



Power of culture

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022: 1:00- 2:30 PM

BROADCAST MEETING

MEETING WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON MASS CULTURAL'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED ONLINE
UNDER "JANUARY 13, 2022 GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING"

AGENDA	VOTE
1. Call to Order, Welcomes and Open Meeting Law Notice	
2. Chair and Executive Director Report	
3. Minutes Approval- August 10, 2021 Meeting	X
4. Open Meeting Law/Broadcast Procedures Update	
5. FY22 Artist Fellowships Program: Grant Recommendations, Round One	X
a. Choreography	
b. Poetry	
c. Traditional Arts	
6. Gaming Mitigation Program Grants	X
7. Adjourn	

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
GRANTS COMMITTEE****THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022****RESOLUTIONS****Section 2**

RESOLVED: that the Grants Committee approves the minutes of the August 10, 2021 Grants Committee Meeting in the form presented to the Grants Committee at its January 13, 2022 Meeting.

Section 5

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the FY22 Artist Fellowship grant awards in the disciplines of Poetry, Choreography and Traditional Arts as reviewed by the Grants Committee at its January 13, 2022 meeting.

Section 6

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council grants under the Gaming Mitigation Program to the 39 organizations described in the memorandum presented to this meeting.

OPEN MEETING LAW STATEMENT
UPDATED JANUARY 2022

Please note that this meeting is an open meeting of a public body subject to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. A notice of this meeting together with the agenda was posted on Mass Cultural Council's website 48 or more hours ago (excluding weekends and holidays).

This meeting shall be open and accessible to all members of the public except at such times when this body has voted to go into closed executive session under the Open Meeting Law.

This meeting is a virtual meeting held under the Open Meeting Law as modified under current law to permit online open meetings. This meeting is being broadcast to the public on a publicly available youtube or other channel as described in the publicly posted meeting notice. Instructions on how to contact the Council with questions or problems accessing the broadcast are also included in such notice. Only Council members, staff and invited participants and guests will be provided access to the Zoom or other videoconferencing platform actually hosting the meeting. As a safety measure, in order to prevent disruption of the meeting or non-public communications among the participants, the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Committee of Mass Cultural Council has asked staff to implement the following protocols for participants in on-line meetings of Mass Cultural Council or its committees:

- Any "chat" or similar function on the Zoom platform hosting the meeting shall be disabled.
- Other than Council members or participants specifically recognized by the Chair of the meeting, all Zoom platform participants will be muted and have no ability to share media or documents or project or type images or text.

- All participants in the Zoom platform must enter a waiting room and digitally sign-in before being admitted.
- Any attendee in the Zoom platform who nonetheless causes a disruption will be summarily removed from the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

This meeting is not a public hearing and public testimony will not be taken. Individuals may not address the meeting without permission of the Chair.

Any member of the public may record this meeting provided that they do not interfere with the meeting. The Chair will then inform the members of the meeting that they are being recorded.

Draft minutes of the open session of this meeting shall be kept and shall be posted on Mass Cultural Council's website no later than 30 days after the meeting provided that such minutes shall not be considered official until they have been approved by this body in open session. Individuals asserting a violation of the Open Meeting Law may file a complaint with this body within 30 days or with the Attorney General's office thereafter.

**TIPS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A VIRTUAL OPEN MEETING USING ZOOM OR OTHER
VIDEOCONFERENCING PLATFORMS WHEN THERE ARE SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS**

(adapted from several sources)

- In order to minimize background noise, please mute microphone when not speaking.
- Please raise hand in order to be recognized by the chair.
- In order for all members to have an opportunity to speak and be heard, please wait to speak until specifically recognized by the chair.
- If there are questions, please direct them to the chair and the chair will then recognize the appropriate person to respond.
- Please limit statements to three minutes.
- The chair will reserve the right to limit discussion in order to allow sufficient time for every member to be heard who wishes to speak.
- Modify Video Settings to “Hide all non-video participants”- this will make it easier to follow who is speaking and participating
- In the event of a service interruption during a Zoom call due to hackers, so-called “zoom bombing” or other technical difficulties, staff will indicate the call is to be terminated. Please exit the call and staff will circulate instructions by email for a new Zoom call to continue the meeting.



