



The Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) provides **unrestricted general operating support** and **project support** to organizations that provide public arts, interpretive sciences, and humanities programs in Massachusetts. In addition to strengthening the Commonwealth’s nonprofit cultural sector through grants, the CIP advances information, advocacy, and peer exchange through convenings, workshops, professional development, and technical assistance.

A Guide to the Cultural Investment Portfolio Programs:

1. The Cultural Investment Portfolio provides unrestricted operating support to organizations and programs with public cultural programming that benefits Massachusetts residents. This support is available to the following:

- A. **Fully-cultural 501(c)3 organizations:** The organization’s primary mission must be to promote access, excellence, diversity, or education in the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences.....**2**
- B. **Independently-operating programs (referred to as Cultural Affiliates) under one of two types of parent organizations:**
 - i) A Massachusetts recognized, non-fully-cultural 501(c)3 organization OR
 - ii) Government, including federal, state, or local entity/municipality.....**4**

2. The CIP Gateway Program is a two-year operating support grant, designed to be the entry, or *gateway*, into the CIP program. Gateway grantees complete the same requirements as CIP grantees, but are evaluated in a biennial panel process to determine funding and eligibility for reclassification into the CIP.....**7**

3. The CIP Projects Program is a one-year grant designed to support cultural projects, and is an option for organizations and programs that are not eligible for CIP Gateway, or those simply looking for one-year project support.....**11**

Additional Information, including: Advocacy Report • CIP Annual Report • CIP Grant Amount • Contract Holds & Restrictions • Cultural Data Project • Mergers • One-to-One Match Requirement • Parent Organizations/Fiscal Agents • Penalties • Portfolio Definitions • Reconsideration Policy • Removal from the Portfolio • Resource Maintenance • Site Visits • Suspensions • MCC Staff Contact**14**

Cultural Investment Portfolio: Organizations

Description

The Cultural Investment Portfolio supports fully-cultural 501(c)3 organizations, that is: a nonprofit entity whose primary mission serves to promote access, excellence, diversity, or education in the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences. These organizations have long-standing public cultural programming that benefits Massachusetts residents.

Eligibility

Cultural Investment Portfolio Organizations must:

- Be legally recognized as 501(c)3 a non-profit organization in good standing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This means that the organization must:
 - Have a 501(c)3 designation with the Internal Revenue Service which is currently active and has not been revoked.
 - Complete all required filings as a public charity with the [Massachusetts Attorney General's Office](#).
 - Complete all Annual Report filings as a nonprofit corporation with the [Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth](#).
 - In addition, any organization incorporated outside of Massachusetts must have a current certificate of registration from the Secretary of the Commonwealth to operate as foreign corporation within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Be a 'fully-cultural' organization (*see above*).
- Have minimum annual cash expenses of \$50,000 based on a three-year average.
- Offer public cultural programming in Massachusetts annually and maintain year-round operations.

Ongoing Grantee Requirements

To remain compliant, Cultural Investment Portfolio grantees must:

- Enter financial data into the [Massachusetts Cultural Data Project](#) (CDP) annually, generate a CDP Funder Report based on this data, and receive final MCC staff approval.
- [Complete a CIP Annual Report](#)
 - CIP Check-in Questionnaire
 - [Engage and report on two advocacy activities each year.](#)
 - [Credit the MCC as per the credit agreement.](#)
- [Host a Site Visit](#) once every four years. For some organizations, senior management is required to participate on two Site Visit Teams in a four-year period.
- [Comply with 1:1 match requirement.](#)
- Be in compliance with state and federal regulations which bar discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or sexual orientation, and which require accessibility for persons with disabilities. Specifically:
 - [The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 \(ADA\)](#)

- [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(Section 504\)](#)
- [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
- Other applicable state and local laws

Grant Amount

Cultural Investment Portfolio grants are [formula based](#), as determined by an organization's cash expenses and the total funds allocated to the Cultural Investment Portfolio by the MCC board based on the agency's annual legislative appropriation.

Application

Current Portfolio grantees reapply by continuing to meet eligibility requirements, and meeting all ongoing program requirements by annual deadlines.

All other applicants must apply for CIP Portfolio funding through the [CIP Gateway Program](#).

**FY16 – FY17
Program
Timeline**

FY16 Contract Mailed	September 2015
FY16 Contract Due	February 1, 2016 <i>80% of FY16 grant distributed upon receipt*</i>
CDP Funder Report Due	Deadline based on grantee's Fiscal Year Final Deadline is June 1, 2016, 11:59 PM EDT
CIP Annual Report Due <i>Includes Advocacy Reporting, Credit & Publicity Confirmation, and Check-in Questionnaire.</i>	June 1, 2016, 11:59 PM EDT <i>20% of FY16 grant distributed when all requirements have been fulfilled*</i>
FY17 Grants Announced	August/September 2016
FY17 Contract Mailed	September 2016

*Note: CIP grants under \$4,000 are distributed in full upon MCC receipt of the completed, signed contract.

