



## CITY OF KINGSTON DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (ACA) DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

*Note: My periodic reports are posted on City of Kingston Calendar Meetings page <https://kingston-ny.gov/calendar/meetings?listing=ShortEvents%7C5/25/2021%7C40008%7C3745> . Comments, suggestions to [kpotter@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:kpotter@kingston-ny.gov) from the KAC, partners, COK staff, and the community-at-large are welcome.*

### ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN (ACMP) IMPLEMENTATION PHASE III

This report is aligned with the short to middle-term priorities established for my Office as described in the Action Plan Detail section of the City of Kingston (CoK) Arts and Culture Master Plan (ACMP), passed by the City of Kingston Common Council 3.1.22.

*Furthering the Role and Expanding the Capacity of the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs; playing a primary leadership role in the **implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan PHASE III:***

### PRIORITY B CONNECTIVITY AND COLLABORATION

#### **Strategy 1 – Celebrate and embrace Kingston’s identity as an arts city**

- Assisting city-wide organizations with promoting events and exhibition openings; attend numerous to show support and encouragement and make introductions.

#### **Strategy 4: City Hall Exhibitions**

- The **Art Out Loud Youth Exhibition** is **extended to October 2024**. Several have picked up their artworks; Star Nigro of My Kingston Kids is updating theirs continually. **We had one offer to purchase an artwork by a Kingston High School Art Club participant.**
- **Sculptor Trina Green’s Sculpture** – After nine months of talks and planning with me, his cabinet members, the black studies division and partners, SUNY New Paltz President Dr Wheeler has made his decision on the tour and final destination for **“Sojourner Truth: First Step to Freedom”**. This work will be delivered in August to the city hall grand foyer and **exhibited from September 2024 through September 2025**. Plans are underway for the unveiling ceremony (private), and **public viewing on September 28th starting at 3pm, with programming in the Council Chambers from 330-6pm** to include actress **Aixa Kendrick portraying Sojourner, Ulster County Poet Laureate Kate Hymes, the Women’s Drumsong Orchestra, the CCE Dancers and Drummers and presentations by other local youth organizations, and a keynote speaker TBA. This is a partnership between SUNY New Paltz and the City of Kingston and our area partners. Suggestions are welcome.**
  - **The programming is co-sponsored by City of Kingston Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Ulster County Tourism, other pending, with technical support by Radio Kingston.**
- **December 7<sup>th</sup>** will be the opening reception for the **city hall exhibition “FREEDOM” to be curated by Trina Greene**. I am currently in talks with Bard Center for Curatorial Studies to engage graduate students as coordinators. This will be an intergenerational exhibition with space reserved for youth arts organizations, the youth invitational being separate from the formal call for art. The formal call for art for adult artists of all levels will commence August 2024. A selection panel will be assembled with hopeful representation from the KAC. This will be a ‘blind’ selection panel - the panel not seeing names or bios of those submitting until selections have been made. Opening Reception programming will include actors Debra Zuill and Oliver King and more. More information to be provided as more progress is made with this effort. **Suggestions are welcome.**

- The programming for the opening reception will be co-sponsored by the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs with technical support by Radio Kingston.

< End City Hall Exhibitions 2024 >

***Strategy 5: Art and Local History Education Roundtable*** – Connecting the community with artists and local history experts to ensure that the arts and local history are being represented in a factual and meaningful way:

## **BURNING OF KINGSTON '24**

### **October 18-20**

- **Organizers** – Mayor Steve Noble, Ulster County Deputy Clerk Taylor Bruck, City of Kingston Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs Kitt Potter, Ulster County Archivist Jonathan Palmer, with full support from County Executive Jen Metzger, Ulster County Clerk Nina Postupack. Special thanks to Old Dutch Church, new partner St James Church, and Radio Kingston.
  - **Co-Sponsors** – City of Kingston Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Kingston ARPA, Ulster County Clerk, Hudson River Greenway, Ulster County Tourism, Ulster County Chamber of Commerce, with technical support by Radio Kingston.

Along with traditional re-enactments we will include programming focused on First Nation, Slavery and Black Loyalists, and Chamber Music of the Revolutionary War period into this year's BOK programming. The Director for the Hudson River Valley Institute has invited us to speak at the New York State History Conference about the "new and improved Burning" stating the most recent Burning "features an impressive array of perspectives of local history" that he thinks would benefit historians around the state to hear about. The State Historian Devin Lander is also on board and impressed with our new lineup. See clips from 2023 here

[www.burningofkingston.com](http://www.burningofkingston.com)

### **Friday October 18**

#### **7pm-9pm– OLD DUTCH SANCTUARY**

##### **First Nation**

- Tom Sakakwenionkwas Porter/Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke – Mohawk traditional lifeways teaching
- Ka'nahsohon Kevin Deer/Kahnawake Mohawk Territory– Our Sacred Land/Messages From the Natural World/Wiping of Tears Ceremony