Power of culture

**UNOFFICIAL DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS
NEXT MEETING**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
GRANTS COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021

ONLINE MEETING

Committee Members Present were

Jo-Ann Davis, Chair of the Grants Committee
Nina Fialkow, Council Chair
Marc Carroll, Vice Council Chair
Che Anderson
Barbara Schaffer Bacon
Cecil Barron Jensen
Karen Barry
Kathleen Castro
Karen Hurvitz

Staff Members and Guests Present were

Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director
David Slatery, Deputy Director
Jen Lawless, Operations Director
Bethann Steiner, Public Affairs Director
Charles Baldwin, Program Officer
Kelly Bennett, Program Officer
Luis Cotto, Program Manager
Diane Daily, Program Manager
Sara Glidden, Program
Erik Holmgren, Program Manager

Prepared on 9/21/21

Maggie Holtzberg, Program Manager
Evelyn Nellum, Grant Operations Officer
Ann Petruccelli Moon, Special Assistant to the Executive Director &
Leadership Team
Carmen Plazas, Communications Manager
Lisa Simmons, Program Manager

Chair Jo-Ann Davis called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. Deputy Director David Slatery reminded all present of the Open Meeting Law but dispensed with reading it since no members of the public were in attendance.

Jo-Ann then asked Committee Members to approve the minutes of their last business meeting held on June 15, 2021. Upon motion duly made and seconded, after roll call vote, by roll call vote it was unanimously:

RESOLVED: that the Grants Committee approves the minutes of the June 15, 2021 Grants Committee Meeting in the form presented to the Grants Committee at its August 10, 2021 Meeting.

Jo-Ann Davis welcomed all to the meeting and stated that there was a good deal on the agenda as the Committee would be reviewing and voting on the Agency's FY22 proposed grant recommendations in advance of the August 24th Council Meeting. She then asked Executive Director Michael Bobbitt to give his presentation on the FY22 Grants and Program Plan.

Michael shared a PowerPoint presentation as he described the proposed plans to the Committee. That presentation is available upon request.

Michael told Committee Members that Mass Cultural Council's budget for FY22 is nearly \$29M. This is comprised of a \$21.3M allocation from the state, \$1.9M in federal dollars from the National Endowment for the Arts, \$5.1M in Gaming Mitigation funds, and \$577,285 in other funds. Michael reminded Committee Members of the legislative language that requires the Agency to align its spending with its strategic plan, to invest an amount equal to at least 75% of the state appropriation into grants, and to report on its spending plan by January 3, 2022.

Michael then presented a comparison of grantmaking dollars between FY21 and the proposed FY22 spending plan:

Total Grantmaking (including Gaming, CARES Act Funds, and earmarks)

FY21: 29.6M; FY22: \$24M

State Appropriation Grantmaking (excluding Gaming, CARES Act Funds, and earmarks)

FY21: \$16.3M; FY22: \$17.9M

The Agency plans to grant \$24M in FY22, this equals 112% of the FY22 state appropriation. If Gaming Mitigation funds are not included in the total, the Agency will still give an amount equal to 89% of its state appropriation to the cultural sector in the form of grants well in excess of the 75% requirement.

Michael briefly reviewed the four pillars of the Agency's strategic plan which act as tent poles for the proposed FY22 spending plan: Enriching Communities, Growing the Economy, Advancing Inclusion and Equity, and Empowering a Creative Generation. He then outlined the recommended grants within each of these four pillars:

First, **Enriching Communities**. Staff proposes maintaining the increase in funding for Cultural Districts from \$5K to \$7500 made in FY21. All Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) will see an increase in FY22 with the minimum grant increasing from \$4800 to \$5000; a 10% increase for LCCs. An increase for Festivals grants is proposed from \$500 to \$1500. It was also noted that the Festivals program ran a limited cycle in FY21 due to the pandemic. Michael noted that eventually he would like to see the Agency offer grants no lower than \$2500. MassHumanities which is formula funded would see a 10% increase in the proposed spending plan, and the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) would receive level funding.

