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midtown
arts district
kingston

Annual Report 2023



Kingston Midtown Arts District

Mission & Vision

To provide access and support for the arts to advance, engage, unite, and enrich a vibrant community in Midtown Kingston.

ADVOCATE EDUCATE CELEBRATE

The Kingston Midtown Arts District (MAD) believes in the power of creative arts to be an agent of change. We serve the people of Midtown Kingston as a hub for collaborative relationships with individuals, artists, businesses, organizations and government to create positive change together.

Message From the Executive Director

Greetings Supporters and Neighbors,

I'm excited to share with you our Annual Report which illustrates how far we've come in the last three years. The board and staff have been working tirelessly to grow from our early grassroots days to the MAD we are today featuring robust programming, service to our arts community and two active facilities around the corner from each other in the heart of Midtown Kingston.

All of our work at MAD is driven by the premise that the arts, creativity and self-expression are fundamental to a fulfilling, whole life. I believe living artfully and on purpose transforms our lives and builds richer relationships with each other.

From the beginning, we've made it a part of our mission to listen deeply to our community's needs and by doing so build and grow with our community in mind, thoughtfully and organically.

Our ongoing challenge is to change the overwhelming public mis-understanding of the arts: they are extra-curricular and don't offer a path to a secure financial future. The fact is there are jobs in the

Kingston arts industry for creative youth, and we aim to connect youth with these broad opportunities and ensure they are aware of and informed about their options for real, paid creative work. Additionally the arts serve everyone as a basis for creative problem solving.

As this report illustrates our work is multi-faceted and broad. Our work continues because

- Our partnerships and collaborations are vital.
- Paying artists fairly for their valuable contributions is uncompromising.
- Engaging our youth in meaningful training is an investment in our community's future leaders.

Celebrating and making the arts accessible with no barriers is an offering to our city that invites everyone to live and breath artfully every day.

Lisa Kelley
Executive Director
Kingston Midtown Arts District

Our Programs

D.R.A.W.

Arts Education & Teaching Gallery

Making Art, Building Community, Transforming Lives

The Department of Regional Art Workers (D.R.A.W.) provides a wide variety of art classes for people of all ages with a “pay-what-you-can” tuition with the belief that access to quality arts education for all galvanizes the cultural, social and financial dynamics of our society. Our programming is built around a spiraling intersectional and intergenerational framework within which the exchange of creativity, skills and support generate ongoing community learning.



2023 at a Glance

33

Teaching Artists Hired For

50

D.R.A.W. CLASSES

345

PARTICIPANTS
REGISTERED



\$19,135

Tuition Discounts Claimed

39%

of Tuition Discounted



Our PUGG interns access training in arts education through D.R.A.W. classes and the Neighborhood Print Studio. PUGG interns are teaching assistants to the growing roster of professional teaching artists in ongoing workshops and classes for children and adults. PUGG interns also assist to curate and hang art exhibitions in the D.R.A.W. Gallery and work with the staff on administration, marketing and communications.

PUGG

Youth Workforce Training



PUGG (Pop Up Gallery Group), is a paid internship program focused on professional development in the arts and art-related industries for ages 15-24 with a minimum 2-year commitment. The program's goal is to bridge art education with real-life experience, supporting self-expression and building career connections between a student's neighborhood and their future.

