



SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



Movie Night in the Park

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VISION STATEMENT

Contributing to healthy, vibrant communities in Katarokwi / Kingston through celebration of arts and culture with social, racial, and environmental justice as our guide.

MISSION STATEMENT

SPAF is a grassroots community organization that engages in collective care by fostering diverse cultural activities that are free, collaborative and accessible to all. We create opportunities for making art and being creative together. SPAF supports a sense of enjoyment and civic belonging for diverse communities in Katarokwi / Kingston, with a particular focus on the Skeleton Park neighbourhood.

VALUES STATEMENTS

Collective Care: SPAF values the power of the arts to contribute to the health, well-being and expression of our community members. We strive toward empowerment and compassionate respect in our interactions with others. We prioritize group collaboration in decision-making and art making.

Accessibility: SPAF is committed to free musical and cultural programming that is accessible to all regardless of income and other barriers. **Creativity and Joy:** We believe in the power of making art and being creative together, solely for fun and enjoyment.

Environmentalism: We are each care-takers of Skeleton Park, our neighbourhood, Katarokwi/Kingston and the planet. SPAF is committed to practices of waste-free and leave-no-trace.

Anti-oppression and Equity: SPAF is committed to an ongoing process of naming, challenging and transforming unequal power relations. This includes paying artists appropriately for their work.

Anti-racism: SPAF acknowledges racism and white supremacy have dire impacts on people in our community. We are committed to challenging racism and white supremacy in the organization and beyond.

Indigenization: We are committed to meaningful transformation of our practices that return power to Indigenous peoples and prioritize Indigenous ways of knowing and being. SPAF is committed to reconciliation and challenging cultural appropriation.

Accountability: We are committed to open, accessible communication between community members, artists, and the organization. We recognize the importance of feedback, evaluation, transparency, and relationship building as key components of accountability.

Agreed upon by consensus by the SPAF Board of Directors and the Artistic Director on June 24 and 28, 2021.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

Board of Directors

1. **Jill Glatt (she/her). Board President and Volunteer Coordinator.** Jill is an illustrator, printmaker, arts educator, and French immersion art teacher with the LDSB.
2. **Marney McDiarmid (she/her), Past President ExOfficio Director.** Marney is a ceramic artist and longtime resident of the Skeleton Park neighbourhood with an ongoing interest in community engaged art.
3. **Kristin Moriah (she/her), Director.** Kristin is an award-winning scholar, educator, and Assistant Professor of African American Literary Studies at Queen's University. She is passionate about Black art and performance. In addition to her volunteer work with the Skeleton Park Arts Festival, her public scholarship includes collaborations with Archives Ontario and the City of Toronto, and presentations for the Ontario Black Historical Society, the Delaware Historical Society, and the Amherstburg Freedom Museum.
4. **Sebastian De Line (they/he). Director.** Sebastian is an artist, scholar, and Associate Curator, Care & Relations at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.
5. **Kamryn Marsh (they/them). Secretary.** Kamryn is a facilitator, trainer, consultant, leader, and activist. They work as a Settlement Worker at KEYS, serving LGBTQI+ newcomers. They are committed to integrating anti-oppression, equity, accessibility, intersectionality, and liberation for all marginalized communities into community-engaged arts.
6. **Carol Ann Budd (she/her), Treasurer.** She is co-chair of the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University and sits on the Board of Directors of the Kingston Indigenous Languages Nest. Carol is the Principal Advisor and Founder of Woodland Wealth, an Indigenous-owned financial planning and investment management firm. She is a proud member of Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, part of the Robinson Huron Treaty area. Mother of 4 and a proud Nokomis/Grandmother of 1 noshenh/grandson.

Staff

7. **Greg Tilson (he/him), Artistic Director.** Greg is a community organizer specializing in arts programming.
8. **Sol Castañeda (she/her). Community Outreach Coordinator (temporary contract).** Sol is a Cultural Manager who has created initiatives and has developed cultural programming for museums, galleries and independent organizations in Mexico.

PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND FUNDERS



KINGSTON CANADIAN FILM FESTIVAL • CENTRE CULTUREL FRONTENAC • KINGSTON ARTS COUNCIL
CANADIAN HERITAGE • ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL • MCBURNEY PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION
CITY OF KINGSTON DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & CULTURAL SERVICES • CFRC RADIO • THE ELM CAFÉ
THE NEXT CHURCH

KING'S TOWN AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKING GROUP

SPAF'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES ON THE ONGOING KTAHWG, ON BEHALF OF THE FESTIVAL.



