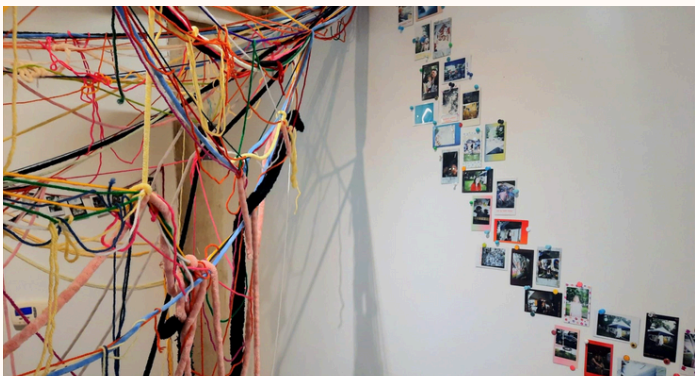
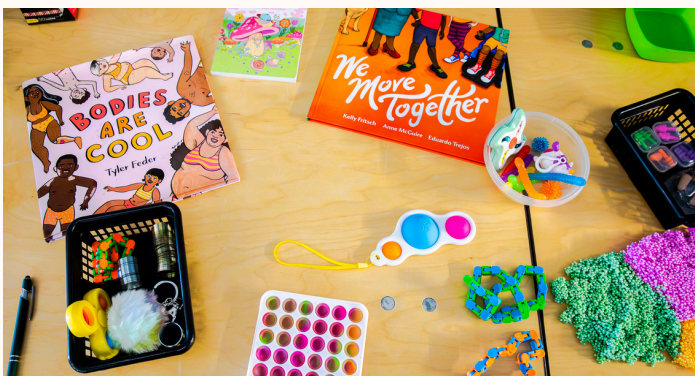


# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



kingston  
arts council



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# MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicole Daniels".

**Nicole Daniels**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clelia Scala".

**Clelia Scala**  
CHAIR OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is pleased to share our Annual Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024). 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.

This past year marked a period of steady, gradual growth for the organization; with new leadership, we worked towards repositioning the KAC and strengthening connections across our community. The KAC office gradually reopened to the public, with regular open office hours introduced in April 2023 after over three years of COVID-related closures. As KAC settled back into our office space at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning, we explored new ways of engaging our community, reintroducing the UNIT 115 exhibition program and welcoming visitors for in-person meetings, events, and drop in office hours. Simultaneously, we began to explore other options for in-person engagement with our community while still providing virtual engagement opportunities, securing a community booth at Skeleton Park Arts Festival, hosting a hybrid Annual General Meeting and Talkback Session, conducting onsite and offsite visits and talks with student and community groups, and more. We're thrilled to report that the KAC office has once again become a space where community members and visitors of all kinds regularly drop in to ask questions, learn, and explore.

The KAC maintained its staff of three (Nicole Daniels, Violet Tang, and Katherine Dionne) throughout 2023-2024 and welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors: Diane Black, Brett Christopher, and Rae MacDonald. As an oversight Board, our Directors ensured that the legal, financial and fiduciary requirements of the KAC were upheld.

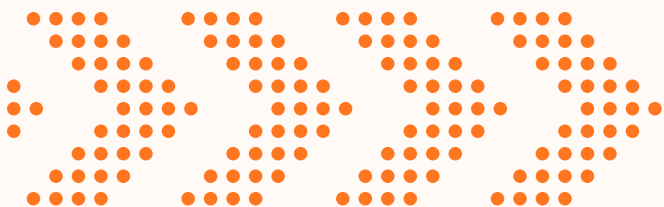
KAC administered \$619,345 in funding through the City of Kingston Arts Fund in 2023, supporting artists and their organizations through Operating and Project Grants. 2023 also marked the commencement of the City-led CKAF Review, for which the City of Kingston has hired the consulting firm Saffy. The CKAF Review is rooted in community, involves broad public consultation, and is conducted from a place that prioritizes equity, diversity, and inclusion. The KAC remains eager to support this process however we can, and we look forward to improving and hopefully expanding the CKAF program in alignment with the recommendations that come forth through the CKAF Review.

In light of these developments, the KAC reassessed its Strategic Planning timeline in 2023. In recognition of the sustained relevance of our current Strategic Plan, Connected, Vocal, Strong, and the ongoing work required in alignment with our strategic priorities, the KAC Board voted to extend the Strategic Plan by an additional year. We look forward to developing a new Strategic Plan in 2024-2025, and continue to solicit community feedback and initiate grassroots consultations in a variety of fora to ensure our next Plan is deeply rooted in the priorities and needs of our community.

2023-2024 was a successful year for the KAC in many different ways. We wish to thank all those who continue to support and engage with the KAC for your ongoing investment in the organization's vitality. We look forward to continuing the growth and development of the KAC in the years to come!

***Special thanks to our key funders and partners: City of Kingston, Ontario Arts Council, Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, Play! Charitable Gaming Association, and our donors.***





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

**Operating Grants** provide a crucial foundation for nonprofit arts organizations, increasing administrative capacities and professional and artistic development opportunities. **Project Grants** fund the creation and presentation of artistic projects and connect diverse audiences with art activities across the city.

Through CKAF, artists and their organizations are able to develop programming, art activities, partnerships, and initiatives that encourage arts engagement, learning opportunities and participation. These funds are an investment in Kingston’s cultural capital and they foster cultural vitality, increase the capacity of the arts community, encourage residents to connect with the arts and ultimately enhance Kingston’s cultural economy, promoting financial stability and sustainability of the sector.

