



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 24-101**

To:	Mayor and Members of Council
From:	Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff:	Danika Lochhead, Acting Director, Arts & Culture Services
Date of Meeting:	March 19, 2024
Subject:	Renewal of the Service Level Agreement between the City of Kingston and the Kingston Arts Council

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 5. Drive Inclusive Economic Growth

Goal: 5.7 Foster culture, history, education, arts and recreation (CHEAR).

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to ask Council to approve the renewal of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the City of Kingston and the Kingston Arts Council (KAC).

Since 2012, the City of Kingston has entered into an SLA with the KAC on an annual basis. These agreements include financial support transferred to the KAC to fund initiatives that align with various City-approved strategies and plans as well as Council's Strategic Priorities. Funds to support this SLA are included annually as part of the Arts & Culture Services Department's operating budget.

In 2023, the KAC received \$143,885 in funding through their SLA with the City, which included an operating grant of \$124,385, as well as \$19,500 for the KAC's support in the Mayor's Arts Awards. As a core component of their 2023 agreement, the KAC administered the 2023 City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF) and developed the Plan for Administration for the 2024 CKAF, approved by Council at its meeting on January 9, 2024 ([Report Number ARCP-24-005](#)).

They also provided key support for the Mayor's Arts Awards program that recognizes achievement and impact in the arts through the commissioning of five profile videos. The KAC submitted the required Interim Report in December 2023 (Exhibit A) that provides an overview

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of all the KAC's activities over the past year. The report has been reviewed by staff who are satisfied that the KAC has met its obligations as required by the 2023 SLA. The Interim Report is also supplemented by the KAC's 2022-2023 Annual Report (Exhibit B) that reports on the work of the KAC and tracks the impact of programs including CKAF.

The renewal of the SLA in 2024 will include several deliverables, notably the administration of the 2024 CKAF Operating and Project Grants, the provision of professional development opportunities related to arts, culture, public art and creative industries, and support for the 2024 Mayor's Arts Awards program. It is proposed that the 2024 SLA include a 2% inflationary increase over the 2023 SLA operating funding. The total proposed SLA funding for 2024 is \$146,373, which includes \$126,873 as operating funding and \$19,500 to continue to support the KAC's participation in the Mayor's Arts Awards program. The SLA also includes the total City funding to be allocated through CKAF as Operating and Project Grants, which totals \$612,790. These amounts have been included as part of the 2024 Arts & Culture Services operating budget.

In tandem with the renewal of the SLA, Council is also asked to appoint two Councillors to participate as ex-officio, non-voting members for the jury meetings specific to the CKAF Operating and Project Grant programs. At the jury meetings, the Councillors and staff provide, upon request, broader community perspectives and information on the City of Kingston objectives for the CKAF program.

Recommendation:

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute a Service Level Agreement between the City of Kingston and the Kingston Arts Council that identifies the services to be provided by the Kingston Arts Council and the associated funding to be issued by the City of Kingston for those services, in a form acceptable to the Director of Legal Services; and

That Council approve the release of \$146,373 from the Arts & Culture Services Department's 2024 operating budget to support the Kingston Arts Council and the services identified as part of a Service Level Agreement between the City of Kingston and the Kingston Arts Council in 2024; and

That Council approve the release of \$612,790 from the Arts & Culture Services Department's 2024 operating budget to be distributed as City of Kingston Arts Fund Operating and Project Grants, as per the Council-approved Plan for Administration; and

That Council appoint Councillor _____ and the Acting Director, Arts & Culture Services, or designate to participate in the City of Kingston Arts Fund Operating Grants jury meeting scheduled for May 22, 2024, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; and

That Council appoint Councillor _____ and the Acting Director, Arts & Culture Services, or designate to participate in the City of Kingston Arts Fund Operating Grants jury meeting scheduled for May 23, 2024, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Jennifer Campbell,
Commissioner, Community
Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Major Projects & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	

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Options/Discussion:

The existing 2023 SLA between the City of Kingston and the KAC expires on March 31, 2024, and requires Council's approval to renew; a process that happens on an annual basis since this relationship was formalized in 2012.

Background

The SLA between the City and the KAC provides key support to the KAC and outlines deliverables that align with the City's priorities and the KAC's mandate to function as a professional arts service organization that provides services and administers funding to artists, arts groups and arts organizations, in support of arts projects, programming, exhibitions and more that benefit the Kingston community. The City's support for the KAC is critical and enhances organizational capacity to secure additional funding opportunities through the Ontario Arts Council and other funding bodies.

A major component of the SLA is the KAC-led administration of the CKAF that is arms-length from the City. The KAC has administered this program since it was first established in 2007, and every year the KAC renews the CKAF Plan for Administration, works with and provides support to grant applicants, delivers grant writing professional development opportunities, does outreach to increase awareness of CKAF, coordinates peer jury review meetings, ensures City funding is distributed to grant recipients, and leads impact reporting of the CKAF program. City Council is engaged in the CKAF process by approving the Plan for Administration every year, approving the total CKAF funding to be made available to grant recipients as determined through the peer jury process, and participating in the jury meetings as non-voting, ex-officio members. Final CKAF recommendations and awarded grant amounts are presented to City Council in July for ratification.

