

# Staff Report



Development Services Department

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**REPORT TO:** Finance and Corporate Services Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 28, 2024

**SUBMITTED BY:** Andrea Hallam, Manager, Arts & Creative industries, 519-741-2200 ext. 7084

**PREPARED BY:** Karoline Varin, Program Administrator, Arts & Creative Industries, 519-741-2200 ext. 7912

**WARD(S) INVOLVED:** All

**DATE OF REPORT:** September 27, 2024

**REPORT NO.:** DSD-2024-376

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Artist in Residence Appointment

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## RECOMMENDATION:

That Ellie Anglin be appointed as the 2024 City of Kitchener Artist in Residence as recommended by the Public Art Working Group and Arts and Culture Advisory Committee: and further,

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement, satisfactory to the City Solicitor, with Ellie Anglin, outlining the obligations of the Artist in Residence appointment.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of the 2024 Artist in Residence.
- The key finding of this report is that Ellie Anglin has been selected by the Public Art Working Group (PAWG) and recommended by the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) as the 2024 Artist in Residence.
- The financial implications are an artist honorarium from existing Arts and Creative Industries budgets and a printing production cost from the 44 Gaukel Creative Hub operating budget.
- Community engagement included consultation with PAWG and ACAC.
- This report supports the delivery of core services.

## BACKGROUND:

Established in 1995 as the first municipal program of its kind, the City of Kitchener Artist in Residence program aims to engage the community in the production of contemporary art that reflects community identities and supports the development of local artists. The program delivers on the understanding that meaningful engagement **in the arts, and growth of the** creative sector contributes positively to the dynamism, authenticity, attractiveness, and overall competitiveness of the City of Kitchener.

\*\*\* This information is available in accessible formats upon request. \*\*\*  
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

Link: [Learn more about the City of Kitchener's Artist in Residence program.](#)

The Artist in Residence program continues to emphasize interactive community engagement and encourages applicants to see the residency as an opportunity to advance their own practice. The Artist in Residence is provided with an honorarium as compensation for their time commitment.

The program is open to artists working in a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to visual arts, performing arts (theatre, dance, music), dance, design, digital and media arts, folk and traditional arts, literature and spoken word, and multidisciplinary works. Over the years, to encourage proposals from artists from equity-deserving communities and artists practicing in disciplines other than traditional visual arts, staff developed the program description and language to expand the eligibility criteria. Building on these efforts to expand representation in the disciplines and backgrounds, staff created the Creative Publication Residency for the 2024 term with the advice of PAWG members. This call for proposals invited creative writers, authors, poets, comic and zine creators, designers, illustrators, publishers, and other artists who combine written and visual content, to submit a proposal.

### **REPORT:**

The 2024 Artist in Residence opportunity is a six-month commitment focusing on creative writing, visual storytelling, and experimental publication design. The content created during the residency will be packaged into a small, printed publication to be produced and funded by the Arts & Creative Industries team as part of the 44 Gaukel Creative Hub program. Partnering the residency with hub activities supports its programming goals of cross-sectoral collaboration, printed material creation and distribution, and providing entry points into the local arts scene. The Artist in Residence will work with Arts & Creative Industries staff to decide the best publication format within the scope of the residency compensation and available budget to produce a publication.

The annual call for proposals was advertised from May to August 2024. Eighteen proposals were submitted by the competition close date. Members of PAWG assessed the entries based on:

- Strength and clarity of concept and overall proposal
- Artistic merit of proposal and/or past work
- Feasibility of proposal within outlined budget and resource limitations
- Impact on current artistic development
- Impact on Kitchener community.

PAWG reached consensus at their September 9, 2024, meeting, selecting Ellie Anglin as the recommended 2024 City of Kitchener Artist in Residence.

Ellie Anglin is a multimedia artist, creative writer and community organizer residing in Kitchener. She works in collage (an art form which is made up of overlapping pieces of material, such as photographs, fabric, paper, and other types of mixed media), illustration, animation, and graphic design to explore themes of feminism, queerness, pop culture and nature. Her literary genres are poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. She has self-published 30 zines (a small-circulation printed work of original or appropriated texts and images, usually reproduced via a copy machine) where she combines visual art and text in her

signature, whimsical style. For the past 10 years, she has exhibited work in the region and her visual art and literary forms have been published locally and in Toronto. Ms. Anglin has a Bachelor of Arts, Honours English Literature from the University of Waterloo, and has been a practicing artist for 20 years. She is the recipient of grants and past residencies in the region.

The artist is proposing the creation of Ribbon, a collaborative zine featuring work by herself and other local writers responding to the Grand River watershed, reflecting on themes that talk about the surrounding rivers, creeks, and streams, including the metaphoric meaning of “watershed”. She hopes to invite selected local artists and writers to a guided page-creation workshop to contribute content, and later the public to a hand-embellishment workshop where they will be able to add artistic touches to the printed copies. Beyond documenting the waters where we live, Ms. Anglin hopes to capture a snapshot of the Kitchener arts community in 2025. She also hopes to establish the region’s first Little Zine Library, which will support distribution of the residency publication as well as other local zine makers.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report supports the delivery of core services.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The \$10,000 artist honorarium and up to \$2,500 allocation for expenses are supported by Arts & Creative Industries budgets. A printing production cost of up to \$5,000 is supported by the 44 Gaukel Creative Hub operating budget.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City’s website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

CONSULT – In addition to consulting on the Artist in Residence call for proposals, PAWG serves as the selection committee for the appointment, as a subcommittee of ACAC and as outlined in Terms of Reference. Guidelines for the jury process are outlined in Jury Procedures and provided to each member. A PAWG motion that ACAC support the selection of Ellie Anglin as the 2024 City of Kitchener Artist in Residence, was considered and supported by ACAC on September 17, 2024.

COLLABORATE – An important component of the Artist in Residence program is the requirement for meaningful public engagement. City staff works with the artist to identify interesting opportunities for public engagement and develop creative programming to suit these opportunities. Ellie Anglin is proposing workshops with local artists and the public, reaching out to groups working around the theme of water, potential of collaboration with the Kitchener Public Library and a launch party with readings and artist talks. In addition, the publication will be distributed for free to the community at locations determined by staff based on available inventory, including 44 Gaukel Creative Workspace and the Little Zine Library.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:**

There are no previous reports/authorities related to this matter.

**APPROVED BY:** Readman, Justin, General Manager of Development Services.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A –Artist in Residence proposal.

Attachment B – PAWG Terms of Reference.

Attachment C – Jury Procedures