Next Michael shared the Agency's proposed grant spending for **Advancing Inclusion & Access**. Traditional Arts Apprenticeships are in their second year of funding and will be flat funded. Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) Projects grants will see a 39% increase and UP Innovation Fund grantees will see an 11% increase – both via an increase in the number of awards given. UP Innovation and Learning Network stipends will increase from \$3K to \$5K per organization. LEAD Conference professional development grants will return in FY22 at \$15K – the conference was cancelled in FY21 due to the pandemic. Funding for the Network for Arts Administrators of Color will continue at \$35K, and funding for the Cultural Equity Learning Community (CELC), in its second year of

funding, will continue at \$50K. Finally, funding for the Social Prescription Pilot will increase by 85% to \$120K.

Under **Growing the Economy**, the Agency will double the number of Artists receiving grants and increase the amount of its Finalist award from \$1500 to \$5K. Funding for Artists is poised to increase from \$600K to \$1.3M in FY22. With respect to the Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP), nearly all organizations in the Portfolio part of the CIP program will see an increase in their grant in FY22, and CIP Gateway grants will increase from \$3500 to \$4K. Funding for Media Partnerships will remain at \$130K, though Michael mentioned staff is considering making this the final year for these grants and will explore new ways of supporting public media in FY23. MassCreative is recommended to receive a \$15K grant for a specific project relating to their website.

Finally, Michael outlined for the Committee proposed spending to support **Empowering a Creative Generation**. YouthReach and SerHacer are one program now called YouthReach – this is less of a merger and more of a rebranding. YouthReach grants will increase in FY22 by 9%. STARS will increase the number of grants given and increase the per session amount for cultural partners. Funding for Poetry Out Loud, Mass History Day, and the Johnson String Project will continue. Big Yellow School Bus will remain paused in FY22 in light of the fact that schools are still managing through the pandemic and not pursuing field trips. Arts Learning will receive an \$8K project grant to provide integrated arts training to BIPOC educators and schools.

Karen Barry was recognized and asked if different organizations in CIP received different increases of funding in FY22 and if any new organizations had been able to receive funding. Sara Glidden, CIP Program Manager answered that because of the way the funding formula worked based on a three-year average of an organization's expenses, different organizations received different percentage increases but also that the staff had elected not to use FY20 numbers in the calculation due to the pandemic. Also, six organizations that otherwise would have had a reduced grant under the formula were level-funded based on the idea that no organization should suffer a reduction in a year when the Agency's budget increased by 10%. The CIP Gateway program was designed a pathway into the main Portfolio by new organizations but explained that in FY22 Gateway was still in the second year of a cycle so there would be no movements of Gateway participants into the main portfolio this year.

Jo-Ann indicated that the Committee had now heard the presentation on the FY 22 Grants Allocation Plan and entertained a motion for approval of the FY 22 Plan, referring to the resolutions contained on pages 3-5 of the meeting book for the text of the vote. After receiving a motion and second, Jo-Ann stated that the Committee would next consider all of Grants Recommendations individually before formally taking a vote on the entire package but prior to that asked Deputy Director David Slatery to review the conflict-of-interest procedures.

David then reviewed the Agency's Conflict of Interest policy with Committee Members. He referred to the list of conflicts found on page 30-31 of the meeting book. No additions or edits were made. It was understood that Committee Members who had stated conflicts of interest on the list would abstain from voting on grants pertaining to the organizations with which they may have a potential conflict.

It was noted that the votes recommending the FY22 grant recommendations will note the following conflicts and abstentions of the Committee Members in attendance at this meeting.

Nina Fialkow disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Boston Ballet and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**.

Marc Carroll disclosed that he would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra or The Rivers School**.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Arts Extension Service**.