Analysis

At this time, it is being recommended that the City's SLA with the KAC be renewed again in 2024. It is anticipated the services to be included as part of the 2024 SLA will be as follows:

- Manage the 2024 City of Kingston Arts Fund that includes the following:
 - Administer the Operating and Project Grant programs as per the Plan for Administration approved by Council, and based on the approved 2024 CKAF funding totaling \$612,790;
 - Pursue strategies and professional development opportunities to increase the profile of the CKAF, as well as its continuing growth and success that includes targeted efforts to attract an increased number of applications from across the community;
 - Oversee the application process, receive submissions, coordinate the jury and adjudication process, and distribute the grants; and
 - Promote and raise awareness of the impact of the City's investment in the arts through the CKAF and increase the profiles of grant recipients.

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- Provide quarterly CKAF reports to track administration and financial activity;
- Participate in the City-led review of the City of Kingston Arts Fund, to be completed in Q3 2024;
- Plan for the 2025 CKAF, pending results and recommendations from the City-led review;
- Support the 2024 Mayor's Arts Awards program, including support for the nominations process and promotion of the awards event ceremony and award recipients, that includes creating five profile videos; and
- Support sector development through the provision of targeted professional development and training opportunities for professional artists, arts professionals and arts organizations, in alignment with Arts & Culture Services strategies and priorities.

As in previous years, the SLA will include language specifically related to the management and expenditure of the funding the KAC receives. It will also outline requirements related to reporting that includes providing quarterly reports as well as a year-end, Interim Report and a 2023-2024 Annual Report. The SLA will also include general terms and conditions typical of all such agreements the City of Kingston uses when entering partnerships with external organizations like the KAC.

With Council's approval to renew the City of Kingston's SLA with the KAC, staff will meet with representatives of the KAC Board and administrative staff to review the outcomes of the 2023 SLA and to discuss any alterations, changes and/or additions that need to be made to finalize the 2024 SLA. Once that work has been completed, the 2024 SLA can then be executed by the Mayor and Clerk in a form that is acceptable to the Director of Legal Services.

Existing Policy/By-Law

Investing in the KAC through a SLA on an annual basis aligns with several recommendations originally identified in the Kingston Culture Plan approved by Council in September 2010. It also helps to fulfill various City-approved strategies as well as Council's Strategic Priorities.

Financial Considerations

Funding for the KAC in 2024 was included as part of the approved 2024 operating budget for the Arts & Culture Services Department. The total funding is \$146,373, which includes \$126,873 as operating funding and \$19,500 to support the KAC's participation in the Mayor's Arts Awards program. That funding will be paid out in two installments that include: (1) 25% to be paid out when Council approves the renewal of the SLA between the City of Kingston and the KAC; and (2) 75% to be paid out when the 2024 SLA has been signed by both parties.

The funding to support the CKAF Operating and Project Grants in 2024 totaling \$612,790 will also be issued once the SLA has been signed by both parties and is required to be held in a separate, interest-bearing account under the terms of the SLA. Any interest earned will be reinvested into the grant program.

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Contacts:

Danika Lochhead, Acting Director, Arts & Culture Services, 613-546-4291 extension 1277

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A - Interim Report December 2023

Exhibit B - 2022-2023 Annual Report

Interim Report on the Activities of the Kingston Arts Council

22 December 2023

Danika Lochhead
Acting Director, Arts & Culture Services
City of Kingston
216 Ontario Street
Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

Dear Danika,

We wish to thank you, Colin, and the City of Kingston for your ongoing support of the Kingston Arts Council (KAC) and continued investment in vital programs and services which support the arts sector in Kingston. Please find our year-end report on our activities in 2023, submitted as per the Service Level Agreement (Section 10) between the City of Kingston and the KAC. This report provides updates on the work described in Sections 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of the SLA, as well as an overview of the KAC's services and programs in 2023.

City of Kingston Arts Fund

In 2023, the City of Kingston Arts Fund (CKAF) was administered with only minor updates made to the program and Plan for Administration. As reported in the City of Kingston [Report Number ARCP-23-001](#), these updates included: dates, deadlines, and language; an addition in the Introduction and Overview to note the additional funding administered in 2021; and new language to reflect current policies and procedures for "lead applicants" in the creation of grant agreements. Following two years of impactful changes, the KAC opted to maintain the status quo with regards to CKAF administration in 2023 in preparation for the City-led CKAF Review.

Operating and Project Grant applications were launched on 8 February 2023, with a deadline of 13 April 2023. The KAC continued to distribute forms, receive applications, and host information sessions and adjudication meetings virtually to maintain consistency for applicants and jurors. The KAC followed its outreach plan, distributing a press release, social media and website promotion, KAC's ArtsBuzz newsletter, and targeted emails. Additionally, the KAC office reopened to the public in March 2023, following the onboarding of our new Executive Director, Nicole Daniels. Reopening the office allowed KAC staff to increase interactions with the public and provide an opportunity for walk-in visits and requests, in addition to offering both in person and virtual meetings for potential applicants.

In 2023, CKAF jurors awarded grants to 100% of eligible applicants, awarding 12 Operating Grants and 16 Project Grants for a combined total of \$619,255 distributed. A total of 12 Operating Grant applications were received, and a total of 19 Project Grant applications were received, with two deemed ineligible and one removed from consideration due to success in the Operating stream. Following the approval of the Report from the Kingston Arts Council on the

Adjudication of Applications to the 2023 City of Kingston Arts Fund, grant recipients were publicly announced on 12 July 2023 via a press release, social media promotion, and on the KAC website, and were celebrated in KAC's ArtsBuzz newsletter. A complete list of recipients and funding amounts can be found on the KAC website.

