

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
GRANTS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022
1:00-2:00 PM

BROADCAST MEETING

[MEETING WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING - YOUTUBE](#)

[MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED ONLINE](#)

UNDER "MAY 3, 2022 GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING"

AGENDA	VOTE
1. Call to Order- Open Meeting Law Notice <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Jo-Ann Davis, Chair, Grants Committee</i>➤ <i>David Slatery, Deputy Director (Open Meeting Law Notice)</i>	
2. Minutes- March 15, 2022 Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Jo-Ann Davis, Chair, Grants Committee</i>➤ <i>David Slatery, Deputy Director (reads the roll)</i>	X
3. Chair and Executive Director Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Jo-Ann Davis, Chair, Grants Committee</i>➤ <i>Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director</i>	
4. FY22 Artist Fellowships: Grant Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Drawing & Printmaking➤ Fiction/Creative Nonfiction➤ Painting ➤ <i>Dan Blask, Program Manager, Artists</i>	X

5. FY23 Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Selections **X**
 - *Maggie Holtzberg, Program Manager, Folk Arts & Heritage*

6. Pandemic Relief Programs **X**
 - *Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director*
 - *Jen Lawless, Operations Director*

7. Preview of Upcoming Grants Committee Meeting in June
 - *Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director*
 - *Jen Lawless, Operations Director*

8. Adjourn

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
GRANTS COMMITTEE****TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022****RESOLUTIONS****Section 2**

RESOLVED: that the Grants Committee approves the minutes of the March 15, 2022 Grants Committee Meeting in the form presented to the Grants Committee at its May 3, 2022 Meeting.

Section 4

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the FY22 Artist Fellowship grant awards in the disciplines of Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction and Painting as reviewed by the Grants Committee at its May 3, 2022 meeting.

Section 5

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the selection of the participants in the FY23 Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program as described in the memorandum presented to this meeting.

Section 6

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council that staff be instructed to proceed with developing, submitting and posting guidelines for and proceeding to implement the Pandemic Relief Program for Organizations and Pandemic Relief Program for Individuals as described in the memorandum presented to this meeting.

OPEN MEETING LAW STATEMENT

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 meetings. This meeting is being broadcast to the public on a publicly available YouTube channel as described in the 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 guests will be provided access to the Zoom platform 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 may be required to 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.

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.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
GRANTS COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

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
Karen Barry
Kathleen Castro
Karen Hurvitz

Staff Members Present were

Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director
David Slatery, Deputy Director
Jen Lawless, Operations Director
Bethann Steiner, Public Affairs Director
Sara Glidden, Cultural Investment Portfolio Program Manager
Kalyn King, Cultural Investment Portfolio Program Officer
Lillian Lee, Cultural Investment Portfolio Program Officer
Ann Petruccelli Moon, Special Assistant to the Executive Director & Leadership Team
Carmen Plazas, Communications Manager

Chair Jo-Ann Davis called the meeting to order at 10:02am and asked Deputy Director David Slatery to read the Open Meeting Law statement:

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).

Prepared on 4/12/22

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. Only Council members, staff and invited participants and guests will be provided access to the Zoom or other videoconferencing platform hosting the meeting. As a safety measure, 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:

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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.

Jo-Ann then asked Committee Members to approve the minutes of their last business meeting held on January 13, 2022. Barbara Schaffer Bacon moved to approve the minutes and Karen Barry seconded the motion. By roll call vote and noting that Che Anderson and Cecil Barron Jensen were absent all were in favor, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Grants Committee approves the minutes of the January 13, 2022 Grants Committee Meeting in the form presented to the Grants Committee at its March 15, 2022 Meeting.

Jo-Ann did not have anything to report to the Committee and asked Executive Director Michael Bobbitt for his report.

Michael let Committee Members know the Agency is halfway through the process of facilitating FY22 grant programs. Once the process is complete Committee Members will receive a year-end report. Michael then took a moment to introduce Lillian Lee, the newest member of the Agency's Cultural Investment Portfolio team who joined the staff in early March. Staff is continuing to discuss plans for the Agency's Pandemic Relief funds allocation and is looking forward to sharing more about that and the revisions to the Cultural Investment Portfolio program later in the meeting.

Jo-Ann then asked Operations Director Jen Lawless and Public Affairs Director Bethann Steiner for an update on the Agency's Pandemic Relief funds plans.

