



# OUR GOOD STORY





## 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 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 facility to include space for artists with disabilities or barriers and community artists to train, provide outreach workshops, collaborate with inclusive arts partners, complete residencies, and more.
- Plans for a national Able Artists conference that will bring professional Canadian artists, municipal leaders and arts administrators to Kingston.

We look forward to inviting the nation to 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 PROGRAM  
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 in two fully-accessible studio spaces.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Several times recognized 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

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed creative development phase of Small Things, our first major dance production
- Launched award-winning virtual program in 2020.



**"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." - H'art artist**

## AWARDS



**800+**  
Spaces for Adults  
With Disabilities

**150+**  
Professional  
Artists Engaged

**1000+**  
Field Placements  
& Volunteers

**20,000+**  
Audience  
Members





# THE BOX

**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 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 activities 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.
- Co-produced Down Syndrome By the Dozen.

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Included Immigrant Services Kingston and Area, Axe Capoeira, Calliope Collective, Blue Canoe, etc.
- Installed new seating leaving even more room for those with mobility issues or wheelchairs
- Secured donor funds to upgrade theatre equipment

**"Some of the most fun I've had in a theatre in ages."  
-John Lazarus, Playwright & Professor  
On Down Syndrome By the Dozen**

## THE BOX BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 2012

**30**

Community  
user groups

**1000+**

Community members  
involved

**2000+**

Audience for H'art  
productions

**3**

Resident inclusive  
arts companies

## AWARDS





## ABLE ARTISTS

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

**LAUNCHED IN 2011, and hosted in THE BOX,** 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 THE BOX 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

### RECENT 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 a National Able Artists conference



**"The performances were stunning and  
deeply moving." – Rev. Elizabeth MacDonald**

## AWARDS



<b>33+</b>	<b>850+</b>	<b>1350+</b>	<b>2200+</b>
Able Artists presenters	Workshop & lecture attendees	Performance & Screening Attendees	Audience members inspired



# MIX ABILITIES

## TRAINS THE NEXT GENERATION OF INCLUSIVE ARTS FACILITATORS

**SINCE 1998**, H'art has trained hundreds of volunteers, students, community artists and arts educators. **IN 2018**, we formalized our approach with MixAbilities Inclusive Arts Training Program. First recommended by educator Bonnie Henderson, former board member Peter Wolf (Associate Vice-Provost, Teaching & Learning, Queen's University) and Sarah Carroll (MA International Education) and H'art's Education Director Anita Boldt shaped our new training program. MixAbilities is creating a growing roster of qualified individuals.

### 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
- Karen Dolan gets Ontario Arts Education Associations' 2021 Community Art Educator of the Year

### RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Trained 35 volunteers, field placement students, and community artists since official launch
- Added opportunity to meet trained inclusive artists
- Incorporated a module on offering virtual inclusive arts workshops
- Soon to be hosted in **THE MIX**



### AWARDS

### TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 1998

**35**  
Completed  
MixAbilities

**150+**  
Community Artists

**400+**  
Volunteers

**600+**  
Placement students



**"You're making it possible for us to move  
forward, to create the ultimate work of art –  
a more inclusive and beautiful world."**

**–Sarah Howard, 2021 MixAbilities Participant  
Inspired by MixAbilities Guests**





**"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, Outre instructor

## **HAAP!**

H'ART ACCESSIBLE  
ARTS PROGRAM

### **INCLUDES PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES IN THE ARTS THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES**

**LAUNCHED IN 2017**, our outreach program works to bring meaningful arts-based programming to the community. Seniors with disabilities and others 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.

#### **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.

#### **RECENT 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!
- Soon to be hosted in **THE MIX**

### **OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS IN SINCE 2017**

**4**

Participating  
Residences

**20+**

Facilitators &  
Volunteers

**330+**

Seniors in Regular  
Program Phase

**800+**

Weekend Arts  
Mixer Attendance

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





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