



CREATIVITY. CONNECTION. COMMUNITY.
FINAL REPORT 2025



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Date of Report:
January 31, 2025
Reporting Period:
Jan 1, 2025-Dec 31, 2025
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H'ART CENTRE

ABOUT H'ART CENTRE

H'art Centre is a not-for-profit corporation that, since 1998, has provided arts-based programming for adults with developmental disabilities and those facing barriers, helping participants build skills, confidence, and connections through arts and culture. The Centre also serves as a welcoming community hub, offering a safe space for participants, their families and support circles, volunteers, and audiences.

INCLUSION

H'art Centre provides access to learning, skill-building, and development opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, to help nurture greater inclusion, community connection and well-being through its H'art Studio program.

TRAINING

H'art Centre advances Kingston as a leader in inclusive arts through MixAbilities training and workshops, giving artists, students, volunteers, and Deaf and disability organizations opportunities to work with adults with developmental disabilities and each other. While The Mix had a dedicated space until May, we continue fostering connection at Providence Village through events like *Connecting Canadians*, while evolving the initiative to maximize our shared campus.

ACCESS

H'art Centre provides accessible arts space that supports and advances a diverse and inclusive community through performances and arts experiences, led by H'art Centre and community partners in our programs and collaborative spaces.

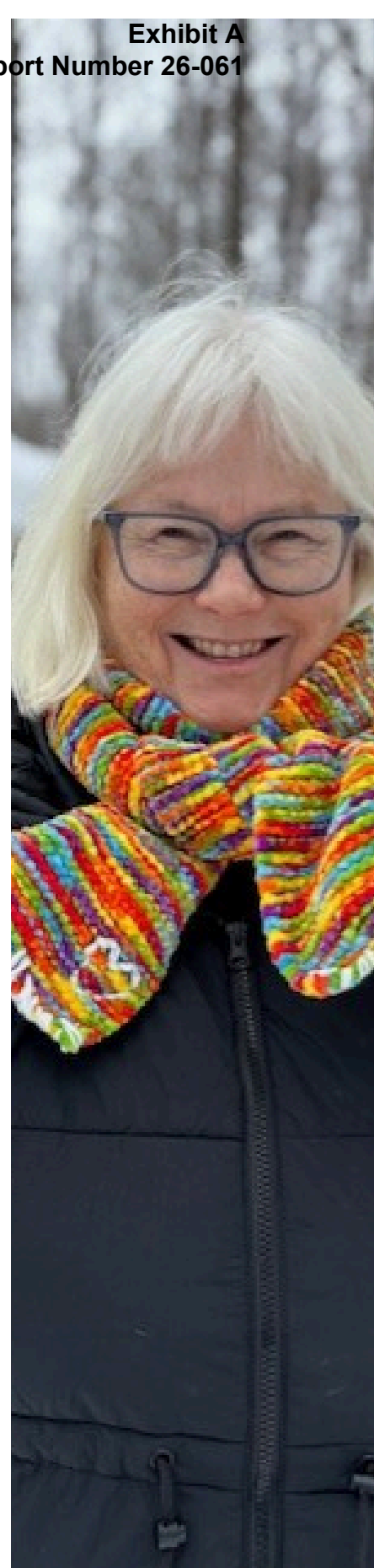
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“2025 was a year of creativity, connection, and community for H’art Centre. We began by engaging with the **Vogue Charity Fashion Show** and celebrated our move to a permanent home at Providence Village, opening three studio spaces honouring the creative legacy of past participants. Workshops like *Bling, Moving As One, Gentle Landings, and New Adventures* nurtured expression and connection for over 50 participants with developmental disabilities and hundreds of community members. Our *Connecting Canadians 2025* gathering brought together 17 inclusive Canadian arts organizations and a dozen study tour participants from the **City of Kingston**-hosted *Creative Cities Summit*.

The move to Providence Village was completed with minimal disruption, and strong participation alongside hundreds of hours of volunteer effort showed the community’s support and belief in the Centre’s future. Now settled alongside a dozen neighbouring organizations, 2026 will focus on new collaborations, reconnecting with partners, and evolving programs that provide low or no-cost access to space, while keeping community engagement at the Centre. Our MixAbilities training continued to strengthen facilitators and local organizations’ capacity to support residents in alignment with City priorities.

