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COUNCIL MEETING BOOK

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIRST MEETING

OF

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

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ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

**PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM
135 ESSEX STREET
SALEM, MA 01970**

**TOUR: 11:00 A.M.
LUNCH: NOON**

**BOARD MEETING: NOON TO 3:00 P.M.
RECEPTION: 3:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

VOTE

1. Call to Order, Welcomes, Lunch and Reports
 - a) Minutes of 140th Council Meeting **X**
 - b) Chair Report
 - i. 2019 Council Meeting Dates,
 - ii. Committee Memberships
 - c) Executive Director's Report
 - i. Agency Updates, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) Update
 - ii. Update re Financial Reporting and HR Policies
 - d) Advocacy Committee Report
 - i. FY20 State Budget Request, Report Cards
2. FY 19 Financial Update
3. Follow Up Report on 2018 Council Retreat on Creative Youth Development
4. FY 19 Artists Fellowship Program: Round 1 (Crafts, Dramatic Writing & Sculpture/Installation/New Genres) Recommendations **X**
5. MassHumanities
Brian Boyles, Executive Director

6. New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)
Cathy Edwards, Executive Director

7. Franklin Cultural District Designation

X



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**ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019**

**PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM
SALEM, MA**

VOTES

SECTION 1(a)

MINUTES APPROVAL

VOTE: To approve the minutes of the One Hundred Fortieth Meeting of the Mass Cultural Council.

SECTION 4

FY 19 ARTISTS FELLOWSHIPS- ROUND 1

VOTE: To approve the FY19 Artist Fellowship grant awards in the disciplines of Sculpture/Installation/New Genres, Crafts and Dramatic Writing as recommended by the Grants Committee at its May 14, 2018 meeting.

SECTION 7

APPROVAL OF CULTURAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION

VOTE: To approve the designation of a cultural district in Franklin, Massachusetts in accordance with the memorandum presented to the Council Meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH MEETING
OF THE
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018

**LAWRENCE STATE HERITAGE PARK
LAWRENCE, MA**

Chair Nina Fialkow called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M.

Council Members Present

Barbara Schaffer Bacon
Victoria Marsh
Sherry Dong
Kathleen Castro
Nina Fialkow, Chair
Barbara Wallace Grossman, Vice Chair
Lillian Do
Troy Siebels
Karen Barry
Dr. Michael Yaremchuk
Ann Murphy
Mal Sherman
Troy Siebels

Staff members present were Anita Walker, David Slatery, Greg Liakos, Jen Lawless, Ann Petruccelli, Angelina Lupini, Meri Jenkins and Maggie Holtzberg. Guests included Mike Mitchell, supervisor of Lawrence State Heritage Park, Pat Mariano, chair of the Lawrence Cultural Council, Juanita Soldana also of the Lawrence Cultural Council, Ryan Solero representing Lawrence High School, Zakiya Thomas, former Council member, representing the Boston Symphony Orchestra and representatives of the Boston Herald

Nina Fialkow opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and asked Anita Walker, executive director, to address the Council. Anita welcomed the Council to Lawrence- the home of Leonard Bernstein, whose centennial is being celebrated this year. She then introduced Mike Mitchell, representing the host for this meeting, supervisor of Lawrence Heritage State Park. Mr. Mitchell welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and gave a history of the Massachusetts State Heritage Parks and explained that the park here in Lawrence was a former industrial boarding house which along with its historic significance was also a great venue for events. Lawrence State Heritage Park is a unique park in that it allows for a historical, cultural and outdoor experience. As had been noted, Lawrence is home to Leonard Bernstein and also to poet Robert Frost and is the home of the industrial labor movement. He urged Council members to take time to explore the park and Lawrence and once again thanked them for coming.

Anita then introduced Pat Mariano, chair of the Lawrence Cultural Council. Pat indicated she had been chair of the local council for 4 years and she and the city were very appreciative of the support they receive from Mass Cultural Council and their investments in Lawrence. The local council had helped plan the Leonard Bernstein festival for 2 years with the high school. She thanked the members for the Council's support.

Anita summarized Mass Cultural Council's investment in Lawrence- totaling about \$100K in Fiscal 2018. Adding in a recent Cultural Facilities Fund award, , if the Council votes to approve the grant recommendations made by staff today, this year's investment in Lawrence will be \$130K (plus any Big Yellow School Bus grants and STARS grants which may be made during the year).

Barbara Wallace Grossman noted that Lawrence seemed very vibrant on the drive in. Pat mentioned that under the new upfront grant procedures for the local council's award (previously they were made on a reimbursement basis), there have been a lot more interest and applications and with the new publicity planned (an information session for grant applications will take place shortly), they expect even more new applications.

Anita then summarized the local cultural council program for the benefit of the new members.

Section Two: Minutes and Reports

The Chair then called for a vote on the 139th Council Meeting minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes from the one hundred and thirty-ninth Council Meeting of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, in the form submitted to this meeting.

Chair's Report

Nina welcomed the Council, staff and guests. She mentioned that a calendar of meetings to occur was being worked on by the staff and would be transmitted by email later. She also asked members to indicate whether they would like to serve on the Grants, Advocacy or Events Committees to her or Anita or staff. She also referenced a "Council Member Information Sheet" which she asked members to fill out and return to David Slatery, deputy director.

Additional Item.

Nina explained that an additional item had been added to the agenda. She referred to copies of the Executive Branch's out of state travel and use of credit card policies which had been circulated to each of the members at the start of the meeting. She mentioned that the administration had asked the Council to codify its policies using the same language as the Executive Branch agencies to the extent appropriate and applicable (recognizing that the Council is not part of the Executive Branch and that, for example, some of Executive Branch policy language regarding Secretaries would not be applicable). Such policies basically reflect the current practices of Council staff. The members then took several minutes to read the policies.

At the conclusion of such period Chair then called for a vote on the adopting the policies. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To adopt the A&F Administrative Bulletin regarding Credit Card Use Policy and Procedures and the A&F Out of State Travel Guidelines to the extent appropriate and applicable.

Executive Director's Report

Anita began her report indicating she would try to be quick since we had a full agenda for today's meeting. Anita spoke about the EBT Card to Culture program- a new program by which out grantee organizations are trying to reach out to new audiences. We developed a partnership with the Commonwealth's Department of Transitional Assistance whereby Commonwealth residents could present their "EBT (Electronic Benefits transfer) Card" which is used for public assistance programs to get a discount or free admission at cultural organization. Over 100 organizations are participating and 220,000 EBT admissions at these organizations were recorded last year. Anita re-emphasized that this widely-used program had not cost the Commonwealth one penny. There will be a celebration of kickoff of the second year of the program at The Children's Museum (the first adopter of this initiative) later this fall.

Mass Cultural Council will be organizing the 5th annual convening of designated cultural districts in Massachusetts in Natick this October. The local cultural councils and regional tourism councils will be participating as well. Meri Jenkins who has worked at the agency for more than 20 years will be retiring this fall so this will also be her goodbye celebration. At this point, Meri addressed the Council concerning her work in this area. Barbara Wallace Grossman thanked Meri for her many years of service and especially for never saying "no" when some called for assistance. Anita told the Council Meri had started this work before there was the term, "creative economy" and Meri had helped develop the new field.

Anita told the Council there would be a showcase of artists (entitled "Crossing Customs: Immigrant Masters of Music & Dance") participating in the Council's traditional arts program on Saturday, September 8 at Shalin Liu in Rockport. Copies of the brochure were passed out and Maggie Holtzberg gave a brief presentation on the Council's traditional arts programs. She stated the September 8 showcase would function as a "mini-festival" of the field and promised to send links to Council members to purchase tickets.

Anita then introduced Greg Liakos, Communications director, to present a preview of the Council's new website. Greg showed the members via projection screen, a version of the existing Mass Cultural Council website (which dates from the early 2000s) and then loaded a view of what the new site homepage would like. Anita stressed that we will be stressing accessibility in terms of language (there will be a translate button) and readability.

Section Three: Agency Updates.

