

News from the Kingston Corridor
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Doers and Dreamers – People Who Make Kingston Special



Business: [LVanHart Artist Productions](#)

Name: Laura Hartmann

Occupation: Artist Manager/Producer. I am currently producing a jazz series with Stella May Productions at the newest, hippest venue in town, the Stella May Gallery Theatre. Our next concert is May 10th, we're having an evening of Latin Jazz with Luis Bonilla, Freddie Jacobs, Lew Scott and John Riley. I've been producing concerts in Kingston since July of last year. Our summer series will focus on the wealth of local talent. I also manage jazz artists who perform around the world. My first client, the great alto saxophonist Steve Wilson, is still with me after 14 years!

Age: 47

Where are you from originally? I was born on Long Island, but I was raised in Greene County, and graduated from Cairo-Durham High School.

Why are you here? I moved to NYC to get my masters degree at Brooklyn College and stayed in the city, living mostly in Brooklyn, from 1986 to 2007. In 2007 moved to Kingston to be closer to my parents who still live in Greene County, and my brother and sister who are also nearby. I had also had enough of living in the Big Apple and needed a change. Kingston is very convenient to NYC, where I still have to go a lot, and to my family, so it's location, location. location! And, I've been very happy here.

What is your favorite hangout? I suppose at home. I go out a lot for work, so I enjoy cooking and having friends over to my place.

Tell us something we never would have guessed about you. Had I really thought about it when I graduated college, I would have become a sound engineer. But, it wasn't a field where there were a lot of women at the time, so I never really pursued it, though I did have a degree in studio production from The College of St. Rose. But, everything turned out ok!

What keeps you here? Being near my family, having a parking space where I live (if you've ever lived in Brooklyn, you'll understand that!), and having the convenience of both the city of Kingston and driving just a few miles to be in the mountains. This is a beautiful place to live!

What would you change? I love what I do, but finances in the arts are always difficult. It would be my dream to not let money get in the way of my presenting all the great art (music) I would love to bring to this area

When you're not in Kingston, what's your idea of a wonderful city to visit, and why? With my work, I've been really lucky to have traveled a lot of places. I really like going Philadelphia; it's got great history, culture, great music and food. One of the most beautiful cities I've ever been to was Havana, Cuba. Not seeing a McDonald's anywhere was so lovely!