Jo-Ann Davis disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **The Care Center**

Kathleen Castro disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Little Theater of Fall River or the New Bedford Festival Theater and the Fall River Coalition for Arts & Culture**.

Cecil Barron Jensen disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Artists Association of Nantucket, The Nantucket Historical Association, or Nantucket Cultural District.**

Jo-Ann let Committee Members know that staff was on hand to answer any questions they might have about each program and then walked Committee Members through each section of the plan.

During the presentation and discussion, Council Member Karen Hurvitz raised an objection with regard to grant proposed to the organization known as Primary Source. She referred to materials she had circulated to the Committee earlier in the day (copies are available upon request). Karen indicated that she opposed funding to this organization because of educational materials produced for Middle Eastern unit which is being used by many Massachusetts school districts. Karen opposes this material because it is "ahistorical, and horribly biased perspective ...[and]... paid for by Qatar, and which stokes the fires of the already alarming rise in Jew hatred and hatred of Israel" and strongly opposed any funding of Primary Source by the agency. Karen referred to examples cited in her materials in support of her statement. In response to a question, Karen stated that even though funding from Qatar several years ago, her objection was based upon materials being used by Primary Source today. She explained that she had obtained access to Primary Source's materials by signing up as a member on their website.

After a discussion of Karen's comments, Michael indicated he would follow up with Karen Hurvitz after the meeting to address her concerns more specifically.

David stated that when the Committee wished to vote, all resolutions were written out at length on page 3-5 of their materials. Jo-Ann then stated that if there were no objection, she would now call for a vote on the FY 22 Grant Allocation Plan and all of the FY 22 Grants Recommendations pursuant to votes contained on pages 3-5 of today's meeting.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, David called the roll and there were seven YES votes (Jo-Ann, Nina, Marc, Che, Karen Barry, Cecil and Barbara), one NO vote (Karen Hurvitz) and Council member Kathy Castro's internet connection was lost at some point prior to the vote so was not present,

WHEREAS, the General Court of the Massachusetts State Legislature has appropriated a budget of \$21,375,000 to the Mass Cultural Council for FY22; and

WHEREAS, Mass Cultural Council staff has presented a recommended FY22 grants budget to the Grants Committee at its meeting on August 10, 2021 ("Grants Committee Meeting"), including recommended grant allocations for a variety of Mass Cultural Council programs;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED: that the Grants Committee further recommends that the Council approve the allocation of grants and processes and procedures presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the funding of the Apprentice Grants program in the amount of \$100,000 and Artist Fellowship program allocations totaling \$1,300,000, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend allocations to the Cultural Investment Portfolio, CIP Gateway and CIP Projects (collectively, the "CIP Programs") as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting in for an aggregate total of \$6,797,500.

RESOLVED: To recommend allocations to the Media Partnerships program of \$130,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend an allocation to the Local Cultural Councils totaling \$4,785,000, up to \$412,500 in Cultural District grants, and \$300,000 to the Festivals Program all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend grant allocations to YouthReach program, continued funding of the Instrument Library in the combined amount of \$1,636,000 plus expenditure of any remaining CARES Act funds, participate in the META and CYP Teaching Artist Fellowships program with outside foundations and provide up to \$120,000 in grants/stipends/reimbursements to participating organizations in the CultureRx program all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the following Arts Education grant allocations, \$1,265,000 to the STARS program, \$20,000 in support of Massachusetts History Day, \$20,000 in support of the NEA-funded Poetry Out Loud program and \$8,000 to Arts | Learning for its School Arts Leader Program, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the continuation of the UP Program with grants of up to \$155,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a \$50,000 partnership grant to Arts Connect International for development of its Cultural Equity Learning Community (CELC) 2.0 teaching course as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to Mass Humanities totaling \$754,886 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to NEFA of \$60,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to Mass Creative for \$15,000 to improve their online community engagement portal as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council an allocation of \$35,000 to ArtsBoston acting on behalf of the Network Arts Administrators of Color as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: to recommend to contract with SMU Data Arts to provide the Cultural Data Profile tool as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

There being no questions and no further business, Jo-Ann as Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:44pm.