Before proceeding with the Spending Plan presentation, Anita noted the agency updates in Section Three of the Council Meeting Book. Anita called attention to the fact, that the updates contained links to lists of all of the Big Yellow School Bus, STARS and Festival grants made in FY18. The Council approves the process by which grants in these programs are awarded and these lists are presented at each August meeting so the Council can see a list of the several hundred grantees to whom these grants were awarded.

Section Four: FY 19 Budget and Spending Plan.

Anita then introduced the staff-recommended FY19 Budget and Spending Plan. As the Council is aware, we have a little more than \$2 million more to work with this year after 3 years of flat funding

Anita described the staff process involved in developing FY19 spending plan and presented a PowerPoint slideshow outlining the plan (copies of which are available upon request). Anita began the PowerPoint by detailing a list of the Council’s accomplishments in FY 18.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Anita asked Dave Slatery, Deputy Director and chief financial officer to summarize the lengthy FY 19 Budget and Program Allocation memo contained in the Council Meeting book which shows the plan in greater detail. Dave reported that this plan had previously been presented to the Executive Committee and offered to answer any questions on any specific item in the plan.

The Council generally discussed the spending plan. Barbara Wallace Grossman remarked that she appreciated seeing what goes into staff’s delivery of services to the field. Anita answered that we were proud to be much more than a grants processor. Barbara Schaffer Bacon mentioned that she sees staff out in the field and that people in the cultural field throughout the Commonwealth know the staff and this presents a distinct difference from other agencies which just distribute grant funds. Troy Siebels also endorsed the “more than money” approach. Council members thanked the staff for developing the plan.

At the conclusion of discussion, Nina as Chair called for a vote. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Council held

WHEREAS, the General Court of the Massachusetts State Legislature has appropriated a budget of \$16,154,982 (including earmarks) to the Massachusetts Cultural Council (the “Council”) for FY19 and all Governor vetoes of such amount have been duly overridden;

WHEREAS, Council staff presented a draft FY19 budget and spending plan (the “Plan”) to the Executive Committee at its meeting on August 7, 2018;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee reviewed said plan and recommended that it be forwarded to the Council for approval;

WHEREAS, Council staff presented the Plan to the Mass Cultural Council at its meeting on August 28, 2018 (the “Council Meeting”).

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED: To approve the Plan as reviewed by the Executive Committee on August 7, 2018 and as presented at the Council Meeting and attached hereto, subject to the further approvals of the individual grant and program recommendations to be considered and voted upon the Council later in this meeting.

Dave noted in passing that the Council has historically used the terms “vote” and “resolution” interchangeably.

Section Five: FY19 Grant Recommendations - Conflict of Interest Notifications

A copy of the conflicts list was given to each Council member. These lists are updated as needed. Dave stated that any possible conflicts of interest are disclose in the list contained in Council Meeting book and that any member who had so disclosed a conflict with respect to a particular organization or grantee would abstain from any vote or discussion regarding any Council grant or service to such organization or grantee. The Chair asked if any member who wished to add any organization to the list of possible conflicts contained in the Meeting Book. Barbara Wallace Grossman asked that “Jewish Arts Collaborative” be added to the organizations listed under her name.

It was noted that all the votes approving the FY19 grant recommendations for the Cultural Investment Portfolio will note the various possible conflicts and abstentions of the Council 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**.

Barbara Wallace Grossman disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **American Repertory Theater or Tufts University or Jewish Arts Collaborative**

Victoria Marsh disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Company One or WGBH**

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 or Double Edge Theater or Enchanted Circle Theater or the Amherst Cultural District**.

Troy Siebels disclosed that he would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Hanover Theater/Worcester Center for the Performing Arts, Worcester Cultural Coalition, Discover Central Massachusetts, or Indian Hill Music**.

Mal Sherman disclosed that he would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Museum of Science or Brandeis University**

Ann Murphy disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **The Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum.**

Sherry Dong disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Chinese Historical Society of New England.**

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.**

Karen Barry disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Friendship Home**

Sections Six through Seventeen: FY19 Grant Recommendations

Prior to running through the grant recommendations, Nina announced that Victoria Marsh had agreed to serve as chair of the Grants Committee and had attended the Grants Committee on August 14. Nina then referred to Sections Six through Sixteen in the Council Meeting Book and called for the Grants Committee report. Victoria as chair of the Grants Committee asked Anita to run through the grant recommendations for the several programs

- **Section Six-** Grant recommendations for the Cultural Investment Portfolio, including Media Partnerships, and the CIP Gateway and CIP Projects programs.

(In response to question from the Council, Anita explained that the Portfolio is a formula-funded program and the only reason a grantee's allocation might have been reduced from FY18 would be penalties related to late reporting)

- **Section Seven** – Allocation to Local Cultural Councils.
- **Section Eight-** Grant recommendations for Creative Youth Development programs including the YouthReach, SerHacer and Amplify programs and the Klarman Family Foundation-funded META program.
- **Section Nine-** Grants for Cultural Districts.
- **Section Ten-** Grants for Traditional Artist Apprenticeships (Anita noted we would have a presentation on this program later in the meeting).
- **Section Eleven-** Funding for MassHumanities.
- **Section Twelve-** Funding for the New England Foundation for the Arts.
- **Section Thirteen-** Funding for Media Partnerships (as discussed in Section Seven).

- **Section Fourteen-** Funding for the Poetry Out Loud program (pass through of NEA funds).
- **Section Fifteen-** Funding for the DataArts Cultural Data Profile tool.
- **Section Sixteen-**
 - Program approval and allocation for education programs- STARS, Big Yellow. School Bus and Creative Minds Out of School programs.
 - Allocation and program approval for the Artist Fellowship program.
 - Allocation and program approval for the UP Accessibility Initiative.
 - Allocation and program and specific grantee approval for Compact Grants.
 - Allocation and program approval for the Festivals program.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Victoria reported that the Grants Committee had reviewed and recommended the foregoing grant requests and program requests be approved. Upon motion duly made and seconded, with the abstentions noted above, the Council held

WHEREAS, Council staff presented the grants portion of the Plan to the Grants Committee at its meeting on August 14, 2018 (“Grants Committee Meeting”), in connection with recommended grant allocations;

WHEREAS, the Grants Committee recommended to the full Council the allocation of the grants presented at the Grants Committee Meeting;

WHEREAS, the Grants Committee reviewed procedures of grant allocations and recommended that the Council approve the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED: the Council approve the grant allocations as presented to the Council as set forth in the meeting materials for its meeting on August 28, 2018 and as recommended by the Grants Committee; and

RESOLVED: To approve the continued operation of the META program as recommended by the Grants Committee and as presented at the Council Meeting as part of the Plan;

RESOLVED: To contract with Data Arts to provide the Cultural Data Profile tool as recommended by the Grants Committee and as presented at the Council Meeting as part of the Plan;

RESOLVED: To approve the continuation of the UP Program as recommended by the Grants Committee and as presented at the Council Meeting as part of the Plan;

RESOLVED: To approve the continuation of the Poetry Out Loud program as described in the Plan memo presented to the Council Meeting; and

RESOLVED: that the Council approve the procedures for grant allocations as presented to the Council at the Council Meeting.

After the vote, Maggie Holtzberg, as Mass Cultural Council's Program Manager of Folk Arts and Heritage gave a Power Point presentation on this year's grantees in the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program (copies of which are available upon request). The Council asked Maggie many questions about the grantees and the program. Barbara Schaffer Bacon stated that this program is a key part of the Council's diversity, equity and Inclusion (DEI) strategy.

For ease of presentation, Anita then requested to the Council that we flip Sections 17 and 18 as set forth in the Meeting Book in presentation order. The Chair, hearing no objection, agreed.

