

# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS:

10 PROGRAM SESSIONS

12 TEACHERS

254 STUDENTS

44 GUEST SPEAKERS

## 7 SITES

- KINGSTON CITY HALL
- MILLER MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY
- MUSEUM OF HEALTH CARE
- LENNOX & ADDINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM
- MARINE MUSEUM OF THE GREAT LAKES
- PUMPHOUSE STEAM MUSEUM
- AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE



# Beyond Classrooms

- Kingston

## A message from our Board Chair

“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity” Albert Einstein

In the midst of COVID challenges this past year, BCK imagined, created and implemented lasting and expanding virtual programming opportunities to complement its regular on-site (and on-hold) program. Dedicated volunteers supported the staff to drive BCK forward.

Thank you, Karla, for your never-ending ideas and energy. Robin, thank you for keeping us organized. Thank you, to all of the volunteers, for your commitment. I am honoured to be working with such an incredible team!

Dedicated Board members supported BCK’s day-to-day operations by governing well. The BCK committees all performed with gusto. Thank you to all members of the Executive, Communication, Grants, Fundraising, and Programming committees. Because of you we have community outreach and support. Thank you to our community partners for your expertise, participation, and financial support.

Looking to the future and a new “normal”, as COVID (hopefully) wanes, BCK will have concurrent new challenges and opportunities. This will be the first year that BCK will be without Linda Lamoureux, our President. Filling this vacancy will be a daunting task but each member of the BCK team has a suitcase full of skills to use and share. BCK’s Strategic Plan is nearing completion, outlining goals for the next five years. BCK is spreading its wings and is ready to move into its (yet undefined) new space. And finally, the challenge of morphing from virtual BCK programming to a hybrid model to the in-person on-site experience, while keeping safe, might be the biggest challenge of all.

Let’s not, however, be bogged down with challenges. Let’s look for the opportunities. Let’s look for the smiles on the faces of the students as they push open the doors of Kingston’s cultural sites. What could be more thrilling than to be able to assist students to reach for that door! Imagine how many doors they will open in a lifetime, with an open mind, with a BCK mind?

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Brown, Board Chair



"The Beyond Classrooms Rural Remote Program was a fantastic approach to inquiry based learning through a variety of platforms. BCK has made this program accessible for students who would not be able to access it otherwise, providing an equitable learning experience where children get to access community members and programs that they might not otherwise!"

- Darby Flynn, St James  
Major CS



## A message from our Program Coordinator

What a year! The dedication of volunteers, teachers, students, sites allowed BCK to continue to grow and adapt through the challenges presented by COVID.

Programming pivoted to be delivered entirely online. More than 250 students and twelve teachers were able to experience Kingston's cultural sites and heritage collections remotely. Students learned how to sketch and journal through videos and remote workshops. They explored museums and galleries virtually, and engaged in online inquiry sessions where they had the opportunity to ask questions of community experts. Sessions were well-received by students and teachers alike who had been missing connecting with our community due to the inability to leave schools during the pandemic.

Connections were apparent despite the distance. Students found new ways to showcase their experience, with many creating digital exhibits of their own. Two classes created their own art work and digitized it. One class create their own online children's museum, while another coded their ideas for a new exhibit at City Hall. So many students said they could not wait to visit these sites in person one day.

Remote programming also provided new opportunities for BCK. With funding support from the Community Foundation and City of Kingston, BCK was able to develop programming that will increase accessibility of programming to students who may not otherwise be able to participate, such as rural students. BCK was able to increase outreach opportunities, providing activities for hundreds of students and families through March of the Museums and Heritage Fair which were delivered remotely this year.

While we eagerly await our return to sites, it is clear that BCK will continue to explore opportunities as a result of the past year. 'Virtual Visits' will be a way of reaching more students in the future and introducing more teachers to BCK programming and the rich heritage sites of our community.

Our appreciation to KAM and our host sites for their continued support of BCK. Thanks to all of our volunteers on the Board and Committees for their vital contributions. Sincere thanks to Linda Lamoureux who retired from our Board this year, we are grateful for the support you provided since BCK's inception. And special thanks to Lynn Brown whose leadership has guided BCK through the many changes of the last year, we are so grateful for all you do!

