

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOORS OPEN RETURNS TO KINGSTON IN 2024 CALL FOR PARTICIPATING SITES

Doors Open returns to Kingston and area on July 20th, August 24th, and September 28th 2024

[KINGSTON, ONT./ March 22nd 2024. 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 2024!

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 province-side theme for 2024 will be **adaptive reuse**, showcasing heritage sites that have been repurposed to best serve their communities, while retaining their heritage attributes. Through the continued use and reuse of our historical structures, we realize their contribution to the sustainability and the economic and cultural energy of our urban and rural communities.

For the past four 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, 2022 and 2023.

2024 marks the fifth 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 2024 event - offering three different event days: **Saturday, July 20th, 2024, Saturday August 24th, 2024, and Saturday September 28th, 2024.** 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 **all 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 2024 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 remains a popular event within the Kingston region, and is a fun, exciting way for residents and visitors to engage with local cultural heritage experiences and places. This year’s theme of adaptive re-use is particularly interesting as so many cultural heritage sites continue to evolve and adapt to their community contexts in a variety of ways. 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 always an interesting and engaging event. Kingston is known for its rich and varied cultural heritage, with many historic buildings that have been adapted to new purposes. Through the collaborative efforts of community partners and organizations, and their willingness to open their doors, residents and visitors will have a great opportunity to learn about these buildings and how their stories continue to evolve.,” says Kevin Gibbs, Director of Heritage Services at the City of Kingston.

For further details, including registration forms, please visit: <https://www.kingstonmuseums.ca/doors-open-kingston-area/register-your-site-2024>. Interested sites are directed to fill in all sections and return their submission to info@kingstonmuseums.ca by **Friday May 31st, 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