Section Eighteen: Great Barrington Cultural District

Anita then announced that staff was proud today to recommend the designation of the forty-fifth Cultural District in Massachusetts. Great Barrington was the birthplace of W.E.B. DuBois and there is a rich history related to him in this district. Anita asked Meri Jenkins to describe the process for designating this district. Meri described the detailed transparent process the community went about in order to obtain a designation. Great Barrington represents a partnership between a theater and the local chamber of commerce and together they act as co-managers of the entity. The regional planning agency supports the effort this well-thought-through application. The process is all about partnerships in the community between cultural organizations, artists, municipal officials and citizens and there is no "cookie cutter" approach but is all about collaboration and getting to yes in a particular community.

The Chair then called for a vote. After a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED: To approve the designation of a cultural district in Great Barrington, Massachusetts in accordance with the memorandum presented to the Council Meeting.

Section Seventeen: Cultural District Redesignations.

Anita reminded that the Members that Cultural District designation last for five years and that, per the terms of the program, the designation of six districts were now up for renewal and Anita and Meri made a short presentation about the program.

The Chair then called for a vote. After a motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED: To approve the redesignation of the following six previously-designated cultural districts:

1. Orleans Village
2. Cottage Street, Easthampton

3. Central Square, Cambridge
4. Essex River
5. Marlborough Downtown Village
6. Glass Town, Sandwich

in accordance with the memorandum presented to the Council Meeting.

RESOLVED: To approve the designation of a cultural district in Arlington, Massachusetts in accordance with the memorandum presented to the Council Meeting.

Anita stated that young performers from Lawrence High School's recent presentation of *West Side Story* would be performing selections in the next room and suggested that as the Council had completed the items on the agenda, it consider adjourning to allow the Council Members to go over and observe the performances.

There being no more business to come before the Council, Nina as Chair then adjourned the meeting.

Mass Cultural Council
Council Meetings/Exec and Grants Committee Meetings, Retreat

2019

Grants	10:00	Tuesday, January 8
Executive	11:00	
<i>Mass Cultural Council</i>		
 Council Meeting	 12:00 to 3:00	 Tuesday, January 15
<i>Peabody Essex Museum</i>		
 Executive	 11:00	 Tuesday, March 5
<i>Mass Cultural Council</i>		
 Council Meeting	 12:00 to 3:00	 Tuesday, March 19
<i>Hyde Square Task Force</i>		
Grants	10:00	Tuesday, May 7
Executive	11:00	
<i>Mass Cultural Council</i>		
 Council Meeting	 12:00 to 3:00	 Tuesday, May 21
<i>Perles Family Studio @ Jacob's Pillow, Becket</i>		
Executive	11:00	[Tuesday, August 6]
<i>Mass Cultural Council</i>		
<i>Subject to State Budget Process</i>		
Grants	10:00	[Tuesday, August 13]
<i>Mass Cultural Council</i>		
<i>Subject to State Budget Process</i>		
 Council Meeting	 12:00 to 3:00	 Tuesday, August 27
<i>Peabody Library, Peabody</i>		
 Council Retreat	 TBD	 Tuesday, October 15
<i>Edgewood Farm @ Center for the Arts, Truro</i>		

Mass Cultural Council 2019 Committees

Historically, committees of the Mass Cultural Council, consisting of Council Members, have been constituted and designated by the Chair of the Council and chairs of each committee have been appointed by the Chair of the Council. The Committees are best described as an informal grouping of Council Members designed to provide advice, discuss or review certain specific tasks or issues and are not in and of themselves, official governmental decision-making bodies. Only the full Council has such authority.

There are currently four Council committees and their functions and current membership and are described and listed below. At the August meeting each year, the Chair selects the Committee chairs and then solicits interest from the members in serving on the Grants, Advocacy and Events Committees (Executive Committee membership being set) and makes committee assignments based on interest. It is hoped that each Council member serves on at least one of these committees.

Executive Committee.

This committee consists of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council as well as the Chairs of the Advocacy & Grants Committee. It reviews the agenda for the full Council Meetings, preliminarily reviews the annual budget and spending plan and reviews other matters at the request of the Chair.

Proposed Meeting Schedule- four times per year:

1. July - August (After state budget finalized-one week prior to Grants Committee Meeting)
2. Early January (two weeks prior to January Council Meeting)
3. Early March (two weeks prior to March Council Meeting)
4. Early May (two weeks prior to May Council Meeting).

Additional meetings can be scheduled as and when deemed necessary by the Chair.

Current Executive Committee Members

Nina Fialkow (Chair)

Barbara Wallace Grossman (Vice Chair)

Victoria Marsh (Chair Grants)

Mal Sherman (Chair Advocacy)

Grants Committee.

The Grants Committee meets to preliminarily review staff grant recommendations and to recommend them to the full Council Meeting.

Proposed Meeting Schedule- three times per year:

1. Mid-August (depending on finalization of state budget, approximately two weeks prior to August Council Meeting for the bulk of the grant programs)
2. Early January (two weeks prior to January Council Meeting for Round One of the Artist Fellowship Grants)

3. Early May (two weeks prior to May Council Meeting for Round Two of the Artist Fellowship Grants).

Additional meetings can be scheduled as and when deemed necessary by the Grants Committee Chair.

Current Grants Committee Members

Victoria Marsh (Chair)
Sandy Dunn
Barbara Schaffer Bacon
Jake Brennan
Karen Barry
Kathleen Castro
Jo-Ann Davis
Lillian Do
Cecil Barron Jensen

Advocacy Committee.

The Advocacy Committee meets to coordinate the Agency's advocacy strategy and efforts around the state budget request for the upcoming fiscal year and, when applicable, other legislative initiatives.

Proposed Meeting Schedule-Up to twice a year:

1. Fall- to coordinate advocacy strategy around the upcoming budget cycle and plan an expanded meeting of MCC advocates in January.
2. January (after Governor's Budget comes out) - to kick off advocacy activities to the Legislature.

Additional meetings can be scheduled as and when deemed necessary by the Committee Chair.

Advocacy Committee Members

Mal Sherman (Chair)
Barbara Wallace Grossman
Victoria Marsh
Susan Leff
Troy Siebels
Matthew Keator
Ann Murphy
Sherry Dong
Allyce Najimy

Events Committee.

This committee would exist to assist the Mass Cultural Council in terms of planning, assembling resources and fundraising for events such as the Commonwealth Awards (to recognize achievement in the arts, humanities and sciences at the Statehouse in February of every odd-numbered year), the UP Awards, the Creative Youth Development Summit (and related events) and other Mass Cultural Council events which may arise. We anticipate that Council members

on this committee would “opt in” to serve to assist with specific events as they occur and would meet and confer as and when needed.

Current Events Committee Members

Nina Fialkow

Barbara Wallace Grossman

Victoria Marsh

Allyce Najimy

Susan Leff

Matthew Keator

Additionally, In the fall of 2018, the Council formed a Finance Practices Task Force to take a look at financial reporting and expense reimbursement/HR policies

Task Force Members

Nina Fialkow

Troy Siebels

Sandy Dunn

Dr. Michael Yaremchuk

Please also note as per past practice, that whether or not named as members, the Chair and the Vice Chair may attend any committee meeting.



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
Fr: Staff
Dt: January 15, 2019
Re: Agency Updates

EXECUTIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Welcome to our first meeting of 2019. The Executive Committee met on January 8 at Mass Cultural Council's office to review and approve the agenda for today's Council meeting. The Grants Committee also met on that date to review and approve the recommendations for Round 1 of the FY 19 Artists Fellowship Program grants.

Committees. As Council Members were notified by email in December, the Council Committees have been staffed for 2019. A listing of the new committee memberships and the meeting dates and locations is included elsewhere in this Meeting Book.

Membership. There have also been some further changes in Council membership since we last met. The Governor has appointed Jo-Ann Davis and Cecil Barron Jensen to join the Council. Both Jo-Ann and Cecil are filling currently vacant seats and have been into the office for a new Council member orientation.

Advocacy: New Session & FY20 Budget. The new legislative session opened this month with the inauguration of Governor Charlie Baker, Senate President Karen Spilka of Ashland, and House Speaker Robert DeLeo of Winthrop. The Mass Cultural Council has worked over many years to build strong working relationships with each of these three leaders, and will continue those efforts over the next two years.