## BY THE NUMBERS

## CKAF INVESTMENT 2007-2023



**\$9.2 million**

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED



**\$14.1 million**

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED



**177%**

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF REQUEST RELATIVE TO AMOUNT AVAILABLE



**577**

TOTAL # OF GRANTS AWARDED



**942**

TOTAL # OF APPLICATIONS



**289**

TOTAL # OF PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED



**173**

TOTAL # OF OPERATING GRANTS AWARDED



**115**

TOTAL # OF GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH ONE-TIME FUNDING STREAMS ADAPT + RESILIENCY



# 2023 CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND RECIPIENTS

## 2023 OPERATING GRANTS

Agnes Etherington Art Centre	\$75,000
Cantabile Choirs of Kingston	\$29,534
Le Centre Culturel Frontenac	\$13,464
H'art Centre	\$12,014
Kingston Canadian Film Festival	\$48,457
Kingston Symphony Association	\$71,250
Kingston WritersFest	\$44,814
Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre	\$53,818
Reelout Queer Film Festival	\$23,697
Single Thread Theatre Company	\$10,000
Theatre Kingston	\$38,007
Union Gallery	\$13,487

**JURY:** Brett Christopher, Kemi King, Denis Leroux, Katy Littlejohn, Kevin Moorhouse | **EX-OFFICIO:** Nicole Daniels (Chair), Violet Tang, Katherine Dionne, Danika Lochhead, Councillor Paul Chaves **TOTAL : \$433,542**

## 2023 PROJECT GRANTS

Airwave YGK – CFRC 101.9 FM	\$15,000
Festival of Live Digital Art – SpiderWebShow Performance	\$13,500
The Ground UP Dance Festival 2024 – Movement Market Collective	\$14,490
Johnny’s Dream – Amin Pourbarghi	\$13,500
TheJuvenis Festival – Blue Canoe Theatrical Productions	\$11,400
Kingston Baroque Festival – Kingston Baroque Consort	\$5,558
Kingston’s Got Talent! – Orchestra Kingston	\$6,300
K-Town Showdown Dance Battle 2023 – Kingston School of Dance	\$5,000
Melos Magnificats – Melos Choir & Period Instruments	\$11,915
‘Out of the City’ African Arts Camp – Chaka Chikodzi	\$11,620
PENTHEUS The second play in the City of Wine cycle – Salon Theatre *	\$10,500
Skeleton Park Arts Festival – Skeleton Park Arts Festival	\$15,000
SPRING REVERB 2024 – KPP Concerts	\$15,000
Still Alive in Kingston – Jay Middaugh	\$14,250
The Clearing – Marney McDiarmid	\$10,320
The Gift – PeerLess Productions	\$12,000

**JURY:** Diane Black, G.H.Y. Cheung, Bethany Garner, Caroline Kwok, Kristen Leboeuf | **EX-OFFICIO:** Nicole Daniels (Chair), Violet Tang, Katherine Dionne, Danika Lochhead, Councillor Gregory Ridge **TOTAL : \$185,803**

# 2022 CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND RECIPIENTS

## 2022 OPERATING GRANTS

Agnes Etherington Art Centre	\$75,000
Cantabile Choirs of Kingston	\$29,329
Le Centre culturel Frontenac	\$15,300
H'art Centre	\$13,059
Kingston Canadian Film Festival	\$47,046
Kingston Symphony Association	\$75,000
Kingston WritersFest	\$44,370
Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre	\$51,500
Reelout Queer Film Festival	\$23,232
Theatre Kingston	\$42,230
Union Gallery	\$13,385

**JURY:** Kimberly Dolan, Kemi King, Jane Kirby, Denis Leroux, Katy Littlejohn  
**EX-OFFICIO:** Felix Lee (Chair), Violet Tang, Jeff McGilton, Danika Lochhead,  
 Councillor Jim Neill

**TOTAL – \$429,451**

## 2022 PROJECT GRANTS

Concert and Workshop Series – Kingston Improvising Musicians Collective	\$12,000
Electric Circuits Festival – Electric Circuits Collective*	\$11,000
Festival of Live Digital Art – SpiderWebShow Performance	\$12,750
The Ground UP Dance Festival – Movement Market Collective	\$12,267
HARMONIA – Salon Theatre	\$11,000
HYDRA: A Story on Water – Calliope Collective	\$14,250
Juvenis Festival 2023 – Blue Canoe Productions	\$12,000
Kingston: A Guidebook from Memory – Amanda Baker	\$9,258
Make it Local – Orchestra Kingston	\$5,000
Phantom Bodies – Stéfy McKnight	\$7,240
Shortwave Radio Theatre Camp – CFRC 101.9FM	\$14,250
Skeleton Park Arts Festival – Skeleton Park Arts Festival	\$13,500
Sounding Board: A Community Conversation – Heather Poechman	\$10,366
Soundscapes – Sistema Kingston	\$11,664
Spring Reverb 2023 – KPP Concerts	\$8,000
The Bourgeois Gentleman – Kingston Baroque Consort	\$7,327
Uncovering Canada – anARC Theatre	\$12,000

**JURY:** David Archibald, Bethany Garner, Kristen Leboeuf, Danuta Sierhuis  
**EX-OFFICIO:** Felix Lee (Chair), Violet Tang, Jeff McGilton, Danika Lochhead,  
 Councillor Peter Stroud

**TOTAL - \$183,872**



# CKAF 2022 IMPACT REPORT



**\$613,323**

TOTAL AMOUNT  
AWARDED

**28**

GRANTS  
ADMINISTERED

**\$2,425,778**

PAID TO ARTISTS

**1,220**

ARTISTS ENGAGED

**127,745**

TOTAL AUDIENCE

**664**

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

**\$9,732,141**

TOTAL REVENUE

**612**

NEW WORKS CREATED

**1,483**

VOLUNTEERS

**64,319**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

## OPERATING GRANTS

**21**

# OF FULL-TIME  
EQUIVALENT STAFF  
POSITIONS

**164**

TOTAL # OF STAFF  
POSITIONS

## PROJECT GRANTS

**23**

PROJECT GRANT  
APPLICANTS

**17**

PROJECT GRANT  
RECIPIENTS

**74%**

OF APPLICANTS  
FUNDED



# NAN YEOMANS GRANT FOR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development aims to help young visual artists and/or artisans further their artistic growth and education. It awards one annual grant of \$2,500 to an emerging artist between 17 and 40 years old, who may be practicing in any visual medium including painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, installation, pottery, fabric, glass, metal, film and/or video. All applicants must have an address in the Kingston area, which includes the City as well as the Townships of Loyalist, South Frontenac, Central Frontenac, North Frontenac, and Frontenac Islands. The grant is intended for training or focused creation that will contribute to the artist's development and career.