NORTH KING'S TOWN PROJECT

SPAF'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES ON THE ONGOING NKT WORKING GROUP, ON BEHALF OF THE FESTIVAL.

Writ 235: WRITING IN THE COMMUNITY

We are thrilled to collaborate with Queen's University @queensuniversity in the program WRIT 235: Writing in the Community.

Queen's University is now offering WRIT 235: Writing in the Community, a course that runs through the fall and winter terms. Based on a community service-learning model, the course will facilitate mutually beneficial relationships between students and organizations such as the Skeleton Park Arts Festival. It will also provide students with the opportunity to extend their knowledge from the classroom and apply it to a 'real-world' scenario.

We welcome to SPAF Sarah Miller-Briggs and Cat Sit!

Queens volunteer, Full-time student and aspiring novelist, Sarah is new to the Kingston area, but is excited to get in touch with the local art scene.

Cat is a second year Queen's student majoring in English and Psychology.



Sarah Miller-Briggs



Cat Sit

SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL 2024



1

SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL
 JUNE 22, 23 2024 SOLSTICE WEEKEND

KOBO TOWN, STATUS NON STATUS, YARRO, JUSTIN RUTLEDGE, SADAF AMINI, THE HUMAN RIGHTS, KEATON, FOSTER SHEA & SUDAC, SHOWMAN & COOLE, JULIA FINNEGAN, BRIGHDE CHAIMBEUL, CHANTER LA POMME, UNDERTOWN BRASS BAND, BROWNMAN ELECTRYC TRIO, RABBIT AND BEAR PAWS, FAT GOOSE CRAFT FAIR, THE DEPARTMENT OF ILLUMINATION

skeletonparkartsfest.ca



2



3



4



5

- 1. Kobotown
- 2. Keaton
- 3. Brighde Chaimbuel
(Photo Credit: Camille Lemoine)
- 4. Status Non Status
- 5. Pirate Ship at Boxtopia

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS:

Every Chip Stand @ the Elm Café

By Chantal Bennett and Joel Kimmel

Chip Stands are a ubiquitous part of Ontario's landscape. Most chip stands began as a vehicle of some sort that morphed into a semi-permanent, retrofitted, DIYed shack. They are not pretty, nor do they pretend to be. They are not pristine eateries; you will be eating your food on the side of the road. Chip stands are a highlight of a road trip, a welcome rest stop, a lunch break, and a place to go with your friends and family.

In Ontario, we can find chip stands in all kinds of vehicles from school buses to outmoded Canada Post trucks, from double-decker buses to antiquated train cabooses. These are the chip stands we love to draw, the vehicles that never go anywhere, and never will because they can't, unless they're towed away.

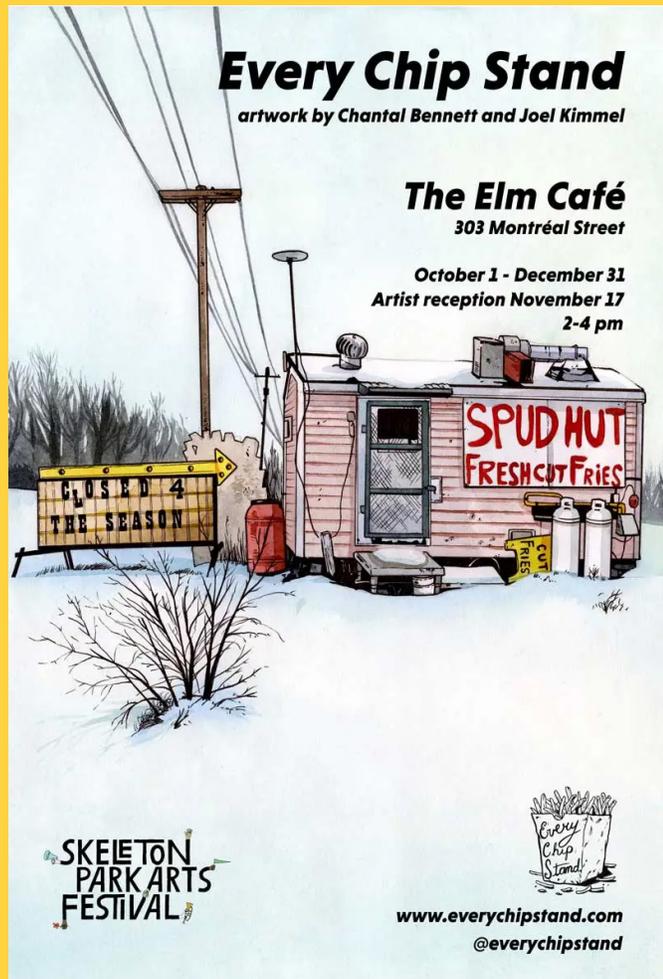
It is the whimsy and the idiosyncrasies of the chip stand that have drawn us to illustrate more than 100 of them in the last 8 years, and we've barely scratched the surface of Ontario's chip stands.