Our first challenge is to make a case for an **\$18 million state appropriation for FY20**, summarized in the request included in your packet. Some context for this request:

- With a legislative mandate to support the arts, humanities, and sciences, Mass Cultural Council is unique in the nation among state arts agencies.

That broad mission ensures we can craft programs and policies with an eye to the rich and diverse cultural ecosystem in the Commonwealth. To achieve that mandate means supporting major science and historical organizations, of which we boast many, along with our arts institutions. It means our 329 local cultural councils face tough choices in deciding amid an array of quality proposals for community cultural programs to fund. It means opening our K-12 school funding to innovative learning in history and civics, science and nature, alongside arts education.

- Over the past decade municipal and business leaders have become increasingly cognizant of the benefits of integrating arts and culture into local community development efforts. To cite just one sign of this trend: The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has an entire team dedicated to helping cities and towns with these efforts. This also means, however, more local requests to us for dollars to advance this work.
- Mass Cultural Council's state appropriation was \$27 million in FY88 and \$19 million in FY02. We remain very far from returning to those benchmarks, especially when measured in today's dollars and against the growth in the state's population. Our constituents have demonstrated that they deliver public value for public investment, and they deserve additional support.

Governor Baker will likely file his FY20 budget proposal during the week of our January 15 meeting; that plan is the formal start to the annual debate on revenue and spending that moves on to the House and Senate through April and May, respectively. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

Next month Senate President Spilka and Speaker DeLeo will name their leadership teams, including the chairs of the budget-writing Ways and Means Committees, and members of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development, which oversees our work.

Cultural Caucus. In the meantime, we have worked with arts advocates MASSCreative to reinvigorate the Legislature's **Cultural Caucus**. First established nearly a decade ago, the Cultural Caucus is an informal, bipartisan group established to broaden support for the arts, humanities, and sciences in the House and Senate beyond the Joint Committee, cultivate emerging leaders, and provide a vehicle to advocate for our priorities.

This year Senator Julian Cyr of Truro and Representative Mary Keefe of Worcester have stepped up to co-chair the Caucus. They have invited their colleagues to launch the Cultural Caucus in State House Room 22 on **Wednesday, Jan. 16** at 10:30 am. Anita will present an overview of our work, and will be followed by MASSCreative, Mass Humanities, Mass Artists Leaders Coalition, Arts I Learning, and MAPC. We hope to use this gathering to:

- Present a coherent introductory snapshot of the breadth and depth of the cultural sector.
- Demonstrate that we represent a large and important constituency to which they should pay attention.
- Reinforce that arts and culture can help our legislators attain many of their public policy goals: economic and community development, education, workforce growth and retention, civic health and vitality.

We encourage Council members to contact their state representatives and senators and urge them to join the Cultural Caucus. Council members are also welcome to attend the Jan. 16 launch. Please see Greg Liakos for details on this.

Mid-Year Report Cards & Legislative Roundtables. As part of our advocacy efforts this year, we will deliver mid-year “report cards” to key legislators detailing how we have put this year’s \$2 million budget increase to work for their constituents. New grants in schools and youth programs, first-time grants for Cultural Districts, more projects funded by LCCs, and expanded support for nonprofits, are some of the highlights. Here are a couple of examples:

New Bedford Whaling Museum. A year after winning the nation's highest honor in Creative Youth Development – the President's Committees' [National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award](#) – the Whaling Museum was awarded a second round of YouthReach funding to support its High School Apprenticeship Program. The program mixes museum training and workforce development together to engage a historically underserved population of young people.

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival (Becket). The budget allowed us to increase operating support grants for all of our partner nonprofits in the Cultural Investment Portfolio. That includes \$42,000 for Jacob's Pillow, which used its additional funds to continue its 25-year effort to engage public school students across the Berkshires with quality dance education. Now, the program reaches about 400 students in 20 classrooms each year, and provides professional development for 80 educators and six dance artists. It aims to expand to every Pittsfield public elementary school by 2022.

Computer Clubhouse (Boston) Headquartered in Boston, the [Computer Clubhouse](#) is an international network of spaces that provide youth with an opportunity to use technology as a means to create new works of art and develop skills for future employment. As a longstanding partnership with the Museum of Science came to end this year, the Clubhouse worked closely with Mass Cultural Council to move the program to a new space in the heart of Dudley Square. Through a Cultural Facilities Fund grant the organization was able to build out the new, high-tech space

and through continued funding through the YouthReach grant program, the Clubhouse Leadership Initiative was able to expand to train more young people to take on leadership roles in their communities.

Enchanted Circle Theater (Holyoke) [Youth Truth](#) is a program dedicated to providing theater training for youth involved in the foster care system in Massachusetts. A population that traditionally builds thick, protective walls around their experience, the program provides an opportunity for each young person to tell their story and be advocates for the arts. Last year, they wrote and performed a powerful show called "Dear DCF" and performed at the [State House](#). With increased funding this year, the program granted its second round of funding through the Mass Cultural Council and will be expanding its programming to include more young people involved with DCF.

To complement the report cards, we are also scheduling roundtable discussions with key legislators in their districts, focused on issues of concern to them that intersect with arts and culture. A roundtable we organized with Sen. Eric Lesser in Springfield last fall was well-attended and engaging, and provides a model for 2019. So far we have discussions scheduled with House Majority Leader Ronald Mariano at the Quincy Historical Society on Feb. 12 and Senator Brendan Crighton at RAW Artworks in Lynn on March 8. Stay tuned for invitations to these gatherings and others through the spring.

Gambling. We are working to establish a new grant program to mitigate the impact of casinos on the nonprofit performing arts, as called for in the 2010 state law legalizing casino gambling. Under that law:

- Funding is dedicated to support impacted local cultural organizations via the Mass Cultural Council:
 - 1.5% of gross gaming revenue from casinos is used to mitigate impacts on impacted live performing arts centers
 - 0.5 % of gross gaming revenue from casinos are set aside for general operating support for all nonprofits in our CIP program
- Casinos must negotiate agreements with impacted live performing arts centers. The Gaming Commission determines which venues are "impacted", ensures fair negotiations between casinos and local theaters and performance halls, and considers these agreements in license renewals.
- Casinos are limited to building entertainment venues that are less than 1,000 seats or more than 3,500 seats

- A policy advisory committee to the Gaming Commission is tasked with appointing a subcommittee to explore and make recommendations on the “impacts on cultural facilities and tourism”

We have worked with a group of constituents and Mass Cultural Council Staff to develop draft program guidelines. We plan to review these guidelines with previous *kaizen* participants and other key allies. Depending on the availability of funding, our timeline has the program launching in mid-April with applications being due in July and funding announced in late September.

As you may be aware, gaming revenue, which began flowing into state coffers after the Springfield casino opened in the fall. However, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance has stated that “the gaming law provides no mechanism for transferring gaming revenue to the Cultural Council,” and in a supplemental spending bill filed earlier this year proposed steering the dollars into an Education Trust Fund established under the Gaming Law.

The Legislature rejected that proposal, and a group led by Rep. Keefe has signed onto an effort to clarify the language and get the money flowing directly to Mass Cultural Council for its intended purposes. Our hope is that we can accomplish this through a supplemental spending bill in early 2019.

Upcoming Events. Finally here are some key upcoming dates for your consideration:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 16:** Legislative Cultural Caucus Launch, State House, Room 222, 10:30 am
- **Wednesday, Jan. 23:** Universal Participation (UP) Learning Network 2019 Launch, Discovery Museum, Acton, 6 pm
- **Friday, Feb. 1:** Legislative Roundtable Discussion with State Sen. Brendan Crighton, RAW Artworks, Lynn, 11:30 am
- **Tuesday, Feb. 12:** Legislative Roundtable Discussion with State Rep. Ronald Mariano, Quincy Historical Society, 11:30 am
- **Tuesday, March 19:** Mass Cultural Council Meeting, Hyde Square Task Force, Boston, 12 pm

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Update. As identified in Mass Cultural Council's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan, work is taking place in several areas simultaneously. The focus of FY 19 is on these two areas:

- **Internal Culture:** Cultivate a culture of equity and inclusion within the Mass Cultural Council.