The KAC has now completed its 2023 annual CKAF review and prepared the 2024 Plan for Administration, which has been approved by the KAC Board of Directors, the Arts Advisory Committee, and the Arts, Recreation, and Community Policies Committee. The Plan will be reviewed by City Council in January, and the program is progressing to launch on schedule. In consideration of the City-led CKAF Review, which is currently underway and anticipated to recommend significant updates to the program in 2025, the KAC did not propose any major changes to the Plan for Administration for 2024. This decision was made in order to maintain stability within the program to best support applicants as we await the recommendations produced via the Review. KAC continues to meet with former, returning, and potential applicants, and to solicit and record feedback from a wide range of community members to be considered through the City-led CKAF Review.

The KAC continues to provide quarterly reports to the City with updates on the progression of the CKAF program and maintains a separate, interest-earning account for CKAF funds.

Mayor's Arts Awards

The KAC again partnered with the City to support the annual Mayor's Arts Awards. This year, videographer Josh Lyon was commissioned by the KAC to produce profile videos for each of the five award recipients. Josh was also required to produce still images for use in the awards ceremony and subsequent promotion.

The process was managed by the KAC, specifically the Executive Director, Nicole Daniels, and the Grants and Programs Coordinator, Violet Tang. The videos were filmed in September and completed for the awards ceremony on 6 November 2023. Production costs were included in the 2023 SLA and the KAC paid Josh Lyon directly upon completion of the project. The KAC promoted the event via social media, the KAC website, and our ArtsBuzz newsletter, and subsequently shared the City's announcement of recipients and celebrated recipients through the same channels. The videos are available on the KAC website and linked through our social media posts and past newsletters.

Programming — City of Kingston Supported

The KAC provided programming in support of CKAF in accordance with the SLA. The Grants & Programs Coordinator, Violet Tang, hosted a CKAF Information Session on 15 March 2023. The CKAF Information Session was hosted virtually via Zoom at no cost for participants, with closed captioning and ASL interpretation provided. The session reviewed the CKAF objectives, funding streams, eligibility criteria, application process and details (including the checklist, application

preparation, key application questions, definitions, supplementary materials, and budget), adjudication process and assessment criteria, timeline, and general grant writing tips. 17 individuals attended and KAC staff were present to support as needed. The CKAF Information Session was promoted through targeted email outreach, KAC's ArtsBuzz newsletter, social media, and the press releases issued during the CKAF launch in February. No programming took place in support of the City's Public Art Master Plan or the Creative Industries Strategy in 2023, but the KAC looks forward to potential collaboration opportunities with the City on these opportunities and the newly approved Music Strategy.

Programming — KAC Programs

The KAC continues to provide programming in support of Kingston area artists, arts organizations, and arts workers. KAC programming aims to create opportunities for networking, collaboration, professional development, and access to much-needed professional resources. Our programs are offered free of charge, and include built-in accommodations and/or the option to request additional accommodations, based on the event. In 2023, the KAC has worked to enhance its presence in the community, and has significantly increased audience engagement.

So far in 2023, we have engaged over 1,620 people – the majority of which are local artists and arts workers – through KAC programs, participation in other programming and events, and open office hours. Some highlights:

- 175 participants have attended KAC events;
- An additional 964 have attended KAC exhibitions, 3 of which were participatory / community-engaged;
- An estimated 430 participants have engaged with KAC at programs and events in which KAC participated, including offsite presentations and a KAC activity booth Skeleton Park Arts Festival;
- KAC has welcomed 5 large group visits, offering an overview of KAC services and information about the broader arts sector, in addition to regular visits from tour groups facilitated by the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning.

Programming in 2023 includes:

The Art of EDI — 11 September 2023

The Art of EDI, presented by the Kingston Arts Council and Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning in collaboration with KEYS and the Kingston and Area Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites, was hosted in person at the Tett Centre on 11 September. The event featured a workshop on inclusive hiring practices from Natalia Martinelli-Luengo (KEYS) and performances, presentations, and a Q&A from artists Erin Ball, Maxime Beauregard, Mance Granberg, Elizabeth Morris, and Theresa Upton. The performances and presentations focused on topics of accessibility, and each artist spoke to their personal experiences and intersectionality, touching on topics of neurodivergence, Indigeneity, Deafness, disability, gender and sexuality. The event was set up to offer and model a variety of access features, including

access notes, relaxed seating and relaxed event atmosphere, a sensory break space, an access table, and ASL interpreters.

