



# 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 recently.

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 conference that will bring professional artists with disabilities and arts groups from across Canada to Kingston in 2024.

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

Katherine Porter  
Founder & Executive Director  
2022 Mayor's Arts Champion Award Recipient



## 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. We value and recognize artists individually for their abilities, and 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

**A PROGRAM DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY INCLUSIVE ARTS FOR ADULTS WITH ID/DD**

**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 and intellectual disabilities.

## 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 dozens of plays to over 1000+, including at the Isabel Bader Human Rights Arts Festival in 2018
- 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

- Partnered with the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston on a national project in 2022
- Launched award-winning virtual program in 2020



## AWARDS



## H'ART STUDIO BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 1998

**800+**

Spaces for Adults  
With Disabilities

**160+**

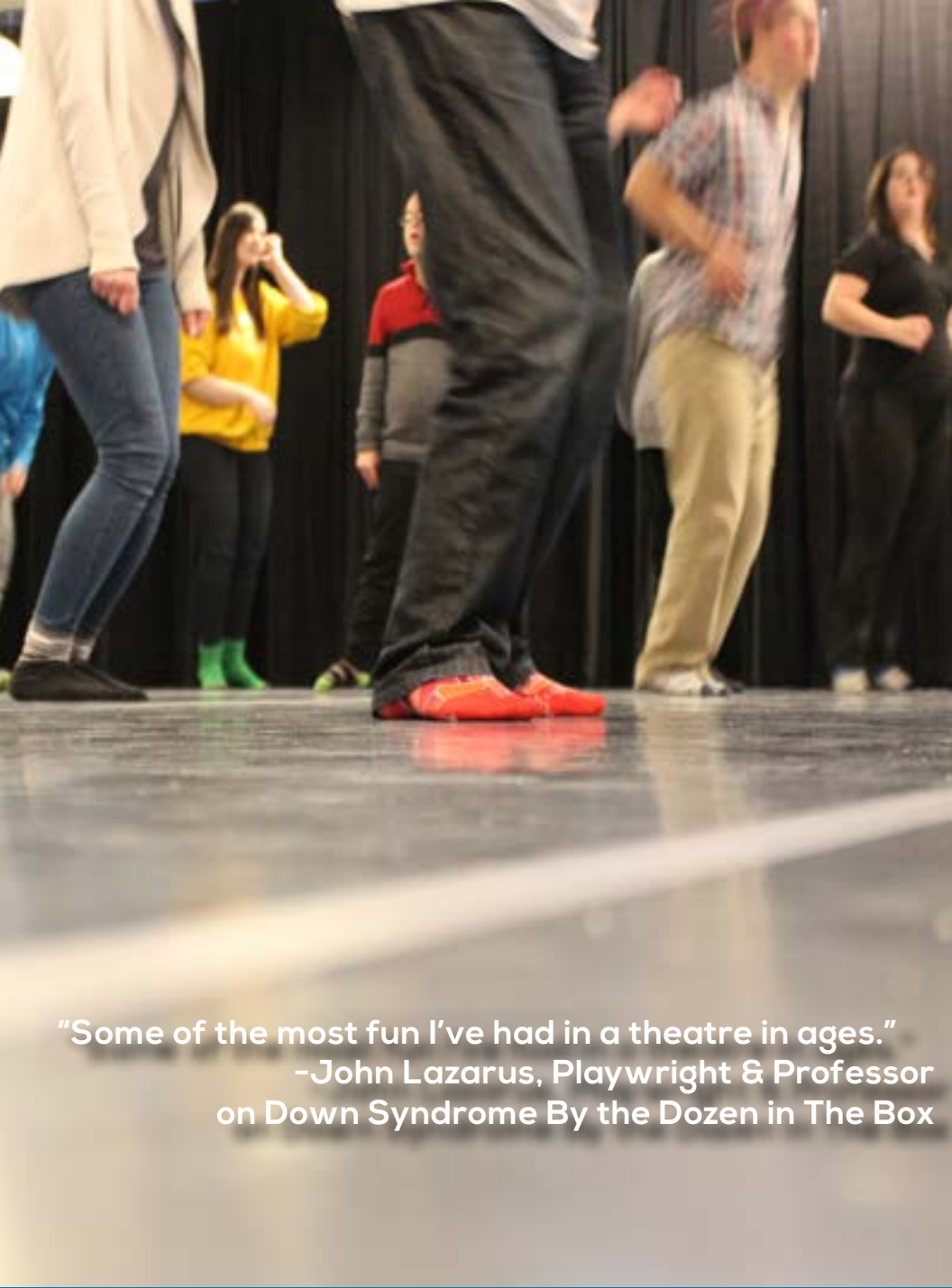
Professional  
Artists Engaged

**1100+**

Field Placements  
& Volunteers

**20,000+**

Audience  
Members



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

# THE BOX

**A PROGRAM PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE  
PERFORMING ARTS FOR THOSE FACING BARRIERS**

**LAUNCHED IN 2012**, with support from 40 private donors, THE BOX aims to create a versatile and inclusive performing arts community. THE BOX invites a diverse population to develop, produce and present their endeavours to the public and 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

- Hosted PeerLess' We're All in Jeopardy (2022)
- Included Immigrant Services Kingston and Area, Axe Capoeira, The Calliope Collective, Blue Canoe, and others
- Installed new seating leaving even more room for those with mobility issues or wheelchairs

## THE BOX BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 2012

<b>35</b> Community user groups	<b>1000+</b> Community members involved	<b>2000+</b> Audience for H'art productions	<b>3</b> Resident inclusive arts companies
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## AWARDS



# THE BOX

## A closer look at the Able Artists series

H'art began hosting the Able Artists series, an ongoing series of talks, performances and workshops by professional Canadian artists with disabilities and leaders in the inclusive arts movement in 2011. The Box was inspired by our struggle to find accessible public stages and venues to share the work of these incredible artists.