- **Grantmaking and Awards:** Encourage full participation in Mass Cultural Council-supported programs.

To support this work, there are three cross agency DEI working groups working in the following areas:

1. HR Working Group

Formally document all current Mass Cultural Council HR policies by updating the formal handbook by engaging a diverse inclusive team of Mass Cultural Council staff to contribute to the development of this handbook

2. Application Process working group

- Reconsider the timeline and process for grant and award submissions
- Consider how long applicants have to wait to hear a response on applications
- Reconsider the length of the applications
- Consider what is suitable for submissions and reporting requirements

3. Bias Introduction for Panelists

- Introduce panelists to the concept of bias, get them talking and thinking about it, and raise an awareness of how it might affect their review or proposals.

The Introduction/orientation for panelists about bias will be used this year during panels. The HR manuals will be included with the materials for the council at the March meeting. Any changes to the application processes would be reviewed and finalized this fiscal year to take effect in the applications for FY20 funding.

Pay Equity Act. As reported previously, Massachusetts' new Pay Equity Act came into effect on July 1, 2018 and since then staff has undergone a good faith, reasonable self-evaluation of its pay practices (as the law provides) with outside counsel to insure that we are in compliance. This proved to be a major undertaking and involved a review and updating of all staff job descriptions and resulted in some salary adjustments (which are reflected in in the Financial Update contained in Section Three of this Meeting Book).

CULTURAL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (CIP)

CIP activities. *Capacity Building:* The CIP team has been working to create a pilot program to explore capacity building activities. We have worked with the Non-Profit Finance Fund to develop a series of financial stress indicators, using financial data from the DataArts Cultural Data Profile which all Portfolio grantees submit annually. Based on these stress indicators, approximately 45 organizations

have been identified as 'stressed' to some degree, and are being offered the opportunity for deeper financial health analysis and recommendations.

The CIP team conducted three focus groups in the fall of 2018. The first two took place in Northampton and Boston and included executive directors of portfolio organizations who had previously experienced some form of capacity building work. The purpose of these two focus groups was to present the concept of a pilot capacity network framework, to solicit feedback for refinement of the structure and to explore external competition, logistic and technical recommendations and best practices in the development of a capacity building cohort and services. Over 20 organizations were represented. The third focus group was held at Mass Cultural Council offices in Boston, and included teams of executive leaders and board chairs of seven mid-sized and large organizations. The purpose of the third focus group was to solicit best practice feedback on how to communicate with both the management and board of organizations in need of a financial health analysis to help foster positive partnership. A CIP communication protocol was established as a result of this focus group.

Site Visits: Over the past several years, CIP organizations have been subject to a once-every-four-years "Site Visit." As we continue to look into how to best provide services and resources to the field, the Site Visit requirement for FY19 has been paused while the CIP team works on a redesigned site visit requirement and Organizations that were scheduled for FY19 Site Visits were offered the option of different types of Site Visits, either with a peer group for consultation (to be called "Peer Visits"), a one-one-one "Organization Leadership" meeting with Anita Walker, or a "Technical Assistance" visit for smaller organizations. Additionally, organizations new to Portfolio will receive an "Introductory Site Visit".

Events: This fall, the CIP team organized and facilitated the following sessions to support current and potential CIP grantees.

- 19 Portfolio Organization Leadership Site Visits with Anita
 - 3 Focus group meetings to support development of the capacity support pilot program
 - 4 Consultation/Technical assistance sessions
 - 7 Outreach visits to potential new grantees
 - 8 Coaching consultations with unsuccessful applicants
 - 3 "Speed Data-ing" workshops on financial literacy and casemaking with data (this is the third year that we have provided this program, and enrollment this year was more than triple last year's enrollment)
 - 5 ADA information sessions (supporting Charles Baldwin)
- Additional post-visit support services

At this time, approximately 25 Technical Assistance visits, 11 new Introductory Site Visits, and 4 Peer Visits are being scheduled for winter/spring FY19.

Guidelines: The Cultural Investment Portfolio team has completed revised CIP guidelines for the new Mass Cultural Council website. Updated guidelines for FY20 Projects grants will be posted shortly, with information sessions to take place in various locations throughout the state. The CIP team created a “CIP 101” webinar for Portfolio organizations to better understand the CIP program and its requirements. This webinar was designed for organizations that are newly added to the Portfolio, as well as new staff members at long time Portfolio grantees. Over 80 participants registered for the webinar.

Compliance Update. At the August board meeting, 10 organizations had ‘holds’ or restrictions on their contracts due to various compliance issues. The CIP team has been working with these organizations to clear the holds and process the grant awards. At this time, only three organizations still have a hold on their contracts. 85 Project grants were awarded at the August meeting. Please note that one of the Project grants has been since cancelled, as the organization has determined that it will not be able to carry out the project as proposed.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Cultural Compact Communities. The Cultural Compact Initiative was launched a year ago through the Community Initiative. The pilot program works with six communities (Worcester, Springfield, Pittsfield, Lynn, New Bedford, & Harwich) with the goal to connect cultural workers and municipalities to harness the Power of Culture by creating a compact that will:

- Drive growth and opportunity through a thriving creative economy
- Build relationships across ethnic, racial, and generational lines
- Cultivate cities towns who want a better place for people to live, work, and thrive.

Each Cultural Compact community was awarded \$10,000 to support the shared commitments as outlined in their compact. The compact goals are to:

- Help amplify cultural vitality in cities and towns through integrated community-focused grants, initiatives, and advocacy.
- Increase the impact of community-led efforts to sustain and promote a rich cultural life by providing communities the resources, training, and tools needed to increase their capacity and effect change.
- Support the economic health of communities through targeted investments in artists and the cultural sector.
- Build strategic alliances between the cultural sector, private developers, state agencies, and other Massachusetts community and economic development groups to stimulate economic growth

- Grow the visibility of the creative sector in Massachusetts through partnerships that expand markets and/or promote the work of cultural organizations and artists.

The Communities team has been working with these 6 communities over the past year to support them in their work as they create programs and work closely with their municipalities. We are currently planning a convening of the 6 Compact Communities in early February to learn from their experiences and provide a networking opportunity for the signers of the Compact to meet each other.

For FY19, the Compact communities will be receiving additional funding for up to \$5,000 towards their collaborative work. The grant application will be finalized after the meeting with the 6 communities and will require a matching grant from the municipality. This requirement is to ensure that the municipality is at the table and working together with the cultural community in supporting artists, arts & culture in their city/town.

Community Initiative Staff Update. The Communities team added two new staff members in September, 2018, Luis Cotto who comes to us from Egleston Square Main Streets in Boston, MA where he was the Executive Director and Justina Crawford who comes to us from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston where she was the Manager of Lectures, Courses and Concerts. Both Luis and Justina bring a breath of knowledge to their work at Mass Cultural Council in areas of cultural development and community engagement. Luis will be managing the Cultural Districts Program as well as working with 2 Local Cultural Council regions and the Cultural Compact Communities. Justina will be working with 3 Local Cultural Council regions and supporting the Communities Initiative Program in the area of DEI work and communications. We are excited to have them on board to complete our team and to help us deepen our work in all of our Massachusetts communities.

Local Cultural Councils (LCC): Online Application. September was the third year of the online application system for applying for LCC grants. Based on feedback we received from the second year, we made some adjustments to the application and the process to make it more accessible for councils as well as grantees. We will be looking to make a number of changes in year four that will increase council access and consolidate their grant making process. Each year, the application process becomes more streamlined and we continue to survey applicants to assure that the process is accessible for everyone. The Councils are currently holding voting meetings and completing their Annual Reports that are due by January 15th.

In FY19, we received over 8,800 applications to the LCC program up from close to 8,100 in FY18. One of the goals of the online application process was to allow

greater accessibility to the application process and increase applications across the Commonwealth.