Jen let Committee Members know the Agency had collected both written comments from the public and held a virtual public input on January 24th to learn what the sector needs most in terms of post-pandemic recovery support. Since then, there have been two all-staff discussions and the general idea is to design unrestricted support programs for individuals and organizations. The next step is to convene a smaller working group of cross Agency staff to design the programs. The goal is to have draft guidelines ready for the May Council Meeting. There are a lot of details, but staff has learned from previous relief programs and will take what they learned last time and improve upon them while making sure the new programs reflect the Agency's racial equity goals. Bethann added that in addition to getting a full proposal to the Council in May, staff has an ambitious goal of making all the grants in the coming fiscal year (FY2023). Under the statute the funds are good for several years, but Bethann has received input from legislators who are anxious to see the funds awarded as soon as possible.

Jo-Ann stated that she found the feedback at the public input forum very valuable and is glad to hear staff plans to keep the application simple.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon asked two questions: first, if staff might consider investing in capacity building grants in the digital space and two, if they imagine the funds all coming through Mass Cultural Council or if the Agency might work with intermediaries to get funds into pockets around the state.

Michael responded that staff has had some significant conversations around capacity building grants for upgrades and would like to make grants of this nature into this a regular, annual program potentially for FY24. Staff is also having conversations around getting some help distributing the Pandemic Relief funds grants as doing so will free staff up to focus on recruiting and get funds to individuals and organizations who have not been funded before.

Barbara asked if the new capacity building grant program would be funded by the Agency's regular allocation. Does Michael see using any of the Pandemic Relief funds for this? Michael responded that because Pandemic Relief funds are going to be unrestricted staff didn't think a capacity building grant program was necessary right now.

Barbara asked if staff was thinking only about direct to individuals and direct to organizations as opposed to collaborators or groups that support those organizations and individuals such regional foundations; or if there was any thought to doing something bigger around arts education or other specific areas. Michael explained that regional foundations were welcome to apply but staff wasn't considering a formal collaboration and that perhaps this is something that can be part of the upcoming strategic plan conversation. Right now, staff is working to get the funds out fast. Jen added that spending the Pandemic Relief funds allocation quickly will position the Agency to request additional Pandemic Relief funds when they are available.

Dave reported that as is included in the Council Meeting book, staff will be suggesting (as it says in the statute) that Pandemic Relief funds are contributed to the upcoming round of Cultural Facilities Fund grants. Staff has also received a request proposal from Mass Humanities for Pandemic Relief funds.

Barbara asked how long groups will have to spend the funds. Jen explained that staff is still determining this but typically, because these are state contracts, grantees need to spend the funds within a fiscal year; grantees will at least have all of FY23.

Che Anderson joined the meeting.

Jo-Ann moved to the next item on the agenda: a presentation regarding revisions to the Agency's Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) program. The Committee is reviewing these revisions before they are presented to the full Council at its Meeting on March 22.

CIP Program Manager Sara Glidden delivered this presentation and a copy of it is available upon request. Sara outlined the current state of the program and the CIP team's approach to program redesign – maintaining values, centering equity, and considering staff capacity – along with the goals of the redesign and the process the team used. She then outlined the concerns with the current iteration of the program and provided Committee Members with a timeline and summary of the major proposed changes: the Portfolio will become a 5-year grant program; the Gateway program will be discontinued; grant amounts are formula-based; Equity Impact points are incorporated into the formula which will increase grant amounts for historically underfunded applicants such as BIPOC, Gateway City, and under-resourced rural communities; and grant amounts will

be finalized with the FY23 spending plan. Jo-Ann thanked Sara for her presentation and congratulated her and the CIP team for their terrific work in taking a fresh look at the program, she then opened the meeting to questions and comments from Committee Members.

Karen Barry thanked Sara and the team for the tremendous amount of work they did and noted that these changes are monumental. Karen asked if staff would look at need-based criteria when considering Equity Impact points. Sara explained that need is very hard to measure and changes year to year, but staff has been thinking hard about it and trying to take a philosophical approach.

Karen then asked if there was any thought being given to asking legacy organizations who have received funding for the last 11 years to sit a round of funding out and make room for a broader group of new grantees. Sara explained that the dependability and predictability of the funding makes this a challenge. If staff were to tell 313 organizations that they needed to pause for one year, the next year they would all come back and apply, and this would create a staff capacity issue among other issues. Assigning current grantees to a five-year cycle was determined to be a better approach as organizations who are new to Mass Cultural Council will get a bump, so a new organization is advantaged over a returning one.

