

FINAL ADJUDICATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND ARTS CHAMPION AWARDS

JURY REPORT

April 14, 2023



BACKGROUND

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the volunteer citizen jury that met on the morning of Wednesday April 5, 2023 to determine which of the short-listed 2023 City of Hamilton Arts Awards nominees should be selected to receive awards in Lifetime Achievement and Arts Champion categories. An annually rotating jury - comprised of discipline-specific artists, arts professionals and community leaders – are key to the selection of recipients in each category. The 2023 Final Jury are listed at the end of this report.

The adjudication session was facilitated by arts service organization Cobalt Connects Creativity and audited by a member of the Arts Advisory Commission to ensure a fair and transparent process. The conflict of interest policy was reviewed, and no conflicts were declared. The adjudication process was outlined, wherein aggregate scores are shared as a jumping off point for discussion and final decisions are made through consensus. The Jury was given the option to request more information should they deem it necessary to make a final decision.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

One (1) Lifetime Achievement Award is conferred annually to recognize living artists or arts managers who have contributed substantially to the artistic vitality of the city over the course of a career, and have inspired others through their leadership, creativity and artistic excellence. These individuals' experience and impact may be local, national or international in scope.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury appreciate the 10 public nominations in this category and recognize the work of the Arts Sector Review Panel in developing an extremely strong Short List. They found the task of selecting a single recipient for this award remarkably challenging due to the high caliber of the Short List. Jury members reflected on how each of the nominees have uniquely and powerfully contributed to the artistic landscape in Hamilton and will continue to have lasting impact. The jury would like the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions of all of the shortlisted nominees to be recognized here.

After a passionate discussion of the nominees' careers and contributions, the jury decided to confer the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award to **Judith Sandiford and Ronald Weihs**.

The jury unanimously recognize **Judith Sandiford and Ronald Weihs** as tireless supporters of the arts across many disciplines in Hamilton through their venue Artword Artbar, their key role in nurturing the James Street North Art Crawl, as well as their ongoing plans to support theatre in Hamilton. The jury reflected on how "Ron and Judy" allowed remarkable experimentation to happen in their venue over the years – creating space for local artists to cut their teeth and try out new things as well as inviting incredible international artists to perform there. The jury note that many of today's successful Hamilton artists got their start at Artword Artbar, which speaks to the duration of their impact. They also celebrate the fact that Judith and Ron demonstrated a commitment to inclusion "before it was cool". Jurors who arrived in Hamilton as newcomers felt at home and welcome at Artword Artbar due to programming that was varied and diverse, hopeful, interesting and dynamic. They appreciate that Judith and Ron provided a refreshing opportunity to be able to go see art from all over the world, perspectives and walks of life. Jurors also feel that, due to the breadth of artistic practices that they have supported, selecting Judith and Ron for the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award is a nod to many disciplines, including Arts Management.

ARTS CHAMPION AWARDS

Up to four (4) Arts Champion Awards may be conferred annually to living individuals who are outstanding supporters of the arts in Hamilton as volunteers, advocates, or board members. This is a non-monetary award and recipients will be given a special gift of recognition. This award is open to students and youth over 14 years old.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury reviewed the shortlisted nominees' history of work in the community and considered their impact. They agreed that each nominee has made significant contributions to their communities and the arts sector and appreciate their outstanding service. The jury have awarded four 2023 Arts Champion Awards to: **Chris Pannell**,

Helen Graham Jessica Vinluan and Luis Pereira. Their rationale for selecting these individuals is outlined below.

Chris Pannell

The jury recognize Chris' long-term investment in the Hamilton art scene - in particular through LitLive – a vital local festival - as well as volunteering for numerous other festivals. Chris' passion and dedication is evident in the numerous roles played in literary organizations, while also being an accomplished poet who mentors the next generation of writers. The jury view Chris as integral to the literary community in Hamilton.

Helen Graham

The jury acknowledge Helen's tireless support of community-level artists in Hamilton's music scene. Helen can be found frequently at local live music shows – sometimes multiple shows a day, several times a week - taking videos and sharing them through YouTube and social media channels. The jury feel that it is important to acknowledge arts champions like Helen who devote their time to selflessly supporting artists.

Jessica Vinluan

The jury applaud Jessica's contribution as a young, emerging artist of colour whose volunteer work is centred around community building for POCs around the city. They are impressed with amount of work Jessica has engaged to support Filipinas in Hamilton and the energy brought to that work.

Luis Pereira

The jury appreciate Luis's commitment to attending local concerts and selflessly promoting others' artistic practices through the Hamilton Blues Lovers project. They are impressed by Luis' volume of social media posts – formatted for each platform – demonstrating that this project is a labour of love. They also acknowledge Luis' long-term contribution to promoting music in Hamilton.

THE JURY

Donna Akrey	Visual Art / Arts Education / Collectives
Stephen Altena	Visual Art / Collectives
Luis Arrojo	Theatre
Laura Couchie	Writing / Performance / Beadwork
Dan Edmonds	Music / Visual Art
Dayna Gedney	Fine Craft
Carmela Langese	Visual & Media Art / Arts Education
Nancy McKibbin Gray	Arts Champion Recipient / Arts Management/
Taien Ng-Chan	Media Arts / Writing
Christina Tarsitano	Community Art / Arts Education
Bryan Prince	Lifetime Achievement Recipient / Writing
Colin Lapsley	Arts Management / Music

Regrets

Clairandean Humphrey
Yuma Dean Hester
Paul Gordon

Visual Art / Media Art / Movement
Film
Dance / Performance

Jury Auditor

Lisa LaRocca

Arts Advisory Commission

Advisors to the Jury:

Kim Selman, Cobalt Connects (Facilitator)
Jen Anisef, City of Hamilton