

Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund

FACT SHEET:

- The Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) invests in the acquisition, design, repair, renovation, expansion, and construction of nonprofit and municipal cultural facilities.
- CFF grants support projects that create jobs in construction and cultural tourism; expand access and education in the arts, humanities, and sciences; and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.
- Over 14 years CFF has awarded grants of \$140 million to 1,174 projects across the Commonwealth.
- In a 2021 survey, 78 organizations reported 2,073 full time equivalent employees, and \$300 million in annual economic activity through organizational spending.
- Facilities are vital to the success of these organizations and the communities they serve. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognized this fact when it passed economic development legislation that created CFF in 2006.
- CFF has leveraged about \$2.5 billion in spending on arts, history and science building projects. All grants are matched 1:1 with private or municipal funds.
- CFF projects have hired 33,410 architects, engineers, contractors, and construction workers between 2007 and 2021.
- CFF grantees plan to add 2,809 new permanent jobs after completing their projects.
- CFF has helped restore many of our nation's most treasured historical and cultural landmarks, driving tourism, Massachusetts' third largest industry. Over 6 million people visited these sites in 2019 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), nearly one third from out of state.
- CFF grants have helped a wide range of organizations large and small, in 151 communities.

- CFF helps cultural organizations become better stewards of their facilities through third party capital needs assessments, reserves, and systems replacement plans.
- Since FY09 the Commonwealth's capital spending plan has invested \$140 million in capital funding to CFF through the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F). In 2018 the State Legislature recapitalized CFF through a new capital spending bill with another \$50 million for the next five years
- Demand for CFF grants continues to outpace supply: In a 2021 survey, 271 organizations reported \$1.2 billion in capital projects through 2023.
- CFF is administered through a partnership between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council (MCC) and is overseen by a nine-member CFF Advisory Committee.

THE CULTURAL FACILITIES FUND:

- **Supports Cultural Organizations of Every Size:** More than half of these grants go to nonprofit organizations with budgets of less than \$1 million.
- **Benefits Every Region of the Commonwealth:** Seven of every ten grants awarded since CFF began in 2007 have gone to cultural organizations outside Boston. And nearly one in four grants has been invested in Gateway Cities, economically struggling communities targeted for state development aid.
- **Supports Education for Children:** Every day young people explore their creativity and learn about art, history and science in buildings restored with CFF grants. These include child-centered spaces at the Discovery Museums in Acton, Springfield's Community Music School, and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst; and buildings that house nationally renowned programs for vulnerable teens such as RAW Artworks in Lynn and Shakespeare & Co. in the Berkshires.
- **Helps Working Artists:** From Provincetown's Fine Arts Work Center, to the Essex Arts Center in Lawrence and Somerville's Mudflat Pottery Studios, CFF grants have created and restored vital studio, rehearsal, and performance spaces.

massculturalcouncil.org