2025 also marked the time for leadership transition, with H’art Centre well-positioned for the future—firmly established in its home, guided by a strategic plan, and energized by a dedicated team. I am deeply grateful to the artists, volunteers, students, partners, donors, and staff who made this work possible, and to the City of Kingston for its belief in the value of inclusive arts for all abilities.”

-Katherine Porter, Executive Director



The artwork in this report was chosen to reflect 2025's amazing collective effort — created with many hands to achieve a shared creative vision.

A YEAR OF CREATIVITY, CONNECTION & COMMUNITY

Organizational Milestones for 2025 Included

- **Successful relocation to Providence Village** – Moved from downtown to a permanent, accessible home with minimal disruption.
- **Opening of three new studio spaces** – Honouring the creative legacy of past participants with City representatives present. Adding new iPads and televisions for accessibility and security purposes.
- **High program participation during move** – Over 50 participants with developmental disabilities and hundreds of community members engaged through workshops like *Bling*, *Moving As One*, *Gentle Landings*, and *New Adventures*.
- **Connecting Canadians 2025** – Hosted 17 inclusive arts organizations from across Canada and a dozen study tour participants from the City of Kingston Creative Cities Summit, fostering national collaboration.
- **Community engagement & collaboration** – Establishing ongoing partnerships and initiatives in the new shared Providence Village campus, including programs that provide low or no-cost access to space.
- **Leadership transition** – Planned and executed at a time of organizational stability, with strategic planning in place for continuity.

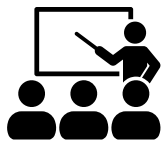
H'ART CENTRE: BY THE NUMBERS



- **12** employees over 2025
- **27** contract artist-facilitators
- **6** artists paid professional contract rates for services
- **58** volunteers and board members



- **490** residents directly impacted
- **980** residents indirectly impacted (using 2:1 multiplier)
- **250+** audience/event visitors
- **151** extended network (Vogue Charity Fashion Show team)
- **1,500** Video Viewers (Vogue Fashion Show | Grand Theatre)



- **19** post-secondary field placements
- **7** programs from 2 post secondary institutions
- **21.5** hours of direct training for artists and organizations, advancing Kingston as a leader in inclusive arts



- **3,845+** in-studio volunteer hours
- **2,785** hours of practical experience for placements
- **1,100+** hours donated by the board
- **81** attendees took part in MixAbilities training



- **\$611K** in revenues
- **\$52K** paid to local/regional guest artists



- **20** organizational partners
- **14** funders



H'ART CENTRE: ALIGNING WITH CITY PRIORITIES

This section shares some of the activities H'art Centre was involved in during 2025 that help to further some of the City's key priorities. H'art Centre plays a unique role in promoting the value of the arts for people with disabilities and other barriers.

Age Friendly

- Older Adults Connecting & Belonging (OACB): Continued participation to help reduce social isolation among older adults; and will attend Feb 2026 meeting.
- Program Model: Developing a framework to benefit community groups and programs serving seniors at Providence Village campus.
- Senior Arts Programming (Davies Foundation): Secured funding in November 2025 to support arts-based programs for older adults, launching in 2026.

IIDEA

- Enshrined Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a pillar in the new strategic plan and continued inclusive programming.

Multi-Year Accessibility

- Engaged in the City's Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- New space at Providence Village is now fully operational with expanded studios, performance spaces, and accessible facilities.
- Updated adaptive tools to increase participation.
- H'art continues to contribute to accessibility consultations for the Providence Village campus.

Partnership-based programming

- Delivered *Connecting Canadians 2025* from October 7-9 2025 at Providence Village, bringing together 30 representatives from 17 inclusive arts organizations from across Canada and a dozen inclusive artists and facilitators from Kingston.
- Partnered with the **City of Kingston's Arts & Culture Services Department** to be a study tour site for the **2025 Creative Cities Summit** delegates to promote Kingston and H'art Centre as an inclusive arts model.