Chip stands are a part of Canadian culinary history and its landscape, and many of the older, classic vehicles are disappearing and being replaced by shiny, efficient food trucks. Our goal in this *Every Chip Stand* project is to document these places that so many people love before they are lost.

Featuring the work of Chantal Bennett and Joel Kimmel, *Every Chip Stand* is one of installations SPAF curates at the Elm Café @ 303 Montreal Street. Other shows in 2024 included:

Spring 2024: Strange Beautiful Things,
by Sasha Jimenez French

**Winter 2024: Worlds take a shape
before me [and I find meaning within
them] by Amelia Glancy**



*Pictured Above: Promotional Poster from the 2024 show
Every Chip Stand. Installation of the show in progress.*



HALLOWEEN PARADE IN THE PARK

As an ongoing tradition, SPAF hosts our Halloween Parade in the park. People from the neighbourhood and beyond are invited in costume or as themselves to parade around the park, lead by a musical group. This years special musical guests were Brass Over Tea Kettle. This event is held annually on October 31st, at 5 pm. Photos by Ken Fuller

WORKSHOP WITH LAL

Creating and recording a musical background with found sounds and our bodies (hands, mouths, feet!) as well as a poetry / spoken word / abstract word pieces, the workshop was both a collaborative process and an introduction to recording and sound creation. The workshop was open to all, regardless of previous experience (or no experience at all!) and each participant took home an mp3 of the collective work created.

LAL has been performing and recording for over 20 years and has been conducting sound workshops all over the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). They provide workshops that utilize anti-oppression and feminist practices. Respect being key in how they work with community.



The workshop was presented in conjunction with The Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University Student Affairs (Yellow House) and The Ontario Art Council.

PROFILE FESTIVAL PARTNER - THE FAT GOOSE CRAFT FAIR



Ksenia Knyazeva, Heidi Wallace, Brandy Wilkes, Vincent Perez, Phoebe Cohoe, Lena Rakhuba, absent, Marney McDiarmid.

The Fat Goose Craft Collective is committed to the creation of venues and opportunities for crafts people of any stripe to exhibit and sell their work and for the public to access affordable, high-quality handmade goods while enjoying the craft scene's special aura of community and artistic achievement. We use a not-for-profit model, are volunteer-driven, and are run by craftspeople for craftspeople.

In 2009, after recognizing a demand for more interesting and accessible venues among local makers looking to showcase and market their work, a dedicated team of like-minded craftspeople and artists formed to organize the Fat Goose Craft Fair. During the planning phase for the 2011 fair, that team decided to form a distinct collective to further their mandate and expand upon the fair's growing popularity.

The Collective has managed to coordinate a fair that is seen as a top venue for holiday season craft exhibition and sale in Kingston and that has drawn ever-more applicants and patrons since its inception. The fair is juried according to the following criteria: work should be local, represent unique and original ideas, add to the diversity in products available at the fair, and demonstrate depth of process and high quality of finish. The Collective aims to enrich the local economy with art and fun, creative and community-minded events while partnering with local community groups. In past years, we have collaborated with Apple Crisp Entertainment, CFRC 101.9FM, Jessup Food & Heritage Co. and Modern Fuel Artist-Run Centre.