Reimbursement to Grant Program for LCCs. In the FY19 grant cycle, the Mass Cultural Council extended its pilot program to explore the feasibility of eliminating the requirement that grants made with Mass Cultural Council funds be reimbursement based. The program expanded to 25 LCCs taking part in the second year of the pilot program. The goal of the program is twofold: 1) to allow grantees the ability to implement projects with lesser financial hardship and 2) to simplify the payment process for municipalities and councils. The participating councils were surveyed mid-year about the process and overall the reaction was positive. We will be following up with these councils with a second survey now that they are completing the full grant year to see what we might change or modify for the upcoming year.

Festivals Program. The Festivals Grant Program is now heading in to the seventh grant round with Spring/Summer festivals that take place March 1 – August 31, 2019. The Fall/Winter FY19 grant cycle saw 85 festivals receive grants for a total of \$44,500. The Spring/Summer FY19 deadline for applications opens on January 5th and closes on March 15th. The grantees are chosen through an in-house review process and made based on eligibility with regional diversity taken into consideration. The granted festivals span the Commonwealth. The Festivals program is designed to help festival programmers meet the needs of producing, promoting, and developing audiences. The grants are \$500. We also offer in addition to the grants, technical assistance to first time festivals and grantees in the form of webinars that address social media, data collection, accessibility and inclusion and sustainability.

Cultural Districts.

Background. As new staff will be working on this initiative, we thought it would be helpful to remind the Council of the legislative background for the Cultural Districts Initiative.

On July 27, 2010, Governor Patrick signed a bill into law (M.G.L. c. 10, § 58A) that allows cities and towns to create state-sponsored cultural districts to stimulate new arts and cultural activity and attract creative businesses.

The law directs the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) to create a new program that designates local districts to accomplish the following goals:

- To attract artists and cultural enterprises to a community
- Foster local cultural development
- Encourage business and job development
- Preserve and reuse historic buildings
- Establish tourist destinations

- Enhance property values

The legislation also directs executive branch agencies, constitutional offices and quasi-governmental agencies to work with the MCC to identify services and programs that could support and enhance the development of cultural districts in Massachusetts.

Recent Activity. *New Staff.* As mentioned above, in September, the Mass Cultural Council welcomed Justina Crawford and Luis E. Cotto to the Communities Team. Luis manages the Cultural District Initiative. Luis shadowed Meri Jenkins for five weeks before her departure on October 26th. In honor of her tireless work and advocacy for the arts, Meri Jenkins was named a “Champion of Artists” awardee at this year’s Artists Under The Dome event at the State House.

Annual CDI Convening. On October 16, the Mass Cultural Council held the annual Cultural District Initiative Convening in the Center for the Arts in Natick, MA. More than 80 representatives from our 45 districts attended. The District presented the participants with an excellent opportunity to see the full scope of our Mass Cultural Council offerings (and the wonderful people behind them) via our pop-ups as well as opportunities to learn from each other. Working with the Communications team we were able to record all eleven of our best practice ‘Stand Ups’ from Cultural District stakeholders. We are now able to link the videos to not only other Cultural District stakeholders who were not able to attend but also our Local Cultural Councils to help them envision local programming options. The eleven video clips are available on our Mass Cultural Council YouTube Page. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/MassCulturalCouncil/>)

Recent Designation. Great Barrington – On Monday, October 22nd, we welcomed the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District into the family with a ceremony at the beautiful Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. This, the fourth Cultural District in the Berkshires, was approved by the board at the August 2018 meeting.

Proposed New Designation. In Section Seven of this Council Meeting Book, submitted for your consideration is a recommendation to designate the Town of Franklin as the 46th Cultural District in the Commonwealth.

Redesignations. Per Mass Cultural Council’s guidelines, a cultural district designation is valid for five years following council approval. An Annual Progress Report is required each year. A designation may be renewed for an additional five years if the district partnership has maintained compliance with annual reporting requirements in prior years, and the city or town recommits to its cultural district’s work.

In FY2019, eight cultural districts are in the fifth year of designation. Staff will meet with each district to guide them through the redesignation process in order to bring them up for a board vote in time for the August 2019 Board Meeting. The districts include:

- Barnstable Village Cultural District
- Newburyport Cultural District
- Paradise City Cultural District (Northampton)
- Riverfront Cultural District (Haverhill)
- Seaport Cultural District (New Bedford)
- Springfield Central Cultural District
- Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District
- Williamstown Cultural District

FY19 Cultural District Funding. In FY 2018, The Mass Cultural Council was able to offer each cultural district a grant of up to \$5000. We saw a great variety of use of these funds in initial reports from community placemaking initiatives like Maynard's "Inside Out" style community portrait project to Rockport's successful first year Maker Festival which brought summer like crowds to its cultural district in late November! Some districts used the funds to support fulltime positions like Boston's Literary Cultural District which recently created a Cultural District office in conjunction with Emerson College and the Springfield Cultural Partnership, the parent organization to the Springfield Central Cultural District, which recently hired a new Director.

Moving Forward. At present, the Cultural District Initiative is officially "on pause" to allow for adequate on boarding of new staff as well as reorganization of the Communities Initiative staff. This has not stopped us from ongoing site visits to meet with interested cities and stakeholders. This quarter we have met and walked with representatives from:

- Harwich – One of our Compact Communities, staff visited this beautiful Cape town to discuss their future applications for two local districts in 2019.
- Bedford – Visited the home of the Bedford Flag, the oldest complete flag known to exist in the United States. It is the flag carried by the Bedford Minuteman, Nathaniel Page, to the Concord Bridge on April 19, 1775, the beginning of the American Revolution.
- Fitchburg – The 2nd hilliest town in the US has a number of major cultural capital improvement projects underway led by the City, a local CDC, the Fitchburg Art Museum and Fitchburg State University. We look forward to continued conversations about Cultural District possibilities.
- Lenox – Beautiful Lenox, MA looks to become the fifth Berkshire based Cultural District adding to an already destination rich region for out of state tourists and local 'staycationers' alike.

- Winchester – Home of the Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester is en route towards Spring/Summer consideration to join the Cultural District cohort.
- Framingham – The vibrant Framingham Cultural Council leads the stakeholder attempt towards possible consideration in 2019.

ARTISTS

FY19 Artist Fellowships: In December 2018, Mass Cultural Council hosted grant review panels for FY19 Artist Fellowships in Crafts, Dramatic Writing, and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres. The results of those panels – panel recommendations for 16 Fellowships (\$15,000) and 16 Finalist awards (\$1,000) – are detailed elsewhere in this book. Pending approval by the Council, applicants will be notified of their award status in late January/early February. The fellows/finalists will be promoted online and in Mass Cultural Council's various communications.

The deadline for the second FY19 Artist Fellowships cycle, for the categories of Film & Video, Music Composition, and Photography, is January 28, 2019. Panels will take place in April. Recommendations from those panels will go to the May 2019 Council meeting.

Categories for the Artist Fellowships recur every other year. In the FY20 cycle, we'll accept applications in Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, Traditional Arts, Choreography, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting.

ArtSake: [ArtSake](#) is the Mass Cultural Council's online resource for individual artists in Massachusetts. Along with featuring the work and voices of Massachusetts artists, the site includes a Creative Space Classified ads feature, explorations of topics of interest to artists, and news about past Artist Fellowships awardees. Of particular note is the weekly round-up of artist opportunities, which shares contests, residencies, grants, calls to artists, and other opportunities. The feature is compiled and curated by Kelly Bennett.

In the Field: Dan Blask continues to serve as Mass Cultural Council's representative in the New England Foundation for the Arts' New England States Touring (NEST) program. He will participate in a phone conference to decide the Winter 2019 NEST awards on January 14, 2019. On February 27, 2019, he will co-lead a grant-writing workshop with LEF Foundation Program Director Sara Archambault, at the Emerson College Department of Visual and Media Arts.

FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE

Traditional Arts Apprenticeships: Mass Cultural Council awarded 10 grants in September supporting master artists and apprentices in the following traditions: Nepalese sarangi playing, Cambodian folk dance, guitar making, Odissi dance,

Westfield whipmaking, the music of Epirus, Greece, Carnatic violin, vocal, and mridangam playing, and Kathk dance. Since the program's inception in 2001, the Council has funded a total of 65 apprenticeships in a variety of craft and performing traditions.

Fieldwork: Recent fieldwork documented bird dog training and pheasant hunting in Norfolk/Millis and the Noble & Cooley drum manufacturing company in Granville, a 7- generation, family-owned business dating back to 1854.

Lowell Folk Festival: Program Manager Maggie Holtzberg has selected "Fish & Fowl" as the theme for the Folklife area of the 2019 Lowell Folk Festival and is busy researching and reaching out to traditional craft artists. Under consideration are artisans who make duck decoy carvers, ship models, needle felted birds, Gyotaku (fish rubbings), taxidermy, pysanky (Ukrainian decorated eggs) fish weirs, bamboo fishing rods and fly tying, fish creels, and more.

Showcase Concert: Our September 8 concert at the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport was a tremendous success. The concert showcased underserved ethnically diverse music and dance traditions in a stunning mainstream venue. An added bonus is professionally produced videos of their performances, which are housed on Mass Cultural Council's YouTube channel. The [highlight reel](#) gives you a taste of the show's variety.

National Meetings: In October, Maggie was awarded the [Benjamin A. Botkin Prize](#) by the [American Folklore Society](#) (AFS) at its annual meeting in Buffalo, NY. The Indiana-based AFS cited her scholarship, field research, and commitment to diversity and accessibility, in her work in communities across Massachusetts and nationally. She also attended a national Folk & Traditional Arts convening organized by the NEA and held as a pre-conference before the annual NASAA meeting in Baltimore, MD. It was an incredible opportunity to discuss the value and impact of folk and traditional arts practice on community life. Attendees included representatives of national, regional, and state folk arts agencies, traditional artists, cultural advocates, community leaders, festival directors, educators, and museum curators.

CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CYD) & EDUCATION

Last meeting, we spent a lot of time discussing the **YouthReach** and **SerHacer** programs and those programs are underway in FY19 and we will have more to report about those programs at future meetings. In this Meeting's Updates, we wanted to update the Council on some of the other initiatives in the CYD area.

Amplify. On Tuesday, December 18th we held our annual panel to review applications for the 2019 Amplify grant. The panel was made up of the people listed below. Our work was to review applications and make recommendations for funding AND to continue reviewing Amplify as a program to ensure that its

youth leadership and development qualities remain a top priority of its implementation. Following last year's success, we included three program alums into our evaluation panel, these young leaders from the field helped us ensure that youth voice was present at every stage of the process.

The Amplify FY19 panel:

- Tracie Konopinsky, Program Director *Mass Creative*
- Kahmal London, Coordinator/ Program Manager, Alum *The Clubhouse Network*
- Edelind Peguero, Alum *Hyde Square Taskforce*
- Carmen Piedad, Program Manager, Alum *Boston City Singers*
- Christina Turner, Director of Education, *New Bedford Whaling Museum*

The results of the panel are attached as Exhibit A.

The panel recommended funding 15 out of 17 total applications representing \$15,000 in funding. The panel was strict in its evaluation, making a conscious effort to reward quality programming that placed youth voice and engagement at the forefront of the application (scoring above 73 out of 100). Noticing a significant gap in its evaluation, the panel recommended that Mass Cultural Council staff provided additional technical assistance to programs below 73 points, to address the role of youth leaders in the proposed programming as well as helping them develop better tools for evaluation and assessing impact. In conclusion the Amplify FY2019 panel left a message for Mass Cultural Council:

Understanding the funding challenges within all of the communities that applied for an Amplify grant as well as decreased funding for the arts across Massachusetts, the FY19 Amplify panel recommends as many possible applicants receive funding. Enabling as many communities as possible to benefit from the experience and programming.

After making funding recommendations the panel reviewed the Amplify grant process. There was unanimous excitement about the work and its potential to further develop the voices of young artists in Massachusetts, empowering a new generation of citizens and artists who understand their worth and responsibilities in society. The overarching recommendations for further rounds of funding included clarifying and reiterating that all projects must be designed and executed by young people, and that the process of applying needed to come from young people and not program staff. The Panel celebrated Mass Cultural Council's efforts to empower youth voice and made several comments on how to ensure the program remained visible and available at the right times for both programs and applicants. The panel expressed a great degree of gratitude and embraced their role as part of the process as a facet they felt was previously not available to youth and helped further their development as professionals in the field.

The META Fellowship. On October 11, 2018 we kicked off the second cohort of the Music Educator and Teaching Artist (META) Fellowship, a partnership of The Klarman Family Foundation and the Mass Cultural Council. As with our previous cohort, Eric Booth led us into the two-year program and was followed by Dr. Bettina Love at our second session on November 5th. We are working throughout the year to make some of the resources of the META Fellowship available more broadly to the cultural sector outside of music and, with this in mind, offered a public talk by Dr. Love prior to the Fellowship session and hosted a training with BEST initiative ahead of their work in the Fellowship during the upcoming third session.

As referenced in the 'Next Steps' document elsewhere in the materials we are also working to develop a funding coalition to support the expansion of the META Fellowship to disciplines outside of music. Stay tuned for further details.

Wonderfund. Over the last three months we have continued to build a partnership with Wonderfund, an organization dedicated to providing youth in the foster care systems with opportunities they may not otherwise have. Working closely with the Commonwealth's First Lady, Lauren Baker, and our Council Chair, Nina Fialkow, we are moving toward a pilot program in the Berkshires that builds on the success of the EBT Card to Culture Program and will provide access to cultural opportunities throughout the region for young people and their foster families.

The National Guild for Community Arts Education Conference. On November 14, 2018 the CYD team facilitated a pre-conference day at the National Guild for Community Arts Education's annual conference. The day, which was entitled **From Hope to How**, focused on the practice and purpose of intentionally integrating youth development practices into music learning. Attended by representatives from across the country, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the training featured a youth worker training by the BEST Initiative, which Mass Cultural Council funded the creation of more than 10 years ago. In addition to the training, Massachusetts programs were heavily featured as presenters around different aspects of Creative Youth Development throughout the conference.

Education

STARS Residencies. STARS Residencies provides grants of up to \$5000 to schools to fund in-school residencies with a cultural partner. Any school in Massachusetts is eligible to apply. This year, with increased funding made possible by the budget increase, we were able to provide grants to 243 schools, 15% more than FY18. We received 276 applications (up 7% from FY18) requesting \$1,077,150 (up 3% from FY18). Grants awarded totaled \$958,400 (a

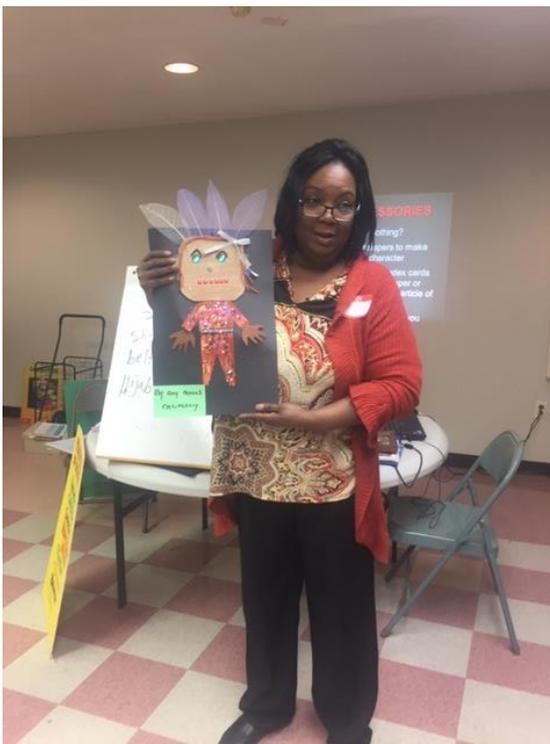
slight increase to budget accommodate the final applicant). Demand again outstripped funds available 40 minutes after the application opened.

