

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

John Meligrana, District 10 - Sydenham
Website: john4sydenham.com
Email: john.meligrana@gmail.com

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

Arts and culture can help the city respond creatively to change. By investing in artists, cultural spaces, education and accessible programs, the city can nurture local talent, give young people room to imagine new possibilities, and ensure that future generations can participate in and shape the city's cultural life. It also can be a way that different voices and experiences of living in our city can be communicated to the general public. A forum for public dialogue on important topics

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

Kingston can play an important role in supporting a sustainable arts and culture sector. It can provide venues for cultural groups and artists, to can provide support in the form of grants to help with cultural events. It can also help to disseminate information and play a lead role in helping individuals and groups come together either in a formal or informal organizational structure.

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

If elected, I would make it a priority to listen to the people and organizations that shape our arts and cultural life. I would reach out to a broad range of artists, cultural organizations, community groups and creative businesses to hear about their experiences, understand the challenges and barriers they face, and identify opportunities to help them thrive.



I would approach these conversations with an open mind and a commitment to ongoing engagement—not just consultation at the outset. By learning directly from the sector, I can better understand what is working, where support is needed, and how city decisions affect cultural activity. That insight can help the City develop practical, inclusive policies and programs that strengthen local creativity, improve access to arts and culture, and ensure the sector can contribute fully to the city's vitality and future.

Additional Comments

What makes our City a vibrant and creative place are those workers that contribute to the arts and cultural events. I have been involved with one local cultural organization for many years - and have gained insights into the challenges and contributions that such organizations can have on our city.