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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIPOC</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>13.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>44.77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Info</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>41.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,414</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
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</table>

**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
Panelists
Roeya Amigh                Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Catherine Kernan           Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Simonette Quamina          Printmaker
MiYoung Sohn               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, Inspired Masses
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Brewster</td>
<td>Mass Cultural Council Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie Condon</td>
<td>Program Manager, Pao Arts Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica Licea-Kane</td>
<td>Mass Cultural Council Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilana Manolson</td>
<td>Mass Cultural Council Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Stanley</td>
<td>Painter</td>
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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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mentor Artist</th>
<th>Traditional art</th>
<th>Town</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beth Bahia Cohen</td>
<td>Violin in traditional Greek music</td>
<td>Watertown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isaura Oliveira</td>
<td>Samba Traditional do Recôncavo movement/dance</td>
<td>Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre R. Gaines</td>
<td>Traditional brain-tanning, paddle making, wampum, &amp; other Wampanoag crafts</td>
<td>Grafton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhonghe Elena Li</td>
<td>Chinese papercutting with scissor</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aimaiti Abulikemü</td>
<td>Uyghur calligraphy</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurel Martin</td>
<td>Traditional Irish fiddling: regional styles</td>
<td>Westford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Correnty</td>
<td>African American quilt making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Young</td>
<td>Taiko kumi-daiko style</td>
<td>Roslindale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jorge Santiago Arce</td>
<td>Bomba &amp; Plena</td>
<td>Boston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stelvyn Mirabal</td>
<td>Dominican carnival traditions</td>
<td>Lawrence</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Abarta</td>
<td>Uilleann pipes</td>
<td>Stoughton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vincent Crotty</td>
<td>Traditional sign painting</td>
<td>Boston</td>
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<td>Sunanda Sahay</td>
<td>North Indian Mithila painting</td>
<td>Acton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Bressler</td>
<td>Yiddish song &amp; dance tradition and</td>
<td>Sharon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urmie Samadar</td>
<td>North Indian Kathak dance</td>
<td>Belmont</td>
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<td>Paul Rishell</td>
<td>Country blues and guitar</td>
<td>Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Pantazelos</td>
<td>Lutherie and Restoration</td>
<td>Lowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ling Chu</td>
<td>Chinese long ribbon dance</td>
<td>Boston</td>
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History of funding:
Since the program’s founding in FY02, Mass Cultural Council has awarded 89 apprenticeships ($499,782).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year / number of applications</th>
<th># Funded</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY22 (2nd year)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY21 (1st year) 27</td>
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<td>FY19</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>FY15</td>
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