**MCC Staff
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Cultural Investment Portfolio: Cultural Affiliates

Description

Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) **Cultural Affiliates** are independently-operating programs under one of two types of parent organizations*:

1. A Massachusetts recognized, non-fully-cultural 501(c)3 organization
OR
2. Government, including federal, state, or local entity/municipality

These entities have significant public cultural programming in Massachusetts, with residents of Massachusetts as the primary intended audience. The MCC has included Cultural Affiliates in the CIP to recognize and support the importance of the ongoing cultural programming that is provided by organizations that are otherwise not eligible for MCC funding.

**Please review the differences between [parent organizations, fiscal agencies and fiscal sponsorship](#).*

Eligibility

A CIP Cultural Affiliate must:

- Offer public cultural programming in Massachusetts annually, and maintain year-round operations.
- Have minimum annual cash expenses of \$50,000 based on a three-year average.
- Manage its own budget.
- Have at least one full-time (min. 30 hours per week) compensated administrative staff position dedicated solely to operation of the cultural entity.
- Have its own advisory board that meets regularly to discuss policy, strategic direction, and resource development plans to ensure long-term sustainability.

Application

Current Portfolio grantees reapply by continuing to meet eligibility requirements, and meeting all ongoing program requirements by annual deadlines.

All other applicants must apply for CIP Portfolio funding through the [CIP Gateway Program](#).

Eligible Applicants

Cultural Affiliates includes programs at colleges/universities/secondary schools, Massachusetts-based branches of national organizations, and Local Cultural Councils or other agencies of municipalities that implement their own cultural programming.

Examples include:

- A college art museum, literary journal, presenting organization, cultural center, arts service organization, or theater with public programming

- A public arts program of a social service organization
- An educational program of a scientific research organization
- A Local Cultural Council with its own cultural programming
- A Massachusetts-based National Trust site

Ineligible Applicants

The following are not Cultural Affiliates:

- Academic departments within a college/university/secondary school
- Programs that present work exclusively for or by students as part of the curriculum of the school. An affiliate may have some student-focused work, but the majority of programming must serve the greater community outside of the school.
- Programs that do not have the primary mission to promote access, excellence, diversity, or education in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.

Ongoing Grantee Requirements

To remain compliant, Cultural Investment Portfolio grantees must:

- Enter financial data into the [Massachusetts Cultural Data Project](#) (CDP) annually, generate a CDP Funder Report based on this data, and receive final MCC staff approval.
- [Complete a CIP Annual Report](#)
 - CIP Check-in Questionnaire
 - [Engage and report on two advocacy activities each year.](#)
 - [Credit the MCC as per the credit agreement.](#)
- [Host a Site Visit](#) once every four years. For some organizations, senior management is required to participate on two Site Visit Teams in a four-year period.
- [Comply with 1:1 match requirement.](#)
- Be in compliance with state and federal regulations which bar discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or sexual orientation, and which require accessibility for persons with disabilities. Specifically:
 - [The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 \(ADA\)](#)
 - [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(Section 504\)](#)
 - [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
 - Other applicable state and local laws

Grant Amount

Cultural Investment Portfolio grants are formula based, as determined by the Affiliate's [cash expenses](#) and the total funds allocated to the Cultural Investment Portfolio by the MCC board based on the agency's annual legislative appropriation.

In addition, Cultural Affiliates are subject to the following grant restrictions:

- Grants to Cultural Affiliates are contracted with the parent organization, and are restricted to the activities of the Cultural Affiliate.
- Individual CIP Cultural Affiliate grants will not exceed 20% of the current year's largest CIP Organization grant amount. For example, if the largest CIP Organization grant awarded in a fiscal year is \$50,000,

individual Cultural Affiliate grants will not exceed \$10,000.

- No single parent organization will receive more than \$25,000 in CIP funding for combined Cultural Affiliates.

**FY16 – FY17
Program
Timeline**

FY16 Contract Mailed	September 2015
FY16 Contract Due	February 1, 2016 <i>80% of FY16 grant distributed upon receipt*</i>
CDP Funder Report Due	Deadline based on organization's Fiscal Year Final Deadline is June 1, 2016, 11:59 PM EDT
CIP Annual Report Due <i>Includes Advocacy Reporting, Credit & Publicity Confirmation, and Check-in Questionnaire.</i>	June 1, 2016, 11:59 PM EDT <i>20% of FY16 grant distributed when all requirements have been fulfilled*</i>
FY17 Grants Announced	August/September 2016
FY17 Contract Mailed	September 2016

*Note: CIP grants under \$4,000 are distributed in full upon MCC receipt of the completed, signed contract.

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Cultural Investment Portfolio: Gateway Program

Description

The Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) **Gateway Program** is a highly competitive grant program which provides two years of unrestricted operating support and is the pre-requisite into the Cultural Investment Portfolio.