Michael added that the new formula allows staff to move the numbers around. If we are capped at a certain amount, we can make sure the money is shared. Ideally, every organization in the state is in the Portfolio. We can put more money into CIP, or we can have a larger conversation around restricting the number of grants an organization can apply for.

Jo-Ann reiterated that she loved the fresh look the team took at the program and applauds the five-year cycle and the elimination of Gateway and asked how staff would check in with organizations during their five-year funding period. Sara explained that staff would continue to require annual reporting and has some flexibility in adding questions to that, but they haven't fully defined exactly how they will check in with organizations. They want to find a balance between being a burden and being communicative and supportive.

Barbara expressed that she doesn't believe any group should assume entitlement and she is thrilled staff has taken this on and devised a solution. Barbara asked if she is a grantee in year four of funding, when would she be eligible to apply again. Sara explained this would be possible in FY24. Barbara asked what performance elements would be considered in reviewing applications acknowledging that looking at "excellence" is amorphous. Sara explained that for the duration of the Gateway program, staff looked at public value – a term that can be applied across disciplines and across many different sized organizations. Sara thinks the next step is to take the concept of public value and turn it into criteria so that organizations can see themselves reflected

in it. Currently the team defines public value as service to Massachusetts communities, residents, and artists. Dave added that the National Endowment for the Arts still includes the word "excellence" in its guidelines and that Mass Cultural Council will be looking at the term "excellence" and redefining it to reflect the qualities Sara has described.

Karen Hurvitz asked what the difference is between excellence and public value. Sara explained that the historical concept of excellence has been thought of as aligned with traditional, Eurocentric high art forms and while this is one form of excellence it excludes organizations that demonstrate excellence by adding value to their communities. Michael added that a 20-year-old organization deserves funding just as much as an organization that has been around for three years; a well-established Vietnamese boat maker deserves funding just as much as a 23-year-old just learning to build boats. Karen expressed concern that the Agency might be saying that folk artists and burgeoning arts organizations can't be considered excellent by taking away the word "excellence."

Sara acknowledged Karen's concern and agreed this is absolutely a challenge. She explained that the term would not be taken away, the Agency would just broaden it's understanding of it. Michael added that the Agency will work to figure out a definition of the word that is most inclusive. Barbara stated that she thinks it's also true that there are some groups doing work that is important but, at this point, not doing it all that consistently. She gave the example of a children's service organization in Turners Falls that has never had consistent funding, though it has benefitted from YouthReach. Barbara sees this moment as an opportunity to see excellence in all areas. Michael agreed and added that the arts programs he was involved in as a child were not all that excellent, but here he is as Executive Director of a state arts agency.

Barbara asked if staff had talking points prepared for organizations who receive the news of the changes to CIP and have concerns and questions; we want to make sure current grantees know they are still included along with people who will finally see themselves as part of the program. Jo-Ann agreed this is important anytime a major change is made within the Agency. Michael explained that staff was prepared to spend a good deal of time on the phone and that they'd be offering office hours as well. Talking points would be developed in collaboration with the Public Affairs team. Sara clarified that there would be a two-year grace period and that no organization would be cut loose suddenly and reiterated that staff is working on creating criteria where every organization can see themselves reflected in the program.

Karen Barry let Committee Members know that in the past she'd done an analysis of CIP and believed that a great percentage of the funding was going to Suffolk County organizations. With the new language and equity points the

Agency can feel confident that funds are going to every corner of the Commonwealth. Karen sees these revisions to CIP as a major step forward.

Kathy Castro asked if Sara could provide a list indicating where organizations are in the five-year cycle and Sara explained that this has yet to be assigned.

Sara then thanked Kalyn King, Cheyenne Cohn-Postell, and Michael Ibrahim for their work on revising the program.

Barbara asked how Sara is thinking about the five-year cycle in relation to the state budget allocation and Sara explained that staff has always let grantees know the subsequent years of grants are dependent on the Agency's allocation. Michael added that staff wants to avoid bringing more grantees and then having the numbers go down; something staff is thinking about regarding the strategic plan is limiting applicants from applying for so many grants.

Kathy asked Michael if he was planning to hire additional staff to work on the Pandemic Relief funds grant programs and Michael responded that the Agency would have to.

As the meeting was ending Karen Barry shared that she'd heard from her son earlier in the week who'd been to Carnegie Hall to hear Unsuk Chin's *Shards of Silence* performed. Chin mentioned that she was able to compose the piece thanks to a grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

That brought the Committee to the end of its agenda and Jo-Ann as Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:12am.



