

KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL

*ANNUAL
REPORT*

**2025
-2026**

KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL about us



Mayor's Arts Awards 2025. Photo by Liz Cooper.

Vision

We envision a Kingston where:

- The arts are understood to be an essential part of our community's health and vitality;
- People of all ages, backgrounds and abilities experience, value and see themselves reflected in the arts;
- All those who wish to participate in the arts have the resources and opportunities to do so;
- Artists and arts workers are empowered to build sustainable careers; and
- Our arts sector and its artists, arts workers and arts organizations are thriving and recognized locally and nationally for their efforts, talents and innovation.

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is the region's primary resource for arts information and support. Through communications, programming, advocacy, and funding administration, the KAC promotes the creation, development, and appreciation of the arts in Kingston. The KAC supports artistic growth and engagement for arts organizations and artists at all levels of their careers. The KAC also administers key funding programs, the City of Kingston Arts Fund and the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development.

Mission

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) provides strategic leadership and services for the arts — as funder, leader, advocate, resource, and facilitator of opportunities — in Kingston and the surrounding area.

Who We Serve

The Kingston Arts Council serves artists, arts workers, and arts organizations in Kingston and the surrounding region. We serve all artistic disciplines as well as all levels of participation, including amateur, emerging, and professional artists and organizations. We support all those in the arts who strive to grow creatively and professionally, and to contribute to a thriving creative industry.

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A MESSAGE FROM

the executive director & chair of the board of directors



**NICOLE
DANIELS**
Executive Director

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is pleased to share our Annual Report for the 2025-2026 fiscal year (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026). This report offers a review of our grant programs, services, and activities for the year. Program highlights and statistics serve to illuminate the impact of the KAC on the broader Katarokwi/Kingston community.

The Kingston Arts Council's 2025-2026 fiscal year saw continued efforts to strengthen our core services, build resiliency, and enhance our ties with local industry and community.

As part of our efforts to enhance ties within Kingston's arts sector, we introduced the new KAC Membership Program in 2025, offering critical support for local artists including: access to health and dental benefits, developing a KAC Member Directory, introducing paid exhibition opportunities through the new Pocket Gallery program, launching a Members Newsletter, in addition to exclusive discounts.

2025-2026 also saw the conclusion of the **City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF) Review** led by the City of Kingston and conducted by consultants Saffy, with support from KAC. The CKAF Review Report and CKAF 2025 Transition Plan were endorsed by City Council in May 2025, and the new CKAF Framework was approved in November 2025. We have since launched four grant streams under the new CKAF Framework: Operating Grants, Festival Grants Project Grants, and Creation & Development Grants.

Our forthcoming **2026-3030 Strategic Plan**, developed through diligent efforts from Board and Staff members past and present, seeks to ensure KAC remains responsive to the needs of our local arts industry. We will continue to work collectively towards an adaptable, responsive, and thriving arts sector.

We are grateful to all KAC team members, including Board members, staff, and volunteers who supported the organization in 2025-2026, and to our key funders and partners: the **City of Kingston, Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, Ontario Arts Council, Play! Charitable Gaming Association, and our donors**. We look forward to continuing to work together to foster resiliency in a thriving and dynamic arts sector.



**CAROLINE
HOGAN**
Chair of the Board of
Directors

GRANTS

The Kingston Arts Council administers two key funding programs: the City of Kingston Arts Fund and the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development.

THE CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND

THE CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND (CKAF) provides grants to local arts organizations, collectives, and individual artists to foster creativity at all levels and enrich how Kingston residents experience and engage with the arts. It is administered by KAC and applications are assessed by a jury of peers from the Kingston arts sector.

There are two types of funding that are made available through **CKAF: Operating Grants (70%)** and **Project Grants (30%)**.

OPERATING GRANTS

Operating Grants provide a crucial foundation for nonprofit arts organizations, increasing administrative capacities and professional and artistic development opportunities.



Photo by Josh Lyon, courtesy of Skeleton Park Arts Festival

PROJECT GRANTS

Project Grants fund the creation and presentation of artistic projects and connect diverse audiences with art activities across the city.

CKAF INVESTMENT 2007 – 2025

\$10.4M Total Awarded

637 Total Grants Awarded

\$15.3M Total Requested

327 Project Grants Awarded

1,023 Total # of Applications

195 Operating Grants Awarded

179% Average% of funds requested relative to amount available

CKAF REVIEW, TRANSITION PLAN, AND FRAMEWORK

THE CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND REVIEW

THE CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND (CKAF) was established in 2007, and provided over \$10.4 million to arts organizations, collectives, and artists through operating and project grants between 2007-2025. To ensure the CKAF continues to best support Kingston arts organizations, artists, and the broader public, the City initiated a review of the program in 2024, enlisting the support of consulting firm **Saffy** to lead the CKAF Review. The CKAF Review concluded with the endorsement of the final [CKAF Review Report and Recommendations](#) by City Council on 6 May 2025. Recommendations from the CKAF Review Report included were developed under five pillars: *Restructure and Realign*; *Administrative Efficiency*; *Inclusivity and Access*; *Education and Outreach*; and *Municipal Strategic Alignment*.

CKAF 2025 TRANSITION PLAN

The **CKAF 2025 Transition Plan** was presented and approved alongside the [CKAF Review Report](#) (Exhibit C), which outlined a plan to distribute funding while the new CKAF Framework, program structures, and administrative processes were built. The Transition Plan introduced a streamlined 2025 Project Grant program, with a low-barrier application process for grants of up to \$10,000, and priority given to applicants who did not receive funding in the prior 2 years. Additionally, the Transition Plan allocated Operating Grants to all existing (2024) recipients with a 2% inflationary increase, and Project Grants for four recurring festivals. Additionally, \$80,000 in one-time funding was allocated to KAC to support the implementation of the recommendations included in the CKAF Review Report in the current and upcoming fiscal year.

CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND FRAMEWORK

The new **CKAF Framework** was approved on 4 November 2025. Developed by City and KAC staff in alignment with the CKAF Review Report and Recommendations, the CKAF Framework provides guidance and structure to the City's investment of funding for organizations, festivals, collectives, and individual artists through the CKAF. The Framework introduced updated Goals and Priorities for the Fund, and outlines the revised program structure and administrative processes. Under the new CKAF Framework, there are now four grant streams: **Operating Grants**, **Festival Grants**, **Project Grants**, and **Creation & Development Grants**.

To support the execution of the new Framework, Kingston City Council voted to amend the 2026 City Budget to include a one-time increased investment to the CKAF of \$100,000. This investment enabled KAC to launch all four grant streams in 2026, and helped ensure the success of the program under the new Framework. A significant milestone in the program's history, this investment positioned KAC to lead with more accessible, forward-thinking, and supportive granting practices, to the benefit of all Kingstonians. The first two streams, Operating and Festival Grants, were launched at the end of KAC's 2025-2026 fiscal year, and to date all four streams have been launched. We are deeply grateful to the City of Kingston for their continued investment in the City of Kingston Arts Fund, and for their trust in KAC as the administrators and stewards of this critical program.

CKAF 2025 OPERATING GRANTS

AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE	\$75,000
CANTABILE CHOIRS OF KINGSTON	\$31,620
CENTRE CULTUREL FRONTENAC	\$14,229
KINGSTON CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL	\$51,000
KINGSTON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION	\$75,000
KINGSTON WRITERSFEST	\$45,710
MODERN FUEL ARTIST-RUN CENTRE	\$54,060
REELOUT ARTS PROJECT	\$24,480
SINGLE THREAD THEATRE COMPANY	\$10,200
THEATRE KINGSTON	\$38,767
UNION GALLERY	\$14,679

CKAF 2025 OPERATING GRANTS WERE APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL VIA THE CKAF 2025 TRANSITION PLAN. THERE WAS NO JURY PROCESS FOR THIS PROGRAM IN 2025.

TOTAL: \$434,745

CKAF 2025 PROJECT GRANTS

FESTIVAL OF LIVE DIGITAL ART*	SPIDERWEBSHOW PERFORMANCE	\$15,000
JUVENIS FESTIVAL*	BLUE CANOE THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS	\$15,000
GROUND UP DANCE FESTIVAL*	GROUND UP DANCE FESTIVAL	\$15,000
SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL*	SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL	\$15,000
A NEW BEGINNING	DEAF SPIRIT THEATRE	\$8,000
A RIFT IN THE VALLEY	GHY CHEUNG	\$5,245
AIRWAVE YGK MUSICIANS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM	CFRC 101.9 FM	\$7,500
BILINGUAL CAPOEIRA BATIZADO	AFRO-BRAZILIAN ARTS FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION	\$7,000
E TROCA DE CORDAS		
BOTH SIDES NOW	PEERLESS PRODUCTIONS	\$7,500
GET SKETCHY: AN URBAN SKETCH CAROUSEL	SUMERA KHAN	\$5,300
JOY!	SISTEMA KINGSTON	\$7,000
K IS FOR KINGSTON, K IS FOR KATAROKWI	JANE KIRBY	\$8,500
KINGSTON POP CHOIR	STEPH DROUIN	\$6,900
KINGSTON PRINTMAKERS COLLECTIVE	KINGSTON SCHOOL OF ART	\$7,500
OLD WINE NEW BOTTLES -	MELOS CHOIR & PERIOD INSTRUMENTS	\$7,000
EARLY MUSIC INSPIRING YOUNG MUSICIANS		
PAPER PULSE—REGENERATION	EMILY WU	\$7,500
“PASS IT ON” - PROJECT FOR ACCESSIBLE SEWING SKILLS	BREANNE JOHNSON	\$7,000
SLOW DANCE 2026	SLOW DANCE	\$4,600
THE ART OF VISITING -	LODGEPOLE ARTS ALLIANCE	\$7,000
NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PRESENTERS GATHERING		
THE COLOURS OF US:	KINGSTON HIDDEN ARTIST COLLECTIVE	\$7,000
A COMMUNITY ART PROJECT ON CONNECTION		
WORDLABS	KINGSTON LITERACY & SKILLS	\$7,500

JURY: JARENA LEE, JABRA MITWASI, HALEY SARFELD

EX-OFFICIO: NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR), SHAMARA PEART, B.C. GORRIE, DANIKA LOCHHEAD

* GRANTS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK WERE AWARDED VIA THE CKAF 2025 TRANSITION PLAN, APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON 6 MAY 2025; THESE GRANTS WERE NOT SUBJECT TO A JURY PROCESS IN 2025.

TOTAL: \$178,045

CKAF 2024 OPERATING GRANTS

AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE	\$75,000
CANTABILE CHOIRS OF KINGSTON	\$31,000
CENTRE CULTUREL FRONTENAC	\$13,950
KINGSTON CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL	\$50,000
KINGSTON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION	\$75,000
KINGSTON WRITERSFEST	\$44,814
MODERN FUEL ARTIST-RUN CENTRE	\$53,000
REELOUT ARTS PROJECT	\$24,000
SINGLE THREAD THEATRE COMPANY	\$10,000
THEATRE KINGSTON	\$38,007
UNION GALLERY	\$14,391

JURY: MELISSA EAPEN, KEMI KING, ALEX MCLEAN, NICHOLAS SENN, CHRISTIANNE WOJCIK
EX-OFFICIO: NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR), VIOLET TANG, KATHERINE DIONNE, DANIKA LOCHHEAD