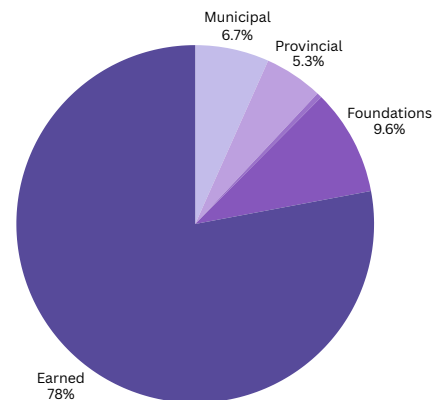
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We are able to impact the lives of residents through increased access to programming, training and capacity building in 2025 thanks to: **The City of Kingston, The Ontario Arts Council, Vogue Charity Fashion Show, ArtsVest/Business for the Arts, The Government of Ontario, Canada Council for the Arts, Employment and Social Development Canada, Thériault Wealth Management Team at RBC Dominion Securities, Empire Life, Anna & Edward C. Churchill Foundation, Harry Foster Foundation, IN8, The Fellowship of Man, Bill and Nancy Gray, and over 50 donors.** Notably, in 2025 the Board of Directors announced the launch of the *Katherine Porter H'art From the Heart* legacy fund with a seed donation from the Estate of **Johnathan Standley** and a goal of \$100,000 to be raised in 2026.

H'art Centre Revenues 2025* Revenue

Revenues

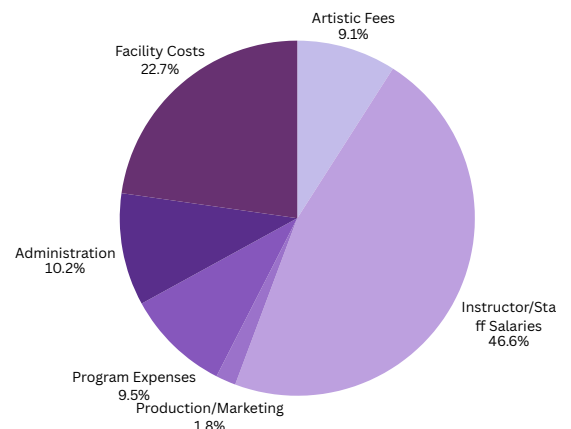
Earned	\$ 476,808.62
Municipal	\$40,900.00
Provincial	\$32,403.89
Federal	\$2,816.00
Foundations	\$58,735.09
Total	\$611,663.60



Expenses

Expenses

Artistic Fees	\$ 53,934.29
Arts Instructor/Staff Salaries	\$277,904.90
Production/Marketing	\$10,887.63
Program Expenses	\$56,587.80
Administration	\$61,008.14
Facility Costs	\$135,536.53
Total	\$595,859.38



* These figures represent the raw data from the 2025 fiscal year and do not take into account deferred revenues that belong to the 2026 budget or internally designated reserve funds. Figures will be adjusted and finalized during our annual audit.

H'ART STUDIO

H'art Studio is an ongoing program that provides access to learning, skill-building, and development opportunities for adults with disabilities and their families, to help nurture greater inclusion, community connection and well-being.

H'art Studio 2025: By the Numbers



- 57 participants aged 18-65
- 114 caregivers directly impacted (2:1)



- 27 arts-based workshops delivered
- 4,000+ program hours delivered
- 1 short film, *Bling!*, produced



2025 Highlights

- The Studio participation remained level despite move to a new location.
- Offered inclusive arts workshops including visual arts, fabric arts, jewelry design, dance, storytelling, writing, 3-D sculpture, music, theatre with the following themes: *Bling!* (Winter 2025) *Move As One* (Spring 2025), *Gentle Landings* (Summer 2025), and *A New Adventure* (Fall 2025).
- Collaborated with volunteers and field placement students from **St. Lawrence College and Queen's University** programs, including students from **Vogue Charity Fashion Show** leading to a short film inspired by fashion arts & hands-on learning.
- Participants performed vignettes from *HAPPY* (2024) as part of **Connecting Canadians 2025** at **Providence Village's Auditorium** on October 8, 2025 - **City of Kingston-hosted** Creative Cities Summit delegates attended as part of a study tour.