The goal of the CIP Gateway Program is provide support to organizations and Cultural Affiliates that are new to the MCC funding pool, and to create the structure for organization evaluation that will potentially lead to ongoing operating support as a Portfolio grantee.

Eligibility

- CIP Gateway grantees must meet all eligibility requirements for CIP grantees. Please refer to the [CIP Organization](#) and [Cultural Affiliate](#) sections for full eligibility.
- In addition, applicants must have minimum cash expenses of \$50,000 for *each* of the two years prior to application. Grantees must maintain minimum cash expenses of \$50,000 in each year to remain in the Gateway program or to be reclassified into the Portfolio.
- Have completed a minimum of two full years of public cultural programming in Massachusetts
- Not receive a Cultural Investment Portfolio or Project grant in the same grant year.

Application Materials

To apply to the CIP Gateway Program, applicants must:

- Submit an Intent to Apply, containing:
 - Publically-stated mission
 - Fiscal Year end date
 - Two years of total income & expenses
 - Programming information: April-June 2016
 - DUNS number
 - Contact Information
 - *CIP Organizations*: Certification of current AGO & SOC filings and 501c3 determination
 - *Cultural Affiliates*: Advisory board list, full time staff certification, and parent organization information/agreement
- Submit an Application containing:
 - Complete one year of [Cultural Data Project](#) financial information. This is a separate, online data reporting system.
 - Application Narrative, including description and location of core programs, community engagement, organizational capacity, and key personnel/staff qualifications
 - Accessibility information
 - Board information
- Host an evaluative Site Visit during the panel process

Review Criteria

A review panel will evaluate applications based on the criteria and their weighted percentages listed below.

Public Value (60 points total)

- Core programming and relevance to mission (20 points)
- Community engagement (20 points)
- Efforts and success in reaching out to diverse or underserved communities, such as ethnically and economically diverse, rural, elderly, veterans, and people with disabilities. (10 points)
- Participation of Massachusetts artists scientists, and/or humanists (10 points)

Organizational Capacity and Sustainability (40 points total)

- Financial health of the organizations (10 points)
- Appropriate program staff to develop and implement programming (10 points)
- Ability of the administrative staff and/or governing board to manage the organization (10 points)
- Success in organizational planning and evaluation (10 points)

Ongoing Program Requirements

To remain compliant, CIP Gateway grantees must:

- Continue to meet basic eligibility requirements for the duration of the grant.
- Enter financial data into the [Massachusetts Cultural Data Project](#) (CDP) annually, generate a CDP Funder Report based on this data, and receive final MCC staff approval.
- [Complete a CIP Annual Report](#)
 - CIP Check-in Questionnaire
 - [Engage and report on two advocacy activities each year.](#)
 - [Credit the MCC as per the credit agreement.](#)
- [Host a Site Visit](#) once every four years. For some organizations, senior management is required to participate on two Site Visit Teams in a four-year period.
- [Comply with 1:1 match requirement.](#)
- Be in compliance with state and federal regulations which bar discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or sexual orientation, and which require accessibility for persons with disabilities. Specifically:
 - [The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 \(ADA\)](#)
 - [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(Section 504\)](#)
 - [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
- Other applicable state and local laws

Grant Amount

Gateway grantees receive \$3,000 annually for a total of \$6,000 distributed over two years, subject to the total funds allocated to the Cultural Investment Portfolio by the MCC board based on the agency's annual legislative appropriation. Applications to the Gateway Program are accepted every other year.

Reclassification into the Portfolio

To qualify for reclassification into the Portfolio, an applicant must receive Gateway funding for a total of four years out of a six year period (two cycles out of three). Applicants with Peers funding between FY13 and FY16 may count that as meeting the first two years of this requirement.

Process for Reclassification:

- Grantees that have achieved the required four years of funding must re-apply for Gateway funding for the next cycle. Applicants will be reviewed and ranked with all other Gateway applicants.
 - *Note: There is no automatic renewal or preference given to applicants that have received funding in previous cycles. An organization’s record of compliance with previous MCC grant requirements may be considered.*
- Applicants that are eligible for Reclassification must have submitted three consecutive Cultural Data Project profiles.
- If the applicant is recommended for funding by the panel AND MCC funding levels are sufficient to allow the MCC to increase the overall CIP program allocation, the applicant will automatically be reclassified into the Portfolio. The MCC will reclassify as many eligible applicants as possible, based on available funding and panel rankings.
- If an applicant is approved for funding by the panel, but the MCC funding does not allow for reclassification, the applicant will remain in the Gateway program.
- If MCC funding in year two of the Gateway program allows for reclassification, the applicant will be reclassified in that year.
- If MCC funding does not allow for reclassification of an eligible applicant in either year of the Gateway funding cycle, that applicant must re-apply to Gateway at the next deadline.