TOTAL: \$429,162

CKAF 2024 PROJECT GRANTS

2024 K-TOWN SHOWDOWN DANCE BATTLE	KINGSTON SCHOOL OF DANCE	\$5,400
2025 GROUND UP DANCE FESTIVAL	MOVEMENT MARKET COLLECTIVE	\$15,000
AIRWAVE YGK	CFRC 101.9FM	\$12,000
CREATE 15	THE MESS STUDIO	\$8,240
FESTIVAL OF LIVE DIGITAL ART (FOLDA)	SPIDERWEBSHOW PERFORMANCE	\$12,000
HALF STEPS: MUSICIANS & MENTAL HEALTH	CÉLINE KLEIN	\$11,250
MANY MOONS 2025 PROGRAMMING	MANY MOONS EVENTS	\$11,250
MELOS' LIGHT IN THE DARK II	MELOS CHOIR & PERIOD INSTRUMENTS	\$7,870
PROVIDENCE:	EYE OF THE DAWN	
A SITE-SPECIFIC THEATRE PERFORMANCE	COLLECTIVE	\$11,250
SENIORS' THEATRE CLUB	THE SPIRE	\$6,150
SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL	SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL	\$13,500
TEN SEASONS OF LOVE	SISTEMA KINGSTON	\$13,396
TESTIFY	PRISON FOR WOMEN MEMORIAL COLLECTIVE	\$15,000
THE DRAGON OF WANTLEY	KINGSTON BAROQUE CONSORT	\$7,000
THE JUVENIS FESTIVAL	BLUE CANOE THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS	\$13,500
THE LOST BIRDS	THE ISABEL VOICES	\$9,870
WHITE PINE TRAVELS	NOAH SCHEINMAN	\$11,250

JURY: BETHANY GARNER, B.C. GORRIE, ZOHA KHALID, CAROLINE KWOK, MELISSA MORRIS
EX-OFFICIO: NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR), VIOLET TANG, KATHERINE DIONNE, DANIKA LOCHHEAD

TOTAL: \$183,926

2024 CKAF impact report

\$613,088

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED IN 2024

28

OPERATING + PROJECT
GRANTS ADMINISTERED



1.2K

1,241
ARTISTS PAID

1.4M

1,471,008
TOTAL AUDIENCE

971

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

989

NEW WORKS CREATED

\$2,552,050

PAID TO ARTISTS
\$4.16 FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN CKAF



152

STAFF POSITIONS
(OPERATING GRANTS)

60%

ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS
FUNDED

2K

1,953
VOLUNTEERS

66K

65,879 ESTIMATED
VOLUNTEER HOURS

45.3

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
STAFF (OPERATING GRANTS)



\$7,283,989

TOTAL REVENUE
\$11.88 FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN CKAF

Reported as of 31 August 2026. Reports are outstanding for two Project Grants.

Photo credits (top to bottom): Josh Lyon (courtesy of Skeleton Park Arts Festival), courtesy of Kingston WritersFest, Shanique Peart (courtesy of Ground UP Dance Festival), courtesy of Kingston WritersFest.

NAN YEOMANS GRANT

for artistic development

The Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development is an annual grant awarded to support a young visual artist and/or artisan in the Kingston region to further their artistic growth and education.* This fund is administered by the Kingston Arts Council, and made possible through an endowment fund managed by the **Community Foundation for Kingston and Area**.

In 2025, the Nan Yeomans Grant amount was **\$4,000**. The 2025 jury included local artists **Alanna Hakim** (2024 Nan Yeomans Grant recipient), **Michelle Reid**, and **Harvey Tolentino-Doniego**.

**Eligible applicants include visual artists between the ages of 17-40 who reside in the City of Kingston or the Townships of Loyalist, South Frontenac, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac, or Frontenac Islands.*

2025 Recipient: Lee Jones



Lee Jones



Unraveling Machine - photo courtesy of Lee Jones

Lee Jones is a digital media and fibre artist who creates interactive textiles. E-textiles (or electronic textiles) might sound like science-fiction, but are actually a fun and easy way to learn all about electricity and physical computing. In her practice she works with craft communities and develops DIY toolkits so individuals can design and create interactive soft technologies to suit their own needs. She also loves running community e-textile workshops at art galleries and makerspaces, and creating interactive participatory artworks.



Photo credits (left to right): Sistema Kingston, Garrett Elliott (courtesy of Agnes Etherington Art Centre - Abby Nowakowski tattooing Rowena Whey), Josh Lyon (courtesy of Skeleton Park Arts Festival), Josh Lyon (courtesy of Skeleton Park Arts Festival - Holly Gilmour artist booth), Shonique Peart (courtesy of Ground UP Dance Festival - Savannah Shea performing AFTER/ALWAYS), Juan Velasco (courtesy of SpiderWebShow - REMIXED at FOLDA 2025).

COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

OVERVIEW: COMMUNICATIONS

In 2025-2026, the Kingston Arts Council continued to strengthened its online presence, seeing steady, moderate growth across all platforms. Overall, this year marked a more active and intentional approach to online communications, ensuring that the KAC remains a visible and accessible resource for artists. Statistics are reported as of **31 March 2026**.

THE KAC NEWSLETTER

The KAC Newsletter (formerly ArtsBuzz) is published on the 1st and 15th of every month, featuring news and updates from the KAC team in addition to highlights from our Arts Job Board, Opportunities Board, Arts Events Calendar, and Grants Board.

1,274
SUBSCRIBERS

NEW: MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

The KAC introduced a new Members Newsletter in May 2025, offering quarterly updates to KAC Members and creating a new touchpoint to connect with our broader community.

103
SUBSCRIBERS

SOCIAL MEDIA

KAC's social media channels disseminate information from the Kingston Arts Council to broader audiences and highlight news, opportunities, and events within the broader arts sector.

Follow us at
[@KingstonArtsCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/KingstonArtsCouncil)
on all platforms!

