



## **FINAL ADJUDICATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND ARTS CHAMPION AWARDS**

### **JURY REPORT**

April 12, 2022

#### **BACKGROUND**

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the volunteer citizen jury that met on the afternoon of Tuesday April 12, 2022 to determine which of the short-listed 2022 City of Hamilton Arts Awards nominees should be selected to receive awards in Lifetime Achievement and Arts Champion categories. An annually rotating jury - comprised of discipline-specific artists, arts professionals and community leaders – are key to the selection of recipients in each category. The 2022 Final Jury are listed at the end of this report.

The adjudication session was facilitated by arts service organization Cobalt Connects Creativity and audited by a member of the Arts Advisory Commission to ensure a fair and transparent process. The conflict of interest policy was reviewed, and no conflicts were declared. The adjudication process was outlined, wherein aggregate scores are shared as a jumping off point for discussion and final decisions are made through consensus. The Jury was given the option to request more information should they deem it necessary to make a final decision.

#### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

One (1) Lifetime Achievement Award is conferred annually to recognize living artists or arts managers who have contributed substantially to the artistic vitality of the city over the course of a career, and have inspired others through their leadership, creativity and artistic excellence. These individuals' experience and impact may be local, national or international in scope.

## JURY COMMENTS

The jury appreciate the public nominations in this category and recognize the work of the Arts Sector Review Panel in developing an extremely strong Short List. They found the task of selecting a single recipient for this award remarkably challenging due to the high caliber of the Short List. A passionate discussion about their artistic excellence and impact on Hamilton took place. The jury would like the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions of all of the shortlisted nominees to be recognized here.

After a robust discussion of the nominees' careers and impact, the jury decided to confer the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award to **Harrison Kennedy**.

The jury selected **Harrison Kennedy** as the 2022 Lifetime Achievement recipient due to his remarkable career as a Soul and Blues musician – representing Hamilton on the world stage. They were moved by the stories of his family and life in Hamilton that saw incredibly influential musicians visiting him at home. They noted that while he didn't formally study music "he was music". The jury acknowledged that despite his success (and potential challenges in his earlier career due to being from a racialized community) he chose to stay in Hamilton while others left. His commitment to the city has been further demonstrated through his mentorship work in Blues music with the Six Nations community. The jury feel that Harrison Kennedy uniquely deserves to be recognized due to the longevity of his career and lifetime of contributions – while observing that he is "still current at 80 years old."

## ARTS CHAMPION AWARDS

Up to four (4) Arts Champion Awards may be conferred annually to living individuals who are outstanding supporters of the arts in Hamilton as volunteers, advocates, or board members. This is a non-monetary award and recipients will be given a special gift of recognition. This award is open to students and youth over 14 years old.

## JURY COMMENTS

The jury reviewed the shortlisted nominees' history of work in the community and considered their impact. They agreed that each nominee has made significant contributions to their communities and the arts sector and appreciate their outstanding service. The jury decided to award three 2022 Arts Champion Awards to: **Art to Go Podcast, David Beresford, and Jamie Smith**. Their rationale for selecting these individuals is outlined below.

**Art to Go Podcast** – The jury felt that podcast founders Nancy Benoy and Cornelia Peckart - both arts educators – do strong work to support Hamilton's Arts community. Their commitment to championing the arts in Hamilton was demonstrated in bearing freezing cold temperatures to highlight the work of Hamilton Artists during the pandemic

when meeting indoors was not possible. The jury find the podcast to be funny and uplifting and an asset to the community.

**David Beresford** – The jury noted David’s dedication to supporting the autistic community through artistic practice and acknowledged the therapeutic role of art. They felt that his passion for working with people with autism was clear and compelling and that it was important to affirm this kind of work which can go unrecognized.

**Jamie Smith** – Jamie’s longstanding volunteer work with Mohawk radio and Hamilton’s arts community was praised by the jury, who found him to be humble and deeply supportive. They noted that his dedication was evident in his coordination of five different social media accounts to promote emerging and established musicians in Hamilton.

## **THE JURY**

Scott Barnim	Fine Craft
Heather Kanabe	Theatre / Arts Management
LTtheMonk	Music
Josh Taylor	Dance and Performance / Arts Education
Jennifer Gillies	Literature / Arts Management
Laura Couchie	Writing / Performance / Beadwork
Dan Edmonds	Music / Visual Art
Nancy McKibbin Gray	Arts Management/ Arts Champion
Liss Platt	Visual Art / Collective / Arts Education
Christina Tarsitano	Community Art / Arts Education
Carmela Langese	Visual Art / Arts Education
Luis Arrojo	Theatre
Yvonne Felix (in absentia)	Community Art / Public Art

### **Regrets**

Nathan Fleet	Film / Arts Management
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### **Jury Auditor**

Monika Ciolek	Arts Advisory Commission
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### *Advisors to the Jury:*

Kim Selman, Cobalt Connects (Facilitator)  
Jen Anisef, City of Hamilton