UNIT 115 Exhibitions — May 2023–present

Beginning in May 2023, KAC reintroduced UNIT 115 exhibitions — a series of exhibitions and showcases in the small exhibition space at the KAC office. While working to rebuild this program, KAC has focused UNIT 115 exhibitions on community collaborations, exhibitions driven by local arts organizations, and community-engaged projects. To date, we have hosted:

- *75th Anniversary Exhibition*, Kingston Handloom Weavers & Spinners (joint exhibition)
- *Creativity Studio Artists showcase*, Natalie Bohnen-Twiddy, Michelle Reid, Adele Webster, Sasha Jimenez French, Alice Melo, Bethany Garner
- *gather/stretch*, collaboration with Sasha Jimenez French (participatory installation)
- *Pride Quilts*, KSOA x Limestone District School Board (community-engaged project)
- KAC Feedback Activity in UNIT 115 (participatory activity)
- *Ceramics Reconsidered*, Kingston Potters' Guild (joint exhibition)
- *Tett Tree of Life*, collaboration with Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning (participatory installation)
- *IN BETWiN*, Sergio Jaua (community-engaged project)

AGM + Talkback Session — 27 July 2023

The KAC hosted its 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) both in person and virtually via Zoom, and expanded the event to include a Talkback Session following the conclusion of the AGM. Members of the public were invited to attend KAC's AGM to learn about what the organization accomplished in 2022-2023, and participate in the Talkback Session where KAC Staff and Board invited and responded to questions and feedback from attendees. A total of 31 community members attended, and discussion and questions spanned a range of key topics for the Kingston arts sector, including: grant opportunities and CKAF funding streams, creation grants, support for digital and XR art, support for dance and performance art, the need for studio space for artists in Kingston, emerging artist supports, and more.

Culture Days — 23 September 2023

This year, tenants at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning formed a committee to coordinate a building-wide Culture Days event. Through this collaborative event, visitors were invited to participate in artmaking activities in each of the participating tenants' studios, culminating in a collective installation and performance in the Malting Tower. Small works created at each of the studios were hung on the Tett Tree of Life, which was later exhibited in KAC's UNIT 115. KAC's activity, *Global Roots: Mapping Cultures*, invited visitors to share cultural experiences, memories, and traditions through illustration and writing.

Community Engagement Activities — varied dates

The KAC additionally increased its community engagement efforts throughout 2023. While promoting the Nan Yeomans grant, KAC hosted a full day of drop in office hours on 11 October 2023 to encourage potential applicants to bring questions to KAC staff. We continue to offer regular meetings both virtually and person, and regularly welcome questions and drop in visits

from the public. In addition to regularly welcoming visitors touring the Tett, we have hosted two large student groups for scheduled visits to KAC to review KAC services, opportunities throughout the community, and field questions. We additionally attended two offsite events as guest speakers, including the Bachelor of Fine Arts AGM at Queen's University, and have two more offsite student visits scheduled in the new year where we will promote and review the CKAF program and grant writing tips. This year, KAC also secured a community booth at the annual Skeleton Park Arts Festival, through which we offered creative activities (which later contributed to our *gather/stretch* exhibition) and a community feedback activity.

Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development

The KAC administers the Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development in partnership with the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area. This grant awards \$2,500 to one emerging visual artist annually, to support the career development and growth of the selected artist. In the fall, a jury of three visual artists awarded the grant to Kelsey Dawn Pearson, a local multidisciplinary artist working in fibre art, printmaking, puppetry and performance.

Communications

In 2023, KAC expanded its communications efforts and sought to strengthen its role as a centralized resource and communications hub for all things arts in Kingston. The KAC website continues to offer key community resources, including the Arts Events Calendar and Arts Job Board, which highlight arts-focused events and job opportunities, respectively, in Kingston and the surrounding area. Local artists, collectives, and organizations can submit to our Arts Events Calendar through a submission form on our website. This year, we also introduced a submission form on the Arts Job Board to streamline the process for organizations seeking promotional support. In addition to these key resources, the KAC introduced two new resource boards in 2023: the Opportunities Board and Grants Board. The Opportunities Board complements the Arts Job Board by highlighting any additional opportunities (calls for submissions, volunteer opportunities, audition notices, etc.) and also has an easily accessible submission form. The Grants Board highlights upcoming grant opportunities at the local, provincial, and national level. We also continue to maintain a Funding Agencies List on our website. We continue to develop these resources and explore new opportunities to enhance KAC's role as a key resource and communications hub, and look forward to introducing new resources in 2024.

Our ArtsBuzz newsletter continues to be issued twice monthly, and has been updated with a new look and format to align the content with KAC's key resources. The YGK Arts Project continues to feature local artist highlights on KAC's website and social media, and is now featured in the ArtsBuzz newsletter. We increased the number of highlights to twice monthly in alignment with ArtsBuzz. We have additionally made efforts to increase engagement on our social media platforms, expanding beyond the YGK Arts Project and grants promotion to include photos of KAC events/activities, UNIT 115 exhibitions, and highlights for CKAF-funded events and organizations. We continue to promote arts events and opportunities in the region.

We look forward to continuing our communications efforts in 2024, cementing our role as a communications hub in Kingston, expanding our resource offerings, and strengthening existing community ties. We additionally seek to expand our outreach to engage new audiences and strengthen our regional ties.

Staffing

The KAC onboarded new staff this year following a thorough hiring process. Nicole Daniels was onboarded as Executive Director on 6 March 2023, and Katherine Dionne joined the team as Administrative Assistant on 23 January 2023. The staff structure established in 2022 following consultations with a lawyer and HR consultant remains in place; we maintain a staff of three, including a full-time Executive Director (Nicole Daniels), a full-time Grants & Programs Coordinator (Violet Tang) and a part-time Administrative Assistant (Katherine Dionne). The current staff model maintains stability for the organization and has enabled KAC to continue providing critical services to the arts community following a period of transition. Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, we hope to secure funding to expand the KAC team to increase the number of FTE staff and/or onboard additional part-time staff.