4,215
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

3,448
INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

348
LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS

392*
THREADS
FOLLOWERS
* NEW

70
BLUESKY
FOLLOWERS

OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

The Kingston Arts Council website continues to serve as a central hub of information for artists, arts workers, and organizations. The site features key resources, including the [Arts Job Board](#), [Opportunities Board](#), [Grants Board](#), and [Arts Events Calendar](#), which together provide a comprehensive picture of employment, funding, events, and participation opportunities in Katarokwi/Kingston. In addition, our online database lists arts service organizations and advocacy groups at the local, provincial, and national level. Through these resources, the KAC continues to ensure that artists can find the information they need to sustain their practice, access funding, and engage with the broader arts ecosystem. **In 2025, KAC additionally introduced the KAC Member Directory.**

ARTS JOB BOARD

The Arts Job Board features job postings and paid opportunities from arts organizations and businesses throughout Kingston and the surrounding region. A public submission form is available for employers to submit their job posts for inclusion.

4,519
TOTAL VIEWS

OPPORTUNITIES BOARD

The Opportunities Board highlights any additional opportunities for artists in the region, including calls for submissions, residency opportunities, studio availability, audition notices, volunteer opportunities, and more. A public submission form is available for users to submit opportunities.

1,581
TOTAL VIEWS

GRANTS BOARD

The Grants Board offers a dynamic, navigable database of arts-focused grant opportunities at the local, provincial, and national level. Users can apply a variety of search filters to access a curated list of grant opportunities to support their artistic practice, group, or organization.

1,836
TOTAL VIEWS

NEW: MEMBER DIRECTORY

Introduced in 2025, the new KAC Member Directory offers a navigable database of artists in the region. KAC Members can create customizable profiles to advertise their work, events, and services. Users can apply a variety of search filters to discover artists based on their artistic discipline and/or what services they are currently offering.

811
TOTAL VIEWS

ARTS EVENTS CALENDAR

The Arts Events Calendar is a centralized resource highlighting arts events throughout Kingston and the surrounding region. Artists, collectives, organizations, and businesses can promote their arts-focused events utilizing the public submission form.

4,270
TOTAL VIEWS

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS 2025

The Mayor's Arts Awards is an annual recognition program that celebrates artistic achievement as well as extraordinary support for and contributions to the arts in Kingston. By increasing the profile of the arts sector, the Mayor's Arts Awards affirms the value of the arts as a source of creativity, innovation and civic pride, and nurtures the sustained development of the cultural sector to the benefit of all Kingston residents.

This program is presented by the **City of Kingston** in partnership with the **Kingston Arts Council**. The administration of the Awards, including the nomination and selection process, is managed by the Kingston Arts Council. A Nominations Subcommittee, made up of community members and representatives from the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Advisory Committee, and chaired (ex officio) by the Kingston Arts Council, is responsible for selecting the award recipients. There are two Award categories for nominating a deserving individual or group.

CREATOR AWARDS

The Creator Award recognizes artists and artistic collectives. Three Creator Awards are given each year to honour artistic merit and/or innovation that advances the arts in the city, contributes to the development of the art form, and expresses the cultural vitality of Kingston. This award considers newcomers or new-to-Kingston artists who have made a profound impact in the arts in a short period of time, as well as emerging, youth, and equity-deserving artists. **Recipients are given a \$2,500 cash prize, an award, and a certificate of recognition.**

ARTS CHAMPION AWARD

The Arts Champion Award celebrates an arts leader who makes an extraordinary contribution to the arts sector and empowers its sustained growth and development. One award is given annually to recognize an arts worker, organization, volunteer, advocate, supporter, sponsor, and/or philanthropist. **Recipients are given a \$1,000 cash prize, an award, and a certificate of recognition.**

2025 RECIPIENTS

CREATOR AWARD

JESSE MACMILLAN
AARON FORSYTH (ERONONE)
CAMILLE SPENCER

ARTS CHAMPION AWARD

LE CENTRE CULTUREL FRONTENAC

2025 NOMINATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

VOTING MEMBERS:
SOL CASTAÑEDA, SERGIO JAUA, LIAM
KARRY, KAY KENNEY

EX OFFICIO: NICOLE DANIELS (CHAIR)

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS recipients



**JESSE
MACMILLAN**
Creator Award

Jesse MacMillan is a multidisciplinary artist and technician known for his thoughtful lighting and sound design, collaborative performances, and unwavering commitment to helping every production reach its full potential. As the Technical Director of the Festival of Live Digital Arts, the Arts Stage Technician at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts, and a member of PeerLess Productions, Jesse has made a profound impact on Kingston's performing arts sector, as a collaborator, performer, and vital support. Jesse's portfolio additionally includes educating others in live stream production through the National Theatre School of Canada, sound design and music composition for local theatre performances, and occasional onstage and on-screen performances including, most recently, *Still Alive in Kingston* (2025). Jesse's outstanding creative work, and his dedication to educating and supporting others in realizing their creative visions, make him a force in Kingston's arts community.

Aaron Forsyth, otherwise known as **EronOne**, is a visual artist specializing in vibrant murals and custom design work. With striking public art pieces across Kingston, including the large-scale mural on the waterfront walkway of the Delta Hotel, the *Transformations* collaborative mural at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre, and smaller-scale but no less iconic murals at local businesses like Pizza Monster, Aaron's creative aesthetic has made a bold imprint on Kingston's artistic landscape. Aaron is also a driving force behind Kingston's vibrant street art culture, through which he works to uplift fellow artists and educate youth, building connections with local businesses and institutions like the City of Kingston and Tourism Kingston through collaborations and commissioning projects. Aaron and his fellow artist and wife Em Harmsen are the owners and operators of WhereHouse, their shared studio and venue space which offers a welcoming and approachable community hub where creatives can gather to experiment and collaborate.



