

# SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

ANNUAL REPORT  
2025



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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



Canada Council  
for the Arts    Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO  
CREATES

KINGSTON



Downtown  
Kingston



FAT GOOSE  
CRAFT FAIR

MACKINNON  
BROTHERS  
BREWING  
CO.

DELTA  
HOTELS

Annie  
Clifford  
Barrister & Solicitor



CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS • ONTARIO CREATES • TOURISM KINGSTON

DOWNTOWN KINGSTON • FAT GOOSE CRAFT FAIR • MACKINNON BROTHERS BREWING CO.

DELTA HOTELS • ANNIE CLIFFORD • IRONCLAD PRINTING COMPANY

## FRIENDS OF PROVIDENCE COMMONS WORKING GROUP

SPAF'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR CO-CHAIRS ON FPCWG ON BEHALF OF THE FESTIVAL



### NORTH KING'S TOWN PROJECT

SPAF's Artistic Director participated on the NKT Working Group on behalf of the Festival. Kingston's City Council approved the Secondary Plan on March 28, 2025

## 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.

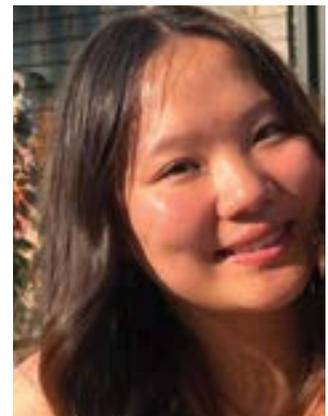
Queen's University is now offering WRIT 235: Writing in the Community, a course that runs through the fall and winter terms. Based on a community service-learning model, the course will facilitate mutually beneficial relationships between students and organizations such as the Skeleton Park Arts Festival.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

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

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



Sarah Miller-Briggs



Cat Sit

# SKELETON PARK ARTS FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS 2025



1



2



3



4



5

1. Tiny Horse
2. Stilt Walkers
3. Cadence Weapon
4. Mimi O'Bonsawin
5. Holly Gilmour

# YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS 2025

## *Bill Penner's Odds/Ends @ the Elm Café*



*The Far Shore* acrylic on canvas 28" X 22" (Artist Bill Penner)

## *SPAF Fundraising Exhibit @ The Elm Cafe*

In memory of Skeleton Park neighbour and artist, **Ivan Soudek**, his estate kindly donated a significant collection of his work for festival fundraising purposes. With the help of exhibit curator, Jane Sommerville, The Elm Cafe exhibit raised over \$5,000 for the 2025 festival.

*Fundraising for The Skeleton Park Arts Festival Exhibition At The Elm Cafe*

In memory of artist  
**IVAN SOUDEK**

@ The Elm Cafe (303 Montreal St)  
Jan-April 2025

For more info:  
[SkeletonParkArtsFest.ca](http://SkeletonParkArtsFest.ca)



## Rae Spoon @ Musiikki

SPAF continues to co-present local concerts with partner organizations, including the July 5th 2025 Musiikki concert featuring non-binary musician, producer, and author, Rae Spoon, co-presented by TransFamily Kingston ([transfamilykingston.com](http://transfamilykingston.com))

## 1st Annual Skeleton Park Yard Sale & Block Party:

SPAF also co-presented local bands, Carlo and the Goatsteppers, in addition to an evening movie screening in the park at the 1st Annual Skeleton Park Yard Sale & Block Party.

This successful inaugural neighbourhood event took place on September 20th 2025, throughout the Skeleton Park surrounding area, with special programming hubs and street closures on Charles and Clergy Streets. It was a wonderful day of second-hand goods, special events, music – and even a parade! Proceeds from the 2025 event were in support of the Elizabeth Fry Society ([efrykingston.ca](http://efrykingston.ca)).

The 2026 event is being planned for early/mid September. This will be a chance to clean out your closets and hang out with your neighbours!



# PROVIDENCE COMMONS



The Skeleton Park Arts Festival is represented by the Artistic Director on the Friends of Providence Commons Working Group. This group is helping to plan for the repurposing of Providence Manor at #275 Sydenham Street.

Acquired by the Sisters of Providence in 1861, the property currently consists of the 243-bed long-term care home, Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, and the Foundation House of the Sisters of Providence.

Redevelopment is expected to begin in 2027/28 when the current residents move to the Sisters of Providence Mother House at 1200 Princess Street. The name for the repurposed Providence Manor project at #275 Sydenham Street is Providence Commons.



# 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. 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/](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/skeleton-park-arts-festival/) to donate.



## SPAF ACCESSIBILITY

# Creative Connector for Deaf and Disabled artists



SPAF2025 took part in a 6 week accessibility workshop presented by Creative Connector.

*Artist Credit:  
Jamaica Bridgett (they/them)*

Creative Connector is an online arts hub for Deaf and Disabled artists and creatives who want to find community and discover accessible opportunities in the arts. It serves as a digital platform for networking, learning, and collaboration through initiatives like skill-building workshops, peer meetups, and a weekly newsletter of accessible events and opportunities.



Skeleton Park resident, **Lindsay Fisher** is the Founder of **Creative Connector**. As a Disabled artist and designer, Lindsay's vision for **Creative Connector** is informed by her own experience navigating barriers in the arts.

**Creative Connector** will help fund and support new accessibility initiatives for SPAF2026, including Mental Health First Aid workers, a calming tent, and programming Deaf and Disabled artists, co-facilitated by accessibility consultants **Erin Ball** and **Maxime Beauregard**.

*Pictured: Lindsay Fisher  
Photo by Cat London*

# 2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS / AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

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## 2025 Financial Highlights

### Revenue Highlights:

**\$55,000** Canada Council for the Arts  
**\$37,700** Canadian Heritage  
**\$13,500** City of Kingston Arts Fund  
**\$26,000** Sponsorship and Fundraising

### Expense Highlights:

**\$40,214** Artist Fees (Festival)  
**\$38,092** *The Skeleton Press*  
**\$39,836** Production  
**\$11,152** Professional Fees

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## 2025 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](http://www.skeletonparkartsfest.ca).

	2023	2024	2025	CHANGE IN AUDIENCE SIZE (%) [SINCE 2023]
FACEBOOK	5241	5241	5610	▲ 9.6 %
INSTAGRAM	3154	3154	4491	▲ 41.5 %
NEWSLETTER	1153	1153	1580	▲ 3.1 %

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**SKELETON  
PARK ARTS  
FESTIVAL**



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