

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL  
GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 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  
Cecil Barron Jensen  
Kathleen Castro  
Karen Hurvitz  
Barbara Schaffer Bacon

**Staff Members Present** were

Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director  
David Slatery, Deputy Director  
Catherine Cheng-Anderson, People & Culture Director  
Jen Lawless, Operations Director  
Bethann Steiner, Public Affairs Director  
Dan Blask, Artist Fellowships Program Manager  
Carolyn Cole, Cultural Districts and LCCs Program Officer  
Sara Glidden, Cultural Investment Portfolio Program Manager  
Erik Holmgren, Creative Youth Development Program Manager  
Maggie Holtzberg, Folk Arts & Heritage Program Manager  
Ann Petruccelli Moon, Public Relations & Events Manager  
Carmen Plazas, Communications & Community Engagement Manager  
Lisa Simmons, Communities Program Manager

Chair Jo-Ann Davis called the meeting to order at 2:32pm 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).

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:

- 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.

Jo-Ann then asked Committee Members to approve the minutes of their last business meeting held on June 14, 2022. Barbara Schaffer Bacon moved to approve the minutes and Nina Fialkow seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion. By roll call vote with Karen Barry abstaining because she had not attended the meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>, all other Committee Members were in favor, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Grants Committee approves the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Grants Committee Meeting in the form presented to the Grants Committee at its August 5, 2022 Meeting.

Jo-Ann then asked Executive Director Michael Bobbitt to deliver his presentation on the Agency's FY23 grants and program plan. A complete copy of the presentation Michael delivered is available upon request.

After Michael shared the presentation to the Committee, Jo-Ann thanked him for creating a very comprehensive and thoughtful plan and thanked the staff team as well. She reminded Committee Members they had had a very thorough preview of the plan at their June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and in the meeting materials they received last week there is a full outline of the amounts being proposed for each program. Jo-Ann asked if there were any questions from the Committee and there were none. She then asked David to review the Conflict-of-Interest list.

David explained that the conflicts list had been shared with the Committee in their meeting packets and asked if any Committee Members needed to add anything to it. Jo-Ann added MASSCreative and Springfield Museums. Che Anderson added Mechanics Hall, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester Historical Museum and the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA).

David then explained that, unless there was any objection, the Committee would take one vote on sections 5 through 18 together in one omnibus motion. There was no objection. Jo-Ann called for a vote to approve the recommended program allocations and bring them to the full Council for a vote on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that the votes recommending the FY23 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 MASSCreative, Springfield Museums, and 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.

Che Anderson disclosed that he would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to Mechanics Hall, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester Historical Museum, and the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA).

Nina moved to approve the recommendations and Che seconded the motion. There was no discussion. By roll call vote with Karen Hurvitz voting NO on section 6 only, all members voted in favor of the following resolutions.

WHEREAS the General Court of the Massachusetts State Legislature has appropriated a budget of \$22,377,000 to the Mass Cultural Council for FY23; and

WHEREAS Mass Cultural Council staff has presented a recommended FY23 grants budget to the Grants Committee at its meeting on August 5, 2022 ("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.

**Section 5**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the funding of the Apprentice Grants program in the amount of \$180,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Section 6**

RESOLVED: To recommend allocations to the Cultural Investment Portfolio and CIP Gateway programs as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting in for an aggregate total of \$6,996,300.

**Section 7**

RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the third cycle of the Gaming Mitigation Program as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Section 8**

RESOLVED: To recommend an allocation to the Local Cultural Councils totaling \$5,500,000 and up to \$825,000 in Cultural District grants as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Section 9**

RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the new Projects/Festivals program totaling \$1,375,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Section 10**

RESOLVED: To recommend grant allocations to YouthReach program in the

amount of \$1,892,000, continued funding of the Instrument Library in the amount of \$30,000 and participation in the META and CYP Teaching Artist Fellowships program with outside foundations and provision of up to \$120,000 in grants/stipends/reimbursements to participating organizations in the CultureRX Social Prescription program and \$30,416 to the Youth Arts Impact Network with EdVestors, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the following Arts Education grant allocations, \$1,401,250 to the STARS program, \$20,000 in support of Massachusetts History Day and \$20,000 in support of the NEA-funded Poetry Out Loud program, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 11**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the continuation of the UP Program with grants of up to \$55,000 in ILN stipends and \$41,000 in Innovation Fund Grants, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 12**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a \$125,000 grant to Arts Connect International for underwriting 500 Massachusetts cultural sector participants in its Cultural Equity Learning Community (CELC) 2.0 teaching course as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 13**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to Mass Humanities totaling \$849,247 and allocation of \$2.5 in Pandemic Recovery Funds, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 14**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to NEFA of \$70,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 15**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to Mass Creative for \$100,000 to commission a cultural data impact report and to continue improve their online community engagement portal, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 16**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council an allocation of \$70,000 to ArtsBoston acting on behalf of the Network Arts Administrators of Color as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 17**

RESOLVED: To recommend \$100,000 in Media Transition Grants to- 5 public media companies, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

#### **Section 18**

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

(David noted that Section 18 – the SMU Data Arts Cultural Data project contract was to be treated as a service contract and not a grant)

There was no further business. Jo-Ann thanked Committee Members and staff and, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:52pm.