August 5, 2020

To Members of the Kingston Community,

I hope this note finds you and yours safe and in good health.

I have a Good Story to share. I had hoped to have sent this letter and booklet out this past March to coincide with the opening of our remarkable performance “Small Things” - an incredible 50 member dance production to have been hosted by the Isabel Bader Theatre in April. At the same time, I would have announced our plans for a Fall 2021 National Able Artists Conference co-chaired by the Honourable Senator Patricia Bovey. Things change, plans adjust, and H’art Centre still moves forward. H’art has been safely open for several weeks and I feel it is time to catch up.

You may not understand where to place us, or what the H’art Centre can offer or contribute. In short: established in 1998 as a not-for-profit charitable organization, relying on workshop fees, grants, and donations. Open all year, with 6 staff, located in a downtown location, H’art shares expertise, contributes to academic research, hires many local artists, leads local mixed ability and inclusive arts initiatives, and continues to provide many means and opportunities for artists of all abilities to encourage arts organizations to become more inclusive. Our creative arts experience, expertise and flexibility continue to garner national and provincial attention as we creatively integrate the world of social services with access to the arts for those D/deaf and with disabilities, an original Kingston idea that has benefited our community for over 21 years and influenced thousands of Canadians.

H’art Centre has 5 established arts programs - all advancing the call for inclusion and access to the arts for those who are D/deaf and those with disabilities. Each program is different and derives inspiration from those that support and participate in the arts as recognized by Canada Council for the Arts: D/deaf and Disability Arts.

Bringing this expertise locally, H’art staff and Board members continue to meet with municipal leadership and administrators to share our work. In addition, H’art contributes to municipal public committees, has been awarded many municipal, provincial and federal awards and grants, and has carried the City of Kingston into the minutes of Senate of the Government of Canada multiple times. H’art is Kingston’s gem shining brightly beyond our borders.

Briefly, H’art Centre and its programs evolved as gaps in providing access to the arts to adults and seniors with disabilities were identified. In 1998 H’art Studio - our core program for adults 18-65 with developmental disabilities interested in participating in arts workshops was established.

In 2011, the Able Artist Series began - biannually inviting acclaimed professional artists with all kinds of challenges and disabilities to share their experiences and expertise in the arts. During this time, our local artists numbers and workshop needs increased and we moved to our present location. This provided H’art with 2 large studios - each with a capacity for 30
artists - and a 3500 sq. ft theatre and an audience capacity of 160. Called the BOX, this new space filled quickly with accessible arts activities and events. Currently, the BOX hosts Kingston’s first inclusive and mixability dance school - The Conservatory. By 2017, increased awareness of the needs of an aging community faced with challenges and disabilities - especially those in public long term care homes - motivated H’art to introduce, fund and implement 5 years of arts programming delivered by MixAbility trained artists ensuring everyone was included regardless of ability or comprehension. In 2018, H’art formalized the training and now provides our award winning MixAbility Inclusive Training program to professional artists and community arts instructors.

As you can see H’art has carved a role that continues to gain national momentum ensuring all publicly funded arts endeavors are inclusive specifically for those that are D/deaf or have disabilities.

Our current projects include: in March, H’art began collaboration with students at the Queen’s School of Rehabilitation to develop an Inclusive Arts Guide resource tool to assist anyone associated with the planning, implementation, jurying or dissemination of public funds to use to ensure inclusion and access for those who are D/deaf or with disabilities. We have plans to make presentations this fall.

At the same time H’art, in collaboration with D/deaf seniors from Kingston-Belleville area, and creative direction from H’art’s resident Deaf Spirit Theatre group produced a beautiful short info film to represent the challenges D/deaf Seniors have as they age. This was made possible by funding from the Ontario Seniors Community Grant Program. More recently, H’art received a federal grant through the United Way and the Emergency Community Support Fund for the further development and expansion of an online arts program for all levels of ability which we began in response to the COVID-19 shutdown. Complimented with research provided by 2 Queen’s Occupational students we are confident that this is will become a very valuable program.