Board

In the summer of 2023, two Directors completed their terms. The KAC then onboarded three new Directors, and the Board of Directors now has a total of ten members. The KAC has done some internal restructuring of the Board at its committees this year. The full Board of Directors now meets on a quarterly basis, with the addition of an extra meeting in June focused on the CKAF program and adjudication report, and the Annual General Meeting in July. The committees have been restructured to maximize their impact, and now meet on a quarterly basis, as well, with the option for additional meetings as needed. This structure allows for increased engagement on committees and working groups without significant changes to Directors' workloads.

Additional Funding

The KAC received an Operating Grant from the Ontario Arts Council in the amount of \$12,146. This represents the second year of a multi-year Operating Grant cycle. The KAC is additionally supported by Ontario Lottery and Gaming Charitable Games through our permit to receive proceeds for programs and services in support of the local arts community. Volunteers attend shifts at Play! Gaming & Entertainment, and the KAC promotes this opportunity through social media on a monthly basis. We additionally received an Equipment Only Grant in the amount of \$8,695 through the Community Foundation & Area's Fall Community Grants Program, which will be used to purchase new computers for the KAC office in 2024.

We appreciate the support of the City of Kingston and City staff, especially Danika and Colin, throughout 2023. We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the City and are

excited to find new ways to expand this partnership. Should you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clelia Scala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Clelia Scala
Chair, Board of Directors
Kingston Arts Council

Attached:

Trial Balance, 1 April 2023 – 21 December 2023

Profit and Loss Statement, 1 April 2023 – 21 December 2023

Audited Financial Statements, 2022-2023

KAC Annual Report, 2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



kingston
arts council

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DIRECTOR + BOARD CHAIR

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SUPPORTERS

15 KAC TEAM



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Kingston Arts Council (KAC) is pleased to share the Annual Report for 2022-2023. This report offers a review of our grant programs, services, and activities for the year.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the KAC Board of Directors welcomed four new members: Clelia Scala (Chair), Dave Rideout (Vice Chair), Nevena Martinović (Secretary) and Alyce Soulodre. As an oversight Board, our Directors ensured that the legal, financial and fiduciary requirements of the KAC were upheld. Together with KAC's former Executive Director, Felix Lee, the Board also helped to restructure KAC staff roles to ensure ongoing stability of the organization.

Nicole Daniels
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

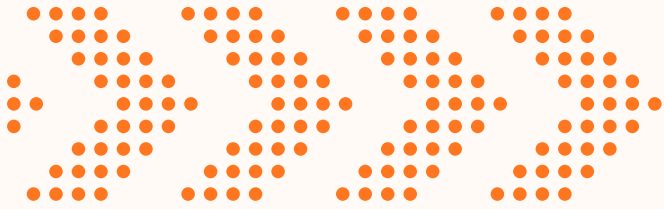
The KAC excitedly welcomed new and familiar faces to the team in 2022-2023: Nicole Daniels, Executive Director; Violet Tang, Grants and Programs Coordinator; and Katherine Dionne, Administrative Assistant. We wish to thank Felix Lee and Jeff McGilton, who departed the organization in 2023. We are especially grateful for the care and hard work that Felix invested in the KAC and broader Katarokwi/Kingston arts community for over five years as Grants Coordinator (2017-2021) and Executive Director (2021-2023), and wish him the very best in his future endeavours.



Clelia Scala
CHAIR,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2022, the KAC administered over \$600,000 in funding through the City of Kingston Arts Fund, supporting artists and their organizations through CKAF Operating and Project Grants. KAC additionally administered the annual Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development. We are grateful for the continued support of the City of Kingston, Ontario Arts Council, Community Foundation for Kingston & Area, and our donors.

KAC continued its advocacy work this past year through both the Alliance of Arts Councils of Ontario and the development of Kingston Votes. We look forward to continuing to advocate on behalf of the Katarokwi/Kingston arts community, and to find new ways to expand our role in the local arts scene as funder, leader, advocate, resource, and facilitator of opportunities. As we prepare to develop a new strategic plan, we look forward to strengthening community relations and providing public engagement opportunities to help shape KAC's future.



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. CKAF Operating Grants provide a crucial foundation for nonprofit arts organizations, increasing administrative capacities and professional and artistic development opportunities. CKAF Project Grants fund the creation and presentation of artistic projects and connect diverse audiences with art activities across the city. In 2022, KAC expanded CKAF Project Grant eligibility to include individual artists in addition to nonprofit organizations and collectives.

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 2007-2022



\$8.5 million

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED



\$13.4 million

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED



180%

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF REQUEST RELATIVE TO AMOUNT AVAILABLE



549

TOTAL # OF GRANTS AWARDED



914

TOTAL # OF APPLICATIONS



273

TOTAL # OF PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED



11

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH OPERATING GRANTS



115

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



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

TOTAL – \$429,451

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

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

TOTAL - \$183,872

JURY: David Archibald, Bethany Garner, Kristen Leboeuf, Danuta Sierhuis

EX-OFFICIO: Felix Lee (Chair), Violet Tang, Jeff McGilton, Danika Lochhead, Councillor Peter Stroud