Applications are assessed by a jury of peers based on eligibility, financial need, and artistic merit. The grant is made possible through an endowment fund administered by the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area.



## 2023 RECIPIENT: **KELSEY DAWN PEARSON**

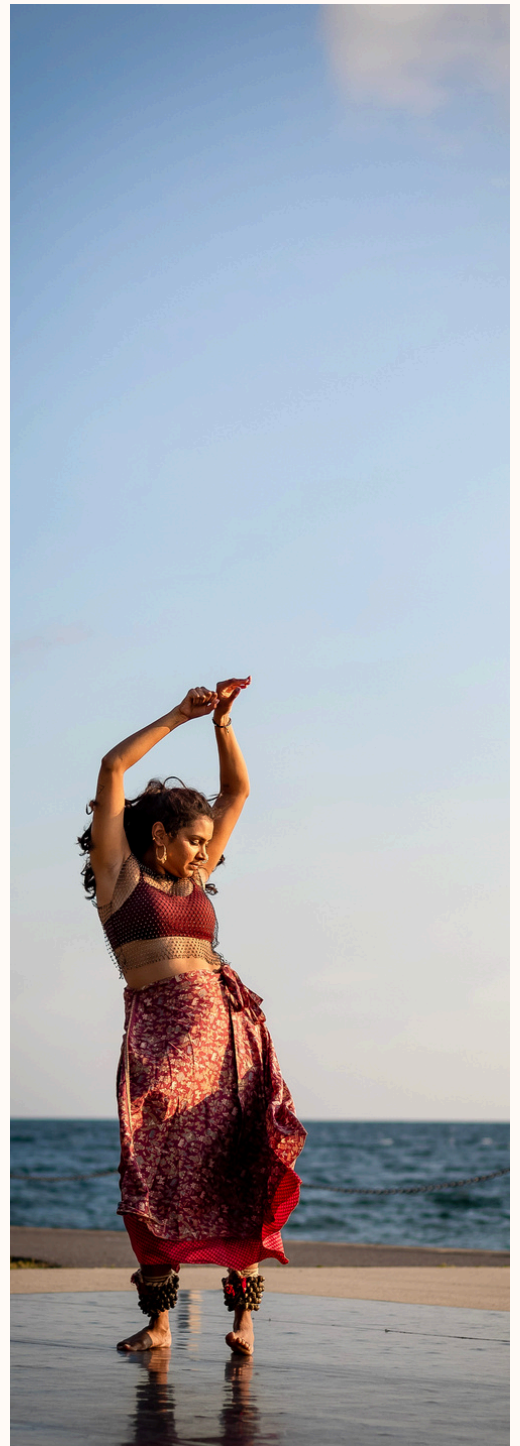
Kelsey Dawn Pearson is an artist residing in Katarokwi/Kingston. They recently graduated from Concordia University with an MFA in Print Media and hold a BFA from NSCAD. Pearson is a multidisciplinary artist using print, natural fibres and puppetry / performance as their main media. Pearson's work explores themes of gender and body dysmorphia in relation to bodily connection to land.

Their work is supernatural, chaotic and colourful swampwater. They explore themes of distorted reality, confront personal ethics, battle dysphoria, bridge fiction and the present through the use of portals, touch, feel and play... In a world bordering ours.

**2023 Jurors: Maddi Andrews, Jobelle Quijano, and Pengyuan Wang**

Photo: Kelsey Dawn Pearson. Photo by Maggie Whitmore.

**PAST RECIPIENTS:** Kelsey McNulty (2022), Natasha Jabre (2021), Tonya Corkey (2020), GHY Cheung (2019), Ella Gonzales (2018), Jennifer Demitor (2017), Kyle Vingoe-Cram (2016), Kevin Rogers (2015), Leigh Ann Bellamy (2014), Mariel Waddell Hunter (2013), Ebonnie Hollenbeck (2012), Michelle Mackinnon (2011), Michael Davidge (2010), Vincent Perez (2009).



# COMMUNICATIONS

FIND US ONLINE AT ARTSKINGSTON.CA

## ARTSBUZZ E-NEWSLETTER

The KAC publishes the biweekly e-newsletter “ArtsBuzz”. The newsletter disseminates news from the KAC and features local arts events, upcoming grant deadlines, job postings, calls for submissions, and other opportunities.

**1,258** NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIBERS

## ARTS EVENTS CALENDAR

The KAC’s online community events calendar is a centralized resource for arts events in the Kingston region. Artists, collectives, and organizations are encouraged to submit their events via our website.

**3,000+** TOTAL  
VIEWERS

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The KAC’s social media channels disseminate news from the KAC and highlight news, opportunities, and events within the broader regional arts sector.

**4,198**  
FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS

**2,734**  
INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS

**4,653**  
X / TWITTER  
FOLLOWERS

**258**  
LINKEDIN  
FOLLOWERS



## THE YGK ARTS PROJECT

The YGK Arts Project recognizes, celebrates and profiles artists and individuals working in the arts in Kingston.

The project database is hosted on our website and social media platforms. Since its launch in 2016, the YGK Arts Project has featured 243 artists and grown into an exciting evolving database of local talent.