Lots of parts to this Good Story, our economic impact is worthy, our mission determined and any municipal investment in ensuring access to the arts for those who are D/deaf or with disabilities is a good investment.

Please stay safe and find some creative way to keep engaged. Our doors are safely open!

Katherine Porter
Executive Director
WE’RE EXCITED TO SHARE OUR GOOD STORY WITH YOU

We designed this booklet to help you become more familiar with H’art Centre’s programs, the progress we made in 2019, and to share a few highlights of what we have achieved since 1998.

Since our founding, we have created programs and projects to fill gaps, to address barriers, and to encourage everyone to get involved. And we know there is more to do! That’s why you will soon see:

• The expansion of our MixAbilities Inclusive Arts Training program to enhance accessibility of the arts in Kingston and beyond, and
• The organization of a national Able Artists conference in 2021 that will bring professional artists, municipal leaders and arts administrators from across Canada to Kingston.

We look forward to inviting the nation to Kingston. Canada will see our community’s support for inclusive arts and we will be inspired to do even more.

Katherine Porter
Founder & Executive Director
OUR MISSION

H’art Centre is an award winning registered not-for-profit, charitable community arts hub that provides artists with disabilities and those facing barriers with opportunities to create, study and produce works in the arts and collaborate with qualified, trained community artists.

We do this to nurture a vibrant, exciting and supportive culture that encourages artists, staff, volunteers and audiences to reach beyond limiting beliefs and expectations. To value and recognize artists individually for their abilities, and to share this understanding with the world.
OUR VISION

H’art Centre’s vision is to be Canada’s model, in thought and action, providing knowledge, expertise, and proven programming for adults with disabilities and those facing barriers who wish to have access to and participate in Arts, Music, Dance and Theatre throughout their lives and as they age.
H'ART STUDIO

DELIVERS HIGH QUALITY INCLUSIVE ARTS PROGRAMMING FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

LAUNCHED IN 1998, H’art Studio facilitates artistic skill building and creation-based workshops led by trained, professional local artists and arts educators for adults with developmental disabilities.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Recognized several times in the Senate of Canada by Hon. Patricia Bovey for our contributions as she spoke in support of Bill C-81 Accessible Canada Act
• Performed to 1000+ at Isabel Bader Human Rights Arts Festival with plans to return biannually
• Established a memorandum of understanding with the Faculty of Education at Queen’s University and H’art artists audited courses taught by Kim Renders (theatre), Ben Bolden (music), and others
• Wrote and illustrated a series of children’s books
• Shared experience with media arts and assistive technology at the Michaëlle Jean Foundation’s Power of Arts National Forum
• Received a standing ovation from Lt. Governor of Ontario Hillary Weston and presented at the International Summit for Social Inclusion in Montreal

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
• Delivered 2400+ hours of arts programming
• Completed creative development phase of Small Things, our first major dance production

2019 FUNDERS

Anna & Edward C. Churchill Foundation
H’ART STUDIO BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 1998

800+ Spaces for Adults With Disabilities
150+ Professional Artists Engaged
1000+ Field Placements & Volunteers
20,000+ Audience Members
THE BOX BY THE NUMBERS

- 2000+ Audience for H’art productions
- 30 Community user groups
- 3 Resident inclusive arts companies
- 1000+ Community members involved

“I felt full of energy. I’m learning lots about me. This is a big step for me. I was surprised at what I could do.” - Karen, H’art artist
PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE PERFORMING ARTS TO PEOPLE AND GROUPS FACING BARRIERS

LAUNCHED IN 2012, with the support from 40 private donors, THE BOX is H’art Centre’s 3,500 square foot accessible and versatile performing arts hub. THE BOX invites a diverse and inclusive population to develop, produce and present their creative endeavours to the public. THE BOX supports partnerships, co-productions and the sharing of expertise.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Received the 2012 City of Kingston Access Award
• Facilitated space for Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival, Kingston Pride, Queen’s student theatre groups, City of Kingston, AMHS-KFLA, Down Syndrome Association of Kingston, Street Health, Single Thread Theatre Company, Peacequest, ASUS Equity, Theatre Kingston, and more
• Current resident companies: Deaf Spirit Theatre, The Conservatory, and PeerLess Productions
• Co-produced Judith Thompson’s RARE with PeerLess Productions and hosted a two-week sold-out run

