



City of Kingston
Information Report to Kingston Heritage Programs Committee
Report Number HPC-24-004

To: Chair and Members of the Kingston Heritage Programs Committee

From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services

Resource Staff: Kevin Gibbs, Director, Heritage Services

Date of Meeting: April 23, 2023

Subject: Heritage Programming Work Plan 2024

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 outline the 2024 work plan for the Heritage Programming team. This report outlines the exhibitions, educational programming and the collections work planned for 2024.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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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	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

PumpHouse Museum

The PumpHouse Museum cultivates and fosters an understanding and appreciation of the history and significance of Kingston’s first water pumping station, Kingston’s industrial past, and more generally the role of water as viewed through the lens of science, technology and history. This is achieved through active programming and exhibition spaces that include collecting, preserving, exhibiting and educating the public through multi-disciplinary methods to convey the history and use of the historic site and the PumpHouse collection.

The PumpHouse Museum also includes gallery space for a wide range of rotating exhibitions, a permanent display of multiple model train layouts and the Discovery Centre, which includes hands-on activities suitable popular with younger children.

PumpHouse Programming

Through the numerous programming opportunities at the PumpHouse, visitors can engage with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) based learning in both group and individual programs. Many programs tie in with current museum exhibitions and provincial educational curriculum.

Program	Description
Water, Water Everywhere (Group Programming)	Young learners explore the PumpHouse and water stewardship and work together to create and test water filters.
Simple Machines (Group Programming)	Learners explore simple machines through historic PumpHouse machinery and hands-on challenges to create their own machines.
Super Soil (Group Programming)	Participants learn about how they can contribute to healthy soil, the factors leading to unhealthy soil, and learn about the value of composting.
Trains & Tots	This weekly seasonal train themed toddler program engages the senses through STEAM activities.
Water Warriors	This weekly seasonal program explores the importance of water through experimentation, art, play and the importance of water conservation and protection.
Pride Beading	Participants learn traditional beading techniques while creating pride-themed art.
Mushroom Makers	In this two-part workshop participants learn about mushroom species from a local expert, followed by a print-making session led by a local artist to create upcycled print blocks and use them to customize canvas totes.

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All Aboard for the Holidays	PumpHouse’s annual train-themed holiday event with crafts, activities and learning.
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PumpHouse Exhibitions

In addition to the permanent exhibitions on display at the PumpHouse, the Train Room and the Pump Room, the PumpHouse has two exhibitions planned in 2024.

PumpHouse Exhibitions	Dates	Description
<i>The Stuff Stories Are Made Of</i>	September 19, 2023 - May 25, 2024	<i>The Stuff Stories Are Made Of</i> features over 200 objects from the Civic Collection. This exhibition is intended to be a “feast for the eyes” and showcase the diversity of the Civic Collection by looking at objects in a new way.
<i>Soil Superheroes</i>	June 5, 2024 - January 5, 2025	<i>Soil Superheroes</i> is an exhibition on loan from Ingenium, highlighting the soil “superheroes” who make life on earth possible and the importance of soil and understanding climate change.

MacLachlan Woodworking Museum

The MacLachlan Woodworking Museum cultivates and fosters an appreciation and understanding of the role of wood and woodworking technology through the lenses of history, culture, science and technology. This is accomplished by presenting creative and innovative programming using historical woodworking tools and practices.

MacLachlan Programming

Program	Description
Habitat Heroes (Group Programming)	Participants learn about local species and habitats while developing awareness of how their actions can help or harm local ecosystems.
Nailed It! (Group Programming)	Participants learn about the variety of trees that can be found on the property, the difference between soft and hard woods and how to use both heritage and modern tools for woodworking. Participants use this knowledge to build a wooden creation to take home.

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Flower Pressing	Participants learn the history of flower pressing and create their own press to take home.
Sundials	Participants learn about the history of sundials and traditional woodworking skills to create their own.
Paddlemaking	Participants learn traditional woodworking skills to create and take home their own paddle.
Sword & Shield	Aimed at younger participants, learn traditional woodworking while designing and creating their own shield. The workshop culminates in shield and sword fighting techniques from a local sword fighting expert.
Broomsticks and Vampire Stakes	Participants learn the histories of supernatural legends and learn traditional woodworking techniques while crafting their own broomstick or vampire stake during the Halloween season.
Winterlight	MacLachlan’s annual family-friendly event is the largest event of the year where visitors explore animals, habitats and woodworking crafting.

City Hall

Kingston City Hall National Historic site is the centre of municipal government and a symbolic centre of the community. Its role as a gateway to civic function and the history of the wider community continues to be enhanced with new and evolving programs, exhibitions and resources. The Heritage Services department interprets the space in a way that cultivates and fosters an appreciation and broad understanding of the building.

City Hall Programming

Programming at City Hall is themed around civic engagement, municipal government and taking a deeper look at how views have changed overtime.

City Hall Program	
Beards & Biases (Group Programming)	Participants will unpack how views of the past have changed through time through artwork present in the City Hall space and surrounding local architecture; they will finish the program by brainstorming ideas for a potential “niche case,” that would be inclusive to a broader historical context.
Heritage Hour	This public lecture series, which is held every few months at City Hall, invites guest lecturers to share their knowledge a topic connected to local heritage.

