

SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

ANNUAL REPORT
2020

SKELETON
PARK ARTS
FESTIVAL





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The Skeleton Park Arts Festival (SPAF) is a non-profit annual summer solstice celebration held in and around Kingston's historic McBurney Park, popularly known as 'Skeleton Park' due to its 19th century history as a cemetery. The multidisciplinary festival showcases artists from Kingston and around the world, in addition to a variety of family and heritage activities.

We're also a year-round, charitable organization that aims to increase appreciation and access for the arts in Kingston by providing diverse multi-arts programming. Skeleton Park Arts Festival strives to bring together artists from a range of disciplines to present unique and collaborative artistic experiences in a variety of alternative venues while helping to increase community engagement and neighbourhood pride.

*Top:
Marny McDiarmid installs her piece for
Next Door: A Skeleton Park
Neighbourhood Art Project*

*Bottom Right:
Illustrations by Pierre Collet-Derby*





Programming

SPAF is primarily a program-focus organization that achieves its mandate through seasonal presentations of mostly free, multi-generational and accessible arts activities such as concerts, dances, films, exhibits, parades, readings and workshops.

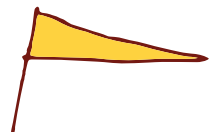
In partnership with several other local arts and service organizations, schools, churches, and community centers, SPAF is routinely bringing together many diverse groups of neighbourhood residents and visitors to participate in multi-arts programming.



From Top:

1. Installation of poetry on the park's hockey boards.
2. Beverly Copeland performs at the Next Church in the Skeleton Park Neighbourhood.
3. Poster from the Ballytobin Live from the Isabel Online Summer Music Festival

4. Jocelyn Purdie's Hybrid Forms installation from Next Door: A Skeleton Park Neighbourhood Art Project





Partnerships

SPAF is dependent on community partners for long term sustainability of presenting diverse multi-arts programming. Highlight 2020 partnerships and sponsors include:



Union Gallery



**Isabel Bader Centre
for the Performing Arts**



**Black Luck
Collective**



**Live Wire
Music Series**



**Kingston Indigenous
Language Nest**



**Kingston Frontenac
Public Library**

From Top:

1. Haviah Mighty: Online Performance
2. Renga of a Distanced Spring poetry project
3. Sadaf Amini's music video for 'Dawn'

4. Neighbours @ Noon: Kingston Freestyle Dance!
5. Neighbours @ Noon: James Wannamaker & Joel Williams

6. Carol Ann Budd: Kingston Indigenous Language Nest



The Skeleton Press

The Skeleton Park Arts Festival is proud to introduce The Skeleton Press – a free community newspaper serving the Skeleton Park neighbourhood and surrounding area. The Skeleton Press is published 4 times a year. What started as an informal chat about the politics of a neighbourhood in transition led us to found this newspaper. We are seeking a broader, more inclusive conversation that captures the vibrancy and diversity of the neighbourhood.

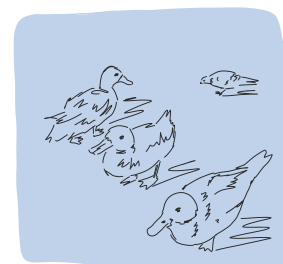
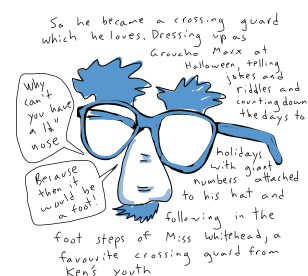
We are interested in how an “old school” newspaper can communicate differently than digital publishing, and how the act of distributing the physical object can build community. We hope tattered copies of The Skeleton Press can be passed from hand to hand, sparking conversation with neighbours over the fence or at the corner store, and strengthening our sense of place and each other.

Distribution

The current issue of The Skeleton Press has been delivered to 3,467 addresses in the Skeleton Park Neighbourhood. For people who didn't receive a copy, we have made them available at 7 different Free Little Libraries in the Skeleton Park neighbourhood and also at the poster board in Skeleton Park. The newspaper is also available at over 20 locations throughout Kingston.

Top:
Covers of The Skeleton Press

Right:
Jon Claytor's Skeleton Park People Project



Financial Highlights 2020

EXPENSES

Festival Artist Fees	\$21,339.00
The Skeleton Press	\$15,090.00
Total Festival Expenses	\$93,629.00

REVENUES

Canada Heritage	\$30,334.00
Canada Council for the Arts	\$21,500.00
Total Festival Revenues	\$80,858.00

Communications & Audience Development

SPAF's utilizes many media outlets in order to continually build on its audience. These outlets include print, radio and online. The festival's primary forms of communication with the community is through our social media accounts and newsletters. If you want to stay involved with upcoming events and other news you can follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. You can also subscribe to our online newsletter at www.skeletonparkartsfest.ca.

Social Media Growth

	August 2017	April 2018	August 2018	November 2018	November 2019	November 2020	% Growth in 2020
Facebook	2673	2754	3112	3160	3822	4187	9.5%
Twitter	589	669	783	810	855	900	5.2%
Instagram	529	987	-	1167	1406	1896	34.9%
Newsletter					729	930	27.6%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & VOLUNTEERING

Board of Directors



Marney McDiarmid - President

Marney McDiarmid is a ceramic artist and longtime resident of the Skeleton Park neighbourhood with an ongoing interest in community engaged art.



Clarke Mackey - Secretary

Clarke is a Canadian filmmaker, author, and educator. He is also a Director at the Kingston Canadian Film Festival.



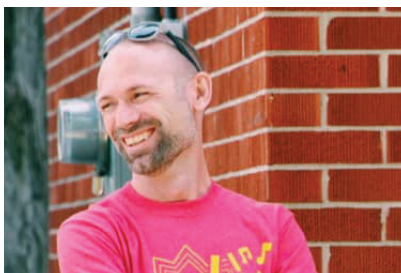
Jill Glatt - Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator

Jill (she/her) is a French teacher, printmaker, and arts educator.



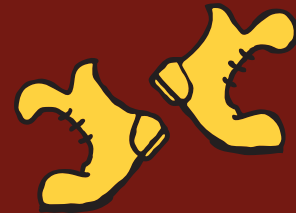
Greg Tilson - Artistic Director

Greg is a community organizer specializing in cultural programming.



Neil Bettney - Assistant Director

Neil is a freelance graphic designer and installation assistant at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. He has also become quite adept at hosting Zoom events.



Volunteers

Each and every year, SPAF benefits from the hard work put in by our committed and talented volunteers. Our volunteers contribute to our various programs, events and outreach activities that take place in the neighbourhood and throughout Kingston, while gaining practical work experience with a local organization. We encourage you to contact us if you want to get involved as a volunteer with SPAF.

Membership

Applications for Membership will be received by the Board from community members who have volunteered for a total of at least ten hours with Skeleton Park Arts Festival events and activities. Applications for Membership shall be considered by the Board at any time.

Membership is effective for two years from the date the Board approves the Membership.

SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

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