**AARON
FORSYTH
(ERONONE)**
Creator Award

MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS recipients



CAMILLE SPENCER
Creator Award

Camille Spencer is a dancer, choreographer, community builder, and educational force for movement in Kingston and the surrounding area. Camille has made significant waves in Kingston since arriving in 2020, helping to cultivate a thriving creative community in her field. As a founding member and now Co-Director of the Ground UP Dance Festival, a collaborator at H'art Centre, a member of Movement Market Collective, and a teacher at the Kingston School of Dance, Camille is a driving force behind movement art in Kingston. When acting as an MC, host, or panelist, Camille brings an eloquent, inclusive, and expert voice to various dance events throughout the city. As a performer and choreographer, she strives to present new and original work that is meaningful to the community involved. Camille continues to plant seeds and nurture a love of dance for audiences of all ages, abilities, and experience levels in Kingston and beyond.

Le Centre culturel Frontenac, incorporated in 1980, is Kingston's premier Francophone cultural hub, dedicated to celebrating and promoting Francophone arts and culture through theatre, music, dance, and more. A long-standing leading arts organization in Kingston, CCF is strongly embedded in the local arts ecology, collaborating with a variety of local arts organizations to make a strong impact and drive the growth of Kingston's arts sector. Their current season includes collaborative productions at several local arts festivals — the Kick & Push Festival, Le FestivILES Gananoque, the Intercultural Arts Festival, Skeleton Park Arts Festival and Franco-Foire — in addition to a slate of multidisciplinary performances hosted at Le Sésame Theatre. Co-managed by CcF, Le Sésame is a new performance venue and rental space introduced at a critical time for both the arts industry at large and the theatre sector, specifically. Through quality programming and creative leadership, le Centre culturel Frontenac promotes a visible, vibrant, and active Francophone community in Kingston and beyond. Félicitations pour quarante-cinq ans de passion francophone partagée!



LE CENTRE CULTUREL FRONTENAC
Arts Champion Award



Photos from the 2025 Mayor's Arts Awards ceremony by Elizabeth Cooper, courtesy of the City of Kingston.

PROGRAMMING

membership

THE KAC MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2025, we introduced the **KAC Membership Program**, inviting artists and community members from across Kingston and beyond to register for non-voting memberships. This community-driven program was designed to build stronger bridges between the KAC and the local arts sector, and cultivate a peer network amongst participating members. Striving to support, connect, and inspire Kingston's arts sector, the KAC Membership Program welcomes participants of all backgrounds. Whether you're an emerging artist looking to grow your practice, an established artist seeking to engage with KAC's networks, or a passionate supporter of the arts, this program offers exclusive benefits and opportunities to help you thrive while contributing to Kingston's creative economy. In its inaugural year, the KAC Membership Program welcomed 124 members.

Membership is offer at a general rate of \$40 per year, with the option to Pay What You Want (PWYW) or access the program free of charge.



Opening reception for *So What Do You Eat?* by Lola Posy

124

MEMBERS IN
2025-2026

BENEFITS FOR KAC MEMBERS IN 2025-2026 INCLUDED:

- Paid exhibition opportunities through KAC's new **Pocket Gallery Program**
- A profile on the new **KAC Member Directory**
- Access to health and dental insurance via the **Arts & Entertainment Plan**
- Exclusive quarterly updates via the new **KAC Members Newsletter**
- **Exclusive discounts** with local businesses and organizations including:
 - Kingston Frameworks
 - Great Lakes Museum
 - Amaranth Stoneware
 - Studio 330
 - Improbable Escapes
 - and Panera Bread

PROGRAMMING

pocket gallery

THE POCKET GALLERY

Alongside the **KAC Membership Program**, the KAC introduced the new **Pocket Gallery** program in 2025, retiring the UNIT 115 model and introducing paid exhibition opportunities for KAC Members. A small but dynamic exhibition space located in the foyer of the KAC office, the Pocket Gallery offers an exciting, flexible, and supportive environment for Members to exhibit their work.

2025–2026 POCKET GALLERY EXHIBITIONS



CLIMATE IN TURMOIL
JOANNE GERVAIS
16 June 2025 – 11 July 2025

Climate in Turmoil by Joanne Gervais offered a vivid depiction of the Earth's shifting elements through a series of two and three-dimensional paintings. Combining traditional framed paintings with sculptural pieces made using found materials and driftwood, the exhibition captured the raw power and fragile beauty of nature in crisis.

Parallel Programming: A closing reception was held 9 July 2025

SO WHAT DO YOU EAT?
LOLA POSY
21 July 2025 – 8 August 2025

So What Do You Eat? is an exploration of food, disability, and the radical act of learning to love eating again. Through crocheted wall hangings and soft sculptures, artist Lola Posy invited viewers into the complex realities of living as a vegetarian with contamination OCD and a digestive disease — conditions that turn something as universal as eating into a source of anxiety, frustration, and careful negotiation.

Parallel Programming: A closing reception was held 8 August 2025





CLUSTER BEING JAMES GREATREX

18 August 2025 – 5 September 2025

Cluster Being showcased a series of 50+ storyboard panels depicting recalled scenarios from a childhood and adulthood shaped by Cluster B personality types. The exhibition was part of the foundational planning for a graphic novel film by James Greatrex exploring themes of intergenerational trauma, religious indoctrination, and the pitfalls of diagnostic inflation in pharmacology and clinical psychology.

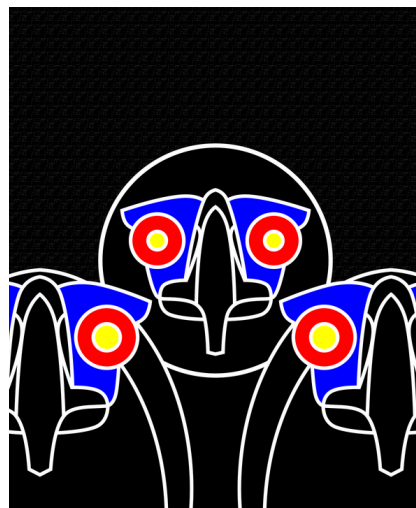
Parallel Programming: A closing reception was held on 5 September 2025

RETROGRADE 2025 BAYANI CATAPANG

15 September 2025 – 3 October 2025

RETROGRADE 2025 presented six new print collections alongside excerpts from *The Modern Filipino* by artist Bayani Catapang, reflecting his 16-year journey as an artist. Rooted in personal history and cultural heritage, this body of work explores themes of healing, resilience, spirituality, family, and strength.