H'ART STUDIO: ALIGNING WITH CITY PRIORITIES

Community Safety & Well-Being

- Commissioned by coordinator Mary Buynak to complete a piece for **Student Wellness Services at Queen's University**.
- Created artwork for the cover of the November 25 issue of **ADDED Magazine**. This publication, by the **Add*ed Research Group at Queen's University**, focuses on advancing research, innovation, and community engagement in special and inclusive education.

IDEA

- Included a dynamic multidisciplinary workshop led by City of Kingston's First Capital Distinguished Citizen award-winning community artist **Yessica Rivera Belsham** (Ollin Kingston) as part of its "Bling! Workshops" series.
- Contributed a teaser video to **the Vogue Charity Fashion Show**, reaching more than 1000 audience members highlighting artists' abilities and promoting equitable representation and inclusion.

Age-Friendly Community

- Artists created and donated artwork to **Providence Care's AB Smith Homestead House**, helping transform the hospice house into a comfortable, warm and welcoming space.

Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

- Continued with **Kingston Frontenac Public Library** to expand its "Stories, Together!" that brings kids, their caregivers, and Studio artists together for an inclusive, interactive reading experience adapted to be sensory-friendly in a modified space. Now includes participants from three other disability organizations.



MIXABILITIES

H'art Centre delivers training and education through the Mixabilities Program to community facilitators, working to build capacity of organizations and practitioners in working with adults with disabilities.

MixAbilities 2025: By the Numbers



- **81** trained participants
- **30** local, regional and national groups reps introduced



- **5** live training sessions delivered
- **1** virtual session
- **21.5** hours of direct training



- **19** post secondary placements
- **7** separate programs
- **3** post-secondary institutions



2025 Highlights

- **Connecting Canadians 2025:** Roughly 30 representatives from 17 inclusive arts groups across Canada (5 provinces + 1 territory) attended an Introduction to MixAbilities session. Post-conference: Research now underway to develop webinar-based modules for distance education.
- **Brook Catherine Doseger Award (2025):** 4th Year Queen's University placement student **Shaghayegh Alijani** was presented with the award, supported by a permanent fund at the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area. Since 2018, this award has recognized the importance of student placements at H'art Centre and the training of future facilitators of accessible arts for people with disabilities.

THE BOX

Supports, promotes and advances a diverse and inclusive population through performing arts experiences making participation accessible to all.

THE BOX 2025: BY THE NUMBERS



- 300+ Kingston resident users impacted (historical, before move)



- 5 local or regional user groups

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inclusive Community Access:** Groups including **The Conservatory, Queen’s Blues Swing Dance Club, Queen’s Harmony Collective, and the Council on Aging** used H’art’s spaces before the June move, serving children, students, adults with disabilities, and seniors.
- **Program Evolution:** Began exploring consolidation and evolution of programs using shared **Providence Village** spaces (Auditorium, McKinley Hall) while maintaining outreach and engagement.
- **Film Screenings:** Hosted Connecting Canadians (10+ short films by facilitators and groups) and **Ghost Rooster Collective’s Dreamscapes**, sharing participant work with the wider community in Auditorium space.
- **Movement Workshop: Menka Nagrani** (Les Productions des pieds des mains, Order of Canada) led an inclusive, non-verbal movement workshop connecting participants to themselves, others, and music, fostering accessibility and cultural expression in Auditorium.



The Mix

Bringing together people with disabilities, trained facilitators, and Deaf and disability arts groups to collaborate, create, and engage through the arts, fostering community, creativity, and well-being.

