

**APPROVAL DRAFT FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIRST MEETING
OF MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023
10:00 AM-NOON**

BROADCAST MEETING

MEETING WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT [Council Meeting – Mass Cultural Council](#)

MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED ONLINE

UNDER “NOVEMBER 1, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING”

AGENDA

VOTE

-
1. Call to Order- Open Meeting Law Notice
 - *Marc Carroll, Chair (Acting)*
 - *David Slatery, Deputy Director (Open Meeting Law Notice)*

 2. Minutes of 160th Council Meeting **X**
 - *Marc Carroll, Chair*
 - *David Slatery, Deputy Director (reads the roll))*

 3. Chair & Executive Committee Report
 - *Marc Carroll, Chair*

 4. Executive Office Report
 - *Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director*

5. Program Operations Report
 - *Jen Lawless, Senior Director of program Operations*
6. Public Affairs Report
 - *Bethann Steiner, Senior Director of Public Affairs*
7. Business Operations Report
 - *Cathy Cheng Anderson, Senior Director of Business Operations and Chief Financial Officer*
8. Adjourn
 - *Marc Carroll, Chair*

MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES FROM ORIGINALLY CIRCULATED MEMO

To: Mass Cultural Council Executive Committee
Fr: Michael Bobbitt and David Slatery
Dt: October 12, 2023
Re: **Revised** Travel Approval memo

Under Mass Cultural Council's Financial Policies, the Executive Committee reviews and consents to out of state travel by Mass Cultural Council staff.

Since the last Executive Committee meeting on September 18, there has been an additional need for staff to travel and we are presenting the following request for the Committee's approval.

Senior Staff of the Mass Cultural Council has reviewed the following travel request and finds it to constitute a direct benefit to the Council and its constituents, to be in alignment with the strategic plan and the cost to be in line with the value the travel would provide. We have Travel Authorization Form on file. We request the Committee acknowledge and consent the following.

Communities First New England Regional Convening, October 16-18th in Providence, Rhode Island.

[Communities First](#) is a national coalition focused on "transforming how federal, state, and local governments invest public dollars in Black, Indigenous, People of Color and low-wealth communities by implementing a relationships-first approach to community-driven solutions that centers frontline communities' leadership, innovation, and priorities." The organization contacted Mass Cultural Council in furtherance of the "power of the arts and artists to advance equitable planning, policymaking, and systems change" and desire "to bring that creative energy and perspective to bear on local planning and implementation at this critical moment as an important component of the work in local communities to unlock the federal resources available and actualize ...climate & racial justice commitments" contained in recently-passed federal legislation.

To that end, Communities First is hosting a regional New England convening to foster greater coordination among community partners, state/local leaders, philanthropic funders, capacity builders, technical assistance providers, and practitioners in order to support communities' ability to access federal resources available and ensure federal programs deliver on their transformative promises.

Proposed is that Cathy Cheng-Anderson, Senior Director of Business Operation and Chief Financial officer and Jen Lawless, Senior Director of Program Operations, attend to learn more and join in discussion on ~~the~~ the allocation and implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and how it might apply to the Agency. Costs to Agency are approximately \$584,727 for lodging, mileage, parking and meals not otherwise provided at the event.