Council Meetings in 2022

Maintaining & Expanding Public Access While Protecting Meeting Integrity

In order to both 1) comply with the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law and further our efforts to maintain and expand access to Mass Cultural Council programs, services and 2) protect against "zoom bombing" incidents which occurred at a June 2020 Grants Committee meeting and a September 2021 Executive Committee meeting, and information, starting in January 2022, any member of the public will be able to view Council Meetings live on YouTube without entering the Zoom meeting.

Council Meetings will be hosted on Zoom and will be live streamed via the [Agency's YouTube channel](#). Those interested in viewing the meeting must view it live. Council Meetings will not be recorded; unless a request has been made and approved by the Chair to do so. Only Council members, staff and invited participants will be given instructions for accessing the actual Zoom meeting

A direct YouTube link along with a statement about requesting access accommodations for the meeting will be shared on the Agency Dates page of the Mass Cultural Council's website. Auto-generated captions will be visible on the Livestream. YouTube comments will be disabled.

Improving Security

Council Members and Agency Staff will be admitted to the Zoom meeting room before all presenters and guests to test sound, camera, and screen sharing for presentations. No official business will be conducted. Presenters and guests will be admitted by our Public Affairs team (Ann) when the Chair is poised to call the meeting to order.

The Waiting Room will be utilized and closely monitored, and the chat feature will be disabled.

Note: All communication between participating Council Members and staff and other attendees that takes place during a public meeting is potentially subject to disclosure, including text messages/emails on personal laptops or cell phones. Therefore, all participants in a meeting are advised to communicate during the meeting only in a manner which is observable on the YouTube broadcast of the meeting

ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS - JANUARY 2022

To: Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee

From: Michael J. Bobbitt, David Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Kelly Bennett, Dan Blask, Maggie Holtzberg

Date: January 13, 2022

Re: FY22 Artist Fellowships (first deadline)

Enclosed for your review and approval are recommendations for 21 fellowship awards (\$15,000) and 38 finalist awards (\$5,000, including one honorary finalist award with no funding attached) from a total of 383 eligible applications for the FY22 Artist Fellowships panels in Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts.

Following this memo are award recommendations from our recent grant panels, including lists of panelists.

In most fiscal years, we offer Artist Fellowships in six disciplines, with disciplines divided over two deadlines. The deadline for applications in Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts was October 25, 2021.

Currently, we are accepting applications in three other categories: Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting. The deadline to apply in those categories is January 24, 2022. We will hold review panels in April, and recommendations from those panels will be presented at the May Grants Committee and Council meetings.

Due to an increased investment in the Artist Fellowships this fiscal year (as a result of the increase in the annual state budget appropriation), we plan to award double the monetary grants this fiscal year- from 75 grants in FY21 to 150 in FY22.

Artist Fellowships Overview. The Artist Fellowships provide direct, unrestricted support to artists in recognition of creative work by Massachusetts artists. Mass Cultural Council has awarded Artist

Fellowships almost continuously since FY75. The award level has ranged from \$3,000 to its current level of \$15,000 (the highest in the program's history).

There are twelve artistic disciplines in the Artist Fellowships, with six reviewed each year so that every category recurs every other year. Even year categories are Choreography, Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, Painting, Poetry, and Traditional Arts. Odd year categories are Crafts, Dramatic Writing, Film & Video, Music Composition, Photography, and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres.

Outreach. To encourage a broad applicant pool, we promote the availability of the awards in multiple ways. We announce the grants in the Artist News e-newsletter (10,000+ subscribers), as well as in the Community Initiative (almost 6,000 subscribers) and Power of Culture (12,000+ subscribers) e-newsletters. The Communications Department does media outreach and extensive social media communication to promote the grants.

In FY22, the grants were also broadly promoted by Mass Cultural Council's BIPOC Community Outreach Coordinators.