\*All data included in the Annual Report reflects numbers as at 31 March 2024.

Photo (top): *Everything in One* by Hayden Maynard

Photo (middle): KaKaow playing guitar. Photo courtesy of the Ricky Brant

Photo (bottom): *Kingston Chaos* by Sean McEvoy

# RESOURCES

## FOR ARTISTS & THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

### ARTS JOB BOARD

The Arts Job Board features job postings and paid opportunities from arts organizations throughout the Kingston region. Organizations can submit their job postings via a public submission form.

### OPPORTUNITIES BOARD

The Opportunities Board highlights any additional opportunities in the region, including calls for submissions, residency opportunities, studio availability, audition notices, volunteer and board opportunities, etc. Users can submit their opportunities via a public submission form.

### GRANTS BOARD

The Grants Board offers a dynamic and fully navigable database of arts-focused grant opportunities. Users can apply a variety of filters to access a curated list of grant opportunities which can support their artistic practice, group, or organization.

### BY THE NUMBERS\*

**1,800+**

ARTS JOB  
BOARD USERS

**400+**

OPPORTUNITIES  
BOARD USERS

**350+**

GRANTS  
BOARD USERS

## NEW BOARDS, NEW POSSIBILITIES

In addition to our existing Arts Job Board, the KAC launched the Opportunities Board in August 2023 and the Grants Board in October 2023. Together, these resources provide artists in Katarokwi/Kingston and the surrounding region with an accessible hub for artistic possibilities. These boards serve as invaluable tools for artists seeking to advance their careers, access funding, and explore new avenues to support their creative pursuits. Workshops, residencies, and grant opportunities are now just a click away, allowing artists to focus more on their creative work and less on the administrative hurdles that often accompany it. By consolidating these resources, the KAC is making a significant step in strengthening our role as the go-to resource for all things arts in the region, and positioning Katarokwi/Kingston as a vibrant hub for artistic expression and creative development.



\*As of March, 2024.

Photo: Robert Goddard at Breaking In. Photo courtesy of Kingston Canadian Film Festival.

# MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS

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. By increasing the profile of the arts in Kingston, the Mayor's Arts Awards affirms the value of the arts as a source of creativity, innovation and pride and nurtures the sustained development of the cultural sector to the benefit of all Kingston residents. The City of Kingston, through the Arts & Culture Services department, administers the Mayor's Arts Awards program. The Kingston Arts Council leads the production of video profiles of the awardees as well as the promotion of the awards to its networks.

**The Creator Award** recognizes living artists, collectives or arts organizations. 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.

**The Arts Champion Award** recognizes a living individual, organization or corporation who makes an extraordinary, leading contribution to the arts in Kingston as a volunteer, advocate, supporter, sponsor and/or philanthropist.

**The Limestone Arts Legacy Award** recognizes individuals of the past whose sustained and substantial contributions have built the artistic vitality of the City, nurturing and enabling forms of creation, participation, presentation and enjoyment, whose leadership has inspired others and whose influence has been felt in the region and beyond.

## 2023 RECIPIENTS

**Sasha Jimenez French**  
CREATOR AWARD

**Savannah Shea**  
CREATOR AWARD

**Blue Canoe Theatrical**  
CREATOR AWARD

**Jermaine Marshall**  
ARTS CHAMPION AWARD

**Bronwen Wallace**  
LIMESTONE ARTS LEGACY AWARD

## 2023 NOMINATIONS WORKING GROUP

**Brianne Franklin** (Co-Chair)  
Member, Arts Advisory Committee

**Aara Macauley** (Co-Chair)  
Member, Arts Advisory Committee

**Councillor Paul Chaves**  
Member, Arts Advisory Committee

**Abena Beloved Green**  
Community Representative

**Melissa Noventa**  
Community Representative

**Greg Tilson**  
Community Representative

**Michael Wheeler**  
Community Representative

# CREATOR AWARDS

**Sasha Jimenez French** is a multidisciplinary Cuban American artist. Through her thriving visual arts practice, dance instruction and performance, Sasha is a strong community leader and a driving force for community building in the arts. Sasha teaches at the Kingston School of Dance and is a former Creativity Studio Artist at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning. Sasha's arts practice is now based in a new studio space in downtown Kingston, where she continues to inspire others, working collaboratively to create opportunities for artists, develop creative projects, and build collective spaces to make art accessible.

**Savannah Shea** is a Kingston based singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, visual artist, and poet. She is an active musician in the Kingston community, regularly performing at local venues including as part of her Sunday afternoon weekly series of folk, jazz, blues, and original tunes at Musiikki Café, and at festivals, and events. Savannah is community minded and a true collaborator, frequently working with fellow artists on creative and cross-disciplinary projects and she provides a strong presence for artists seeking live accompaniment or original compositions.

**Blue Canoe Theatrical Productions Inc.** is a non-profit, community theatre and youth-led organization that creates opportunities for youth under the age of 30 to gain experience in the performing arts by developing a professional, safe, fun, and engaging atmosphere for youth to work together on theatrical productions. Blue Canoe strives to select programming based upon the ability to offer as many opportunities to youth as possible, selecting work that offers an equal opportunity for the youth of various ages with a focus on, but not limited to, musical theatre.



# ARTS CHAMPION AWARD

**Jermaine Marshall** graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the West Indies and a Master of Arts in Social Justice and Equity Studies and then joined the Queen’s University Human Rights and Equity Office in 2021 as the Inclusion and Anti-Racism Advisor. Despite his short time in Kingston, Jermaine has proven himself incredibly community oriented. Performing under the name J-Marsh, Jermaine is an independent vocalist and poet whose art weaves together his love for spoken word poetry and freeform dancing, often investigating his identity as a proud queer Jamaican within the polarizing atmosphere of his home country. Jermaine has been active in organizing Black History Month and Emancipation Day events, and helping to expand the visibility of black artists in the Kingston Arts community, while encouraging engagement with the community as a whole, and advancing spaces for equity and diversity in the city.

