

CITY OF KINGSTON
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR'S REPORT 8.11 and 9.8.22 Combined
Respectfully submitted to the Kingston Arts Commission by Marion Kitt Potter

ARPA PROJECT UPDATE –Former City of Kingston Alderman Bill Reynolds has been appointed by Mayor Noble to serve as the City’s Project Manager for our federal American Rescue Plan-funded project. Commencing Sept. 12, Bill will oversee how the city spends its \$17.3 million in federal funding. He has 33 years of professional experience managing public affairs and communications for the New York state government: Media Services Director for the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs; Communications Director for the NYS Office of the Inspector General; Communications Director for the NYS Department of Transportation.

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 and the CoK office of Grants Management will collaborate with Bard College’s Associate Vice President – Office of Institutional Support and her team at the Kingston Library and offer 3 FREE seminars this fall for the city of Kingston individual and non-profit creatives: **1) October 18th and 25th 5:30-7pm both days – Grant Writing the Basics led by Karen Unger, Bard College - Associate Vice President for Institutional Support, Kitt Potter, and Natalie Kikel – Grants Manager – City of Kingston. Location: Kingston Library. Registration Link: Coming Soon;** 2) TBD – Grants Management; 3) TBD - Finance Management and Preparing for Audits.
- 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 took place on Saturday, August 13 **at the Center for Creative Education** at 4pm. Virtuoso Terrence Wilson performed solo piano, free for children and families. A 5-year-old CCE music student sat in with Terrence to rousing applause.
- 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 convened the first task force meeting in August to discuss the redesign of the City of Kingston’s website. The IT team has contacted our existing web providers requesting that they upgrade the current site. This may alleviate the need to start anew.
- d) **City Hall Exhibition - Continuum of the City Of Kingston’s 150th Anniversary Celebration -Kingston Revealed Exhibition:** By the September 1st deadline there were 29 entries. The panel is in the process of selecting the artworks that will be exhibited. Post Cards will be ready and distributed by September 16th along with an e-flyer and Facebook event invite page. Selected artists will be notified by September 14th and must deliver their artworks, wired and ready to hang by COB on September 19. Marielena, Julio and Isabel Nazario will lead the install and D.R.A.W’s Puggsters will assist - 10am September 24th. The press release will go out

September 21st. **October 1st is the opening reception at City Hall from 3pm-5pm. Pablo Shine's Latin trio and storyteller/singer Matoaka Little Eagle will be performing; DRAW's Puggsters will assist with hospitality. Special thanks to Mayor Noble, Majority Leader Worthington, Commissioners Marielena Ferrer-Harrington, Ward Mintz, Julio Nazario for co-leading this special project with me.**

- 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 in August, I hired a translation service to translate the Arts and Cultural Master Plan Summary and action plan into Spanish. Printed copies will be made available TBD;
- 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** together hosted a very successful summer series of **Music and Movies in the Parks 2022**. The series was free and open to the public:

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: Blauweiss Media's 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)**

- This was by far – the most successful event of the season with @ 100 in attendance for the concert and @ 150 in attendance for the movie. Feedback from the audience was very favorable. Weather: Warm/90 degrees

Saturday August 20th - TR Gallo **NY Funk Alliance (7:00pm)**

- This band delivered a very high-quality performance and played the 90 minutes straight through. Total estimated attendance: @125 (not counting the boaters and walkers who stopped by). Weather: Warm/85 degrees.

Special thanks to the **Radio Kingston Tech team** who provided professional sound and tenting for the concerts this summer. It would have cost @ \$300 per concert if we had to hire outside sound technicians. We hope this collaboration will continue for years to come as Radio Kingston has state-of-the-art technology and a very professional and skilled team of experts, unmatched in the region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 10 5-7pm 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 community outreach and overall planning. Special thanks to our Commissioner Ward Mintz and past Commissioner Richard Frumess for making this dream a reality. Related

programming by D.R.A.W.; the Kingston Library; and Harambee will take place during the exhibition which ends December 31.

- 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 deliver a **JazzArt performance at TR Gallo Park from 2-5 on September 17 along the "Kingston Revealed" exhibition theme and as the first-ever feature of this type during Art Walk '22.** The resulting artwork will be **on display during the "Kingston Revealed" exhibition.**
- **New Year's Eve at Old Dutch Church – for the finale of the City of Kingston's year-long 150th Anniversary celebration, the Mayor and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Department will host/sponsor Ars Choralis at 7pm in a musical program themed for Langston Hughes' "Let America Be America Again".** Details to follow.
- **Radio Kingston, The Clearwater, in partnership with the City of Kingston are in talks about a festival for '23.**

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 month's Planting of the Tree of Peace and annual Nicoll's Peace Treaty Renewal as special guests of Elder 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 Elder 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 picking 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 together we presented Tyrone Wilson and members of his board with Elder Tobin's handmade pipes and a dream catcher 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) on September 12th for further talks on ANA/CoK relations which is groundbreaking. The Arts and Cultural Affairs Department in partnership with ANA will organize the first annual Native American mini-Festival (named TBA) as part of the 2023 Music in the Parks series with the goal to advance the event to a major festival in future years.

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.