Review Process and Criteria. The review criteria for Artist Fellowships (except Traditional Arts) are *artistic quality* and *creative ability*, based solely on the work submitted. Except in Traditional Arts, grant panels review the applications anonymously. No aspect of the applicants' biography, career, geography, or other identifying information is introduced into the review. The applications' work samples are scored by each panelist on a five-point scale.

(Please note: Traditional Arts is not anonymously-judged and has slightly different criteria: artistic quality as culturally defined by the living tradition; significance to members of the community in which the art is valued and practiced; and artist's role in safeguarding the tradition.)

After applications are scored by the panels, a ranked list is given to the panel to make its final funding recommendations. In the case of a tie, panelists determine which of the tied applicants receive the award through a discussion and vote. The funding lists that follow this memo reflect the award recommendations that emerged from each panel.

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Choreography
Recommended Fellows and Finalists**

Total Applications: 61

Fellows: \$15,000

Rebecca McGowan & Jackie O'Riley	Arlington
Allison Kenner Brodsky	Dartmouth
Jean Appolon	Malden
Ana Masacote	Lynn
Chavi Bansal Vimoksha	Boston
Jun Kuribayashi	Boston
Lori Schouela & Junichi Fukuda	Cambridge
Michael Sakamoto	Amherst

Finalists: \$5,000

Adriane Anne Brayton & Fernadina Chan	Boston
Aaron Myers	Boston
Anna S. Myer	Chelsea
Diane Arvanites	Framingham
Ellice Patterson	Brookline
Kelley S. Donovan	Cambridge
Laura Sanchez	Everett
Sarah Zehnder	Springfield
Sunanda Narayanan	Newton
Avery Gerhardt	Cambridge
Tyler Rai Abramson	Holyoke
Jennifer Polins	Northampton
Tom James Truss III	Great Barrington

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Choreography Panel
January 6, 2022**

Panelists

Angie Hauser

Orlando Hernández

Adriana Suarez

Lester Tomé

Ilya Vidrin

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Tap Dancer

Assoc. Prof. of Dance, Boston Conservatory

Assoc. Prof., Dance, Latino/a Studies, Smith College

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Poetry
Recommended Fellows and Finalists**

Total Applications: 295

Fellows: \$15,000

Levi Cain	Boston
Wendy Drexler	Belmont
Fay Ferency	Hull
Tatiana Johnson-Boria	Framingham
Danielle Legros Georges	Boston
JR Mahung	Boston
Rajiv Mohabir	Malden
Jessica Rizkallah	Boston
Claudia Wilson	Northampton

Finalists: \$5,000

Shauna Barbosa	Boston
Karina Borowicz	Belchertown
Elizabeth Bradfield	Truro
Margot Douaihy	Northampton
Regie F. Gibson	Lexington
Jennifer Jean	Peabody
Daniel Johnson	Boston
Danielle Jones	Salem
Joy Ladin	Hadley
Xiaoly Li	Wilmington
Janet MacFadyen	Amherst
L.S. McKee	Cambridge
Kevin McLellan	Cambridge
David Parkison	Lynn
Julia Story	Somerville

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Poetry Panel
January 5, 2022**

Panelists

José Angel Araguz	Editor-in-Chief, <i>Salamander</i>
Lillian-Yvonne Bertram	Director, Chautauqua Institution Writers' Festival
Anna Maria Hong	Poet and Editor
Marwa Helal	Whiting Writers Awardee, Poet and Journalist

Readers

Yasmine Ameli	Poet
Teresa Cader	Poet
Erica Charis-Molling	Mass Cultural Council Fellow
CMarie Fuhrman	Editor, <i>Native Voices Anthology</i>
Octavio González	Poet and Scholar
Krysten Hill	Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Simone John	Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Leslie Sainz	National Endowment for the Arts Fellow
Aaron Smith	Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Jessica Q. Stark	Poetry Editor, AGNI
Jennifer Tseng	Mass Cultural Council Fellow

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Traditional Arts
Recommended Fellows and Finalists**

Total Applications: 27

Fellows: \$15,000

John J. Abarta	Stoughton
Beth Bahia Cohen	Watertown
Sandeep Das	Chestnut Hill
Eirini Tornesaki	Westwood

