

**A Message from
the Interim Arts Advisory Committee
of the Kingston Arts Council
Asking for Your Support of the Arts in Kingston:**

Hullo all arts supporters,

City Council is engaged in 2007 budget deliberations: we ask that you contact your Councillor and the mayor, and let them know that Kingston arts organisations need their support. If we miss this opportunity, it will be another year before funds can be brought into play. It's crucial to take advantage of the profile for the arts garnered during the recent election campaign. Please circulate this notice widely to your membership and/or other arts supporters.

A renewed arts funding program: The Interim Arts Advisory group working with Kingston's Cultural Manager Robin Etherington over the past 5 months has devised an excellent action plan for the arts replacing the inadequate arts section of the Healthy Community Fund with a new program that will bring Kingston in line with the funding levels and processes used in peer cities. The program will make operating and project grants for organisations available on a competitive basis, assessed through the arm's-length administration of a re-vitalised Kingston Arts Council. The plan reflects the real needs of the arts in Kingston and is based on considerable research and consultation both within this City and with other municipalities.

In addition, the Interim Arts Advisory group recommends the establishment of an Arts Advisory Committee of City Council to advise and assist with the assessment current approaches and future initiatives and the development of the long overdue Cultural Policy for Kingston.

The new arts funding program and the development of policy must happen in tandem. Kingston's arts organisations need funding now to end the crippling disadvantage they have faced in relation to peer organisations in other cities and to unleash their capacity to access other resources and programs in order to serve the City, enhancing quality of life and economic growth. The program is not a frill but a vital part of civic infrastructure.

This Council should end the neglect and inefficient, piecemeal approach to the arts, and the futile generation of ignored studies, by approving the proposed program of adequate support for arts organisations and high-calibre projects.

The total package, including operating and program grants and administrative costs, runs \$500,000 annually, or .2% of the City's \$250million operating budget. That's point 2%: a modest component in the City's overall budget, and one in line with funding programs in peer communities. Taking into account the approximately \$100,000 currently allocated to all arts projects through the Healthy Community Fund, the increase is less than that, roughly \$400,000.

It is crucial that all arts supporters make their support for the arts known to politicians at this time.

Please take a moment to do this now. Suggested talking points:

1. Explain that the arts are fundamental and valued part of civic life and identity.
2. Our arts organisations, our artists in all media, and the community at large need this funding to thrive.
3. Point out that restoration of funding is a crucial indicator of City support: City funding is a key leveraging factor without which Kingston groups struggle at a permanent disadvantage in seeking support from other agencies, foundations, government programs, sponsors and patrons.
4. It is unfair for politicians to suggest that a modest program of arts funding will "cause" a tax increase: past neglect does not justify ongoing neglect!

5. Point out that Culture is priority #2 in the City's current strategic plan; despite this, funding for the arts has eroded over the past 5 years. It's time to turn this around.

6. Non-profit arts organisations are the backbone of cultural life in this City and the best, most effective and efficient means of delivering arts services due to their experience, skills, knowledge and networks of support locally, nationally and internationally. They need and deserve City support.

Please contact your Councillor and the Mayor as soon as possible! And encourage others to do so. Contact information is readily available of the City of Kingston web site. For your convenience, I attach a contact list.

sincerely yours,
Jan Allen
Chair, Advocacy Committee of the Kingston Arts Council

Council for the City of Kingston
December 1, 2006 to November 30, 2010

For Public Distribution

<u>District Number</u>	<u>District Name</u>	<u>District Councillor</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Home Phone Number</u>	<u>City Hall Extension</u> (613-546-4291)	<u>Email</u>
Mayor		Harvey Rosen	807 Johnson Street K7L 2B6	613-548-7407	1400	hrosen@cityofkingston.ca
1	Countryside	Joyce MacLeod-Kane	945 Old Kingston Mills Road K7L 4V3	613-546-9836		jmacleod-kane@cityofkingston.ca
2	Loyalist-Cataraqui	Rob Matheson	784 Grouse Crescent K7P 1A2	613-384-7717		rmatheson@cityofkingston.ca
3	Collins-Bayridge	Lisa Osanic	599 Rankin Crescent K7M 7K6	613-389-7336		losanic@cityofkingston.ca
4	Lakeside	Dorothy Hector	885 Haverhill Drive K7M 4V1	613-634-1732		dhector@cityofkingston.ca
5	Portsmouth	Mark Gerretsen	2-192 Union Street K7L 2P6	613-542-5748		mgerretsen@cityofkingston.ca
6	Trillium	Vicki Schmolka	625 Fernmoor Drive K7M 8K5	613-549-1707		vscholka@cityofkingston.ca
7	Cataraqui	Sara Meers	318 Weller Avenue K7K 2V3	613-546-4188	1509	smeers@cityofkingston.ca
8	Kingscourt-Strathcona	Steve Garrison	37 Seaforth Road K7M 1E1	613-546-2450		sgarrison@cityofkingston.ca
9	Williamsville	Ed Smith	139 Churchill Crescent K7L 4N3		1517	esmith@cityofkingston.ca
10	Sydenham	Bill Glover	163 Churchill Crescent K7L 4N3	613-549-1900		bglover@cityofkingston.ca
11	King's Town	Rob Hutchison	109 York Street K7K 1P9	613-544-3515		rhutchison@cityofkingston.ca
12	Pittsburgh	Leonore Foster	921 Alnwick Lane, RR #1 K7L 4V1	613-546-4984	1505	lfoster@cityofkingston.ca