THE MIX 2025: By the Numbers



- 5 community groups supported
- 60-75 residents impacted
- 120-150 indirectly impacted (2:1)

2025 Highlights

Prior to our move, residents benefited through regular programming and shared-use space, including dance, aging-in-community initiatives, and Deaf-led creative activities. This year, we focused more on the 3-Day Conference anticipating the move would disrupt partner organizations in the second half of our year:

- **Conference/Municipal Impact:** Hosted 30+ reps from 17 inclusive arts groups across Canada for Connecting Canadians 2025. Engaged 12+ municipal arts and culture workers through the Creative Cities Summit, connecting inclusive arts with civic initiatives.
- **Study Tour & Receptions:** Supported **PeerLess Productions'** inclusive arts study tour session to delegates.
- **Keynote Address:** Invited Former Senator of Canada, **The Hon. Patricia Bovey** to deliver keynote and closing addresses for candid advice on how to foster community and connection and overcome challenges together.
- **Capacity Building & Support:** Provided letter of support for Theresa Upton, recognizing her development of three new theatre projects: *Treska and Curly the Bull*, *Alice's Journey to OZ* (full Deaf cast), and *Huh?* (Deaf-led comedy).
- **Consultation:** Participated in Canada Council for the Arts consultations on Deaf and Disability Art.



THE MIX: ALIGNMENT WITH CITY PRIORITIES

Community Safety & Well-Being

- Welcomed *Alternative Creations Studio (BC)*, *Arts Inclusion (MB)*, *Teegatha'Oh Zheh (YT)*, *Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts (AB)*, *Being Studio (ON)*, *DramaWay (ON)*, *Creating Alternatives (ON)*, *Sol Express - L'Arche Toronto (ON)*, *Down Syndrome Foundation Canada (ON)*, *New Leaf Link (Kingston, ON)*, *Wagner Green, Centre for Access & Inclusion (ON)*, *Hearts 4 Joy (ON)*, *Ghost Rooster Collective (ON)*, *Let's Make Music (Kingston, Ontario)*, *PeerLess Productions (Kingston, ON)*, and *Les Productions des Pieds des Mains (QC)*

IDEA

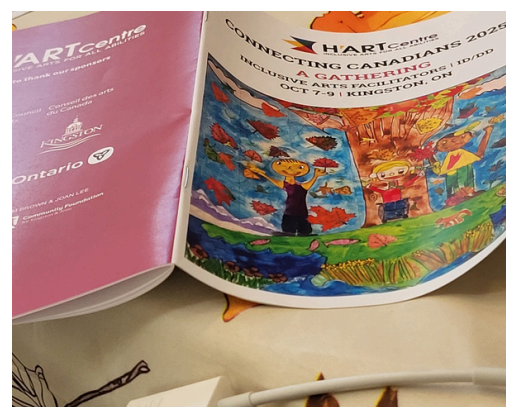
- Developed a **resource booklet** to keep participating groups connected, supporting ongoing collaboration and knowledge-sharing beyond the conference. Prepared a **text-only version** of the resource booklet for screen readers.
- Prepared a post-event **report** summarizing shared challenges across participating groups and the solutions identified through collective discussion.

Age-Friendly Community

- MixAbilities Seniors modules created in 2024/25 offered as self-study modules and toolkit (digital version) available as resource tool.
- Began planning engagement and training opportunities for neighbouring seniors' and disabilities groups, laying the groundwork for future Age-Friendly MIX programming.

Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

- Demonstrated accessible cultural infrastructure for municipal delegates, supporting long-term accessibility planning.
- Secured funding from the Churchill Foundation to continue outreach, sharing training and best practices from other groups to strengthen inclusive arts in Kingston.



WHO ARE OUR NEW NEIGHBOURS AT



- AB Smith Homestead House
- Alzheimer Society of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
- Arthritis Society Canada
- Bereaved Families of Ontario – Kingston
- Frontenac-Kingston Council on Aging
- Girls Inc.
- Heart to Heart Seniors Services Inc.
- Independent Living Centre Kingston
- Kingston School of Art (KSOA)
- Providence Associates of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
- Providence Centre for Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation
- Providence Manor – long-term care facility (relocating/expanding on site)





TESTIMONIALS

H'ART STUDIO ARTIST

"H'art is important to me because all my friends are here and the staff are important to me. I love coming to H'art all the time to do art, dancing and acting."

– Chris G.

PARENT / CAREGIVER

"It was highly stressful to have a child home all of the time and it alleviated the stress. For 20 years Karen came to H'art."

– Ken O. A public comment made at room dedication ceremony in Sept.