Parallel Programming: Bayani presented a hybrid virtual and in-person artist talk during his opening reception on 20 September 2025.



INTERSECTION SHANIQUE PEART

13 October 2025 – 3 November 2025

Intersection is an ongoing photographic exploration that highlights the beauty and complexity of the human experience through intimate portraits and environmental storytelling by photographer Shanique Peart. The body of work exists not just as documentation, but as a living archive and celebration of connection.

Parallel Programming: Shanique presented an artist talk during her closing reception on 3 November 2025.



DEEPLY ROOTED: THE WEIGHT OF HERITAGE

TANIA CRAAN

10 November 2025 – 28 November

Deeply Rooted examined heritage through sculpture and community engagement. Artist Tania Craan exhibited a series of sculptural seed pods, symbolizing the process of transmitting and cultivating the traditions, values, and experiences that comprise our heritage. A collaborative installation invited visitors to contribute their own reflections on heritage.

Parallel Programming: A closing reception was held on 21 November 2025

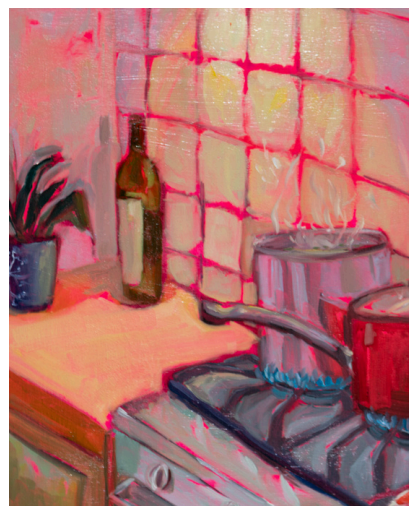
LISTENING HOMES

SUMERA KHAN

8 December 2025 – 9 January 2026

In *Listening Homes*, artist Sumera Khan turned her attention to the quiet interiors that shape our emotional lives, exploring the emotional and psychological weight carried by domestic spaces through a series of intimate oil paintings. The exhibition also featured a participatory component, inviting viewers to reflect on the concept of home.

Parallel Programming: An opening reception was held on 8 December 2025, and Sumera hosted a pop-up Urban Sketch event on 9 January 2026 in the Pocket Gallery.



LETTERS BETWEEN US

KINGSTON HIDDEN ARTIST COLLECTIVE

21 January 2026 – 13 March 2026

Letters Between Us invited a quiet, two-way exchange between KHAC artists and the wider public. The exhibition featured artwork by members of KHAC, a collective devoted to amplifying the voices of artists facing significant barriers including homelessness, mental health challenges, addiction, and disability with a focus on dignity, access, reducing stigma, and opening doors. Emerging from a growing interest among KHAC artists in sharing their stories in their own words, *Letters Between Us* featured two glass jars: one with anonymous handwritten notes from KHAC artists, and one where visitors could respond with their own notes.

Parallel Programming: A closing reception was held on 12 March 2026, where messages from the community were shared with KHAC artists.



DIPPING LACE INTO HONEY

PEGGY FUSSELL

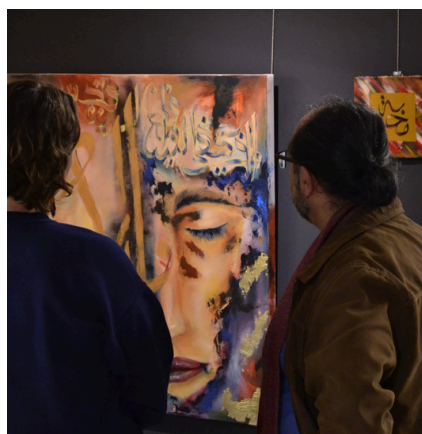
23 March 2026 – 15 May 2026

Dipping Lace into Honey presented an intimate installation featuring handmade lace, honey, beeswax, found objects, prints, and projected stop-motion animations by Peggy Fussell. The exhibition invited visitors to sit with artistry passed down through patient hands, and experience lessons that are slow, warm, sticky, and stay with you long after you've left.

Parallel Programming: A closing reception and Tatting Daisies workshop were held in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

UNIT 115 EXHIBITIONS

From 2017-2025, the Pocket Gallery was known as UNIT 115. Featuring rotating monthly exhibitions by local artists from 2017-2020, and reopened in 2023 with a focus on community-engaged exhibitions, the space has remained an important connection point for KAC. As we prepared to shift towards a new model – and a new brand – offering paid exhibition opportunities to KAC Members, KAC hosted its final UNIT 115 exhibitions in early 2025:



THE SHAPE OF MEANING

JABRA MITWASI

1 April 2025 – 30 April 2025

The Shape of Meaning explored the emotional and cultural weight of language through contemporary Arabic calligraphy. Palestinian artist Jabra Mitwasi's work blends traditional scripts with abstraction, colour, and texture, using script as both a visual element and a vessel for heritage, identity, and preservation.

Parallel Programming: Jabra presented an artist talk at his closing reception on 29 April 2025.

COLOUR THEORY

QUEEN'S BLACK FASHION ASSOCIATION

6 May 2025 – 6 June 2025

Through bold visuals and thoughtful narrative, *Colour Theory* invited viewers to consider the multifaceted relationships between colour and identity — how we wear it, how we live in it, and how it speaks for us. Featuring high-concept fashion editorials and artistic storytelling, *Colour Theory* offered both celebration and conversation.

Parallel Programming: Photographer King-David Olajuwon presented an artist talk during the closing reception on 5 June 2025.



