

KINGSTON VOTES 2026:
Candidate Survey on the Arts and Culture in Kingston

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How do you see the role of arts and culture in Kingston?

Arts and culture are a critical driver of our quality of life, of social development and of community building. Theatre, music, festivals, galleries and the artists behind them are a big part of what makes Kingston a place people want to live. One of my favourite parts of being mayor is attending community events and festivals around the city, and I see first-hand how they bring people together.

As an economist, I also see the arts as part of how Kingston attracts and keeps talented people. When we compete for new residents, businesses and graduates, a lively cultural life is part of the case we make. I am continually amazed and impressed with how Kingston punches way above its weight in regards to both the breadth and quality of talent in our local arts and culture scene.

What role should the City of Kingston play in supporting a sustainable arts and culture sector?

Through partnership. The City doesn't need to run the arts; it needs to be a reliable partner to the people and organizations who do. The City's partnership with the Kingston Arts Council, including the City of Kingston Arts Fund, is a good model, and I want to keep building on it.

The City can also help by making sure the gathering places in my platform, like Confederation Basin, Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, the Memorial Centre and Lemoine Point Farm, are revitalized as places where community and culture can happen,



alongside a more vibrant, walkable downtown. And because artists feel the cost of living as much as anyone, the work on housing and affordability matters to the sector too.

If elected, are there any actions you would take to help strengthen Kingston's arts and culture sector?

Yes. I continue to support funding for arts and culture in the municipal budget. I see support for the arts as an investment in Kingston’s quality of life and economy, not an extra. That means sustainable, predictable funding that will ensure artists and arts organizations are able to plan for the future and continue to make Kingston an amazing place to live.

Additional Comments

N/A

KINGSTON Votes