"H'art is family to Mike. It's a space where he can be who he is without fear of judgement or being uncomfortable in his surroundings. It's a place where he can laugh and feel like he belongs, where he can learn and create at his pace while being part of a circle of friends that he loves. And what he has learned at H'art and the personal connections he has made, has made his life better while giving his family the confidence to know he is somewhere safe."

– Alyn S., Family member

2025 COMMUNITY PARTNER

"We are so grateful to be partnered with H'art Centre, Extend-A-Family (Kingston) and New Leaf Link for our inclusive storytime program, Stories, Together! We can't wait for our next one!"

-Kingston Frontenac Public Library, Public Facebook Post



VOLUNTEER

"I know that creating a safe and supportive experience is especially important in healthcare, and I hope to do the same."

- Shagheyegh Alijani, Volunteer and Life Science student at Queen's University. 2025 Brook Catherine Doseger Award Recipient.

2025 COMMUNITY ARTIST

"I go into the H'art Centre to teach classes and do workshops with them. We just move together and we just dance together.

Dancing for happiness sake."

- Quote from the City of Kingston's Creator Award video, Camille Spencer | Dancer, choreographer, community builder

Watch the City's video!



2025 COMMUNITY PARTNER

“We are delighted to welcome H’art Centre to Providence Village. Their multidisciplinary arts programs, participants and artist community serving adults with disabilities will bring vibrancy and energy to the Village. We are truly grateful for this partnership and believe H’art will be a perfect addition to the Village.”

– Laurie French, President & CEO of Providence Village, except from press release.

Read: <https://providencevillage.ca/hart-relocates-to-providence-village/>

2025 COMMUNITY PARTNER

“We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of these talented artists. Their work not only enhances the physical environment of our hospice house but also brings a sense of beauty and tranquility to those who need it most.”

– Providence Care Vice President, Corporate Services and Executive Director, Hospice Krista Wells Pearce. From public statement on donation by Kingston artists (which included art by H’art Studio artists)

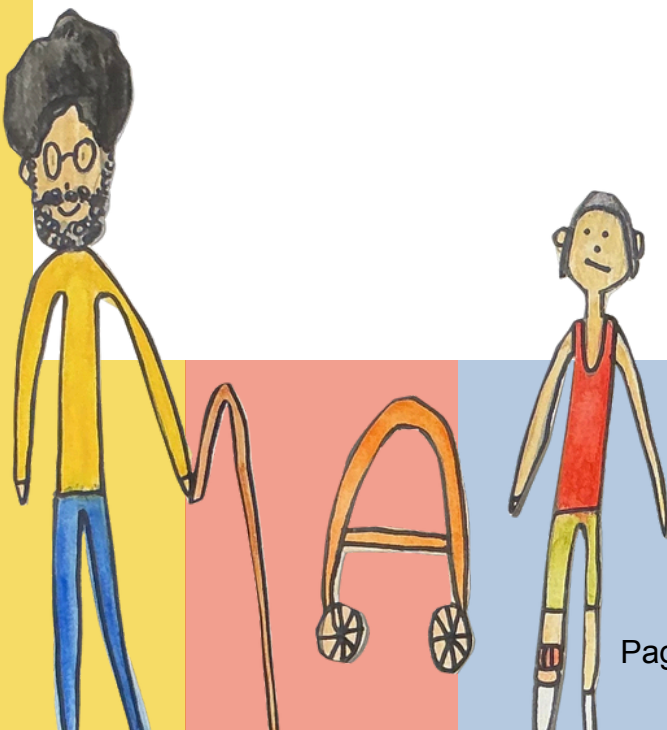
Read: <https://providencecare.ca/local-artisans-enrich-providence-cares-hospice-house-with-donations/>



WHAT'S NEXT IN 2026



In 2026, we'll present **Both Sides Now** with PeerLess Productions on Tuesday, April 21st at 6 pm at the **Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts**, deliver a summer focused on Festival, explore Kingston's Folklore in fall, expand outreach to Providence Village neighbours and campus partners, and reconnect with Connecting Canadians 2025 peers through MixAbilities training and shared initiatives.





Providence Village
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Kingston, Ontario
www.hartcentre.ca