# LIMESTONE ARTS LEGACY AWARD

**Bronwen Wallace (1945-1989)** was a poet, short-story writer, and mentor to many aspiring authors as a creative writing instructor at Queen’s University and St. Lawrence College in Kingston, ON. Born in Kingston, she remained deeply committed to the community she called home most of her life. In addition to her teaching, her activism and involvement in feminist movements was reflected in her work at Interval House women’s shelter, and her column in the Kingston Whig-Standard. As a testament to her continued influence and impact on the writing community, the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers was established in her honour in 1994 by a group of friends and colleagues to honour her belief that writers should have more opportunities for recognition early in their careers. “She was always also tuned into the alternative voices, the signals of change and of hope. She believed in people and in the strength of people to survive and prevail.” - Chris Whynot



Photos (Pages 11 and 12) of the Mayor’s Arts Awards 2023 Reception by Subtle Negative.  
 Page 11: Top row: Savannah Shea, Jermaine Marshall / Bottom row: Cam Hill Watson & Kim Dolan of Blue Canoe, Sasha Jimenez French, and Carolyn Smart on behalf of Bronwen Wallace.

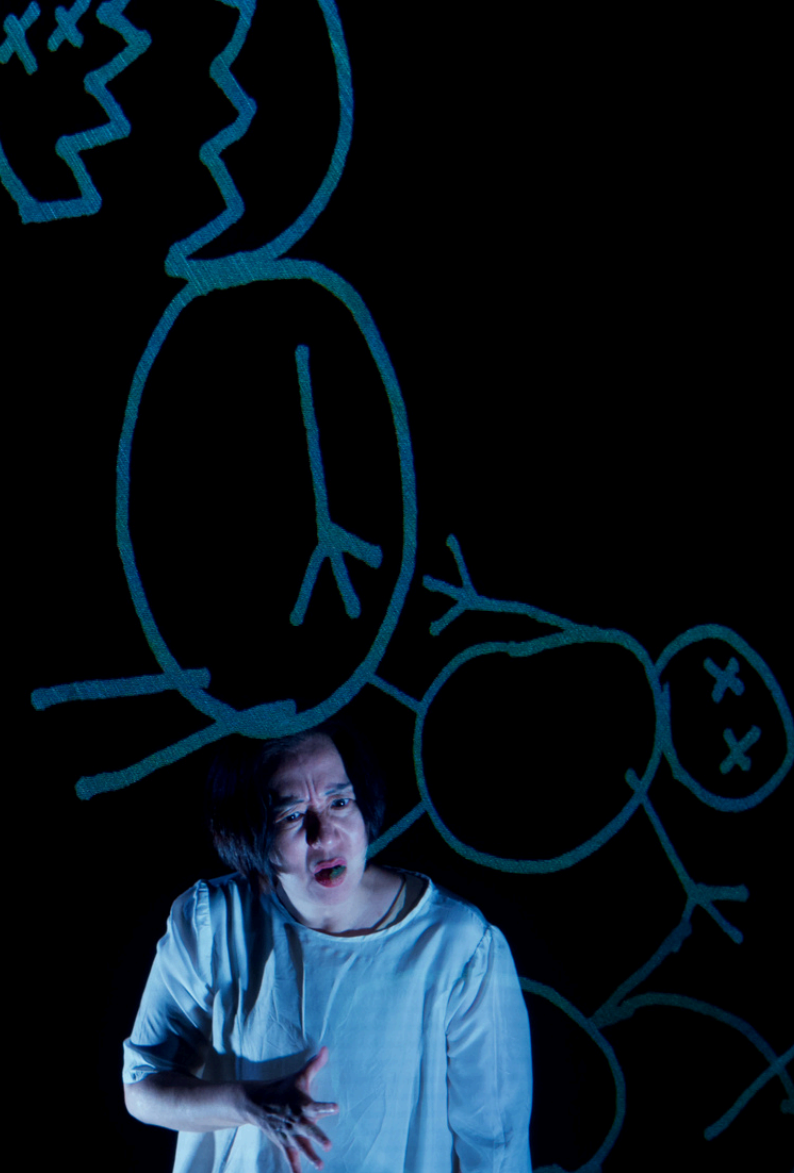


# PROGRAMMING

## THE ART OF EDI

*Presented by the Kingston Arts Council and the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning in collaboration with KEYS Newcomer and Employment Services and the Kingston and Area Association of Museums, Art Galleries, and Historic Sites.*

The Art of EDI was a collaborative community event centred around principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, offering the Katarokwi/Kingston arts community a critical free EDI-focused learning opportunity. Natalia Martinelli-Luengo facilitated a workshop on equity-focused hiring practices. Performances and presentations by artists Erin Ball, Maxime Beaugard, Mance Granberg St-Aubin, Elizabeth Morris, and Theresa Upton showcased and educated attendees on diverse perspectives pertaining to accessibility, neurodiversity, Deaf culture, and Indigenous culture. A culminating Q&A session with the artists provided a platform for attendees to engage in dialogue encouraging collaborative efforts toward a more equitable arts sector. The event additionally sought to model various forms of accessibility by offering a relaxed event format, an access table and sensory break space, access notes provided prior to the event, ASL interpretation and captions.