Power of culture

The following materials

- Memorandum re Artist Fellowships Recommendations and
- Memorandum re Traditional Arts Apprenticeships Recommendations

will be forwarded by Thursday, April 28

To: Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee
From: Staff
Date: May 3, 2022
Re: Pandemic Relief Programs

BACKGROUND

Under the Commonwealth's Act Relative to Immediate COVID-19 Recovery Needs (Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021) enacted last December, Mass Cultural Council in Line item 1599-2043 was provided \$60,147,000 (referred to as "**Pandemic Relief Funds**") to administer grant programs to

"...to administer a grant program for the purposes of assisting cultural organizations and artists recover from the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic and operate more efficiently; provided further, that grants shall be made available for, but not be limited to:

- (i) facility upgrades, including costs associated with programmatic adaptation due to the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic;
- (ii) technology and infrastructure costs for safe reopening of facilities; and
- (iii) direct financial support to assist with staffing and other operational needs"

The law also contained the following conditional provisos (emphasis and bullets added):

- "... grants **may** support staffing, consultants, plans, software and hardware for organizational business development for facilities owned by municipalities or non-profit entities experiencing negative economic impacts from the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic;
- ... the council **shall** consider racial, geographic and programmatic diversity and equity within the cultural sector when establishing grant criteria;
- ... that funds **may** be expended for entities that focus on 1 or more minority populations or conduct cultural events and have cultural education or cultural performances related to minority populations; [and]

- ... the council **shall** consider and prioritize those applicants with the largest demonstrated economic need as a result of the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic, and the applicant's demonstrated economic impact in terms of job creation and tourism generated..."

In addition, as was discussed at the March Council Meeting, the law further provides that "funds **may** be transferred to the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund [CFF] established in section 42 of chapter 23G of the General Laws for the purposes of this item".¹

Also, in connection with these programs, the Council is required to submit reports to the administration and the legislature -once on March 1, 2022, identifying grant criteria and thereafter annually starting June 1, 2022, a listing of grants, grantees and applicants together with a description of geographic distribution, outreach and diversity efforts and any adjustments to the grant criteria.

The Council voted in March to contribute up to \$7.16 million of Pandemic Relief Funds to the current CFF round of funding. Also, as has been previously reported to the Council, staff made a preliminary report to the administration and legislature on March 1 as to our ongoing and diligent efforts to develop the Pandemic Relief Funds programs mandated by the law and plan to deploy them in the 2023 Fiscal Year and also an indication that more definitive information would be delivered in connection with the required June 1, 2022 report. Notwithstanding the fact that the Pandemic Relief Funds are available to be spent through June 30, 2027, we have heard from legislators that they are particularly interested in having the Pandemic Relief Funds disbursed into the Commonwealth as soon as can be reasonably and responsibly accomplished.

Program Development

With the forgoing facts in mind, staff has diligently been at work designing programs consistent with the legislative mandate. Set forth below is a detailed summary of two proposed programs- one for individual artists and cultural workers and another for cultural organizations- which are designed to be able distribute the bulk of the Pandemic Relief Funds during FY 23. Staff is requesting that the Grants Committee and then the full Council review and approve the proposed terms of the programs. After such approval, staff will develop detailed program guidelines and submit them as part of the legislatively required report due on June 1. Staff will then post the guidelines and begin administration of programs in accordance with the timelines specified below. Formal approval of the programs will occur as part of the review and approval of the Council's FY23 spending plan, but the current approval will enable staff to move forward with the implementation of the programs.

¹ The law also later provides "that the council **may** include a match requirement for recipient organizations"

Summary of Pandemic Relief Programs

I. PANDEMIC RELIEF GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS: GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

The FY23 Pandemic Relief Grants for Individuals funding was designed with three key points in mind:

- Unlike other pandemic relief funding that focused on loss, this program focuses on recovery.
- The program assumes that working artists, teaching artists, and cultural workers all experienced loss during the pandemic.
- The funding is not intended to compensate for that loss. Rather it provides broad funding help eligible individuals, and therefore the sector, recover by providing unrestricted support.

Eligibility

Individuals are eligible to apply if they are:

1. An independent practicing artist active in any artistic discipline.
OR
2. An independent individual teaching artist/scientist/scholar.
OR
3. An independent cultural worker directly involved in arts, humanities and sciences.