Vendors No Guff and The Hive at this year's festival

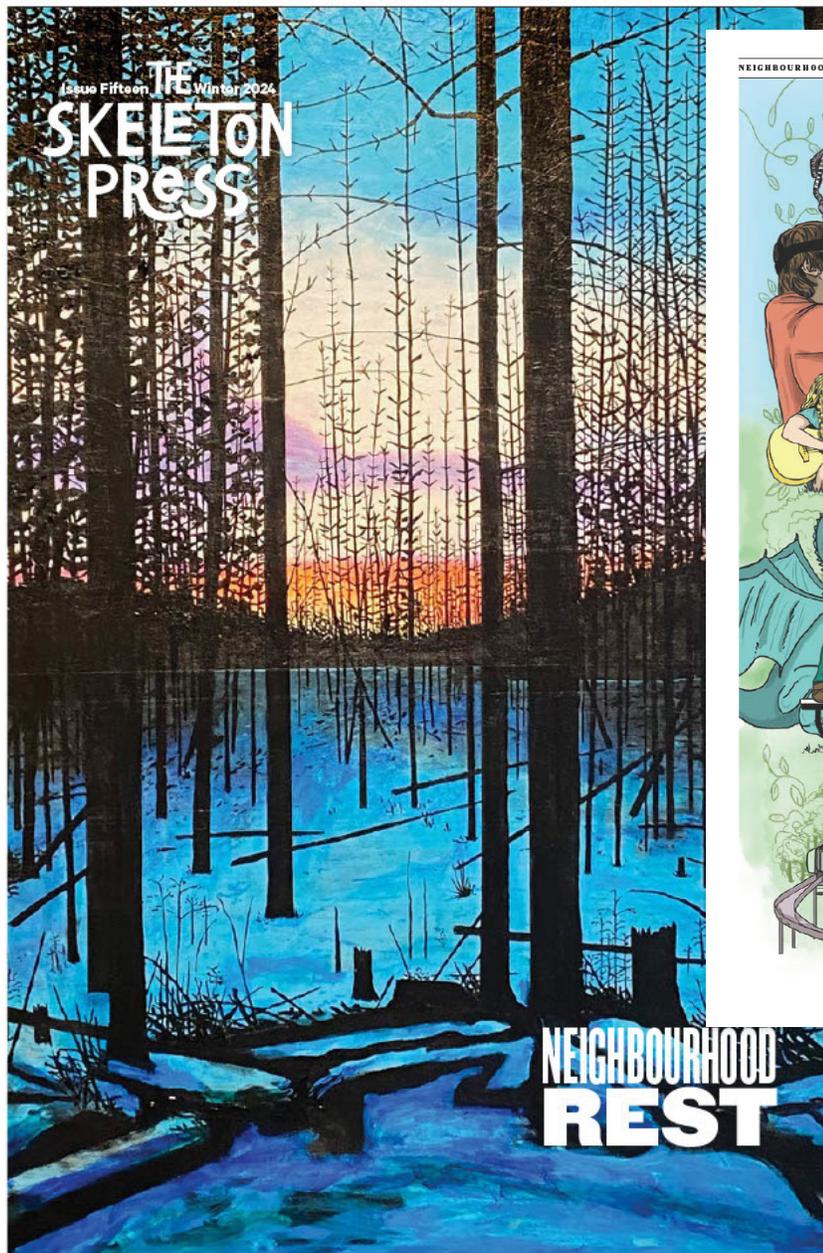


THE SKELETON PRESS

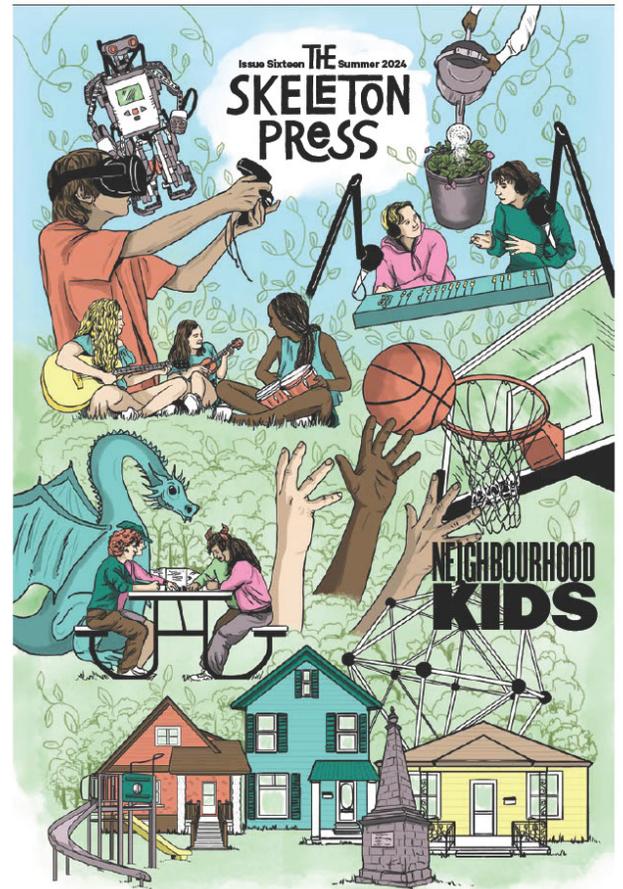
The Skeleton Press is your free community newspaper serving the Skeleton Park neighbourhood. Published four times a year, we aim to capture Skeleton Park's vibrancy and diversity in "old-school" print - as we believe the physical act of distributing a newspaper builds community. We want to see tattered, marked up copies of The Skeleton Press 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. If you share our vision, please donate to keep The Skeleton Press alive. Your money will go to paying local creatives, staff, printing, and distribution. Becoming a 'Friend of The Skeleton Press' is a commitment of \$150 a month. To show our appreciation of your support, have your name printed on page two and be our VIP at various Skeleton Park Art Festival events throughout the year.

