

ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS - MAY 2022

To: Mass Cultural Council
From: Michael J. Bobbitt, David Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Bethann Steiner, Cathy Cheng-Anderson, Dan Blask, Kelly Bennett, Maggie Holtzberg
Date: May 3, 2022
Re: FY22 Artist Fellowships (second deadline)

Enclosed for your review and approval are recommendations for 34 fellowship awards (\$15,000) and 59 finalist awards (\$5,000, including one honorary finalist award with no funding attached), from a total of 1,415 eligible applications for the FY22 Artist Fellowships in Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting.

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

In most fiscal years, we offer Artist Fellowships in six disciplines, with disciplines divided into two parts with two separate deadlines. The deadline for applications in the disciplines we are presenting in this memo- Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting- was January 24, 2022.

Previously this year, we offered artists fellowships in Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts which had an application deadline of October 25, 2021. Those awards were presented and approved at the January 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 are on track to award double the monetary grants from last year - from 75 grants in FY21 to 150 in FY22.

Diversity. In keeping with the Agency's three-year Racial Equity Plan 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 Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting, 32 of 52 reviewers identified as BIPOC, or about 61%.

Awardees. Among the recommended Fellows and Finalists for Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting, 25 of 92 identified as BIPOC, or about 27%. For both grant cycles of FY22, 52 artists among 150 awardees identified as BIPOC, or about 35%. 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 demographic information for applicants to the Artist Fellowships in Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting.

BIPOC	196	13.86%
White	633	44.77%
No Info	585	41.37%
	1,414	100.00%

New Applicants. In FY22 (both grant cycles), a total of 603 applicants from 1801 (or about 34%) were new applicants to the program. There were 386 applicants for Choreography, Poetry, and Traditional Arts, out of which 152 (39%) had not applied for Fellowships during FY04-FY22. There were 1,415 applicants for Drawing & Printmaking, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting, out of which 451 (32%) had not applied for Fellowships during FY04-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
Drawing & Printmaking
Recommended Fellows and Finalists**

DRAWING & PRINTMAKING

Total Applications: 326

Fellows: \$15,000

Alexis Callender	Easthampton
Patrick Casey	Arlington
Damian Cote	Holyoke
James Dye	Worcester
Randy Garber	Somerville
Keith Maddy	Boston
Joan M. Ryan	Boston
Evelyn Rydz	Arlington
Brooke Stewart	Boston
Naoe Suzuki	Waltham

Finalists: \$5,000

Stephanie Anderson	Great Barrington
Cameron Barker	Waltham
Lisa Barthelson	Rutland
Caleb Cole	Maynard
Audrey Goldstein	Newton
Barbara Grad	Wayland
Anna Hepler	Greenfield
Boriana Kantcheva	Medford
Liza Lynch	Boston
Robert Maloney	Boston
Stephen Mishol	Lowell
Elizabeth Mooney*	Boston
Alyssa Sakina Mumtaz	Williamstown
Debra Olin	Somerville
Ellen Shattuck Pierce	Boston
Adrian Rodriguez	Swampscott
Leslie A Schomp	Rutland

*Honorary

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Drawing & Printmaking Panel
April 22, 2022**

Panelists

Roeya Amigh

Catherine Kernan

Simonette Quamina

MiYoung Sohn

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Printmaker

Visual Artist

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Fiction/Creative Nonfiction
Recommended Fellows and Finalists**

FICTION/CREATIVE NONFICTION

Total Applications: 606

Fellows: \$15,000

Christine H. Chen	Waltham
Carin Clevidence	Northampton
Jennani Durai	Boston
Emily Everett	Northampton
Melenie Freedom Flynn	Easthampton
Amanda L. Giracca	Great Barrington
William Giraldi	Cambridge
Rani J. Neutill	Cambridge
Molly Rideout	North Adams
Asako Serizawa	Brookline
Mandeliene L. Smith	Lexington
Jerald Walker	Hingham