### **Saturday October 19**

#### **VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

**9am-10pm – Brigade of the American Revolution** – re-enactments, demo's, Colonial Ball

#### **SAINT JAMES SANCTUARY**

**3pm-430pm – Stories from Ghana *Before the Slave Trade***

- Maxwell Kofi Donker and the Sankofa Dancers and Drummers

**430-5pm – Film Screening: "Black Patriots: Heroes of the Revolution"**

#### **530-7pm –**

**Jazz Vespers: Plight of Slaves During the Revolutionary War**

- Robert Kopec, Bassist
- Joseph Tranchina, piano
- Poet Laureate Kate Hymes
- Rev Evelyn Clarke - storyteller
- Closing remarks by St James' new pastor Rev Gia Lynne Hall and Min Rob Sweeney

### **Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>**

**9am Check-in/10am Race – Start Location TBA**

**Capital to Capital 5k Run/Walk**

- The Capital-to-Capital run commemorates the human history of the Burning of Kingston when over 2,000 Kingstonians, mostly women, children, and the elderly, fled to the town of Hurley seeking refuge as British soldiers burned their city to the ground. Participants will follow the same path as the fleeing colonists over 240 years ago in this 3.1-mile timed race.

**10am-3pm ODC SANCTUARY/BETHANY HALL/CEMETERY**

- **Brigade of the American Revolution** historic talks, wreath laying, more.

**3pm-5pm- SAINT JAMES SANCTUARY**

**Chamber Music of the Revolutionary War Period**

- **Pre-Concert Talk**

Frank Corliss – Director of the Bard Conservatory

- **Bard Conservatory Ensemble and Chorale**

Chevalier Bach Vivaldi

Sam Mutter's Chorale Composition World Premiere for Burning of Kingston

<End Burning Of Kingston>

**PRIORITY C7- DEIA – ENSURING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING**

Free and open to the public and sponsored by the Departments of ACA, Parks and Recreation, and with the generous tech support from Radio Kingston, I am pleased to announce the **City of Kingston Arts, Culture, and Heritage Series 2024:**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**MARCH**

**Saturday, March 30, 3-4pm**

City of Kingston **Special Children and Families Presentation at Old Dutch Church**

**David Gonzalez and Frederick Chiu – Peter and the Wolf and Carnival of the Animals (Attendance - @ 100; Audience Response – JOY)**

**JUNE**

**Friday, June 14 - 630pm-830pm**

**Living History Event**

**City of Kingston's Juneteenth Kickoff Event at Old Dutch Church**

**Juma Sultan Aboriginal Society** with a talk by Juma about his grandfather who was among the slaves waiting to hear they were free in Galveston on Juneteenth 1865. Pre Concert talk by Ubaka Hill.

**DECEMBER**

**Thursday, December 31 6pm-7pm**

**OLD DUTCH CHURCH**

**City of Kingston presents Ars Choralis and Narrators**

**Theme TBA**

- End-year peace community gathering

## MUSIC IN THE PARKS SERIES

- Sponsor – local business pending, with technical support by  
Radio Kingston

### Selection Procedures

A formal Call for Performers was issued February 29, 2024 with the deadline for submissions – March 29. There were 76 applicants, an all time record for this call. The Selection Panel comprised Gloria Waslyn from Parrots for Peace, Jessieca McNabb and Monique Tinsely from Radio Kingston’s “We Got Next” show, Mike Jurkovic – writer for All About Jazz and President – Calling All Poets, Michael Torres – Volunteer Photographer for area music events and festivals. The following schedule is reflective of the finalists for this year’s series:

### JUNE

**Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm-830pm**  
**TR Gallo Park**  
**Soul City Band (Motown Soul)**

### JULY

**\*Thursday, July 4 (Fireworks rain date July 5) 630-930pm**  
**City of Kingston 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**  
**Waterfront**  
**Gottasee Band (multi-genre dance horn band)**  
**CCE NRG Dancers**

- Co-sponsors – Ole Savannah, O’Connor and Partners, City of Kingston ARPA.

**Saturday July 13 7-830pm**  
**Academy Green Park**  
(Excessive Heat or Rain - City Hall Council Chambers)  
**The Saints of Swing Feat. Miss Rene Bailey (New Orleans Swing)**

### AUGUST

**Friday, August 9 7-1030pm**  
**Kingston Point Beach Park**  
**The Roadhouse 60’s Band (Oldies Rock and Pop)**  
**Movie: ET**

**\*Saturday, August 17 7-1030pm**  
**Hutton Park**  
**Alessandra Ensemble (Latin)**  
**Movie: Barbie (Spanish subtitles)**

### SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, September 21 (RAIN DATE 9.22) 2-330pm**  
**City of Kingston Music and Painting in the Parks as part of Art Walk ’24**  
**TR Gallo Park**  
**Levanta Ensemble (World Beat)**  
**Nancy Ostrovsky (Live Performance Art)**  
**Ulster County Poet Laureate (Jazzoetry)**

<End Music in the Parks Series >

## **PRIORITY D1 – POLICY AND FUNDING**

### **Strategy 3: Housing and Zoning**

In 2022, Housing Initiatives Director Bartek Starodaj asked that I sit on the panel for the 615 Broadway RFEI Evaluation as I represent both affordable/workforce housing and the arts. Part of the requirement was that the Deep Listening Plaza be maintained within or outside of this mixed-use space. Baxter Associates was selected.

