

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?

The contributions to the arts and culture sector are two-fold. First, I will mention the economic activity and effects it encourages: supporting the arts and attending live events pays artists but also venue owners, staff for the venue, and if you do anything else during the evening such as have a meal or a drink then it also affects all involved there.

The second, and more important, role is the creation of art and culture for the community as a whole. As a former play producer, I recognize that this is far less tangible. But Kingston is a community that, as a whole, supports and nourishes artistic expression and development far more than others. Because of this, we are known nationally for artists who have come from here. It's an important piece to recognize and to protect because, in the future, we want to keep that momentum going.

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

There are several key points. The City needs to continue its support of artists through the existing grant structure in the City of Kingston Arts Funds (CKAF). Work had been done and approved by Council to change the funding streams and requirements to allow more new artists and groups the ability to be successful with applications. I moved a budget amendment at the beginning of this year to add another $100,000 to the grant funding stream to ensure its success and success for artists.



We also need to meet artists where they are and understand their needs. I try to do this as often as possible.

The second point is that Councillors need to continue pushing back against potential budget cuts to the arts and culture departments within the City. In a period of austerity, it is easy - and has happened - to find cuts for expenses within support for the arts.

The third is that we need to invest in a new space for artists to rehearse and perform. I always follow up on leads for these spaces with artists and City staff. There are many legacy venues but artists need more space to practice and hone their craft - even to fail. All of these are key to having support for the arts be sustainable.

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

I will continue to meet with artists to understand their needs and concerns.

I will continue to push for more funding for artists through the existing grant streams. And to push back against cuts made to the City's arts and culture department.

I will continue to try to find new rehearsal and performance space.

Additional Comments

As a former producer of plays and a musician, I understand how precarious the arts can be for anyone. I also understand and admire the passion, time, effort, and energy that goes into creating and performing. It is one of the key ingredients in making Kingston a great place to live and to visit and, as such, needs our care, attention, and support.