### 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

- Launched an organizing committee for a 2024 National conference
- Engaged Menka Nagrani of Montreal's Les Productions des Pieds des Mains for Small Things dance workshops in 2019/2020
- Produced and presented a short film on the life of famed illustrator Zena Bernstein in 2018



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

### AWARDS



### ABLE ARTISTS BY THE NUMBER SINCE 2011

**33+**  
Able Artists  
presenters

**850+**  
Workshop & lecture  
attendees

**1350+**  
Performance &  
Screening Attendees

**2200+**  
Audience members  
inspired

# THE MIX

**A PROGRAM ACCELERATING THE GROWTH OF INCLUSIVE ARTS IN KINGSTON AND BEYOND**


**LAUNCHED IN 2022**, The Mix is a new program that supports D/deaf and disability artists as well as inclusive arts facilitators, emerging inclusive arts groups, and community groups. The Mix supports efforts to deliver workshops, develop works, rehearse, train, and collaborate. The Mix is about fostering best practices, learning together, and collaboration.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Ran a successful fundraising campaign — with the community doubling our modest goal of \$30,000
- Completed an ambitious 16-week “build-in” on time
- Welcomed two resident theatre companies to the space and one emerging inclusive arts group

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- PeerLess Productions developed and rehearsed their new play, We're All in Jeopardy
- Invited 10 inclusive arts studios from across Canada to participate in Connecting Canadians, with our partner the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes
- Over 50 local artists and volunteers completed training and practicums through The Mix
- Welcomed Let's Make Music, Ollin Kingston to The Mix and renowned chefs Clark and Laurie Day who will pilot an inclusive culinary arts program



**“You can run ideas by each other, brainstorm and the potential for creative connection is really exciting.”**

**– Kathryn MacKay, Managing Director**

## THE MIX BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 2022

**3**

Resident Groups

**30+**

Expansion Donors &  
Sponsors

**300+**

User group  
members



# THE MIX

A closer look at our training

**SINCE 1998**, H'art has trained volunteers, placement students, community artists and arts educators. In 2018, we formalized our approach with MixAbilities Inclusive Arts Training Program and it is now offered as part of The Mix program. First recommended by educator Bonnie Henderson, our training program was shaped by former board member Peter Wolf (Associate Vice-Provost, Teaching & Learning, Queen's University) and graduate student Sarah Carroll (MA International Education) with input from H'art's Education Director Anita Boldt. Our training has created a growing roster of qualified individuals locally and nationally.

"I am continuously learning more about inclusion and what it means to these participants, to further help me understand and grow."  
-Mix program participant

## 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

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Trained 50+ volunteers, field placement students, and community artists since official launch
- With OAC support, we developed our capacity to expand the program to wider arts community and to introduce our expertise at our upcoming national conference

## TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 1998

**160+**  
Community Artists

**450+**  
Volunteers

**650+**  
Placement students

**50+**  
Completed  
MixAbilities since  
2018

## AWARDS





# THE MIX

## A closer look at our outreach

**SINCE 2017**, we have been engaging a roster of community artists and volunteers in an effort to reach out to under-served people with disabilities. These Mix artists bringing meaningful arts-based programming to the community. Our recent focus has been seniors with disabilities in long-term care homes. The effort has raised awareness of the value of meaningful inclusive arts endeavours among long-term care staff.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed two years of pilot testing at H'art Centre
- 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

- Offered free workshop in The Mix space in 2022
- Introduced the Weekend Arts Mixer project (WAM!) at Fairmount resulting in better access to meaningful inclusive arts on weekends. Seven facilitators and volunteers delivered 37 weekend arts workshops and involved more than 800 senior residents, family members and visitors in meaningful inclusive arts
- Encouraged more intergenerational connection — and fun!



## OUTREACH TO SENIORS BY THE NUMBERS

**4**

Participating Residences

**20+**

Facilitators & Volunteers

**330+**

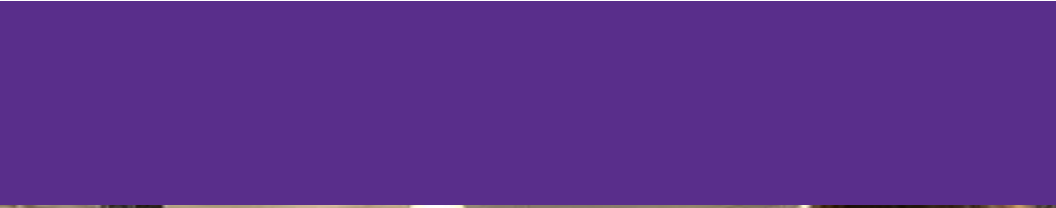
Seniors in Regular Program Phase

**800+**

Weekend Arts Mixer Attendance

**"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, Kingston artist**





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