Finalists: \$5,000

Alysia Abbott	Cambridge
Aliza Ali Khan	Dartmouth
Hillary Casavant	Somerville
Beth Castrodale	Boston
Linda Dittmar	Cambridge
Sara Fraser	Belmont
Catherine Goldhammer	Hull
Kit Haggard	Boston
Min Han	Cambridge
Mathew Lebowitz	Amherst
Maria Marchinkoski	Cambridge
Kathryn J. McQuade	Andover
Pedro Noé Morales	Boston
Carla Panciera	Rowley
Cheryl Pappas	Newton
Laura Porter	Worcester
Diana C. Renn	Concord
Kenneth R. Rosen	Great Barrington
Shelley Senai	Framingham
Victor Yang	Cambridge
Jeffrey Yee	Easthampton
Yara Zgheib	Boston

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Fiction/Creative Nonfiction Panel
April 25, 2022**

Panelists

Jane De León Griffin	Director, <i>Inspired Masses</i>
Edie Meidav	Writer
Metta Sáma	Writer and Editor
Ricardo A. Wilson III	Writer
Jung Yun	Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Readers

Heather Abel	Toni Jensen
Gbolahan Adeola	Marjan Kamali
Autumn Allen	Chandreyee Lahiri
Tatiana Johnson-Boris	Ying-Ju Lai
Carla Bruce-Eddings	E.K. Ota
Gabriel Bump	Brenda Sparks Prescott
Sarah M. Cedeño	Maurice Carlos Ruffin
Margaret Cezair-Thompson	Whitney Scharer
Morris Collins	Rone Shavers
Robert Croll	Emily Shelton
Jarita Davis	Katie Sticca
Ellen Duffer	Shilpi Suneja
Jonathan Escoffery	Laura Szaro Kopinski
Christopher Gonzalez	Morgan Talty
Kelle Groom	Lysley Tenorio
Cynthia Gunadi	Christine Vines
Sergio Gutiérrez Negrón	Val Wang
Simon Han	Ann Ward
Sara Hendren	Laura Willwerth

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

PAINTING

Total Applications: 483

Fellows: \$15,000

David Antonio Cruz	Somerville
Julia Dixon	North Adams
Nicole Duennebier	Malden
Conny Goelz Schmitt	Beverly
Liang Guo	Boston
Imo Imeh	Holyoke
Dinorá Justice	Newton
Maria E. Molteni	Boston
Elizabeth Mooney	Boston
Richard Raiselis	Wayland
Michael Ryczek	Dedham
Elaine Spatz-Rabinowitz	Cambridge

Finalists: \$5,000

Pouya Afshar	Cambridge
Angela Ales	Lowell
Linda Allen	Cohasset
Stephanie Anderson	Great Barrington
Marc Bohne	Harwich
Maya Brodsky	Cambridge
Kathline Carr	North Adams
Jason Cheeseman-Meyer	Natick
Andrae Green	Holyoke
Andrew Haines	Boston
Jai Hart	Concord
Stephen Elliott Hawley	Newburyport
Constance Jacobson	Boston
Joshua Meyer	Cambridge
Wilhelm Neusser	Somerville
Andrew Nixon	Attleboro
Daisy Patton	Easthampton
Jeff Stauder	Northampton
Christopher Sullivan	Easthampton
Ashley Williams	South Hadley

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships 2022
Painting Panel
April 26, 2022**

Panelists

David Brewster

Leslie Condon

Erica Licea-Kane

Ilana Manolson

James Stanley

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Program Manager, Pao Arts Center

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Painter

TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIPS - MAY 2022

To: Mass Cultural Council

From: Michael J. Bobbitt, David Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Cathy Cheng-Anderson, Bethann Steiner, Maggie Holtzberg, Kelly Bennett, Dan Blask

Date: May 3, 2022

Re: FY23 Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program Selections

We are pleased to present preliminary recommendations of grantees for Mass Cultural Council's FY23 Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. Grant amounts will be determined and presented to the August Grants Committee as part of the FY 23 spending plan.