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City Hall Exhibitions

City Hall includes both permanent and rotating exhibition spaces. The permanent exhibitions include a display in the basement on the history of City Hall and an exhibit on policing in Kingston, that includes the historic jail cells. These exhibits are included on guided tours. City Hall also displays an extensive collection of Mayoral portraits throughout the building. The rotating exhibits for 2024 are listed below.

Exhibition	Location	Dates	Description
36 Questions that Lead to Loving Kingston	Market Wing Cultural Space	July 4, 2023 - April 18, 2024	Put together by Myseum and the Arts & Culture Department, this exhibition invites Kingstonians to answer 36 Questions about what they like, dislike and what they would like to see in Kingston.
Community Art Exhibit	Market Wing Cultural Space	Summer 2024	An exhibit to showcase works produced by local artists. This will also provide an opportunity to identify art that could be displayed in other venues.
Mayors Arts Awards	John Counter Room, 1 st Floor City Hall	Display rotates annually	Compiled by the Arts & Culture Department, the Mayors Arts Awards celebrates individual artists and arts organizations' contributions to Kingston. There is an annual nomination for the Creator Award, Arts Champion and Limestone Arts Legacy Award.
Niche Cases	1 st and 2 nd Floor of City Hall	May 2024 - May 2025	As part of the annual City Hall exhibition turnover, City Hall will be showcasing four new niche cases this year. The cases will feature: 125 Years of the Kingston Horticultural Society, Pakistani Handicrafts, Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest, and the first of a series of Kingston's 2SLGBTQIA+ history.
Poet Laureate Display Case	2 nd Floor Ontario Hall Wing	2023-2026	2023 ushered in a new City of Kingston Poet Laureate, Sadiqa de Meijer, and an update to the Ontario Hall display case featuring a biography and broadsheet featuring the poem, <i>Piece of Clay</i> . This case will continue to grow throughout Sadiqa's four-year term as Poet Laureate continues.

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Outreach Programming

In addition to the above-mentioned programs, the City of Kingston Heritage Programming team works on programming and events outside of the site-based programming developed by the team, these include participation and support to:

- National Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- March of the Museums
- Science Rendezvous
- Doors Open
- Beyond Classrooms Kingston

Other work that the team leads or supports includes developing interpretive signage as well as commemorative plaques and memorials, guided by the City’s Commemorations Strategy (2015-2024) and Commemoration Policy. In 2024, Interpretive Signage will be installed at the Waaban Crossing to explain the naming process for the bridge and the meaning of the name Waaban. Key commemorative work scheduled for 2024 includes updating and developing existing and new Kingston Remembers plaques and supporting the development of the National Wall of Remembrance memorial, which will be installed in Macdonald Park.

Council Strategy Plans Project

In 2024, the City of Kingston Heritage Programming Team is contributing to specific initiatives in Kingston’s Strategic Plan (2023-2026).

Project	Status	Description
5.7.1C Formalize “Your Stories, Our Histories”	Complete	A process for community-led exhibits in City Hall’s niche cases. The first exhibits through this process will be installed in spring 2024.
5.7.1E Develop a Civic Artifact Collection Storage Plan	In progress (due Q4 2025)	Research is ongoing on space and resource needs for the collection.

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4.5.2G Create dedicated spaces within City parks for Indigenous sacred and ceremonial fires	In progress (due Q4 2025)	Consultation with community partners and other municipalities is ongoing.
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Collections – Planned 2024 Collections Work

The purpose of the Civic Collection is to promote public understanding of the history and culture of the City of Kingston, municipal government and more generally the tangible and intangible heritage of the community. This is achieved through the collection, preservation, exhibition and interpretation of artifacts, works of art and documents. The collection is assessed annually by the Civic Collections team to identify portraits and monuments for any necessary preservation and conservation treatment. In addition to regular annual maintenance and preservation work, Heritage Services also undertakes some more extensive collections-focused projects. For 2024 this includes the following:

Project	Description
Time	The sculpture “Time” by Kosso Eloul is slated for conservation/restoration work in early summer of 2024 to repair the deteriorated concrete bases, and clean and remove the graffiti on the aluminum forms.
Tetra	The sculpture “Tetra” by Ted Bieler is slated for conservation/restoration work in late summer of 2024 to fix the deteriorating elements like the nuts and bolts, removal of organic growth, fix and fill old repairs and clean and sandblast the entire sculpture to create a more uniform appearance.
Mayoral Portrait Collection	Annually, 2-3 portraits are sent out for conservation treatment to frames and paintings. Portraits chosen for conservation work are based on an annual assessment done by the Civic Collection team. The mayoral portraits that have been chosen for work in 2024 are Henry Cunningham, Edward Ryan and John Counter.
Public Art Assessment - Annual	Annually, the Civic Collection team assesses the 75 pieces in the Public Art Collection. The assessment includes photo documentation, condition assessment and basic surface cleaning. Using the assessment, a triage report is created to determine which pieces require additional conservation work.

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Financial Considerations

Programming, exhibition and conservation projects outlined in this report will be covered by approved Heritage Services operating and capital accounts.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Melanie Banks, Manager, Heritage Programming, Heritage Services