2023 at a Glance

\$63,996

IN PUGG INTERN
WAGES**

5,822

HOURS CLOCKED
BY PUGG
INTERNS*

29%

INCREASE IN
HOURS
FROM 2022*

21

PUGG INTERNS*

*Excludes Summer Youth & Young Adult Employment

*Includes Summer Youth & Young Adult Employment

12

FIELD TRIPS

19

EXHIBITS &
COMMUNITY EVENTS

17

BUSINESSES &
ORGANIZATIONS
SERVED

12

VISITING ARTISTS

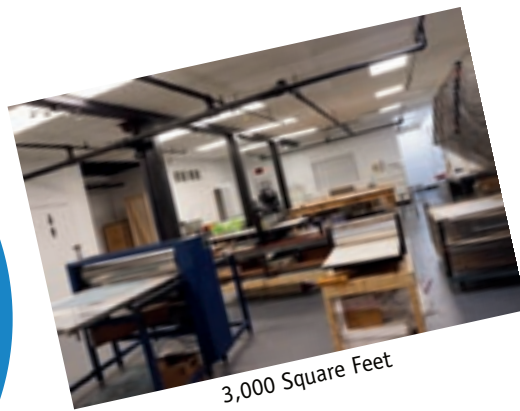
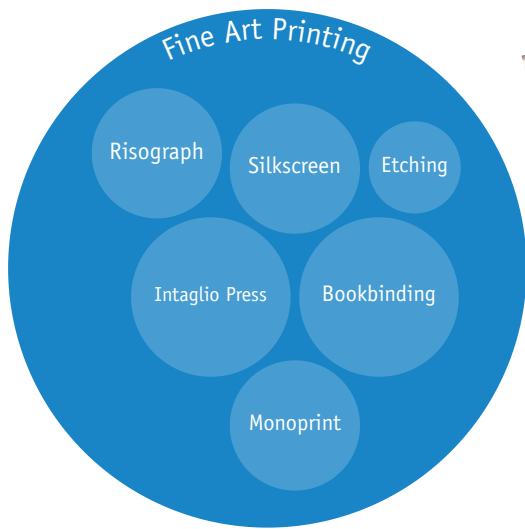


Neighborhood Print Studio

Community & Fine Art Printmaking

Launched in July 2023, the Neighborhood Print Studio aims to become an artistic hub providing professional resources and a communal, collaborative workspace. The Neighborhood Print Studio is inspired by the art, activism, and legacy of Ben Wigfall (1930-2017), a highly influential figure in the African-American and art communities of Kingston and Ulster County. Wigfall was the first African American professor at SUNY New Paltz and a renowned Kingston community leader who created Communications Village in Kingston's Ponckhockie neighborhood, a community art space where he sought "a new and contemporary relationship between artists and community." As both a maker and a mentor, Wigfall introduced the community to the power and value of art in their lives—an idea central to our mission.

The Neighborhood Print Shop serves as a continuation of Wigfall's efforts to provide both mentorship and art-making opportunities for the Kingston community, modeling art as a uniting force, a tool for activism and creative expression, and a pathway to community building and new opportunities.



Free Community Events of MAD

Our annual community events take place throughout the year providing unique art-making opportunities for artists of all ages and abilities which with the support of our sponsors are always free and open to the public

3rd Annual Eco Arts Week - April 19-28, 2024

D.R.A.W. presents a week of arts-driven exploration into sustainability through workshops, lectures, and exhibits for the community. Participants have the chance to interact with a wide range of artists and community members who work with minimal harm and reciprocity in mind.

10th Annual Celebration of the Arts EXPO - July 13, 2024

A full day of free art workshops in a wide variety of art forms presented at the Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster.

4th Annual DRAW-A-THON w/ PUGG - August 10, 2024

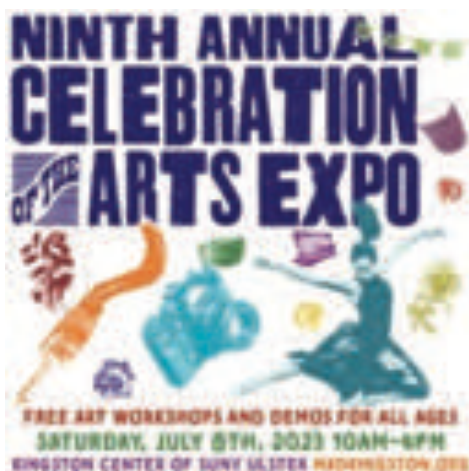
Produced by PUGG Interns, the DRAW-A-THON is a family-friendly, 12-hour drawing marathon with fun drawing prompts, drawing machines, and mini-workshops taking over our D.R.A.W. Studio at Energy Square.