FY17 Application & Program Timeline

Application posted online	February 1, 2016
Intent to Apply	Preferred by February 22, 2016, but accepted at any time prior to application deadline.
Application Due	April 1, 2016, 11:59 PM EDT
Panel Site Visits	April – June 2016
Notification to applicants	September 2016
FY 17 Contract Due	January 31, 2017
CDP Funder Report Due	Deadline based on grantee’s FY Final Deadline is June 1, 2017, 11:59 PM EDT

**CIP Gateway Annual
Report Due**

June 1, 2017, 11:59 PM EDT

*Includes Advocacy
Reporting, Credit & Publicity
Confirmation, and Check-in
Questionnaire.*

**Future Application
Deadlines**

Spring 2018, 2020, and 2022


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Cultural Investment Portfolio: Projects Program

Description

CIP Project grants are one year grants for specific cultural public programming, and are not for general operating support. Applications are accepted from:

1. Massachusetts recognized 501(c)3 organizations
2. Programs under a federal, state, or local entity/municipality
3. Unincorporated associations, or organizations that are eligible to be federally tax exempt, 501(c)3 nonprofit but have not attained this status may apply using a fiscal agent (See more detail below. Also refer to MCC definitions of [Fiscal Agent, Fiscal Sponsor, and Parent Organization](#)).
4. Organizations may not receive a Cultural Investment Portfolio or Gateway grant in the same grant year.

What is an eligible CIP Project?

In general, a Project grant supports a specific, connected set of activities, with a beginning and an end, explicit objectives, and a predetermined cost.

A project may be:

- A distinct aspect of the organization's cultural activities, such as a one-time event; a single production; an exhibition; an educational seminar; or series of related arts activities, such as art classes or training sessions.
- A one-time activity or a program that is repeated for multiple years.

A project must:

- Have minimum project cash expenses of \$5,000

For FY17, projects must occur, and expenses be incurred, between July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

Ineligible Projects

- Projects that are the complete public programmatic activity of the applicant
- Fundraising activities, strategic planning, and capacity building activities
- Programming outside of Massachusetts
- Capital expenditures: A capital expense is defined as an item, or group of items, with a life expectancy of more than three years and a total cost of more than \$500. Examples include equipment, such as lighting or sound equipment, new construction or the renovation of a cultural facility.

- Projects that are the work of an individual artist.
- Projects that present work exclusively for or by students as part of the activities of a college, university, or school. While some of the project may be student-focused, there must be a majority percentage of the project that serves the greater community outside of the school.
- Applications where the purpose is to “re-grant” or award funds using some or all of the MCC Project grant
- Projects that are the activity of a Cultural Investment Portfolio or Project grantee.
- Other projects that do not meet the MCC’s definition of a ‘project’ (see description above)

Organization Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Have minimum annual cultural programming cash expenses of \$10,000
- Have completed a minimum of two full years of public cultural programming in Massachusetts
- Not receive a Cultural Investment Portfolio or Gateway grant in the same grant year.
 - *Note: A Parent Organization of CIP Cultural Affiliates may also have **one** Project applicant or grantee that is not the activity of a Portfolio or Gateway grantee. The \$25,000 parent maximum for combined Cultural Affiliate still applies.*

Organizations with Fiscal Agents

For the FY17 grant cycle of the CIP Projects Program, the MCC is accepting applications from applicants with fiscal agents. Applicants considering a fiscal agent are required to consult with MCC staff about their chosen fiscal agent before submitting their application. Applicants must meet the Organization Eligibility detailed above, and their fiscal agents must meet the following criteria:

- The fiscal agent must be incorporated in Massachusetts, or registered as a foreign corporation, must have nonprofit status, and must be current in all state and federal filings.
- Project staff must not be employees or board members of the fiscal agent organization.
- Fiscal agents may charge a percentage of anticipated income for their services, but no more than 7 percent of the grant award.
- The grant agreement is between the MCC and the fiscal agent, not the applicant.
- The fiscal agent must maintain separate accounting for all fiscal agent activities.
- The fiscal agent is responsible for all MCC paperwork and reporting, including revised budgets, contracts and final reports. Any correspondence about the grant must be submitted by the fiscal agent or jointly by the fiscal agent and the applicant.
- The MCC will not act as an arbiter for any disputes between the applicant and the fiscal agent organization.

- An organization may have a fiscal agent agreement with more than one applicant.
- A fiscal agent may be an organization that is currently funded by the MCC's Cultural Investment Portfolio, or has submitted an application to the MCC Gateway or Projects Programs. Their role as a fiscal agent will have no influence on any grant or application. The fiscal agent must report activities for this grant as pass through funds when they complete their own CDP profile.

If the MCC determines that you can use a fiscal agent, upload the following documents as part of your online application:

- A signed letter of agreement or contract between the two parties that clearly details the legal responsibilities and obligations of each party. Projects may want to consult with an attorney when crafting this agreement.
- The Fiscal Agent Form (Appendix A).