2021 CITY OF KINGSTON ARTS FUND RECIPIENTS

2021 OPERATING GRANTS

Agnes Etherington Art Centre	\$75,000
Cantabile Choirs of Kingston	\$28,630
Le Centre culturel Frontenac	\$15,000
H'art Centre	\$12,803
Kingston Canadian Film Festival	\$46,000
Kingston Symphony Association	\$75,000
Kingston WritersFest	\$43,500
Modern Fuel Artist Run Centre	\$50,000
Reelout Queer Film Festival	\$22,555
Theatre Kingston	\$42,230
Union Gallery	\$13,000

TOTAL – \$423,718

JURY: Sadaf Amini, Nicholas Crombach, Dinah Jansen, Jane Kirby, Christianne Wojcik

EX-OFFICIO: Kirsi Hunnako (Chair), Felix Lee, Laura Chaignon, Danika Lochhead, Councillor Simon Chappelle

2021 PROJECT GRANTS

Abolition City – Abolition City*	\$8,000
Drumming Connections – Sistema Kingston	\$8,520
Electric Circuits Festival – Electric Circuits Collective	\$12,000
Festival of Live Digital Art – SpiderWebShow	\$11,250
Homegrown Live Concert Series – Homegrown Live Music Productions	\$7,314
KPP at 20 – Kingston Punk Productions	\$7,200
Shortwave Theatre Festival – CFRC 101.9FM	\$13,500
Skeleton Park Arts Festival – Skeleton Park Arts Festival	\$14,300
The Ground UP Dance Festival – Movement Market Collective	\$7,500
Juvenis Festival 2022 – Blue Canoe Productions	\$12,000
The Longest Night Midwinter Celebration – Calliope Collective	\$12,750
The Makers and Shakers Society Audio Drama – Radioland Media Collective	\$11,250
Why it's Impossible to Raise a Girl – SweetnFab Collective**	\$11,250
Tone Deaf 2021 - 2022 – Tone Deaf Collective*	\$12,000
We're All in Jeopardy! – PeerLess Productions	\$10,500

TOTAL - \$159,334

JURY: Céline Klein, Caroline Kwok, Alex McLean, Danuta Sierhuis

EX-OFFICIO: Kirsi Hunnako (Chair), Felix Lee, Laura Chaignon, Danika Lochhead, Councillor Jim Neill



2021 ADAPT GRANTS

2022 Community Radio Week – KPP Concerts	\$4,250
2022 Summer Musical – Blue Canoe Productions	\$5,625
“a work in progress” – Inner Harbour Collective	\$6,160
A return to nature – Tracy Olan	\$7,410
Back to Life – Calliope Collective	\$4,980
Both Sides Now: Live Performance in the Post-Pandemic World – Michelle Kasaboski	\$6,160
Finding Our Purpose – H’art Centre	\$8,500
From One Place to Another: Wandering Art – Union Gallery	\$8,530
Kingston WritersFest Podcast - Kingston WritersFest	\$5,600
Live at the Grad Club – The Grad Club	\$8,000
Micro-Residency Studios in Solitude at Agnes – Agnes Etherington Art Centre	\$6,800
Ode to Joy – Kingston Symphony Association	\$6,395
Shallow Dives – Modern Fuel	\$8,000
Unfinished Business: A Kingston Swirl – Harry Symons	\$6,395
Young Artist Mentorship Program – Glocca Morra Studios*	\$7,195

TOTAL – \$100,000

JURY: Meghan Hamilton, Mike Sheppard, Alexandra Simpson

EX-OFFICIO: Felix Lee (Chair), Laura Chaignon, Danika Lochhead

2021 RESILIENCY GRANTS

Adele Webster, Al Babcock, Barbara Laing, Benjamin Nelson, Bethany Garner, Bon Evans, Boris Baker, Braden Elliott, Cameron Nelles, Cameron Roach, Carina Magazzeni, Carla Stewart, Caroline Kwok, Carrick McAllister, Chantal Rousseau, Chantal Thompson, Christine Jamieson, Christopher Dorsch, Clelia Scala, Connor McDonald, Craig Berggold, Dakotah Cress, Dave Gordon, David Parker, Diane Black, Don Maynard, Eric Liu, Erika Lamon, Erika Olson, Floriana Ehninger-Cuervo, Francisco Corbett, Gary Rasberry, GHY Cheung, Hayden Maynard, Helen Baker, Helen Humphreys, Helena Hannibal, Kilombo, Tyffanie Morgan, James Wannamaker, Jane Kirby, Jennifer Shoniker, Joanne Gervais, Jocelyn Purdie, John Corrigan, John Rose, John Torres, John Wright, Jon McLurg, Jonas Lewis-Anthony, Jordan Webster, Julie Mylks, Kate Yüksel, Kay Kenney, Kelsey Dawn Pearson, Kirsteen MacLeod, Kirti Singla, Kody Paul, Kyla Carmody, Laura Dyer, Liam Neale, Linda Fraser, Lori Parish, Lucanus Pell, Luke Garrison, Margaret Sutherland, Mariah Horner, Max Nolet, Megan Hamilton, Melanie Dugan, Melanie Gordon, Michael C. Duguay, Michelle Reid, Moira Demorest, Nancy Douglas, Nathaniel Stroud, Nicolas Fleming, Nick Korneluk, Noah Scheinman, Pengyuan Wang, Peter Luft, Rae Corcoran, Rhonda Evans, Ricky Brant, Sadaf Amini, Sadiqa de Meijer, Sasha Hill, Scott Owen, Sean Tomalty, Simon Lewis, Steve Heighton, Steven Abrokwah, Tammy Shane, Ted Evans, Theresa Upton, Todd Minicola, Tom Savage, Tonu Karl Tombak, Tracy Olan, Vicki Westgate

