

Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs

Kitt Potter, Director

2024 Budget: \$119,321

The Department of Arts & Cultural Affairs is charged with oversight and implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan, the key strategies of which will be achieved through a strategic collaboration between the department, the Kingston Arts Commission, the Priority Task Forces, as well as the greater Kingston community: strengthening and protecting the arts through policy and funding; ensuring diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; building arts alliances for greater impact; and creating economic opportunities for creatives. The City's continued investment in the arts and culture sector is critical to sustaining and advancing a vibrant economic future for the city of Kingston.

2024 Accomplishments

- The Department successfully facilitated nine key priorities for Implementation Phase III of the Arts and Culture Master Plan.
- The Department played a lead role in developing the City of Kingston's Public Art Policy and Municipal Art Collection Plan, passed unanimously by the Common Council July 2024.
- The Department, with SUNY New Paltz, co-coordinated one major installation at City Hall – Trina Green's *Sojourner Truth: First Step to Freedom*. Total attendance for the opening reception – 375.
- The Department curated/coordinated the City Hall ground floor intergenerational *FREEDOM!* exhibition. Total artists participating – 24. Total attending the opening reception – 280.
- The Department coordinated the City of Kingston 4th of July Celebration. Total attendance - 5000.
- The Department hosted 9 free events for children and families in parks local spaces throughout the city, total attendance – 1050.
- With Ulster County, the department co-led the Burning of Kingston: Voices Lost in the Fire four-day event which NYS heralded for including a more diverse array of stories and events. Total Attendance - 3000
- The Department participated in an advisory capacity in the development of the Ulster County Arts and Culture Master Plan.
- The Department assisted numerous individuals and organizations with strategic planning, collaborations, grant proposals; young creatives with assistance finding housing, career counseling, and job referrals - prioritizing those most in need.

2025 Goals (This listing is not mutually exclusive)

- Facilitate Arts and Culture Master Plan Implementation Phase IV.
- Develop the City's first-ever Public Art Committee; facilitate Phase I of the Public Art Policy and Municipal Art Collection Plan.
- Seek funding for 2025, and develop a 3-Year Resource Development Plan (2026-2029) to support the ACA, its programming, and the implementation of the Public Art Policy and Municipal Art Collection Action Plan and, with the Grants Management Division, prepare and submit grant proposals.
- Continue special "First Step to Freedom" programming: March - 19th Century Women's Work: A Hudson Valley Textile Arts Showcase; April - Isabella's Walk to Freedom: A Special Event for City-Wide Youth Organizations; May - Finding Your Ulster County Lineage: A Presentation by the Ulster County Clerk and Historian; Ongoing - FREEDOM! Exhibition and Statue Tours and Artist Talks.
- Coordinate special events: City of Kingston 4th of July Celebration; Music in the Parks Series 2025; Burning of Kingston 2025; New Years Eve Peace and Unity Gathering.
- Increase city-based opportunities to showcase visual and performing artists year-round throughout the city to include bringing local history to life through the arts.
- Work with the Housing Initiatives Division on arts/culture partnerships with developers of 615 Broadway and the Kingstonian; work with area organizations to assist artists seeking affordable housing.
- Assist arts organizations serving those most in need and individual artists most in need in obtaining funding and needed services/resources.
- Work to ensure that historically marginalized individuals and groups are given support and equitable access as cultural participants, artists, workers, and audiences.
- Assist immigrant artists in obtaining resources and needed assistance.
- All other duties as assigned by the Mayor.