Application Materials

To apply to the CIP Projects Program, applicants must

- Submit an Application containing:
 - Publically-stated mission
 - Fiscal Year end date
 - Previous year's total income and expenses
 - DUNS number
 - Contact and Board Information
 - Certification of current AGO & SOC filings and 501c3 determination of the applicant, or fiscal agent, if appropriate
- Organizations with Fiscal Agents must submit:
 - Fiscal Agent Information Form
 - Copy of Agreement with Fiscal Agent
- Complete an Application Narrative containing:
 - Name of project
 - Description and locations(s) of project
 - Audience served
 - Community benefit
 - Project Timeline
 - Key Participants
 - Budget and finance narrative
 - Project budget
 - Accessibility information
 - Staff qualifications

Review Criteria

Project applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Quality of the project (connection to mission, people involved, clear plan, specific goals)
- Public value (benefit to community or defined target audiences)
- Organization's capacity to execute project (strong planning, needed resources, evaluation, timeline)

**Ongoing
Program
Requirements**

All CIP Project grantees must:

- Complete a Projects Final Report.
- Engage in and report on one advocacy activity each year.
- Be in compliance with state and federal regulations which bar discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, or sexual orientation, and which require accessibility for persons with disabilities. Specifically:
 - [The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 \(ADA\)](#)
 - [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 \(Section 504\)](#)
 - [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
 - Other applicable state and local laws
- [Credit the MCC as per the credit agreement.](#)

Grant Amount

\$2,500 in restricted project support

**FY17
Application and
Program
Timeline**

Application posted online	February 1, 2016
Application Due	May 16, 2016 11:59 PM EDT
Notification to applications	September 2016
FY 17 Contracts Due	January 31, 2017
Projects Final Report Due	June 1, 2017, 11:59 PM EDT <i>Extension possible for June Projects</i>
Advocacy & Credit Publication Due	June 1, 2017, 11:59 PM EDT

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Additional Information

Advocacy Report

CIP grantees are required to conduct and report on advocacy activities annually.

To fulfill the advocacy requirement:

- Activities must involve direct interaction between a member of the grantee's staff or board, and the Governor of the Commonwealth or a current member of the Massachusetts Legislature.
 - *Note: Advocacy with city, local or national level officials, while helpful to build relationships, does not fulfill this requirement.*
- Grantees must advocate for the sector as a whole, speaking to the value and impact of public support for all cultural organizations, rather than advocating for the grantee's activities alone.
- Activities must take place between July 1 and June 1 in the grant year when the report is due.

The deadline for submission of the Advocacy Report is June 1, 2016, 11:59PM, EDT.

Grantees that have not completed this requirement by June 1, 2016 will receive a [Hold](#) on their FY17 grant.

CIP Annual Report

The CIP Annual Report serves as a confirmation of ongoing eligibility for CIP and Gateway grantees. It includes the Advocacy Reporting, Credit & Publicity Confirmation, and the Check-in Questionnaire. The Check-in is an opportunity for grantees to share concerns, or significant changes to the CIP grantee's mission, programming, staffing, and board. It also includes a few statistical data points which the National Endowment for the Arts requires the MCC to collect from grantees.

The deadline for submission of the CIP Annual Report is June 1, 2016, 11:59PM, EDT.

Grantees that have not completed this requirement by June 1, 2016 will receive a [Hold](#) on their FY17 grant.

CIP Grant Amount

Portfolio grantee award amounts are calculated annually through a formula with two determining factors: the total funds allocated to the Cultural Investment Portfolio by the MCC board based on the agency's annual legislative appropriation, and each CIP grantee's average cash expenses. The formula adjusts on a curve so that a grantee with smaller expenses receives a larger *percentage* of their budget from the MCC, and a grantee with larger expenses receives a larger grant *amount*. Maximum and minimum grant amounts, also determined annually by the MCC board, are applied to the formula along with the following conditions:

- A CIP grantee may not receive an award that is more than 10% of its cash expenses in any one fiscal year. If a grantee's cash

expenses drop below this threshold, the following year's grant will be adjusted to not exceed 10% of the previous year's expenses.

- A CIP grantee that operates as a degree-granting institution may not receive more than \$25,000 each grant year.
- No single parent organization will receive more than \$25,000 in CIP funding for combined Cultural Affiliates.
- Individual [CIP Cultural Affiliate grants](#) will not exceed 20% of the current year's largest CIP organization grant amount.
- If a grantee fails to meet the [1:1 Match Requirement](#), the following year's CIP grant will be adjusted to the amount that *is* matched by the grantee.

Cash expenses as used in the formula is an average of the grantee's three most recently completed 12-month fiscal years, calculated by using data that is self-reported in the Cultural Data Project and is verifiable by audit, IRS form 990, and filings with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Cash expenses do not include in-kind support, fiscal sponsorship monies, grantmaking expenses, or other pass-through funds. Intentional misrepresentation of finances, as it may affect the formula, is cause for cancellation of MCC grants and deletion from the Cultural Investment Portfolio program. Grantees with questions regarding the correct reporting of financial information should contact CIP staff for guidance and support.