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
• Included Immigrant Services Kingston and Area, Axe Capoeira, The Calliope Collective, Blue Canoe, and others
• Installed new seating that leaves even more room for those with mobility issues or wheelchairs
• Secured donor funds to upgrade theatre equipment

2019 FUNDERS

AWARDS
ABLE ARTISTS

ADVANCES IDEAS ABOUT WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE ARTS

LAUNCHED IN 2011, Able Artists is an ongoing series of talks, performances and workshops that bring professional Canadian artists with disabilities and leaders in the inclusive arts movement to Kingston to share their work and insights and advance accessible arts for artists and audiences.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Nominated for the 2017 City of Kingston Celebrating Accessibility Award (Dramaturgies of Translation)
• Hon. David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario provided an opening address
• Presented artists: Alan Shain, Propeller Dance, Judith Snow, Les Productions des Pieds des Mains, Justin Hines, David Roche, Luka “LazyLegz” Patuelli, Judith Thompson, Jenny Sealey (Graeae, UK), Alex Bulmer (Soulpepper), REEL Comfort (Toronto International Film Festival), and many more

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
• Presented our first Able Artists short film on the life of Zena Bernstein at the Kingston Canadian Film Fest
• Engaged Menka Nagrani of Montreal’s Les Productions des Pieds des Mains for dance workshops
• Launched an organizing committee for 2021 National Able Artists conference

2019 FUNDERS

AWARDS
“The performances were stunning and deeply moving.” – Rev. Elizabeth Mac Donald

ABLE ARTISTS BY THE NUMBER SINCE 2011

33+ Able Artists presenters

850+ Workshop & lecture attendees

1350+ Performance & Screening Attendees

2200+ Audience members inspired
“It is so beautiful to see family members or friends singing away with their loved one. They are so happy to be having fun together.”
- Suzanne Pasternak, HAAP instructor
HAAP!
H’ART ACCESSIBLE ARTS PROGRAM

INCLUDES PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES IN THE ARTS THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES AND AS THEY AGE

LAUNCHED IN 2017, HAAP is our outreach program that works to bring meaningful arts-based programming to the community. Seniors with disabilities have benefited from our roster of trained artists who lead inclusive arts workshops with supportive volunteers. The program has raised awareness of the value of meaningful inclusive arts endeavours among long-term care staff.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Completed two years of pilot testing in THE BOX
• Delivered workshops over three years engaging Fairmount Home, Rideaucrest, & Providence Manor
• Offered Parkinson’s Dance at Conservatory Pond
• Equipped four wards at Fairmount with Smart TVs, headsets, and inclusive arts & culture programming manuals developed by Michelle Clarabut, Ph.D.

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
• Introduced the Weekend Arts Mixer project (WAM!) resulting in better access to meaningful inclusive arts for seniors in long-term care on weekends
• Seven facilitators and volunteers delivered 37 weekend arts workshops
• Involved more than 800 senior residents, family members and visitors in meaningful inclusive arts
• Encouraged more intergenerational connection -- and fun!

2019 FUNDERS

[Logos of funding organizations]
INFORMS THE NEXT GENERATION OF INCLUSIVE ARTS FACILITATORS

SINCE 1998, H’art has trained hundreds of volunteers, students, artists and arts educators in our approach. In 2018, we formalized our training in the MixAbilities Inclusive Arts Training Program with the help of former board member Peter Wolf (Associate Vice-Provost, Teaching & Learning, Queen’s University) and graduate student Sarah Carroll (MA, International Education). Now, working with community stakeholders, we are developing a new training stream for administrators, arts organizations, collectives and associations so they can have the resources they need to become more broadly sensitive to the factors that may exclude people from the arts.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Beta Testing completed by facilitator Karen Dolan
• Featured on ArtBridges, a community-engaged arts and arts for social change hub and forum
• Received the City of Kingston’s 2018 Celebrating Accessibility Award in the category of Education

