

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

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L+R

Steven T. Noble
Mayor



January 2nd, 2025

Honorable Andrea Shaut
President/Alderman-at-Large
Kingston Common Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

Re: Modifying Resolution 113 of 2015

Dear President Shaut,

At the request of the Arts Commission and Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, several modifications have been proposed to Resolution 113 of 2015. I would also recommend that these modifications be made official. A draft of the updated resolution is attached.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steven T. Noble
Mayor

Resolution ### of 2025

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NY AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION TO RESOLUTION 113 OF 2015

WHEREAS, Kingston is home to a wide range of arts disciplines, including visual, performing, and communications arts; individual artists, community-led arts and cultural organizations, businesses, and historical societies; and

WHEREAS, the arts in Kingston are in abundance and have the potential to contribute significantly to the continued revitalization of Kingston, Ulster County, and the region; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Kingston formally approved the establishment of the City of Kingston Arts Commission in 2015 to serve as an umbrella organization to support and promote visual and performing arts activity, working directly with relevant staff, policy experts, and the community to develop the arts for the economic revitalization of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Kingston formally approved the establishment of the City of Kingston Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Kingston formally adopted the City of Kingston Arts and Culture Master Plan, currently in Implementation Phase III, on March 1 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Kingston formally adopted the City of Kingston Public Art Policy and Municipal Art Collection Plan on July 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the arts are responsible for reinvesting \$160 million back into the Kingston economy on an annual basis (Source: 2022 Arts and Culture Master Plan Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the revised purpose of the Kingston Arts Commission’s mission is to advise the Mayor and Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs on the implementation of the City of Kingston’s Arts and Culture Master Plan, and Public Art Policy/Municipal Art Collection Plan. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council on the development of cultural activities throughout the city; advises the further development, implementation, evaluation, and potential modification of other municipal policies and legislation as they pertain to arts and culture; serves to ensure that our area youth, artists, art organizations, art businesses, residents can equitably experience the benefits of this burgeoning arts economy.

SECTION 2. The commission shall consist of nine (9) **voting** members appointed by the Mayor. The

composition of the commission should to the extent possible reflect the broad diversity of the communities the City of Kingston serves. Diversity includes a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives — including but not limited to race, color, ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as experience and skillsets. Four (4) members of the commission shall be arts professionals, and five (5) shall be community members with arts-related specialties in policy, urban planning, economic development, resource development, education, or related fields. Arts professionals shall be defined as individuals having knowledge of the arts and recognized by peers as professional practitioners and/or administrators in the visual, performing, or communications arts or a combination thereof, as judged by the quality of their body of work, education, experience, past commissions, exhibition/performance record, publications, production of artworks, and service of their arts-related enterprise to the community of artists and makers. A Commission member shall receive no compensation for her/his services and this group will form rules of procedure as deemed necessary.

There shall be one (1) non-voting ex-officio member, or their designee – the Director of Planning or as appointed by the Mayor.

The Commission shall have a designated liaison representative from the Common Council appointed by the Common Council President.

The voting Commission members will serve one three (3) year term, may be reappointed to a second (3) year term, then may be re-appointed after an absence of one (1) year.

Applications submitted to the City of Kingston for appointment to the Art Commission shall be reviewed by a nominating committee of the KAC which will conduct interviews and present candidates to the KAC which shall make recommendations to the Mayor for appointment.

Relationship with Staff

The Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs, who reports to the Mayor, or their designee, shall serve as the city staff member specifically charged with the responsibility of implementing the Kingston Arts Commission's recommendations as approved by the Mayor, and in coordination with other municipal agencies and advisory boards for projects undertaken by the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

SECTION 3. That the Kingston Arts Commission will serve as a resource, and collaborative partner for the Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs, the City elected officials, municipal staff, the City's Boards, Committees and Commissions, and the arts community of Kingston,

- a) Advising on the implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan, the Public Art Policy and the Municipal Art Collection Plan;
- b) Advising on and advocating for the further development, implementation, evaluation, and potential modification of the City's policies and legislation as they relate to arts and culture;
- c) Advocating for the role and value of arts and culture in civic life;
- d) Promoting greater public participation in, and access to arts and culture;
- e) Exploring alternative sources of funding and advocating for support of the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs and making recommendations to the Mayor;
- f) Serving as a conduit for the Kingston community on cultural and arts

initiatives to ensure that residents can equitably experience the benefits of the arts, such as social cohesion, wellbeing, creative problem-solving and educational achievement;

- g) Serving as a conduit for members of the Kingston community to communicate to the City their arts and culture needs, wishes, and ideas.

SECTION 4. That the Kingston Arts Commission will make recommendations and advise the Mayor and the Arts and Cultural Affairs Director on the implementation of the Public Arts Policy/Municipal Art Collection Plan and establish the goals and priorities for the Public Art Committee:

- Receive periodic reports from the Public Art Committee on its proceedings;
- Review and approve recommendations from the Public Arts Committee on all projects and works to be added to the Municipal Art Collection, maintenance and care of the Collection and supportive funding plans;
- Conduct a review every other year of goals, policies, and guidelines as they pertain to policy and acquisition of artwork on behalf of the City
- Suggest policies regarding Public Art to conform with the policies of Heritage and Landmarks Commissions and other City codes, as well as addressing the interests of the immediate communities.

SECTION 5. That the Kingston Arts Commission in all of its work shall take into account the unique assets of the City of Kingston and shall also take into account the successes and achievements of related revitalization efforts in other cities around the country.

SECTION 6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