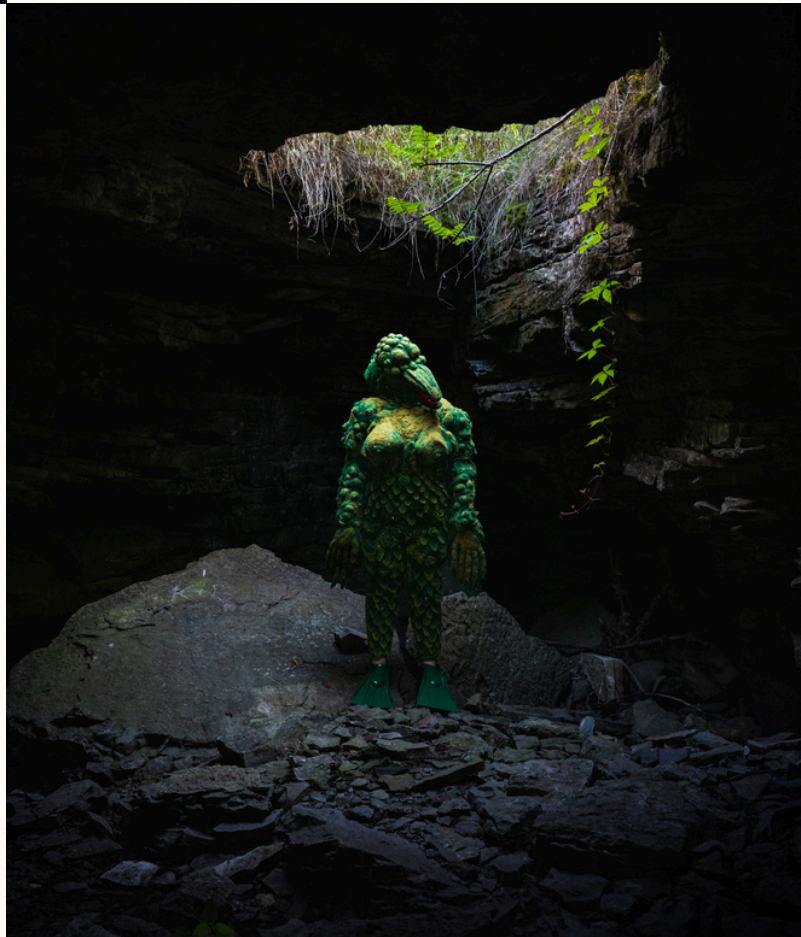


## CKAF PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SESSION

This information session guided new and returning Project Grant applicants through a detailed review of the 2024 CKAF Project Grant Guidelines, Application Forms, and Assessment Criteria, and offered a Q&A with KAC staff. This free event was held virtually via Zoom, with ASL interpretation provided. KAC additionally offered a series of one-on-one meetings for potential Operating and Project Grant applicants.

## NAN YEOMANS DROP IN DAY

In 2023, KAC introduced a “Drop In Day” for the Nan Yeomans grant program, offering an opportunity for potential applicants to seek support in their grant writing process in a casual, welcoming environment. KAC continued to offer one-on-one meetings to potential applicants, but the introduction of the Drop In Day aimed to increase accessibility of KAC support services.



# CULTURE DAYS

## GLOBAL ROOTS: MAPPING CULTURES

KAC collaborated with fellow Tett tenants for a building-wide Culture Days event in 2023. Visitors were invited to explore tenant studios at the Tett and create items to hang on the Tree of Life, a collaborative installation which was later exhibited in KAC's UNIT 115 exhibition space. KAC's activity, *Global Roots: Mapping Cultures*, invited visitors to explore ideas of culture and community through creative writing and illustration.



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

KAC additionally engaged the community via participation in offsite community programs and events, and reintroducing onsite activities after three years of COVID-related closures.

This included running a community booth at Skeleton Park Arts Festival in 2023 with both community discussion and artmaking activities; speaking at the Queen's BFA Annual General Meeting; offsite and onsite visits and talks with a variety of student and community groups; and hosting an hybrid AGM with a Talkback Session.

Photo (top): Participant engaging in *Global Roots: Mapping Cultures* at the KAC office. Photo by Violet Tang

Photo (bottom): Instant film photos taken by participants at KAC's community booth at Skeleton Park Arts Festival. Photo by Nicole Daniels.

# PROGRAMMING

## UNIT 115 EXHIBITIONS

UNIT 115 is a small exhibition space in the foyer of the Kingston Arts Council office. After over three years of closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the KAC reactivated the UNIT 115 exhibition program in May 2023. Throughout 2023-2024, UNIT 115 operated as an exploratory exhibition space used for partnerships, collaborations, and community-engaged projects with local arts groups. Below are some highlights from the 2023-2024 exhibition season.

### MAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION KINGSTON HANDLOOM WEAVERS & SPINNERS

Presented in conjunction with an exhibition in the Tett Gallery, this exhibit featured new and historical works from KHWS in celebration of their milestone 75th anniversary.



Photo (above): Visitors contributing to *gather/stretch* in UNIT 115.  
Photo (page 19): *Pride Quilt*. Photos by Nicole Daniels.

JUNE

## CREATIVITY STUDIOS EXHIBIT

NATALIE BOHNEN-TWIDDY, SASHA JIMENEZ FRENCH, BETHANY GARNER, ALICE MELO, MICHELLE REID, ADELE WEBSTER

This exhibition featured a small series of new and experimental works from the Tett's Creativity Studio Artists.

JULY

## GATHER / STRETCH

KAC x SASHA JIMENEZ FRENCH

*gather/stretch* explored communal artmaking through extended collaborations. This participatory exhibition invited visitors to engage with the installation, first by adding to the piece (*gather*), then by taking away from it (*stretch*). The installation was an extension of two community artmaking activities run by KAC and Sasha Jimenez French at Skeleton Park Arts Festival, which later came together to form the basis for *gather/stretch*.

AUGUST

## PRIDE QUILT INITIATIVE KINGSTON SCHOOL OF ART X LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

This collaborative project invited LDSB school-based, equity-related clubs and interested individuals and families to design a series of squares reflecting on the theme of Pride, which were then stitched into give quilts. The quilts were featured in local Pride events and exhibited at different Kingston locations including in UNIT 115.