Finalists: \$5,000

Hartman Deetz	Mashpee
Stephen Earp	Shelburne
Sarah M. Guerin	Wakefield
DoYeon Kim	Boston
Geoffrey Kostecki	Montague
Zhonghe Li	Cambridge
Ivelisse Pabon	Ashland
Rebecca McGowan *	Arlington
Jun Qin	Boston
Soumya Rajaram	Lexington

*Because this artist is recommended to receive a \$15,000 Fellowship in Choreography, the recommended Finalist designation in Traditional Arts is honorary, with no funding attached.

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Traditional Arts Panel
January 4, 2022**

Panelists

Ju-Yong Ha

Asst. Prof. of Music, Hillyer College

Neena Dhanda Gulati

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Rebecca Miller

Prof. of Music, Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies, Hampshire College

Mildred L. Rahn

Folklorist

GAMING MITIGATION PROGRAM-JANUARY 2022

To: Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee
From: Michael Bobbitt, Dave Slatery, Jen Lawless, Cheyenne Cohn-Postell, Sara Glidden
Date: January 13, 2022
Re: FY22 Gaming Mitigation Program

The Commonwealth's Casino Gaming Law (MGL Chapter 23K) provides that 2% of the gross gaming tax revenues be transferred to the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund for, among other things, the administration of the Gaming Mitigation Program. In May 2021, staff sought approval from the Council for the FY22 round of funding for the Gaming Mitigation. Due to lengthy analysis of the application data and more robust than expected collection of casino tax revenues in 2021, it is now anticipated that these grants will now be funded in February 2022 and staff is coming back to request the Executive Committee recommend to the Council at the net meeting the allocation of an additional \$675,000 to the total amount to be awarded in this round of funding and for the Grants Committee to review and approve the 39 individual grants to be recommended to the Council on January 27.

Background

At the Council meeting in May, the proposed and updated Gaming Mitigation Program guidelines and award total were approved. This proposal included the following modifications to the program from the first round of funding in 2020:

- Clarifying definition of touring artist to include more measurable and inclusive criteria.
- Creating a template for organizations to use to report performance/artist information to standardize information and consolidate two application questions into one document.

- Moving the performance and fee reporting to calendar year 2019 to avoid the impact of COVID-19.
- Allocating \$3,000,000 to the second (FY22) cycle of the program.

Summary of FY22 cycle

A total of 39 applications were successfully submitted to the FY22 Gaming Mitigation Program cycle. All submitted applications were reviewed by staff and deemed eligible for funding.

Of the 39 applicants, three (3) are new to the program, and one (1) of those three (3) had never previously received Mass Cultural funding. Of the 52 applications from the first cycle, 12 applicants did not return to complete another application. We are working to understand why these 12 organizations did not reapply.

As the applicant pool is smaller this round of the program, we have maintained the maximum grant amount of \$250,000 but have increased the minimum grant amount from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to fund a larger percentage of the fees paid to eligible touring artists for smaller organizations, vastly increasing their buying power.

Approval request

To provide this vital funding in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, staff is seeking approval for an additional \$675,000 to be added to the \$3,000,000 approved at the May Grants Committee meeting. These additional funds will help fund a larger percentage of the fees these performing arts centers have already paid to touring artists for performances that took place, as well as those that have been cancelled due to breakthrough covid cases. These additional funds are available because of the robust business of the two Massachusetts casinos in the second half of 2021 and the resulting greater-than-expected amount of available revenues for the program.

Staff hereby requests the Grants Committee recommend to the Council approval of the FY22 Gaming Mitigation Program grants listed on Exhibit A.