Background: The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program is an important part of Mass Cultural Council's strategy to help the many diverse communities in Massachusetts preserve their cultural heritage. Folk and traditional artists are among the most vulnerable members of the creative community, often coming from new immigrant and under resourced communities. The program funds mentorships in which an individual learns skills, techniques, and artistry under the guidance of a recognized practitioner. Apprenticeships are designed to strengthen traditional arts lacking a strong infrastructure for cultural transmission, especially those that may be endangered.

Review Criteria:

- Artistic quality of mentor artist's work according to the culturally defined standards of the tradition (20 points)
- Mentor artist teaching ability (15 points)
- Skill and commitment of the apprentice (20 points)
- Feasibility of the work plan (15 points)
- Limited availability of mentor teachers in this art form or skill in MA (15 points)

- Potential impact of apprenticeship on continued vitality of the tradition (15 points)

In FY21, we switched from a 10-month to a two-year Apprenticeship Program. Awards have historically been up to \$10,000 per apprenticeship per year and grant funds are meant to compensate the mentor artist for time spent planning, preparing, and teaching. Beginning in FY23, the hourly rate is set at \$125 with a minimum of 80 hours per year. Mentor artists must also compensate their apprentices over 18 years of age or older in order to encourage participation of apprenticeships from all income levels.

Source of Funding: Funding for this program comes both from the National Endowments for the Arts Folk Arts Award and Mass Cultural Council's annual state appropriation. Award amounts will be set at the August meeting pending development of the Agency's FY23 spending plan. To give grantees the option of working together over the summer months, notifications to grantees of their selection to this program will be sent in out in early June. Final funding amounts will be determined, reviewed and approved as part of the FY23 spending plan process and will be announced after the Council's August meeting.

RECOMMENDED GRANTEES

Following is a table of the 18 apprenticeships that panelists agreed should be considered for funding. Panelists further determined that five other proposed apprenticeship applications (not listed) did not meet the review criteria well enough to merit funding. As stated above, final grant amounts will be determined based on the FY23 spending plan.

Mentor Artist	Traditional art	Town
Beth Bahia Cohen	Violin in traditional Greek music	Watertown
Isaura Oliveira	Samba Traditional do Recôncavo movement/dance	Boston
Andre R. Gaines	Traditional brain-tanning, paddle making, wampum, & other Wampanoag crafts	Grafton
Zhonghe Elena Li	Chinese papercutting with scissor	Cambridge
Aimaiti Abulikemu	Uyghur calligraphy	Lexington
Laurel Martin	Traditional Irish fiddling: regional styles	Westford
Sharon Correnty	African American quilt making	Pepperell
Karen Young	Taiko kumi-daiko style	Roslindale
Jorge Santiago-Arce	Bomba & Plena	Boston
Stelvyn Mirabal	Dominican carnival traditions	Lawrence
John Abarta	Uilleann pipes	Stoughton
Vincent Crotty	Traditional sign painting	Boston
Sunanda Sahay	North Indian Mithila painting	Acton
Judy Bressler	Yiddish song & dance tradition and	Sharon
Urmi Samadar	North Indian Kathak dance	Belmont
Paul Rishell	Country blues and guitar	Newton
Chris Pantazelos	Lutherie and Restoration	Lowell
Ling Chu	Chinese long ribbon dance	Boston

History of funding:

Since the program's founding in FY02, Mass Cultural Council has awarded 89 apprenticeships (\$499,782).

Year / number of applications	# Funded	Amount
FY23 23	18	TBD
FY22 (2 ^d year)	12	\$100,000
FY21 (1 st year) 27	13	\$100,000
FY19 20	10	\$70,000
FY17 17	7	\$50,000
FY15 20	6	\$28,800
FY13 10	6	\$28,437
FY11 18	6	\$25,000
FY10 10	5	\$15,000
FY07 18	8	\$20,000
FY05 19	6	\$20,000
FY03 12	5	\$24,000
FY02 27	6	\$21,545