City Look Lab at D.R.A.W. - August 12-23, 2024

A two-week summer camp for middle school-age youth exploring our city's public bus system (UCAT), its many artistic/cultural sites to design and model various creative placemaking projects like bus shelters and PSAs.

2nd Annual Steamroller Print at Neighborhood Print Studio - September 21 & 22, 2024

On-the-street large format printmaking on Iwo Jima Lane with free art workshops throughout August at the Neighborhood Print Studio leading up to the big event during ArtWalk Kingston.



D.R.A.W. Gallery & First Saturday Gallery Guide

In 2023, we launched ongoing exhibitions in the front half of the D.R.A.W. Studio and the Lobby at Energy Square. The program fosters a dynamic learning environment for PUGG by teaching skills related to staging fine arts exhibitions. The program aims to inspire dialogues that will reach a broad audience within the Kingston community through exhibiting work that addresses universal themes of humanity.

Our First Saturday Gallery Guide continued every month with an interactive, online map and printed guide promoting art openings all over the City of Kingston. On average 15-18 galleries participated in 2023, free of charge.



2023 Accomplishments

Neighborhood Print Studio

Our biggest success of 2023!

Community Outreach and Language Justice work

As well as providing bilingual promotional materials and instruction, MAD has made crucial steps forward to understanding the nuances of language justice and is investing in training for our bilingual teaching artists and to provide simultaneous and consecutive interpretation services.

Teaching Artists

We provided part-time employment to a cadre of 30+ teaching artists via D.R.A.W. programming, engaged 28 teaching artists at our annual Celebration of the Arts EXPO and hosted visiting artists from New Orleans, NYC, Ireland & Taiwan

Todd Samara Art Fund Award

This annual \$1,500 award is designed to celebrate and support local artists, art educators, and/or curators for a City of Kingston-based project.

Service to the Arts Community through Fiscal Sponsorship

We supported 7 organizations and artists in receiving grant funding and tax-deductible donations to support their project or event.

2023 by the Numbers

7,492

SERVED FROM ALL PROGRAMS

190,682

WEBSITE VISITS

77,138

UNIQUE SITE VISITS

7,500

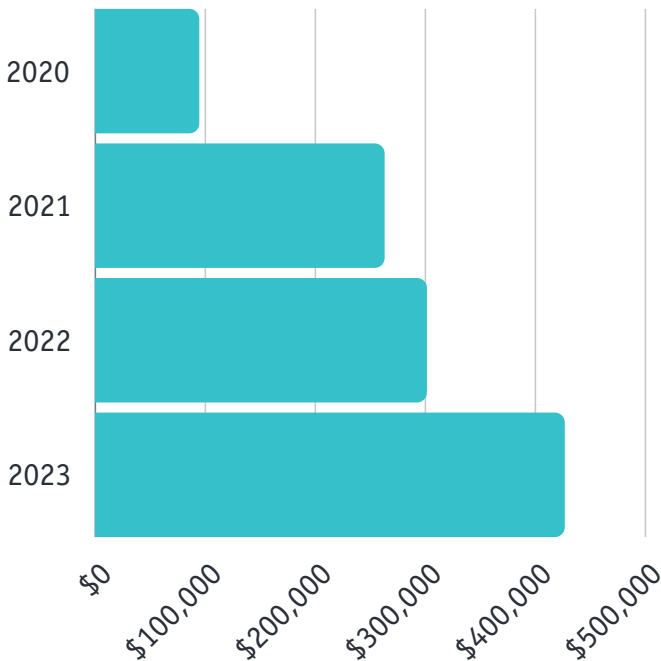
GALLERY GUIDES DISTRIBUTED

\$65,334

RECEIVED FOR FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS

7,549

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



\$426,733
 Grants, Donations & Event Sponsorships Raised in 2023

42%
 Increase from 2022

Funders & Sponsors

- Arts MidHudson
- City of Kingston
- Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation
- Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health
- J.M. McDonald Foundation
- NYSCA
- O'Connor & Partners, LLPC
- Ryan & Ryan Insurance
- RUPCO
- Stewarts Shops
- Rondout Savings Bank

- Ulster County Summer Youth Employment
- TD Bank
- Tides Foundation
- Ulster County Office for Children and Family Services
- Ulster County Office of Employment
- Ulster County Economic Development Alliance
- Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Workforce Development Institute
- Radio Kingston
- Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
- Ulster Savings Bank

Community Partnerships

Our partnerships continue to grow and deepen.
Community is at the heart of our mission.