TOTAL – \$100,000

CKAF 2021 IMPACT REPORT



\$783,052

TOTAL AMOUNT
AWARDED

141

GRANTS
ADMINISTERED

\$2,579,383

PAID TO ARTISTS

1,495

ARTISTS ENGAGED

115,357

TOTAL AUDIENCE

733

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

\$6,959,249

TOTAL REVENUE

916

NEW WORKS CREATED

1,581

VOLUNTEERS

59,632

VOLUNTEER HOURS

OPERATING GRANTS

55

OF FULL-TIME
EQUIVALENT STAFF
POSITIONS

158

TOTAL # OF STAFF
POSITIONS

PROJECT GRANTS

23

PROJECT GRANT
APPLICANTS

15

PROJECT GRANT
RECIPIENTS

65%

OF APPLICANTS
FUNDED



NAN YEOMANS GRANT FOR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The Nan Yeomans Grant for Artistic Development is an annual grant of \$2,500 that is awarded to an emerging visual artist. This grant aims to help young promising artists and artisans working in visual media further their artistic growth and education.

The grant is made possible through an endowment fund administered by the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area (CFKA). The Kingston Arts Council is responsible for the administration and distribution of the grant, including processing applications and jury selection. Since the grant was created in 2009, the total funds awarded to Kingston-based emerging visual artists is \$35,000.

2022 RECIPIENT: KELSEY MCNULTY



Kelsey is a Canadian collage artist and animator. Her art is influenced by her career as a travelling musician and her desire to construct new worlds and see things from new perspectives. She draws inspiration from Eduardo Paolozzi's screen-printed collages and his suggestion on the way images influence our reality. With a focus on line and colour, she creates vivid scenes and landscapes and attempts to balance humour and introspection in her work.

2022 Jurors: Ben Darrah, Natasha Jabre, Su Sheedy

Photo: Kelsey McNulty. Photo courtesy of the artist.

PAST RECIPIENTS: 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](https://www.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, job postings and volunteer opportunities, calls for submissions, and upcoming grant deadlines.

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.

ARTS JOB BOARD

The KAC website houses the Arts Job Board, which features job postings and opportunities from arts organizations throughout the Kingston region. Organizations can submit their job postings via email to admin@artskingston.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA

4,136

FACEBOOK
LIKES

2,430

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

4,722

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

1,267

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

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 232 artists and grown into an exciting evolving database of local talent.



Photos (top): Kingston Stilters. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Photo (middle): Performance shot of Nice On. Photo courtesy of the artists.

Photo (bottom): Kemi King. Photo courtesy of the artist.

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.

2022 RECIPIENTS

Mariah Horner
CREATOR AWARD

Josh Lyon
CREATOR AWARD

Sadiqa de Meijer
CREATOR AWARD

Skeleton Park Arts Festival
ARTS CHAMPION AWARD

Steven Heighton
LIMESTONE ARTS LEGACY AWARD

2022 NOMINATIONS WORKING GROUP

Tim Fort
Member, Arts Advisory Committee

Brianne Franklin
Member, Arts Advisory Committee

Councillor Gary Oosterhof
Member, Arts Advisory Committee

Ashley-Elizabeth Best
Community Member

Tracey Guptill
Community Member

Ricky Brant
Community Member and 2021
Mayor's Arts Awards Recipient

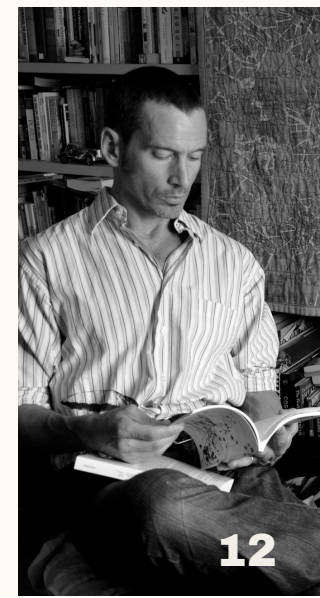
Mariah (Mo) Horner is a multi-talented actor, director, producer and dramaturg who co-founded the Cellar Door Project in 2013 and has since presented more than a dozen site specific productions around Kingston. Mariah has worked with CFRC, SpiderWebShow/FOLDA, and was the organizing force behind Kingston's Storefront Fringe from 2016-2018. Mariah sings with Kingston-based band, The Gertrudes, and is currently completing her PhD in Cultural Studies at Queen's University.

Josh Lyon is an exemplary creator in all definitions; through multi-disciplinary artwork, film, music, education and more, Josh strives to open the human experience to connect people in meaningful and elevated ways. He applies his artistic focus to capture, cultivate and create narratives, portraying subjects' honest identities, capturing ambitions, dreams and stories. Having created music video works for artists such as The Gertrudes, Miss Emily, Sarah Harmer and many more, as well as working in animated, experimental, dance, narrative and live performance video work, Josh's ability to visually capture knows no bounds.