Respectfully submitted, Karla Tynski

## Thank you to our Sponsors & Funders

City of Kingston Heritage Fund

Kingston Association of Museums,  
Galleries, and Historic Sites

Community Foundation  
Kingston & Area

Canadian Geological  
Foundation



Community Foundation  
for Kingston & Area

— Tourism —  
**KINGSTON**

# Our Classrooms

Site	Teacher	School	Inquiry Questions
Kingston City Hall	Lisa Phippen	Truedell ES, Gr 6	"How has the role of City Hall changed over time?"
	Simon Pottery	Molly Brant ES, Gr. 5/6	"How has City Hall been important to Kingston through history?"
Miller Museum of Geology	Judy Couture	St Martha CS, Gr. 4	"How do rocks and minerals influence our lives?"
	Viktoria Barnes	Our Lady of Lourdes, Gr. 4	"How can learning about rocks and minerals help us to learn about the environment?"
Agnes Etherington Art Centre	Sarah Fraser and Jane Goudreau	St Francis Assisi CS, Gr. 6/8	"How can art capture time?"
	Patrick Large	Welborne Ave. PS, Gr. 6/7	"How do artists represent emotions and ideas?"
Museum of Health Care	Alana Overvelde	Molly Brant ES, Gr. 7/8	"How can learning about the past help us make informed decisions about the future?"
Marine Museum of the Great Lakes	Darby Flynn	St James Major CS, Gr 3-8	"Why are the Great Lakes important? How can we help protect them?"
PumpHouse Steam Museum	Skot Caldwell and Lesley Graham	Centennial PS, Gr 6	"How has Canada responded to refugees throughout time?"
Lennox and Addington County Museum	Mary Beth Duchene	Southview PS, Gr. 3	"In what ways are children's lives similar to and different from the lives of people in the past?"

## Audience

**Website:** [www.beyondclassrooms.ca](http://www.beyondclassrooms.ca)

Visits: 11,968

Page views: 21,775

Hits: 47,851

**Facebook:** Followers: 212

Post Reach: 2,870

**Twitter:** @BCKYBK

Tweets: 102

Impressions: 80,800

Profile Visits: 5,112

Followers: 688

Mentions: 85

"I did enjoy the virtual visits because it felt like they were right there with me. It was my first time doing BCK. Loved it!"

- Grade 7 student

"I learned how to slow down. I learned how to really deeply look at something"

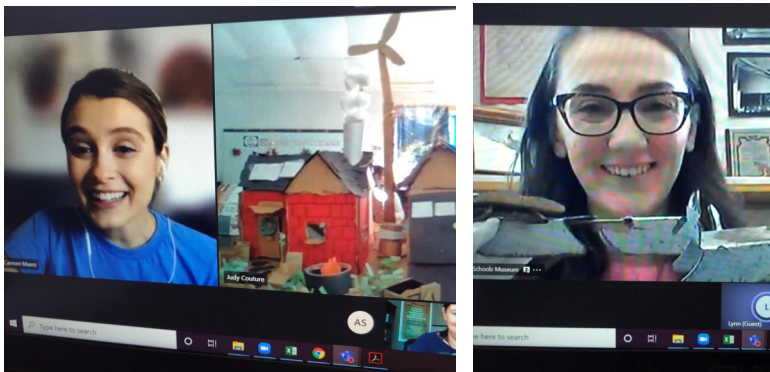
- Student

## Why Beyond Classrooms?

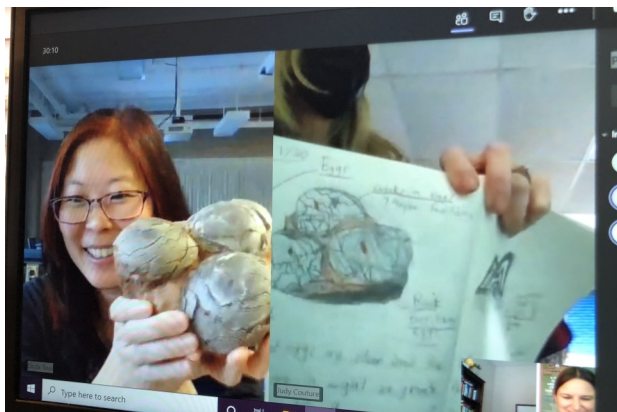
Beyond Classrooms Kingston (BCK) empowers children to be culturally aware life-long learners and active citizens. BCK facilitates moving teachers and their students into community spaces, where authentic environments serve as a catalyst for teacher-led, student-driven, inquiry-based learning. Learning at a museum or gallery for an entire week takes away the field trip feeling and creates an environment where students slow down. They look closely and reflect through journal writing and they apply these new skills to their everyday learning. BCK strives to achieve heightened awareness of the value of cultural resources as critical components of educational and emotional development, evidenced by changed thinking on the part of its program participants.

### *Beyond Classrooms creates:*

- Active citizens
- Engaged thinkers
- Positive attitudes towards writing
- Students connected with the community



Thank you to the presenters, volunteers, and site staff who shared their time and expertise!



## Upcoming in 2021-22

Program sessions are already underway as BCK navigates the return to sites and schools. We are working with five sites this fall to offer a combination of onsite and remote programming with more program weeks to be offered this spring!

We are also excited to explore new program initiatives such as virtual visits and museum inquiry kits in the new year.

*Moving classrooms into community spaces*