EXHIBIT A			
#	Organization	City	Grant Amount
1	47 Palmer, Inc.	Cambridge	\$ 51,300
2	ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage	Boston	\$ 183,300
3	Ashmont Hill Chamber Music, Inc.	Dorchester	\$ 2,500
4	BAMS Fest, Inc.	Boston	\$ 2,500
5	Barrington Stage Company, Inc.	Pittsfield	\$ 4,800
6	Berkshire Theatre Group, Inc.	Pittsfield	\$ 7,400
7	Blues to Green, Inc.	Huntington	\$ 7,500
8	Boston Baroque, Inc.	Boston	\$ 23,100
9	Boston Early Music Festival, Inc.	Cambridge	\$ 68,300
10	Boston Lyric Opera Company, Inc.	Boston	\$ 103,500
11	Boston Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	Boston	\$ 250,000
12	Cabot Performing Arts Center, Inc.	Beverly	\$ 250,000
13	Cape Cod Chamber Music Festival	Eastham	\$ 10,000
14	Cary Memorial Hall	Lexington	\$ 60,200
15	Greater Boston Stage Company	Stoneham	\$ 5,500
16	Greater Plymouth Performing Arts Center, Inc.	Plymouth	\$ 49,800
17	Huntington Theatre Company, Inc.	Boston	\$ 159,000
18	Lowell Memorial Auditorium	Lowell	\$ 120,400
19	Music Worcester, Inc.	Worcester	\$ 115,200
20	Narrows Center for the Arts, Inc.	Fall River	\$ 119,700
21	Payomet, Inc.	Truro	\$ 94,000
22	Rockport Music, Inc.	Rockport	\$ 173,900
23	South Shore Playhouse Associates, Inc.	Cohasset	\$ 250,000
24	The Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Inc.	Boston	\$ 2,500
25	The Celebrity Series of Boston, Inc.	Boston	\$ 250,000
26	The Center for Arts in Natick, Inc.	Natick	\$ 57,500
27	The District Center for the Arts, Inc.	Taunton	\$ 19,300
28	The Lowell Festival Foundation	Lowell	\$ 73,300
29	The Lynn Auditorium	Lynn	\$ 250,000
30	The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Inc.	Great Barrington	\$ 71,700
31	The Theater Project, Inc.	West Springfield	\$ 5,000
32	The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.	Boston	\$ 250,000
33	The Yard, Inc.	Chilmark	\$ 27,900
34	Theater Offensive, Inc.	Boston	\$ 2,500
35	University of Massachusetts Amherst Fine Arts Center	Amherst	\$ 59,000
36	Williamstown Theatre Foundation, Inc.	Williamstown	\$ 2,900
37	Worcester Center for Performing Arts, Inc.	Worcester	\$ 250,000
38	World Music, Inc.	Cambridge	\$ 129,700
39	Zeiterion Theatre, Inc.	New Bedford	\$ 111,800

Total \$3,675,000



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee
From: Michael Bobbitt, David Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Kelly Bennett, Dan Blask, Maggie Holtzberg
Date: January 13, 2022
Re: Diversity of FY22 Artist Fellowships

This memo is meant to augment the report to Mass Cultural Council's Grants Committee on the FY22 Artist Fellowships in Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts.

In keeping with the Agency's three-year Racial Equity Plan and efforts to evaluate each program through an equity lens, and based upon new information that is available to us for this round, we wanted to report on the diversity of the recent Artist Fellowships review.

Review Panels:

Among the panelists and readers for Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts, 17 of 24 reviewers identified as BIPOC, or about 71%.

Awardees:

Among the recommended Fellows and Finalists for Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts, 27 of 59 identified as BIPOC, or about 46%. Looking only at the recommended Fellows (\$15,000), the number of BIPOC awardees is 14 out of 21, or about 67%. As a reminder, the review of applicants' submissions is done on an anonymous basis. Neither the artist's identity, nor their demographic characteristics, are introduced into the review.

Pool of Applicants:

As you may know, we moved to a new grants management system this year, with the capability to track applicants' demographic data. The following chart reflects applicants to the Artist Fellowships in Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts, including those who did not complete the demographic questions (39%), as well as data on the 61% that did. (Please note that the total below includes some ineligible

applications; the total eligible applications in these three categories was 383.)

152	No info	39%
158	White	41%
76	BIPOC	20%
386		100%