Contract Holds

The MCC may hold a grantee's contract/grant payment until the grantee is in compliance with necessary grant requirements. Reasons for contract holds include:

- **Site Visit:** Grantees that are due to receive a Site Visit in FY16 and have not fulfilled the requirement by June 1, 2016 will have their FY17 contract held until they do so.
- **Advocacy:** Grantees that have not completed this requirement by June 1, 2016 will not receive their FY17 contract until they do so.
- **CIP Check-in Questionnaire:** Grantees that have not completed this requirement by June 1, 2016 will not receive their FY17 contract until they do so.
- **MCC Credit and Publicity:** Grantees that have not completed this requirement by June 1, 2016 will not receive their FY17 contract until they do so.
- **Appropriate non-profit filings:** Grantees that are not compliant with the IRS, Secretary of the Commonwealth, or Attorney General's Office will not receive their contract until they are up to date.
- **Changes to the CDP Funder Report:** Grantees that are required to make changes to their CDP Funder Report after the MCC staff review process will have ten working days to do so after being notified by CIP staff. Grantees that have not made the necessary changes, including the CDP review and generating an updated Funder Report, within the ten day window will have their FY17 contract held until they do so.
- The MCC may hold a contract for other reasons, but will communicate with the grantee on what needs to be resolved in

order to receive its contract/funding.

Grantees that have not resolved the reason for a contract hold and returned their completed contract package by February 1, 2016 will have their FY16 grant reverted (i.e. cancelled), and will be considered a [suspended grantee](#) for the remainder of the grant year.

Cultural Data Project (CDP)

Portfolio and Gateway (not Project) grantees are required to participate in the Cultural Data Project by creating a Data Profile of their most recently completed fiscal year, generate a CDP Funder Report based on this data to the appropriate MCC grant program, and receive final MCC staff approval. www.culturaldata.org

Deadlines & Consequences

CDP Deadline

Portfolio and Gateway grantees select a CDP Deadline, based on their own financial cycle, as the month by when it will be able to complete the Cultural Data Project requirement. Typically, the CDP deadline should be no later than nine months after a fiscal year ends.

By the end of the month selected, grantees should complete the entire Cultural Data Project requirement. This includes:

1. **Creating a new Data Profile(s)** and entering data through the most recently completed fiscal year.
2. **Completing the Data Profile Review Process** with the CDP Help Desk. The Data Profile(s) must achieve "Review Complete" status.
3. **Generating a CDP Funder Report** with the most recent fiscal year data.
4. **Receiving final MCC staff approval.** The CDP Funder Report is reviewed by CIP staff for completion and accuracy of data. If there are errors or omissions, the grantee will have ten working days to make the needed changes to the Data Profile, receive CDP "Review Complete" status, and generate an updated CDP Funder Report to be reviewed by CIP staff. Grantees that have not done this within the ten day window will have their FY17 contract held until they do so. This may also affect the organization's three-year average cash expense for the [CIP formula](#).

For FY17, the most recently completed fiscal year will either be FY15 or FY16, depending on the grantee's fiscal year and the timeframe for financials to be audited (if necessary). CDP Funder Reports include three years of historical data, which must be consecutive. Grantees may need to enter more than one Data Profile in order to be current. Grantees may change the CDP Deadline by contacting CIP staff, however, they may not change their CDP Deadline to avoid completing the requirement by June 1, 2016, the final CDP Deadline.

Final CDP Deadline

The deadline for the Cultural Data Project requirement is June 1, 2016,

11:59PM, EDT.

- Grantees that do not meet the Cultural Data Project requirement by June 1, 2016 (11:59pm EDT) will have their FY17 grant amount reduced by 10 percent.
- Grantees that do not meet the Cultural Data Project requirement by June 8, 2016 (11:59pm EDT) will have their FY17 grant amount reduced by an additional 15 percent, for a total of 25 percent.
- If a grantee remains non-compliant with the CDP requirement after June 15, 2016 (11:59pm EDT), the grantee will be suspended from the FY17 Portfolio and will not be eligible for a FY17 Cultural Investment Portfolio grant.

Recommendation: Grantees will not be able to complete the Data Profile on the day of the deadline and generate a Funder Report on time because of the CDP review process. Therefore, grantees should submit Data Profile(s) at least two weeks before the Final Deadline.

Mergers

If a current CIP, Gateway, or Project grantee merges with another organization or program, the new organization will be reviewed to ensure that its mission and programming are eligible for CIP funding. Please contact MCC CIP staff early in the merger to determine CIP funding implications. For recently merged organizations, a Site Visit is strongly recommended in the year following the merger.