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
• Trained 22 volunteers, field placement students, and contract artists in official launch year
• With OAC support, we developed our capacity to expand to the arts community and introduce our expertise at the 2021 Able Artists national conference

2019 FUNDERS

AWARDS
“I am continuously learning more about inclusion and what it means to these participants, to further help me understand and grow.” - Volunteer 2019

### TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 1998

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed MixAbilities in 2019</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Artists</td>
<td>150+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>400+</td>
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<td>Placement students</td>
<td>600+</td>
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SMALL THINGS BY THE NUMBERS

50+
Artists of mixed abilities

14+
Months of Development

1000+
Hours of workshops

1000+
Audience members anticipated
A DOCU-DANCE ABOUT FAMILY AND FINDING JOY
APRIL 17 & 18, 2020
ISABEL BADER CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Produced By H’art Centre
Co-Creator and Director: Kathryn MacKay
Music Director: David Archibald
Director of Choreography: Melissa Mahady Wilton
Composer: David Dines
Guest Choreographer: Menka Nagrani Guest
Dancer: Vincent-Nicolas Provencher
Performed by H’artists and guest performers

Small Things is a story told through dance, spoken word, original music, and video projections and features performances and contributions by over 50 remarkable H’artists and guest artists.

Working with talented choreographers throughout our fall season, this unique work marries documentary and dance as the stories of parents’ experiences of raising a child with developmental disabilities is told through film intertwined with live dance featuring their adult children onstage. The two art forms twist and turn, and sometimes collide as these families explore the small joys they have found together. Small Things is a moving narrated dance performance unlike anything you’ve seen.
COMMUNITY ARTISTS

EVERY YEAR, WE ENGAGE ARTISTS WHO BRING ENERGY AND EXPERTISE TO OUR ARTS HUB.

2019 Artists by Program
(L to R) Kathryn MacKay, David Archibald, Melissa Mahady Wilton, Isidora Spielmann, David Dines, Stacey Clinton, Deaf Spirit Theatre, Zena Bernstein, Menka Nagrani, Vincent-Nicholas Provencher, Karen Dolan, Yessica Rivera Belsham, David Archibald, Amy Booth, Jackie Mills, Suzanne Pastemak, Laura Scott, Jessica Irwin, and Isidora Spielmann
PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY ARE IMPACTED BY THE WORK OF H’ART CENTRE EVERYDAY.

“...I am so grateful to have an opportunity to share the same space with the participants at H’art who create, engage, socialize and find purpose through the expression of various forms of artistic pieces. My nine-year-old son is Autistic and inclusion is extremely important to me.” -Selwyn, H’art Volunteer

“I have learned and grown as an artist and teacher during my tenure with H’art, and it has been a joy to watch its community members also grow in their capacities as creative and performing artists and people.” -Melissa Mahady Wilton, Choreographer

“Some of the most fun I’ve had in a theatre in ages (and we’ve been seeing some good stuff lately).” - John Lazarus, Playwright & Professor on Down Syndrome By the Dozen Co-Production

“This program enabled our residents to increase relationships and social interaction resulting in a higher quality of life.” -Deb Skeaff, Administrator Rideaucrest

2019 Operational Funding provided by the City of Kingston Arts Fund

H’art Centre is a proud member of:

[Logos of various organizations]
ECO NOMIC IMPACT ON KINGSTON

BETWEEN 2014-2018, H’ART CENTRE GENERATED + $2,001,108 IN REVENUE

- $1,012,797 WORKSHOP FEES
- $526,687 PRIVATE, CORPORATE & FOUNDATIONS
- $106,116 ART SALES, TICKETS AND FUNDRAISERS
- $167,058 FEDERAL GRANTS
- $122,900 PROVINCIAL GRANTS
- $65,550 MUNICIPAL GRANTS

Kingston Arts Fund
Community Investment

That’s money that stays and works in the community!

- $405,832 paid directly to local wages
- 5 full time staff

- $844,931 paid
- in local community artists’ fees

- $474,136 paid
- directly to local businesses

- $276,209 paid
- directly to Kingston’s local services/trades