



ART IN THE COUNTY
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For Immediate Release

Sarah Crawford Receives 7th Annual Community Arts Builder Award

June 20, 2024 (Picton, ON) The Prince Edward County Arts Council (County Arts) and Art in the County are pleased to present the 7th annual Community Arts Builder Award to Sarah Crawford - an exemplary champion, volunteer, and benefactor of the arts in Prince Edward County.

Sponsored by Monica Klingenberg, Laurie Gruer, and Alysa Hawkins of Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited Brokerage, the award celebrates individuals who have enriched community life through the arts as nominated by local residents; it includes a \$250 monetary gift.

Sarah Crawford continually demonstrates her passion for the arts and our community, always finding new opportunities to support and champion the contributions of artists and the arts in Prince Edward County. She served for many years as Co-Chair on the Board of County Arts, playing key roles in advancing the organization's equity and inclusion efforts and strategic planning activities, and—together with her husband David Kirkwood—seeding the Indigenous Voices Fund. Sarah also hosts art shows at her farm, and works behind the scenes as a cheerleader and donor, lending her quiet yet powerful support where it is needed most.

As one nominator said, "Sarah is an advocate and passionate supporter of the arts in all their forms, and we are so fortunate to have this incredible woman in our community."

"Sarah is the exemplar of a community supporter...always present at any event, always engaged in any new endeavour, and always positive, always deeply interested, and eternally behind all efforts. Her support goes well beyond just enthusiasm and kind words. We consider her to be a significant benefactor of all things art-related," stated the 2024 selection committee of Laurie Gruer, Monica Klingenberg, and Alysa Hawkins.

"The Community Arts Builder Award is a great award," says 2022 Award recipient Sarah Moran. "It reminds us of how essential the arts are to giving meaning to our lives and how essential community is to our sense of belonging."

Previous winners include Bruce Dowdell, Volunteer and Youth Mentor (2023); Sarah Moran, Arts Champion and Volunteer (2022); Kato Wake, Visual Artist & Instructor (2021); Hri Neil, Carbon Art and Design (2020); Krista Dalby, Department of Illumination (2019); and Alice and Peter Mennacher, Blizzmax Gallery (2018).