One-to-One Match Requirement

All CIP, Gateway, and Project grants are subject to a 1:1 Match Requirement. Matching funds may include earned revenue or private funds donated to the grantee. The following may not be used as matching funds:

- **In-kind contributions:** All matches have to be in the form of a cash match
- **Public funds:** including Federal, State, or a local government agency/municipality
- **Parent Organization Funds:** on behalf of a Cultural Affiliate

Note: If a grantee fails to meet the 1:1 Match Requirement, their CIP grant will be reduced to the amount that *is* matched by the grantee.

Parent Organizations, Fiscal Agencies and Fiscal Sponsorship

The Cultural Investment Portfolio welcomes programs of *parent organizations* to apply as Cultural Affiliates, but does not accept applications from organizations using the services of *fiscal agents* or *fiscal sponsors*. Unincorporated associations, or incorporated organizations that do not yet have their 501(c)3 designation may apply for Projects grants by using a fiscal agent/fiscal sponsor. A CIP grantee may act as a fiscal sponsor for Project applicants, but must report any fiscal sponsorship/fiscal agent funds as 'pass through' monies on their CDP annual filings, which will be removed from their cash expenses for the CIP grant formula.

Parent organizations differ from fiscal agents and sponsors. An applicant that operates under a parent organization is simply a program of the parent

organization, and therefore is eligible to apply to the CIP Gateway Program as a Cultural Affiliate. The parent organization has full legal responsibility for the applicant, including complete fiduciary responsibility. The applicant can only enter into contracts under the parent organization's name because the applicant and the parent organization are essentially one entity.

Fiscal Agency describes an arrangement between a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 tax exempt status (the fiscal agent) and a program conducted by an organization that does not have 501(c)3 status (the applicant). Fiscal agency permits the tax exempt organization to accept funds on the applicant's behalf, but does not retain the control that is a required element of a fiscal sponsorship.

Fiscal Sponsorship describes an agreement between a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 tax exempt status and a project conducted by an organization, group, or an individual that does not have 501(c)3 status. Fiscal sponsorship permits the tax exempt sponsor to accept funds restricted for the non-tax exempt project on the project's behalf. The sponsor, in turn, accepts the responsibility to ensure the funds are properly spent to achieve the project's goals.

Penalties

Grantees that do not meet the Cultural Data Project requirement by June 1, 2016 (11:59pm EDT) will have their FY17 grant amount reduced by 10 percent.

Grantees that do not meet the Cultural Data Project requirement by June 8, 2016 (11:59pm EDT) will have their FY17 grant amount reduced by an additional 15 percent, for a total of 25 percent.

If a grantee remains non-compliant with the CDP requirement after June 15, 2016 (11:59pm EDT), the grantee will be suspended from the FY17 Portfolio (see below) and not be eligible for an FY17 Cultural Investment Portfolio grant.

Suspensions

The MCC may suspend a grantee from the Portfolio if the grantee does not meet annual grant requirements. A suspended grantee will not receive a contract or a grant for the contract year. Suspension for two consecutive years will result in [removal from the Portfolio](#).

Reasons for suspensions or penalties include:

- A grantee that has not resolved the reason for a contract hold and returned its completed contract package by February 1, 2016 will be considered a suspended organization and their FY16 Cultural Investment Portfolio grant will be cancelled. The grantee must resolve the reason for the contract hold by June 1, 2016 and continue to meet all FY16 grant requirements in order to be eligible for an FY17 Cultural Investment Portfolio grant.
- A grantee that temporarily fails to meet eligibility requirements (e.g.: temporary suspension of public programming, CIP formula

expenses lower than \$50,000) will be considered a suspended organization and will not be eligible for an FY17 Cultural Investment Portfolio grant.

- If a grantee remains non-compliant with the CDP requirement after June 15, 2016 (11:59pm EDT), the grantee will be suspended from the FY17 Portfolio and not be eligible for an FY17 Cultural Investment Portfolio grant.

Suspended CIP grantees must continue to meet eligibility requirements and complete all annual reporting requirements to receive full funding for the following grant year. Grantees that do not meet CDP requirement may have future grant amounts reduced, may have funding suspended for subsequent grant years, or may be removed from the Portfolio.

Grantees suspended from FY17 funding may re-enter the CIP for the FY18 grant year if they resolve all remaining FY16 compliance requirements, and meet all FY17 requirements by June 1, 2017. They will also need to be visited and reassessed by CIP Staff before May 1, 2017.

Suspended grantees that do not resolve compliance issues by June 1, 2017 and grantees that have been removed from the Portfolio for other reasons may apply to re-enter the Portfolio through the Gateway Program in FY18, if they meet all program eligibility requirements at that time.

For a grantee suspended in FY16, the following deadlines apply:

Suspension Timeline

May 1, 2016	Deadline to have hosted evaluative Site Visit with MCC staff
June 1, 2016 <i>11:59 PM EDT</i>	Deadline to have resolved/completed all FY16 and FY17 eligibility and grant requirements, or be removed from the Portfolio. This is a final deadline for a suspended grantee to stay in the Portfolio. A suspended grantee does not have the option of completing their requirements late and receiving a grant with a penalty.
June 1, 2016 <i>11:59 PM EDT</i>	Year-end deadline for new Data Profile & CDP Funder Report via Cultural Data Project.

