; approaching the Franklin AME Zion church; others upon request.**

- c) City of Kingston Website Development:** As the first step towards A/2 – *Develop the city-wide Arts Community Database, and B/2 – Establish the community-wide calendar*, and to ensure that the arts and culture sector continues to be supported by the city as the primary economic driver, **the Mayor has tasked me with the redesign the City of Kingston’s Website. I am currently researching like sites and approaches. The RFP will go out this fall.**
- d) City Hall Exhibition – Kingston Revealed Exhibition with Alderwoman Worthington:**  
**Submissions are not robust. It’s clear the deadline for submissions and date for the opening reception must be extended. Much help is needed with regard to outreach.**
  - i.** Priority D/5: Catalog all existing works of art currently displayed in City Hall; commission artists to create permanent works of art for City Hall. **Pending**

**C 3: DEIA – Prioritize Language Justice and communication needs within the cultural sector**

- a) Upon approval of budget transfer request, plan is to **hire a translation service to translate the Arts and Cultural Master Plan Summary into Spanish; print and make copies available** and;
- b) Hire an ASL interpreter for future events spearheaded by my division - TBD

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

The Departments of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Parks and Recreation, and Radio Kingston have launched **Music and Movies in the Parks 2022**. The series is free and open to the public:

- a) Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> - Academy Green Jazz: Michael Bisio, Juma Sultan, Joe McPhee, Fred Lonberg-holm (7:00pm) /Movie: “Soul” (8:30pm)
  - **For the concert there was an estimated 50 in attendance. For the crowd turnover for the movie, an additional 45. Total attendance for July 9<sup>th</sup> - @ 95. Feedback from the audience was very favorable. Weather: Clear/75 degrees.**
- Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup> - TR Gallo Folk/Country Rock: Kurt Henry and Dog Knows (7:00pm)
- Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> - TR Gallo Movie: History of the Rondout Then & Now (8:30pm)
- Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> - Dietz Stadium Movie: Cool Runnings (8:30pm)
- Friday August 12<sup>th</sup> - Hutton Park Latin: Alessandra (7:00pm) /Movie: Encanto (8:30pm)
- Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> - TR Gallo NY Funk Alliance (7:00pm)
- Saturday August 26th: RAIN DATE*
- b) Supporting/Helping to promote free arts and culture events throughout the city (Pinkster, MKK, CCE, more)

**D1 – POLICY AND FUNDING**

- Regarding #1 – I submitted a budget transfer request to the Common council for \$9,404: Office Furniture; General Office Supplies; Translation Services (Master Plan and Marketing Materials); the extension of free arts and cultural programming (city hall exhibition opening reception performance; continuing 150<sup>th</sup> city of Kingston celebration programming; music in the parks.

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**ON BEHALF OF THE KINGSTON ARTS COMMISSION**

**TECHNOLOGY AND WEBSITE SWEEP**

I am respectfully requesting input from the KAC on information that should be presented via the KAC and Engage Kingston pages, and how the latter should be used to further engage the community to advance Implementation Phase I.

**OUTREACH**

I continue to schedule meetings with artists, arts, cultural, education, city and county leaders as well as elected officials to get feedback/input on the Master Plan's Action Plan Detail section, seek ways to improve upon/build collaborations and alliances, and especially to support new and existing creative initiatives and causes.