SEPTEMBER

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ACTIVITY

KAC

UNIT 115 was activated to engage visitors in visual and written dialogue regarding community needs and priorities, KAC services and sector gaps, and the arts more broadly in Katarokwi/Kingston.

OCTOBER

## CERAMICS RE:CONSIDERED

KINGSTON POTTERS' GUILD

*A celebration of the inaugural KPG Mentorship Program. This year-long opportunity empowered ceramic artists to transform and revitalize their pottery practices. Each mentee was challenged to stretch creatively, finding and pursuing their individual goals in clay. Mentees' studies and works in progress were exhibited in UNIT 115, with final pieces exhibited simultaneously in the Tett Gallery.*

NOVEMBER

## TETT TREE OF LIFE

KAC x TETT CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY AND LEARNING

Visitors were invited to contribute to this collaborative installation by drawing or writing messages reflecting on ideas of culture, family, home, and community using a variety of media.



Tett Tree of Life. Photo by Shanique Peart



DECEMBER – JANUARY

## IN BETWIN: STORIES OF IMMIGRANTS

**SERGIO JAUJA**

*IN BETWIN: Stories of Immigrants* featured a series of portraits depicting individuals from various nationalities residing in Kingston. Through this ongoing project, Venezuelan-Canadian emerging artist Sergio Jauja interviews Kingstonians to learn about their immigration journeys and develop multimedia portraits inspired by their stories. The exhibition explored the concept of “in-betweenness,” felt by many immigrants, while building community and fostering interpersonal connections. *IN BETWIN* was celebrated with KAC’s first opening reception in over three years, and a sleek new look for UNIT 115.

FEBRUARY–MAY

## THRIFT FOR ART’S SAKE MODERN FUEL ARTIST-RUN CENTRE

This innovative fundraiser developed by Modern Fuel featured a pop up “thrift store” selling gently used clothing items accessories, and small household items. Proceeds primarily supported Modern Fuel’s operations and programming, with a 20% administrative fee on sales in UNIT 115 paid to support KAC’s operations. This innovative fundraising model invited community members to support their local arts organizations while shopping sustainably, and additionally offered a new way to donate gently used goods.



# PROGRAMMING

## BY THE NUMBERS

### **THE ART OF EDI — ATTENDEES: 42+**

The Art of EDI welcomed **42** attendees and featured five artists, one workshop facilitator, two ASL interpreters, and **several** staff members of the presenting organizations.

### **GRANTS OUTREACH — TOTAL ATTENDEES: 41+**

The CKAF Project Grants Information Session welcomed **17** attendees and featured three facilitators and two ASL interpreters. Staff conducted individual meetings with **22** CKAF applicants (individuals and groups). **Two** applicants attended the pilot Nan Yeomans Drop In Day.

### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING — TOTAL ATTENDEES: 677+**

Skeleton Park Arts Festival — KAC community booth: **350+** attendees

Culture Days — Global Roots: Mapping Cultures: **7** attendees

Annual General Meeting + Talkback Session: **31** attendees

Offsite visits / talks (3): **125** attendees

Onsite visits / talks (4): **93** attendees

Open office hours: **71** attendees

### **MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS — ESTIMATED ATTENDEES: 60+**

Estimated **60+** attendees at the public reception, and numerous online views of the profile videos (not tracked).

### **UNIT 115 EXHIBITIONS — TOTAL ATTENDEES: 1,224+**

*75th Anniversary Exhibition* (KHWS): **57** attendees

*Creativity Studios Exhibit* (Natalie Bohnen-Twiddy, Sasha Jimenez French, Bethany Garner, Alice Melo, Michelle Reid, Adele Webster): **70** attendees

*gather/stretch* (KAC x Sasha Jimenez French): **228** attendees

*Pride Quilt Initiative* (KSOA x LDSB): **54** attendees

Community Feedback Activity: **28** attendees

*Ceramics Reconsidered* (KPG): **119** attendees

*Tett Tree of Life* (KAC x TCCL): **71** attendees

*IN BETWiN: Stories of Immigrants* (Sergio Jaua): **395** attendees\*

\*Opening reception: **76** attendees

Thrift for Art's Sake (MFARC): **200** attendees

Total estimated attendance at KAC programs in 2023-2024: **2,044+**  
(2022-2023 total attendance: 54)



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

1 April 2023—31 March 2024

**\$168,137**

TOTAL REVENUE

**\$178,887**

TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$10,750**

DEFICIENCY OF  
TOTAL REVENUE  
OVER TOTAL  
EXPENSES

**\$6,417**

ADJUSTED  
DEFICIENCY OF  
REVENUE OVER  
EXPENSES\*

*\*The remaining \$4,333 deficit comes from the restricted net assets (charitable gaming funds) which KAC is intentionally reducing with the aim of holding little to no surplus of charitable gaming funds..*

## REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Our major funders, the City of Kingston and the Ontario Arts Council, continued to providing stable funding to the KAC in 2023-2024.
- KAC received additional funding in the amount of \$8,695 via the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area's Fall 2023 Community Grants Program. These funds, deferred to 2024-2025, supported the purchase of new computers for the KAC office.

## EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS

- The KAC invested over \$25,000 in artists through the payment of fees for event facilitation, grants adjudication, and the completion of artistic work and services.
- KAC maintained a full staff complement of two permanent full-time employees and one permanent part-time employee.
- KAC invested more into public events, salaries, and artist fees in 2023-2024, directing our funding to support and grow our local arts community.

## OVERVIEW + GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The KAC's unrestricted net assets are \$39,441, maintaining a healthy contingency fund for the organization. KAC's unrestricted net assets were reduced by \$6,417 in 2023-2024.
- The KAC additionally holds restricted net assets in the amount of \$17,543 (charitable gaming funds). KAC's restricted net assets were reduced by \$4,333 in 2023-2024, supporting KAC's goal to expend its surplus of charitable gaming funds.