#### ***2024 Update from Housing Initiatives Director Bartek Starodaj:***

The City of Kingston is currently working with Baxter on the mixed-use redevelopment and redesign of the Pauline Oliveros Deep Listening Plaza at 615 Broadway. The Kingston Arts Commissioners past and present and neighboring businesses, organizations and residents were invited on to a meeting June 6 12-1pm at the community room at the Hudson Valley Current to learn more and discuss the latest project designs and next steps. Bartek forwarded this invitation to all arts community members I invited to attend the press conference in 2022 in hopes they all will attend this session as well. Bartek will keep everyone posted and engaged.

**Strategy 4: Resources for Individual Artists, Art Organizations, and Art Businesses** Assisting numerous individuals and organizations with strategic planning, collaborations, grants; young creatives with career counseling and job referrals prioritizing those most in need.

### **Strategy 5: Create a Public Art Policy (PAP)**

The City of Kingston Municipal Art Collection Plan and Public Art Policy in its near final stages will be presented by McGregor Consultants and I to the Laws and Rules Committee of the Common Council for consideration on June 20<sup>th</sup>. It is hopeful that the committee will approve and pass along to the full Common Council for approval at its July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. McGregor Consultants will make any changes requested and provide us with the final document by July 9<sup>th</sup> at which time its contract will end. The final document will be available on Engage Kingston.

Next Steps: Engage a Registrar to begin the inventory process for the existing Municipal Art Collection with help by interns from Bard College (in talks). The hard copy Public Art Survey will be handed out during two major events I am coordinating and tabulated with the help of Bard Interns. The Kingston Library has offered to promote and encourage the google forms version of the survey during major festivals at which they table via their tablets; the google forms survey will also be available on Engage Kingston. We will share the links and notices with Common Council members, staff, the KAC, and partners asking for help reaching the greater community with the survey which will run from fall 2024 through endSpring 2025 for the first round.

A press release announcing the hopeful passing of the Public Art Policy will be issued mid-July. Special thanks to Mayor Noble, the Kingston Arts Commission and the Public Art Policy Committee for their hard work and contributions to the draft 2024 Municipal Art Plan and Public Art Policy over the past nine months:

**KAC:** Marielena Ferrer-Harrington, Ward Mintz, DJ Brumfield, Lisa Kelley, Dina Suggs, Cicily Wilson and former member Isabel Cotarelo. **COMMITTEE:** Richard Frumess, Maggie Inge, Kyla DeDea, Sue Cahill, Anna Conlan, Isabel Nazario, Ruth Ann Devitt-Frank, and advisor Sara Pasti.

#### **ON BEHALF OF THE KINGSTON ARTS COMMISSION**

Mayor Noble, Alderman Sara Pasti and I are in the process of revising the Kingston Arts Commission's Resolution, the draft of which will be provided to the KAC for deliberations by the September 11th meeting.

#### **ON BEHALF OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS' POST OFFICE PARK PROJECT ARPA ARTS-FUNDED POST OFFICE SCULPTURE RFP**

At the request of Mayor Noble, I served on the selection committee for this project. Updates will be provided by Ruth Ann Devitt Frank.

**AREA ARTS BOARD AND COMMITTEE SERVICE – Kitt Potter**

- 2016- Present Member-Board of Directors** Calling All Poets, Inc, Beacon, NY.
- 2021- 2023 Vice President- Board of Directors** Rosendale Theater Collective, Rosendale, NY
- 2022- Present Member** – Slave Truth and Reconciliation Commission Advisory Committee, Ulster County.
- 2022- Present Advisor** – Margaret Wade Lewis Black History Cultural Center, New Paltz, NY
- 2022- Present Member** – Ben Wigfall in Perpetuity Committee, Kingston, NY
- 2023- Present Grants and Awards Panelist** – Arts MidHudson, NY
- 2023- Present Member – Program Committee** – Hudson Valley Current, Kingston NY
- 2024- Present Member** – Ulster County Arts and Culture Master Plan Advisory Committee

**ULSTER COUNTY ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN**

I am sitting on the PAC for the Ulster County Arts and Culture Master Plan spearheaded by Ulster County Legislator and former KAC member Peter Criswell, Project Director Sara Pasti, and Lord Cultural Consultants. I asked that the KAC members are invited to participate in and contribute to this important work.

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