City of Kingston's Department of Arts & Cultural Affairs
The Samuel Dorsky Museum at SUNY New Paltz
Kingston City School District
Kingston Library
O+ Festival

Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College
Center for Photography (CPW)

Eureka! House
Headstone Ceramics
Fuller Building

Unfettered Arts Makers Space
NoVo Kingston
Reher Center

Summer Youth Employment Program

Big Bubble Community Center
World's End Comics

Woodstock School of Art
Broadway Bubble
Scenic Hudson

Center for Creative Education (CCE)
Midtown Business Alliance (MBA)

Cosmic Doghouse Press
YMCA
BOCES

Radio Kingston
RUPCO
T-Space

Unison Arts Center

Woodstock Artist Association & Museum (WAAM)

Women's Studio Workshop

Various artists - Sophi Kravitz, Carmen Lizardo, Neville Bean



2024 Goals

As we move ahead, all of our program goals center on expanding our model -- a spiraling intergenerational framework where expertise, interaction, and experience generate ongoing community learning.

Visioning for a Midtown Creative Campus

Begin to identify partners and collective visioning of a comprehensive and collaborative wayfinding of all arts and culture assets in Midtown Kingston.

Increase Class Offerings

10% Increase of D.R.A.W. & Neighborhood Print Studio classes. Implement a Print Studio membership model for studio use.

Board Strategic Plan & Staff Training

Continue the board's strategic and development plans. Implement a series of staff trainings throughout the year focused on communications and workflow.

Intern -> MAD Staff

Secure funding to offer permanent employment to 3 PUGG interns that have aged out of the program and have the skills to fill new positions at the Neighborhood Print Studio - Print Studio Manager & Assistant and Communications Assistant

Continue & Forge New Partnerships

- Continue successful partnerships to create a variety of community art projects
- Continue the Ben Wigfall Perpetuity Project with the Dorsky Museum at SUNY New Paltz
- Bard Center for Curatorial Studies.

Acknowledgements

Board of Directors

Margaret S. Inge
President
UPAC, MBA

Neville Bean
Vice President
Neville Bean Designs, Wurts St Bridge Project

Pharoah Phoenix
Secretary
Artist

Jason Mones
Treasurer
Artist

Madeleine Cutrona
Member-At-Large
NYFA

Zachary Bowman
Samuel Dorsky Museum of SUNY New Paltz

Sophi Kravitz
MIX-E

Sarah Pasti
City of Kingston Common Council, Ward 1

Debra Priestly
Queens College

Jay Sherman-Godfrey
ThinkSo Creative, NYC

Michael Torres
Soul Reflections Art & Photography Collective

Frank Waters
MyKingstonKids, Harambee

Board Emeritus

Anne Bailey
Ray Curran
Richard Frumess

MAD Staff

Lisa Kelley, Executive Director

Lara Giordano, Education Director

Beth Humphrey, PUGG Workforce Director

Chris O'Neal, Programs & Communications

Micah Fornari, Print Studio Manager

Nick Carroll, Print Studio Assistant

Maxine Leu, Print Studio Consultant

Colin Secore, Communications Asst.

PUGG Interns

Lark Buncher

Angel Brown, Gallery Attendant

Lance Cushman, Installation Asst.

Damian King, externship with Headstone

Chris Mascolino, Studio Assistant

Kylie Williams, PR Assistant



Kingston Midtown Arts District

Tax ID #81-4055092

845-802-0097

madkingston.org

drawkingston.org

pugg.space

We thank you for your continued support of our programs.

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