

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DOORS OPEN RETURNS TO KINGSTON IN 2023
CALL FOR PARTICIPATING SITES**

Doors Open returns to Kingston and area on July 22th, August 26th, and September 30th 2023

[KINGSTON, ONT./ May 2nd, 2023. The Kingston & Area Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic (KAM) is seeking expressions of interest from cultural heritage sites, spaces, and organizations to participate in Doors Open Kingston & Area 2023!

Doors Open Ontario is a provincial program organized through the Ontario Heritage Trust, which provides residents and visitors with a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy, sometimes hidden, but always interesting, cultural heritage places and spaces in Ontario cities, towns, and villages – all free of charge! Each year the Ontario Heritage Trust assigns a theme to help explore and engage Ontario’s cultural heritage in its fullest aspects; the theme for 2023 is “Food” – which explores Ontario’s historical traditions of food production as well as the spaces that shape and define our culinary traditions today. For more information about this theme, please visit: <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/pages/our-stories/interpretive-themes/food>.

For the past three years, in partnership with the City of Kingston, KAM has facilitated and promoted a Doors Open event for the Kingston area. In 2020, Kingston was the only city in Ontario to host an on-site Doors Open event, offering both indoor and outdoor pre-registered guided and self-guided tours, and continued to offer in-person events in 2021 and 2022.

2023 marks the fourth year that KAM has organized a Doors Open event. In recognition of the rich and dynamic cultural heritage features and narratives of the Kingston region, KAM is pleased to expand Doors Open Kingston & Area 2023 event - offering three different event days: **Saturday, July 22nd, 2023, Saturday August 26th 2023, and Saturday September 30th 2023.** As always, KAM’s mission is to nurture, amplify and champion Kingston & area cultural heritage, creating opportunities for audience engagement and exploration.

KAM is seeking a wide range of spaces, places, stories, and experiences to share with residents and visitors – including **KAM members and any Kingston-based non-member organization or site who want to share their stories or experiences and open their cultural heritage spaces for public visitation and engagement!**

Doors Open Kingston & Area 2023 remains a drop-in format, where interested members of the public may visit participating sites at any time and as many times as they wish during the event.

“Doors Open is a wonderful way for residents and visitors to engage with local cultural heritage experiences and places, and KAM is delighted to help facilitate this event for the Kingston region. The purpose of Doors Open is to make visible and accessible all the stories, places and experiences that are apart of our community stories and histories; these places and spaces that interweave past and present and help shape our futures. If you have a story or space you would like to share, KAM encourages all interested organizations and/or sites to get involved in this event,” explains Jamie McKenzie-Naish, Managing Director of KAM.

“Doors Open is a perfect opportunity to showcase Kingston’s rich and diverse cultural heritage. The success of the event benefits from the participation of community partners and organizations. Their willingness to share stories and open their doors provides engaging spaces for connection with residents and visitors,” says Kevin Gibbs, Acting Director of Heritage Services at the City of Kingston.

For further details, including registration forms, please visit: <https://www.kingstonmuseums.ca/doors-open-kingston/register-your-site-2023>. Interested sites are directed to fill in all sections and return their submission to info@kingstonmuseums.ca by **Friday June 2nd, 3:00 pm EST.**

For more information on Kingston & Area Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites, or Doors Open Kingston & Area, contact Jamie McKenzie-Naish, Managing Director or Debbie Holdich, Administrative Coordinator, at 613-507-4014 or info@kingstonmuseums.ca. For more information on the City of Kingston, call the media hotline at 613-546-4291, ext. 2300