

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 represent the vital pulse of Kingston. Beyond enrichment, the creative sector delivers tangible economic returns by sustaining local businesses, generating employment, and attracting visitors.

Cultural spaces foster social connection and mental health while bringing residents together across neighbourhoods. Investing in the arts ensures Kingston remains a vibrant, inclusive city where creative workers can build long term careers.

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

The City must serve as a reliable funding partner and facilitator for local creators. Key municipal responsibilities include the following points.

1. Maintaining stable, predictable funding programs such as the City of Kingston Arts Fund to safeguard operators against rising costs.

2. Streamlining zoning, permitting, and municipal processes so community organizations can easily host cultural events and access city spaces.

3. Integrating arts and cultural considerations directly into city infrastructure, public transit planning, and local economic development strategies.



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

If elected to represent Meadowbrook-Strathcona on City Council, I will advocate for practical steps to support the creative community:

1. Protect Municipal Granting: Support the continuous delivery of community-led funding programs via the Kingston Arts Council.

2. Expand Affordable Spaces: Identify underutilized municipal properties and partner with local groups to create affordable studios, rehearsal spaces, and venues.

3. Enhance Public Art in Every District: Bring arts programming directly into residential districts outside the downtown core, expanding neighbourhood public art projects and community festivals.

4. Champion Equity and Inclusion: Ensure municipal grants and programs actively support Indigenous, equity-deserving, and emerging artists through accessible entry points and mentorship opportunities.

Additional Comments

To Kingston’s artists, cultural workers, and advocates: thank you for your commitment to our community. The past few years have tested the sector, and sustaining your work requires concrete political action alongside appreciation. I look forward to working together to build a strong, sustainable future for local arts.