Sadiqa de Meijer is a poet and essayist living in the Skeleton Park neighbourhood in Kingston. Her experiences as an immigrant have shaped and produced two poetry books and one memoir. Her first collection of poetry, *Leaving Howe Island*, was nominated for the Pat Lowther Award and a Governor General's Award. Her second poetry collection, *The Outer Wards*, was a finalist for the Raymond Souster Award. With a keen eye toward ideas of citizenship, language, and nationhood, Sadiqa's memoir *alfabet/alphabet* was published to acclaim in 2021, winning a Governor General's Literary Award. A long-time member of Kingston's famous Villanelle writing group and a committed supporter of literary events citywide, Sadiqa is a keen observer of Kingston life.

Skeleton Park Arts Festival was founded in 2006 and is led by artistic director Greg Tilson and supported by a dynamic team, an engaged Board, and hundreds of volunteers. The Festival is a champion for artists and a community force that celebrates arts and culture with social, racial and environmental justice as its guide. Over the course of five days in June, Skeleton Park in the Inner Harbour neighbourhood swells with a feeling of community, warmth, and connection thanks to excellent programming: from music to movement and workshops highlighting issues of importance to the community. Throughout the year, the Skeleton Park Arts Festival remains relevant, threading community ties and hiring local artists through a neighbourhood newspaper, local art exhibits, and a gallery - while connecting artists to their community through arts projects, parades, and film screenings.

Steven Heighton was a beloved poet, novelist, singer-songwriter, short story writer, and teacher/mentor who had and continues to have, an enormous impact on the larger artistic world that he had served throughout his life. As the author of 18 books ranging from poetry and short story anthologies to novels, his acclaimed works have been translated into many languages and are known worldwide. A multiple award winner for his writing, including the 2016 Governor General's award for poetry, four gold National Magazine awards, and a New York Times book review editor's choice for his novel *Afterlands*, Steven had just released his first album of original songs (*The Devil's Share*) in 2021 through Wolfe Island Records - opening up a whole new channel for sharing his unique insights into human nature. A graduate of Queen's University and longtime resident of Kingston, Steven was also known as an inspirational teacher, serving as writer-in-residence in many universities. He was committed to providing encouragement to writers at all stages of their craft and acting as a mentor to many emerging artists.



PROGRAMMING

COMMUNITY ENGAGED ARTS WITH NIKKI SHAFFEULLAH

This two-part participatory workshop invited artists and arts workers to increase their capacity to produce and facilitate safer, affirming, artistically excellent and socially accountable community-engaged arts projects. Participants developed new tools and resources for relationship building and increasing quality of engagement.

KINGSTON VOTES

The Kingston Votes advocacy campaign began with public roundtables and included outreach and advocacy for the arts to all 44 municipal elections candidates in a key election cycle. KAC released a Statement of Position to advocate for increased funding in the arts, alongside a comprehensive dataset showcasing candidates' responses to survey questions regarding their plans for supporting Kingston's arts sector.

FLEX: COLLABORATION

KAC continued its partnership with WorkInCulture, wrapping up the FLeX: Collaboration program with its final Spotlight Sessions in 2022. FLeX (Festivals Learning Exchange) was a free virtual training intensive for arts and heritage festivals in Kingston, Toronto, Ottawa, and Sudbury, for which KAC was a delivery partner and Advisory Committee member.

CKAF INFORMATION SESSION: APPLYING TO 2023 PROJECT GRANTS

This virtual information session led by Violet Tang in March 2023 guided new and returning Project Grant applicants through a detailed review of the 2023 CKAF Project Grant Guidelines, Application Forms, and Assessment Criteria, and offered a Q&A about the application process. KAC continued to offer one-on-one meetings for potential Operating and Project Grant applicants.

All KAC programming was free to access in 2022-2023.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

1 April 2022—31 March 2023

\$172,696

TOTAL REVENUE

\$165,975

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$6,721

EXCESS OF
REVENUE OVER
EXPENSES

*Full financial statements
are available by request.*

REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Our major funders, the City of Kingston and the Ontario Arts Council, committed to providing stable funding of the KAC in 2022-2023.
- Individual donations increased by over 60% compared to the previous fiscal year.
- KAC's unrestricted net assets have grown to over \$45,000, maintaining a healthy contingency fund for the organization.

EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS

- The KAC invested over \$23,000 in artists through the payment of fees for event facilitation, grants adjudication, and the completion of artistic work and services.
- KAC staff roles were revised to adapt to economic pressures and increase stability. The organization now has a full staff complement of two permanent full-time employees and one permanent part-time employee.

OUR SUPPORTERS

PARTNERS

The City of Kingston
Community Foundation for
Kingston & Area
WorkInCulture

DONORS

Barbara Bell
Susan Greaves
Ally Jacob
Susan Paloschi
Gisele Pharand
The Ontario Arts Foundation

FUNDERS



KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL TEAM

CURRENT STAFF

Nicole Daniels
Executive Director

Violet Tang
Grants and Programs Coordinator

Katherine Dionne
Administrative Assistant

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF IN 2022-2023:

Felix Lee
Executive Director (2021–2023)
Grants Coordinator (2017–2021)

Jeff McGilton
Administrative Assistant (2022)
Office and Communications
Coordinator (2021–2022)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of 31 March 2023)

Clelia Scala, Chair

Dave Rideout, Vice Chair

Amanda Baker, Treasurer

Nevena Martinović, Secretary

Barbara Bell, Director

Alyce Soulodre, Director

Sarah Kastner, Director

Jake Torrie, Director

Dave Wreggitt, Director



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arts council