**Full financial statements are available by request**

# OUR SUPPORTERS

*Thank you to our supporters: our partners, donors, and funders in 2023-2024!*

## **PARTNERS**

THE CITY OF KINGSTON  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR KINGSTON & AREA  
TETT CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY AND LEARNING  
KEYS NEWCOMER AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
KINGSTON AND AREA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS, GALLERIES,  
AND HISTORIC SITES

## **DONORS**

SUSAN PALOSCHI  
ONTARIO ARTS FOUNDATION  
ANONYMOUS DONORS VIA CANADA HELPS + UNITED WAY KFL&A

**FUNDERS**



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

**Ontario**



Community Foundation  
for Kingston & Area

**FUNDERS**

# KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL TEAM

## STAFF

**Nicole Daniels**  
Executive Director

**Violet Tang**  
Grants and Programs Coordinator (to May 2024)

**B.C. Gorrie**  
Program and Communications Coordinator (from July 2024)

**Katherine Dionne**  
Administrative Assistant

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Clelia Scala**, Chair

**Dave Rideout**, Vice Chair

**Amanda Baker**, Treasurer

**Nevena Martinović**, Secretary

**Brett Christopher**, Director

**Barbara Bell** (to March 2024)

**Diane Black**, Director

**Rachael MacDonald**, Director

**Alyce Soulodre**, Director

**Jake Torrie**, Director (to June 2024)

**Dave Wreggitt**, Director (to July 2023)



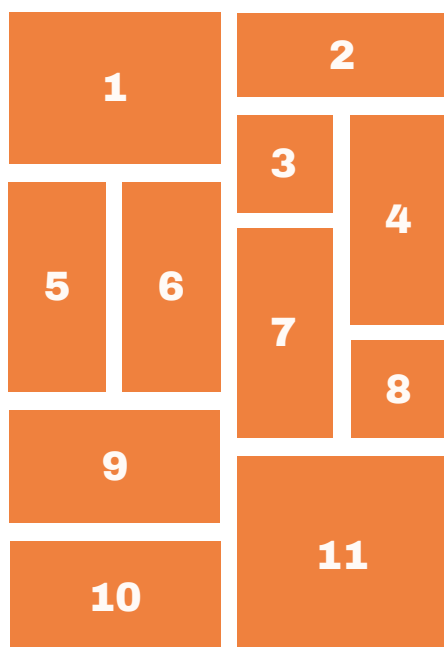
Photo (top): Nicole Daniels presenting at the Art of EDI. Photo by Shanique Peart.

Photo (middle): Mayor's Arts Awards video shoot with Violet Tang, Josh Lyon, Jermaine Marshall. Photo by Nicole Daniels.

Photo (bottom): Clelia Scala at KAC's community booth at Skeleton Park Arts Festival 2023. Photo by Nicole Daniels.

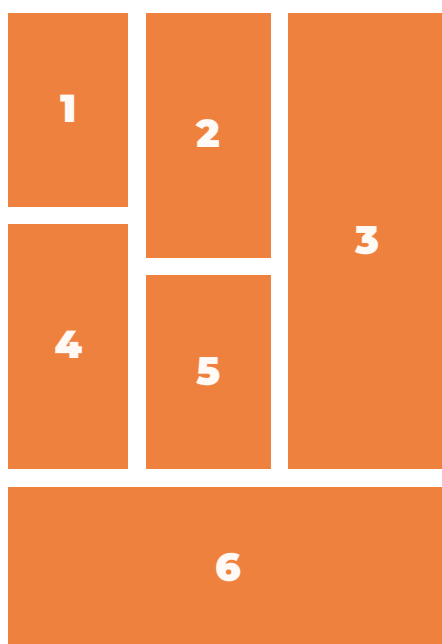
# ADDITIONAL PHOTO CREDITS

## PAGE 7



- 1 The Art of EDI. Photo by Shanique Peart.
- 2 BTS filming for the Mayor's Arts Awards with Josh Lyon. Photo by Nicole Daniels.
- 3 ASL interpreter at The Art of EDI. Photo by Shanique Peart.
- 4 Attendee at the Art of EDI. Photo by Shanique Peart.
- 5 Erin Ball performing at the Art of EDI. Photo by Shanique Peart.
- 6 Sasha Jimenez French at the Mayor's Arts Awards. Photo by Subtle Negative.
- 7 KAC Team members Violet Tang and Alyce Soulodre at Skeleton Park Arts Festival. Photo by Nicole Daniels.
- 8 Culture Days participants. Photo by Violet Tang.
- 9 Access table at the Art of EDI. Photo by Shanique Peart.
- 10 *gather/stretch* in UNIT 115. Photo by Nicole Daniels.
- 11 Mayor's Arts Awards reception. Photo by Subtle Negative.

## PAGE 9



- 1 Luella performing at Spring Reverb 2023. Photo courtesy of KPP Concerts.
- 2 Marney McDiarmid painting a sidewalk chalk mural. Photo courtesy of Skeleton Park Arts Festival.
- 3 Devanshi Mishra performing at Ground UP Dance Festival 2023. Photo by Shanique Peart.
- 4 Movement Market Collective performance at the Broom Factory. Photo by Jamstone Productions.
- 5 Urban Science Brass Band performing at Skeleton Park Arts Festival 2022. Photo by Jay Middaugh.
- 6 *AFLOAT* at HYDRA by Calliope Collective. Photo by Randy deKlein Simpson.



kingston  
arts council

Unit 115  
370 King Street West  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 2X4

613-546-2787  
[www.artskingston.ca](http://www.artskingston.ca)  
[info@artskingston.ca](mailto:info@artskingston.ca)