PROGRAMMING

artist prosperity project

THE ARTIST PROSPERITY PROJECT

Funded by the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area

The Artist Prosperity Project (APP) is a research project aimed at better understanding the economic realities, demographics, and creative practices of artists living and working in Katarokwi/Kingston and the surrounding region.

Launched in June 2025, the **Artist Prosperity Survey** collected data from artists working in three disciplines: visual arts, music, and performing arts. The **Artist Prosperity Project Survey Report**, published in November 2025, compared survey data with broader sector research and data, outlining trends in artist income, access to funding, barriers to career development, and provided insight into some of the systemic barriers and challenges artists encountered in 2024.

The full report and raw data are available on the KAC website. Key findings included:

The majority of artists surveyed earned **less than \$40,000 annually** from all sources, with over 80% earning under \$40,000 annually from their artistic or cultural practice alone. As a result, many artists worked secondary jobs to supplement their income.

Only 24% of artists reported having applied to and received grant funding.

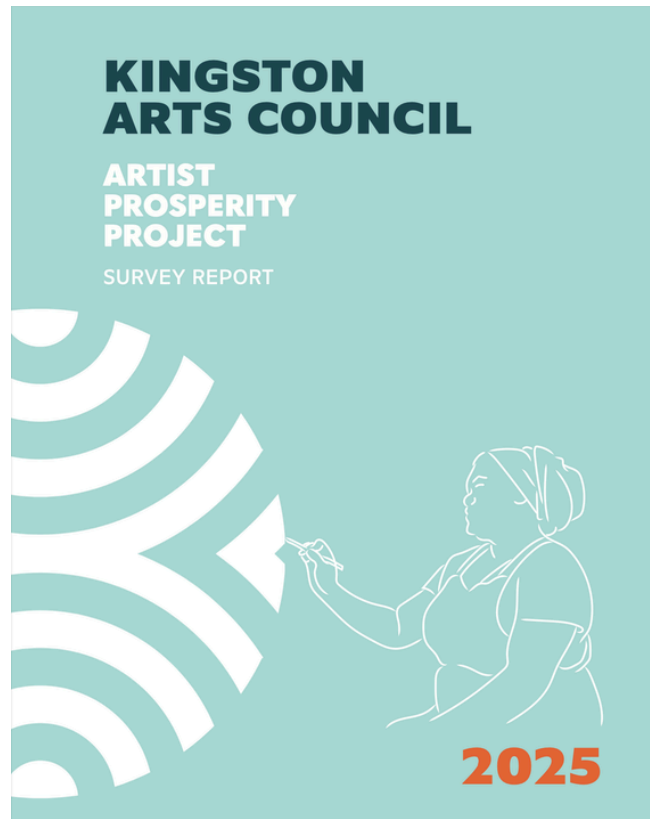
Respondents were highly educated, as 76% received a post-secondary degree, diploma, or certificate.

72% of participants agreed that Katarokwi / Kingston is a good place to live and work as an artist, citing strong community support, access to local arts organizations and events, and opportunities for collaboration as strengths.

Over 65% of artists surveyed identified **financial instability** as a primary challenge.

When asked what types of support they need, artists identified the following:

- Better access to media coverage;
- Funding;
- Rehearsal / creation space;
- Education / workshops; and
- Performance and exhibition opportunities.



PROGRAMMING

community engagement

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In addition to our core programs, KAC continued to execute a range of community programming and outreach initiatives throughout 2025-2026, including:

- Hosting **Quiet Reflections** as part of the **Tett @ 10: Reflections** Anniversary Fundraiser;
- Presenting at three **Grants & Loans Workshops** as part of the KEYS CEO Program;
- Hosting a community booth at **Skeleton Park Arts Festival** 2025;
- Executive Director Nicole Daniels participated as an industry guest at the **Mentorship Café** as part of Spring Reverb 2025;
- Offering **Family Day** programming;
- Executive Director Nicole Daniels provided welcome remarks at the opening reception for **FireWorks** as part of **FUSION Clay + Glass Ontario**;
- Presenting to visiting tour groups at the Tett Centre, including the **Creative Cities Conference**;
- Offering the **CKAF 2025 Project Grants Information Session**, as well as hosting **office hours for the Nan Yeomans Grant**, and facilitating individual **meetings with grant applicants**;
- Hosting KAC's **2024-2025 Annual General Meeting**;
- Participating in the Queen's Art History DSC **Networking with Profs and Professionals** event; and
- Throughout the year, the KAC also held **open office hours** to meet directly with artists & community members, and provide guidance on navigating the industry, accessing funding, and more.



PROGRAMMING

by the numbers

PROGRAM

ATTENDANCE

UNIT 115 EXHIBITIONS

<i>The Shape of Meaning</i> - Jabra Mitwasi	312
<i>Colour Theory</i> - Queen's Black Fashion Association	305

POCKET GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

<i>Climate in Turmoil</i> - Joanne Gervais	328
<i>So What Do You Eat?</i> - Lola Posy	334
<i>Cluster Being</i> - James Greatrex	227
<i>RETROGRADE 2025</i> - Bayani Catapang	341
<i>Intersection</i> - Shanique Peart	289
<i>The Weight of Heritage</i> - Tania Craan	327
<i>Listening Homes</i> - Sumera Khan	241
<i>Letters Between Us</i> - Kingston Hidden Artist Collective	300
<i>Dipping Lace into Honey</i> - Peggy Fussell (to 31 March 2026)	85

