

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

Respectfully submitted to the Kingston Arts Commission by Marion Kitt Potter 8.11.22

ARPA FUNDING RECAP/UPDATE FROM GRANTS MANAGEMENT –The new ARPA manager will be starting @ mid-September. Programs will begin to roll out 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:

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) the AACA Department will collaborate with Bard College's Associate Vice President – Office of Institutional Support and her team, the Kingston Library, and the Hudson Valley Nonprofit Consultants Group to offer 3 FREE seminars this fall for the city of Kingston individuals and non-profit creatives – the exact dates and times TBD: 1) September – Grant Writing the Basics; 2) October – Grants Management; 3) Finance Management and Preparing for Audits; and 4) February – NEA Grant Proposal Reviews by appointment, 1 hour each, at no charge. Announcements will go out in mid-September.

- b) *Forge/advise collaborations among individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout the city...far too many to mention all:*
 - The first (not to be the last) Maverick Concert in Kingston takes place on Saturday, August 13 at the Center for Creative Education at 4pm feat. virtuoso Terrence Wilson on piano, free and open to the public.
 - The Mayor will issue a proclamation declaring October 12, 2022 “Dr. Earnest Withers Day”. The City of Kingston Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, in partnership with Old Dutch Church, the Center for Photography Woodstock, the Woodstock Film Festival, and Radio Kingston will begin the festivities with a special tour of the Withers exhibition at the Rezny Gallery at 630pm. At 730pm, the Women's Drum Song Orchestra will premiere at Old Dutch Church followed by the Mayor, and a free screening of “Earnest Withers – The Picture Taker.”
 - September 10 is the opening of the Ben Wigfall exhibition at the Dorsky Museum - SUNY New Paltz. I am on the committee assisting with coordinating the event, promotions and outreach and overall planning. Special thanks to our Commissioner Ward Mintz and past Commissioner Richard Frumess for making this dream a reality.
 - As a continuum of the City of Kingston's 150th anniversary, and as a part of Art Walk '22, Michael Bisio, bassist, and Nancy Ostrovsky (live performance artist), will be doing a JazzArt performance at TR Gallo Park from 2-5 on September 17 along the “Kingston Revealed” exhibition theme. The resulting artwork will be on display during the “Kingston Revealed” exhibition.

- 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 is convening the first task force meeting next week for the redesign of the City of Kingston's website. The RFP will go out this fall. The consultant will be appointed in December and begin the work in January '23.

- d) *City Hall Exhibition – Kingston Revealed Exhibition with Alderwoman Worthington:* Submissions are improving thanks to outreach and referrals by Commission members and my 'door to door' outreach. Of particular interest are submissions by Amy Shine and IONE (portrait of the late Pauline Oliveros). I anticipate receiving more from Latin, African American and Native American artists in the weeks to come. September is the new 1st deadline. October 1st the opening reception. Pablo Shine's trio will be performing; Marielena's "Broken Monarchs" will grace the front part of the gallery; a number of Doug Menezes's "Wild Place: Faces of Kingston" photographs will be on special display along with the selected artworks for the exhibition itself. Catering will be provided by Latin and soul food eateries.
- 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) As the budget transfer request was approved last week, I will hire a translation service to translate the Arts and Cultural Master Plan Summary and Action Plan Detail 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 9th - 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 9th - @ 95. Feedback from the audience was very favorable. Weather: Clear/75 degrees.
- Saturday July 30th - TR Gallo Folk/Country Rock: Kurt Henry and Dog Knows (7:00pm)
Movie: History of the Rondout Then & Now (8:30pm)
- For the concert there was an estimated 75 in attendance. For the crowd turnover for the movie, an additional 75. Total attendance for July 30th - @ 150. Feedback from the audience was very favorable. Weather: Warm/80 degrees.
- Friday August 5th - Dietz Stadium Movie: Cool Runnings (8:30pm)
- Decision was made to move forward with this event despite the heatwave. Attendance was fair.
- Friday August 12th - Hutton Park Latin: Alessandra (7:00pm) /Movie: Encanto (8:30pm)
- Saturday August 20th - TR Gallo NY Funk Alliance (7:00pm)
- Saturday August 26th:* *RAIN DATE*
- Saturday September 17th – TR Gallo JazzArt Show with Michael Bisio, bass and Nancy Ostrovsky, live performance art
- TBD: JazzTap show with Teri Roiger, vocals, Jon Menagon, bass, and Brenda Bufalino, tap dancing (percussion)
- Possibly New Years Day – Drums Around the World – feat. Ubaka Hill and the Women's Drum Song Orchestra, POOK, Amadou Diallo, Fre At Last, Ev Mann more.

Native American Relations

As a continuum of the city of Kingston 150th anniversary, I have had several meetings with Founder - Rev Nick Miles (Tecumseh Red Cloud) and Grandfather Paul Tobin (Coyote Old Song) – Leader of the Associate of Native Americans of the Hudson Valley. The Mayor and I took part in last Friday's Planting of the Tree of Peace and annual Nicoll's Peace Treaty Renewal as special guests of Paul Tobin. For the special gift exchange, the Mayor

offered a gift basket filled with local fare, I offered a cedar chest with tobacco from Wisconsin. Turtle Clan Chief Vince Mann (Big Eagle Spirit) of the Remapough Lunaape Nation gifted the Mayor and me with very precious pipes and an arrow handmade by Paul Tobin. I participated in the apple tree planting just outside of the Visitor Center where two Native women were shot and killed by a colonizer for killing apples. Members of ANA, the Maritime Museum, and the City will share in the caring of the tree.

ANA members and I then attended the August 9th reburial ceremony at the Pine Street African Burial Ground and we presented Tyrone Wilson and members of his board with Paul Tobin's handmade pipes and a medicine wheel during this very emotional ceremony.

Rev. Miles, Paul Tobin, and I will be meeting with Mayor Noble (whose great-grandfather was a member of the Mohawk Nation) to establish formal relations with the city of Kingston which is groundbreaking. The Arts and Cultural Affairs Department in partnership with ANA will organize the first annual Native American Festival (named TBA) @ the first week of October '23.

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.