AND meet all the following requirements:

- Is 18 years or older.
- Is a legal resident of Massachusetts. We will define "legal resident" as someone who meets the definition of a "full-year resident" in the Massachusetts tax code. [Visit the Mass Department of Revenue web site to learn more.](#)
- Is not currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a college or university.

Prioritization

- First-time applicants or applicants not previously funded (directly) by Mass Cultural Council programs
- Applicants who have been historically under-funded:
 - Applicants who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color)
 - Applicants who identify as Deaf or as having a disability
- Applicants who reside in Gateway Cities and other under-resourced communities. By "under-resourced", we mean cities and towns whose

populations fall below the state's median economic and educational attainment.

Grant numbers and amounts

The initial goals for the Individuals' program is to make up to three thousand grants of \$5,000. (Up to \$15 million).

Anticipated Program Timeline

August 15, 2022: Application opens

November 1, 2022: Deadline to apply

Late January 2023: Awards finalized; email notifications sent

February: Contracts sent

July 14, 2023: Final report due

II. PANDEMIC RELIEF GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS: GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

The FY23 Pandemic Relief Grants for Organizations funding is designed to respond to the staggering losses that most cultural organizations have suffered due to the pandemic and related closures.

Eligibility

Massachusetts fully-cultural organizations that are:

- Non-profits
- Fiscally sponsored
- Municipal cultural programs
- For-profits owned and operated in Massachusetts

By "fully-cultural" we mean those organizations whose **primary** mission is to promote access, excellence, diversity, or education in the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences.

Specifically, the following types of organizations will be **eligible**:

- Non-profit organizations whose IRS determination is currently active.
- Fiscally-sponsored organizations. This includes unincorporated organizations with a non-profit objective or incorporated organizations in the process of getting their non-profit status.
- Municipal organizations. Local Cultural Councils or Cultural Districts are eligible only if they do their own public cultural programming
- For-profit entities that meet **ALL** the following requirements (NOTE- this is adapted from Mass Growth Capital's small business program requirements):

- a. For-profit corporations, cooperatives, partnerships or LLCs that conduct publicly available programming primarily in Massachusetts
- b. Massachusetts-based, operating in-state with a Massachusetts address on the business' Federal Business or Partnership Tax Return
- c. Business must be privately owned by individuals.

Ineligible organizations are:

- Not fully cultural non-profits that offer some cultural programming
- Schools (K-12, colleges, universities, including 501 c3's attached to schools)
- Degree-granting institutions
- Religious organizations
- Organizations no longer in operation
- Sole proprietorships (who should apply as individuals and not as organizations)

Prioritization

- Organizations that are located in, or centered on, historically under-funded communities
 - Organizations centered on persons or communities that are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color)
 - Organizations located in Gateway Cities and other under-resourced communities. By "under-resourced", we mean cities and towns whose populations fall below the state's median economic and educational attainment
- First-time applicants or applicants not recently funded by Mass Cultural Council programs
- Organizations that have not received federal or state aid through other pandemic relief programs
- Organizations that have demonstrated economic need as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Organizations that have demonstrated impact on job creation in Massachusetts
- Organizations that have demonstrated impact on tourism in Massachusetts

Approved Use of Funds

Funds for this program are considered unrestricted operation support and may be used for, but are not limited to

- direct financial support to assist with staffing, occupancy, program expenses, and other operational needs
- facility upgrades, including costs associated with programmatic adaptation due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- technology and infrastructure costs for safe reopening of facilities.

Non-Approved Use of Funds

Grantees must prevent the duplication of benefits, which means these grant funds may not be used to pay expenses if another source of financial aid has paid that same expense.

Grant numbers and amounts

This program will offer grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 grants for organizations in the cultural sector to aid in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mass Cultural Council reserves the right to change these ranges based on the volume of requests received. Estimated range- \$30-35 million.

Anticipated Timeline

May 31, 2022: Guidelines published on Mass Cultural Council website

August 1, 2022: Application opens

September 23, 2022: Deadline for organizations to apply

Late January 2023: Awards finalized; email notifications sent

February: Contracts sent

July 14, 2023: Final report due

APPROVAL REQUEST

Staff hereby requests the Grants Committee recommend to the Council that staff be instructed to proceed with developing, submitting and posting guidelines for and proceeding to implement the Pandemic Relief Program for Organizations and Pandemic Relief Program for Individuals as described above.