Visit www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/skeleton-park-arts-festival/ to donate.

NEIGHBOURHOOD-FOCUSED, PULP-BASED JOURNALISM, FREE & SERVING MCBURNEY PARK & SURROUNDING AREA



NEIGHBOURHOOD-FOCUSED, PULP-BASED JOURNALISM, FREE & SERVING MCBURNEY PARK & SURROUNDING AREA



SPAF VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT:

Gabriella Dee

In 2021, Gabriella Dee (pictured near left) was asked by Geoff Hendry of Sustainable Kingston (SK) to represent them at SPAF and to volunteer. She saw that SPAF had a waste diversion program and put herself down for the whole weekend, because waste diversion is what she is passionate about.

Gabriella was thoroughly impressed with SPAF's organization of its waste diversion program, including the use of volunteers to sort waste, and the presence of OSKAR and the Kingston Water Buggy. She told Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Glatt, that she would definitely be back in 2023, and upon seeing her enthusiasm, SPAF invited to also become the food vendor coordinator to help reduce the amount of waste even further. Gabriella admits that she felt a little uneasy taking on this responsibility, but it all worked out well and she continues to bring in food vendors who share the festival goals of being as close to zero waste as possible. Her experiences at SPAF were so rewarding that she was able to incorporate her time at the festival into a chapter of her master's in environmental studies thesis at Queen's University.

In May of 2022, thanks to her work with SPAF and SK, Gabriella was asked to help the Memorial Centre Farmers Market with their waste reduction initiative. The 'reusable market dish dispensary' was born, and she now assists any vendors who provide prepared food at the market to serve that food (or beverage) in reusable dishes along with reusable cutlery. You can find her at the Dirty Dishes / Waste Station every market Sunday.

Last June, Gabriella was asked to participate in a TVO panel discussion asking, "Can Outdoor Festivals be Sustainable?" on The Agenda with Steve Palkin, and got to represent both SPAF and the Market for this televised program. For Gabriella, it was a privilege to be able to speak about reducing festival and event waste with Kate Johnston, executive director of Hillside Festival and Pam Carter, president of Mariposa Folk Festival.

Gabriella is currently a Research Assistant at Queen's, studying how to best manage organic waste in the city, and hopes to continue working with city officials and other groups in Kingston to help reduce waste and especially divert organic waste at local festivals, events, and anywhere possible.

Thank you Gabriella for all of your incredible waste diversion work you do for our community!



Volunteers show off the single bag of waste collected at this year's festival.

SPAF's strategies for a successful waste plan include:

- *Remove the element of choice for where waste can be deposited by featuring a centralized volunteer sorting station.*
- *Use volunteers to collect, sort, rinse, and place all waste into the correct bins of a mobile waste diversion unit called OSKAR.*
- *Communicate with food and drink vendors ahead of time, asking them to eliminate or reduce the amount of packaging used to serve their products.*
- *Post good signage to let festival participants know what is going on.*
- *Have a City representative at a booth next to OSKAR who can answer questions about waste diversion.*

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS / AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

2024 Financial Highlights

Revenue Highlights:

\$30,900 Canadian Heritage
\$12,735 Canadian Red Cross
\$13,500 City of Kingston Arts Fund
\$16,500 Ontario Arts Council
\$20,600 Sponsorship and Fundraising

Expenses Highlights:

\$33,984 Artist Fees
\$19,706 The Skeleton Press
\$5,996 Marketing
\$35,574 Production
\$12,261 Professional Fees

2024 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.

	2022	2023	2024	CHANGE IN AUDIENCE SIZE (%) [SINCE 2022]
FACEBOOK	5004	5241	5486	▲ 9.6 %
INSTAGRAM	2586	3154	3659	▲ 41.5 %
X (TWITTER)	912	907	949	▲ 4.0 %
NEWSLETTER	1308	1153	1267	▼ 3.1 %



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PARK ARTS
FESTIVAL**



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