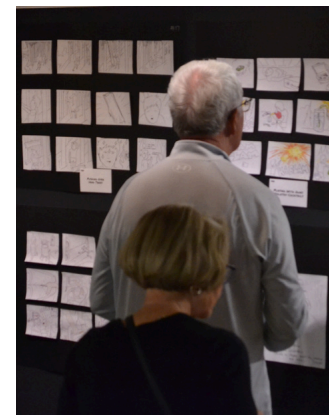
RECEPTIONS + ARTIST TALKS

<i>The Shape of Meaning</i> Closing Reception + Artist Talk	21
<i>Colour Theory</i> Closing Reception + Artist Talk	17
<i>Climate in Turmoil</i> Closing Reception	13
<i>So What Do You Eat?</i> Closing Reception	22
<i>Cluster Being</i> Closing Reception	42
<i>RETROGRADE 2025</i> Opening Reception + Hybrid Artist Talk	87
<i>Intersection</i> Closing Reception + Artist Talk	17
<i>The Weight of Heritage</i> Opening Reception	21
<i>Listening Homes</i> Opening Reception	17
<i>Listening Homes</i> Urban Sketch Pop-Up	8
<i>Letters Between Us</i> Closing Reception	17

PROGRAMS + EVENTS

Mayor's Arts Awards 2025	100
CKAF 2025 Project Grants Information Session	17
Annual General Meeting	6
Artist Prosperity Project - Survey Respondents	240
Artist Prosperity Project - Report Views	729
Family Day	110
Quiet Reflections (Tett @ 10: Reflections)	75
Community Outreach events, office hours, and grant meetings	837

TOTAL ATTENDANCE IN 2025-2026: 5,485



Photos credits (left to right): *RETROGRADE 2025* opening reception, *Listening Homes* by Sumera Khan (photo by Chris Miner), *Climate in Turmoil* opening reception, *Colour Theory* photo by King-David Olajuwon, *Dipping Lace Into Honey* by Peggy Fussell (photo by Chris Miner), *Dipping Lace into Honey*, *Cluster Beings* opening reception, Jabra Mitwasi artist talk.

Financial Highlights

1 April 2025—
31 March 2026

\$212,321

TOTAL REVENUE

\$212,059

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$262

SURPLUS OF TOTAL
REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

\$8,362

SURPLUS OF
UNRESTRICTED
(OPERATING) REVENUE
OVER EXPENSES

KAC's audited financial statements are available by request. Please contact ED@artskingston.ca if you wish to view a copy.

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding from the City of Kingston grew in 2025-2026, with an additional \$12,000 utilized from the one-time transition funding allocated to KAC to support the development and execution of the CKAF program under the new Framework.
- The Ontario Arts Council, continued to provide stable funding to the KAC in 2025-2026.
- KAC's total revenue increased by 9.4% or \$18,278 from the previous fiscal year.
- New revenue streams were introduced via the KAC Membership Program and a successful Canada Summer Jobs Grant.

EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS

- The KAC invested \$24,353 in artists in 2025-2026, representing 11.2% growth in artist fees compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Utilizing the one-time transition funding from the City of Kingston, a Canada Summer Jobs grant, and deferred funding from the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area for the Artist Prosperity Project, KAC was able to employ more staff, raising staff wages and contracts to \$157,385, a 22.8% increase from 2024-2025.

OVERVIEW + GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- KAC maintained a relatively balanced budget, completing the year with a modest net surplus of \$262.
- KAC's unrestricted net assets grew to \$54,099, representing a \$8,362 or 18% increase from the previous fiscal year.
- KAC's restricted net assets were reduced to \$3,188 by the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, supporting KAC's goal (and program requirement) to expend its surplus of charitable gaming funds entirely.

THE KAC TEAM

staff



NICOLE DANIELS
Executive Director



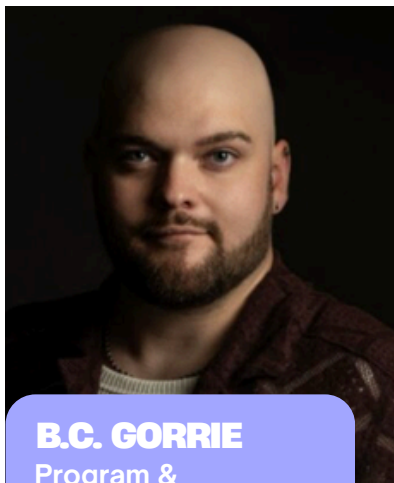
SHAMARA PEART
Grants Administrator



KATHERINE DIONNE
Administrative &
Grants Assistant



FELICIA HOLMES
Program
Administrator
(from June 2026)



B.C. GORRIE
Program &
Communications
Coordinator
(to July 2026)

board of directors

Caroline Hogan, Chair
Amanda Baker, Vice Chair
Megan Morris, Treasurer
Alex McLean, Secretary
Nevena Martinović, Director
Joe Pagnan, Director
Clelia Scala, Director
Diane Black, Director
Sol Castañeda, Director

volunteers

Jasvina Pancholi
Yagni Patel
Anna Soper
Csilla Adkins
Crystal Wiesner

Wilding
Paige Stubbs
Joe Borsato
Idela Laidlow-Nero

advisory board

Brett Christopher
Rae MacDonald

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our supporters in 2025-2026! The KAC's work would not be possible without the vital support of our partners, donors, and funders.

2025-2026 FUNDERS



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Funded by the
Government
of Canada



Community Foundation
for Kingston & Area

2025-2026 PARTNERS

The City of Kingston
Community Foundation for Kingston & Area
Tourism Kingston - Music Office
Kingston Theatre Alliance
Agnes Etherington Art Centre
Cultivate Art Commons (formerly Modern
Fuel Artist-Run Centre)
SpiderWebShow Performance

2025-2026 SPONSORS

Kingston Frameworks
Great Lakes Museum
Amaranth Stoneware
Studio 330
Improbable Escapes
The Arts & Entertainment Plan
Panera Bread

2025-2026 DONORS

Anonymous Donors via KAC Membership Program, Canada Helps,
United Way Eastern Ontario, and United Way KFL&A

Alex McLean
Christopher Sallows
Danielle Bossio
Garrett Elliott

John Burge
Portia Chapman
Sasha Jimenez French



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