Portfolio Definitions

Arts: The creation of work in the crafts, performing, visual, media, folk, design, literary, and interdisciplinary arts. This also includes the presentation, preservation of, and education about, works in these disciplines.

Humanities: Types of learning that deal with human values and aspirations, human thought and culture, language, and creativity. Examples include, but are not limited to: history, social studies, philosophy, criticism, and literature.

Interpretive sciences: Types of learning that deal with nature, science, and technology in ways that explain how they relate to people's lives. Some examples of organizations that conduct interpretive science activities are aquariums, arboretums, botanical gardens, nature centers, natural history and anthropology museums, planetariums, and science and technology centers.

Massachusetts-based: An entity whose primary place of business and operations is in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Public programming: Activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group.

Year-round operations: Administrative operations in each of the calendar year's 12 months. This is different than year-round programming, so entities that are largely seasonal may still be eligible.

Reconsideration Policy

An applicant may request reconsideration of a MCC decision if the applicant can demonstrate that the MCC did not follow published guidelines and procedures. Dissatisfaction with the denial of an award or award amount does not constitute grounds for reconsideration. A written request must be sent to the MCC's Executive Director within 30 days of the date of notification of the decision. Such requests will be reviewed by the MCC Grants Committee and the Board.

Removal from the Portfolio

A grantee can be removed from the Portfolio for the following reasons:

- A suspended CIP grantee that has not resolved the reason for the suspension and completed all other requirements by June 1, 2016 will be removed from the Portfolio and can only rejoin the Portfolio by re-applying through the Gateway Program.
- Elimination of public programming
- Changes in mission and/or programming to non-eligible activities
- Intentional misrepresentation of finances, programming, or other eligibility requirements

Resource/ Infrastructure Maintenance

The MCC has the right to withhold, reduce, discontinue funding, or apply restrictions to the use of CIP grant funds if a grantee does not notify the MCC of significant organizational changes, cannot carry out stated mission, or if it demonstrates inadequate financial management and oversight. In cases where a CIP grantee experiences serious organizational capacity issues, the MCC will work with that organization to address the challenge.

Site Visits

Portfolio Grantee Site Visits are not evaluations or accreditations, and are not connected to a grantees' award amount. These visits are an opportunity to build on the existing relationship with MCC, and have honest conversations about the challenges and opportunities facing organizations and the cultural sector. Site Visits may include one-on-one resource development and capacity building with MCC staff, or conversations with other Portfolio grantees in a roundtable format. For some organizations,

senior management is required to participate on two Site Visit Teams in a four-year period. Site Visits for FY17 take place from September 1, 2016 – June 1, 2017.

Gateway Applicant Site Visits are evaluative visits conducted during the panel process.

Gateway Grantee Site Visits are not evaluative and focus on resource development and capacity building. These visits take place in the year immediately after becoming a Gateway grantee.

Project Grantee Site Visits are not required, but are highly recommended to help aid in resource development and capacity building.

MCC Staff will contact you to schedule Site Visits.



Staff Contact

The Cultural Investment Portfolio staff is available as a resource to answer questions about eligibility, requirements, deadlines, and compliance.

Sara S. Glidden, Program Manager

Gateway Program, Project Program, and Cultural Affiliates: Government & non-fully cultural parent organizations

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617-858-2710

Michael W. Ibrahim, Program Manager

Small to Mid-Sized CIP Organizations and Cultural Affiliates: Universities, colleges, and secondary schools

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617-858-2737

Kalyn C. King, Program Officer

Mid-Sized to Large CIP Organizations

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617-858-2718

Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer

Cyndy.Gaviglio@art.state.ma.us

617-858-2711

Massachusetts Cultural Data Project Help Desk

help@culturaldata.org 1-877-707-DATA (877-707-3282)

Hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00am-8:00pm.

**CIP Project Grant Program
Fiscal Agent Information**

Project Title

Fiscal Agent

Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Fiscal Agent Street Address

Fiscal Agent Mailing Address (if different)

City/State/Zip

Telephone

Fax Number

Fiscal Agent Executive Director

Fiscal Agent Contact Name/Title (if different from Executive Director)

Fiscal Agent Contact Telephone/E-mail

Fiscal Agent website

Authorized Signature: The signature below is that of the authorized fiscal agent representative. It certifies that the organization is committed to the completion of all activities assigned to it in its capacity of fiscal agent in compliance with legal requirements and grant procedures and will file the required reports(s) with the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Name of Authorizing Official for Fiscal Agent/Title

Signature of Authorizing Official for Fiscal Agent/Date

Name of Authorizing Official for Project Applicant/Title

Signature of Authorizing Official for Project Applicant/Date