This year, STARS will serve almost 21,500 students statewide and support 162 cultural partners (a number of cultural partners in more than one STARS-funded school.) As always, we work with schools and cultural partners prior to the application date to help them design residencies that will meet student needs and program requirements. A full listing of the grantee schools and cultural partners will be made available.

Grantees tell us how important these funds are to them. The residencies provide creative learning opportunities that bring the power of culture into their students' lives. We receive many stories about this power in the Final Reports. We'll share these with you in future updates.

Big Yellow School Bus. Big Yellow School Bus provides grants to help pay for transportation to a non-profit cultural destination in Massachusetts for K-12 schools statewide. This year, we increased the grant amount from \$200 to \$250 in recognition of increased transportation costs. With a slight increase in the budget, this brings the total possible grants to 600 (it was 700 last year). At the halfway mark in the school year, we've awarded 539 grants sending more than 44,470 students to 147 cultural organizations across the Commonwealth. This year, the Museum of Science heads the list of destinations, followed by the New England Aquarium, Plimoth Plantation, and the Museum of Fine Arts. As always, educators tell us that, for many, the Big Yellow School bus grants make the trips possible.

Creative Minds Out of School. This program provides free curriculum, training, and follow-up support in visual art teaching and learning to afterschool and out-of-school educators who work with children grades K-5. As in FY18, our strategy is to develop relationships with systems of sites – city systems, program systems,



rural network systems – to amplify the impact of the program. This fall, we brought on board 21st Century afterschool programs in both Lowell and Fall River, two Gateway cities. We also provided training to the Springfield Housing Authority -- Springfield is another Gateway city. We have also increased our capacity to serve sites in the Berkshires and continue our outreach to programs in this part of the state. The training and curriculum are designed to help educators who may or may not have any experience themselves in making visual art. In the training, trainees

go through some of the lessons so that they can have the same experience of exploring materials and making their own art that the children will have. "Share and Reflect" is an important step in the CMOST curriculum, as it gives children – and trainees – the opportunity to talk about their art and see what others have done.

FY19 Trainings

Program	Staff Trained	Status
Berkshire Child Care	35	completed
Beverly Children's Learning Center	10	completed
Springfield Housing Authority	15	completed
City Year	TBD	February
Great Barrington Independent Child Care Programs	TBD	March
Holyoke Public Schools 21 st Century Community Learning Centers	TBD	April
Lowell Public Schools 21 st Century Community Learning Centers	TBD	upcoming

Creative Minds Out of School is implemented in Massachusetts with Mass Cultural Council through a contract with Innovation Learning Center, Inc. ILC was selected through an RFP process in FY 15. Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see student art and learn more.

Early Childhood Pilot. As we wrote in the last update, we are designing a pilot to connect families with children ages 0-5 with the rich cultural resources in our CIP portfolio. As research shows, the youngest brains benefit significantly in social, emotional, and physical development from creative learning experiences. We also know that engaging parents in those experiences is important if we want those experiences to continue at home. We have teamed up with the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) so that we can use their network of community-based organizations that have relationships with families with young children. Collaboratively, we have chosen to focus on communities on the Cape and the cultural organizations there that provide programming for children ages 0-5.

This will be a learning lab opportunity. Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Greenbriar/Thornton Burgess, Cape Cod Conservatory, and the Heritage Museums and Gardens are participating. Through the EEC community-based organizations we will offer either free passes to families with children ages 0-5 or free classes for a parent and child (all subsidized by Mass Cultural Council.) We

will gather information on the types of families that participate and about their experiences at the cultural organizations. We are working with EEC to put the pieces in place now; the pilot will run from April – June.

Poetry Out Loud. Once again, the Huntington Theatre and Mass Cultural Council are working to engage high schools in Poetry Out Loud. Poetry Out Loud is the national recitation competition for high school students created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The program brings the power of culture into the lives of more than 20,000 young people across Massachusetts each year. By digging deep into poetry, these young people come to understand the messages of the poems they choose, and then find the way to bring those messages to life through their performances. They learn about their rich literary heritage, develop important skills in critical thinking and public speaking, and build self-confidence. And, they bring the power of culture into the lives of their teachers, their families, and their friends.

We expect to have close to 90 schools registered by the time school competitions are held in late January and February. Schools will send their winners to regional semi-finals March 2-4; 5 students from each regional will compete in the state finals at the Old South Meeting House on March 10. Our state winner then travels in April to compete with the other state winners from across the country at the national finals in Washington, D.C. Poetry Out Loud, now in its 14th year, is run in Massachusetts for Mass Cultural Council by the dedicated Education Department at the Huntington Theatre. If you can, come to one of the [regional competitions or the MA state finals](#) to experience the power of poetry performed by these high school students.

Massachusetts History Day. [MA History Day](#) is an affiliate of [National History Day](#), the competition sponsored by the National History Day organization and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Middle and high school students choose a topic related to the annual theme, conduct research with primary and secondary sources, analyze and interpret their findings and then present their research either through a research paper, exhibit, documentary, performance, or web site. Like Poetry Out Loud, the students enter into regional semi-finals in March and, if recommended, move to the state finals in April. Approximately 70 Massachusetts winners go to national finals in June in Maryland. This year's theme (selected several years ago) is "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

Our partnership with the Massachusetts Historical Society to promote MA History Day had a great start to year two: the Legislature included a \$15,000 line item for the program in the state budget, and Mass Cultural Council was able provide matching funds. The funds are growing access to the program by subsidizing student and teacher registration fees for the state and national competitions. They are also expanding outreach through teacher resources, workshops and training, promotion and marketing. Funds are also paying

important stipends to the teachers who dedicate countless hours as Student Workshop Volunteers and Regional Leads.

CULTURAL FACILITIES FUND (CFF)

At an event at the Springfield Museums last June, Governor Baker announced the commitment of another \$10 million for a 2019 CFF round of funding. The Program Guidelines were updated to prepare for the new round, and presented to the CFF Advisory Committee on September 24. As part of the approval process, the guidelines were sent to the MassDevelopment Board for final approval and the Round 11 Cultural Facilities Fund application was made available to the public on October 12, 2018.

A series of public information sessions were scheduled for staff to present the new application. The sessions were held at the following locations across the Commonwealth:

Guyer Barn, Hyannis	November 1
USS Constitution Museum, Boston	November 2
Old Town Hall, Salem	November 5
Hanover Theatre, Worcester	November 6
The Hitchcock Center, Amherst	November 7
Shakespeare & Co., Lenox	November 8
Co-Creative Center, New Bedford	November 9

A webinar was held on November 13 for anyone who could not make the in-person information sessions and participants were afforded the opportunity to ask questions about the application and the process.

On November 16, we received 197 Intent to Apply notifications. This number of potential applicants is consistent with past years. The range of Intents is typically between 140 and 210.

The CFF review panels will convene in March and we will make grant announcements after the CFF Advisory Committee and the Mass Development Board in May 2019.

UP - UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.

Innovation and Learning Network (ILN). Eight organizations have applied and been accepted into the ILN 2019. Workshops and instructors are being finalized. The UP kick off is scheduled for Wednesday January 23 at the Discovery Museum in Acton, 6:30-8:00pm. Organizations participating in the ILN receive a 3K stipend, a user/expert site visit from the Institute for Human Centered Design, a

website audit from the National Center for Accessible Media, and attend 5 workshops on the principles and practices of Universal Design.

- Berkshire Pulse, Great Barrington
- Cambridge Arts Council, Cambridge
- Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst
- Gore Place, Waltham
- Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington
- Mosesian Center for the Arts, Watertown
- Peabody Essex Museum, Salem
- Springfield Museums, Springfield

UP Designation. Eight organizations applied directly for UP Designation; with the benefit being direct access to the UP network, the Innovation Fund, and ongoing professional development. Applications have been received from:

- Abilities Dance, Boston
- Boston App/LAB, Boston
- Boston Lyric Opera, Boston
- Berkshire Theatre Festival, Pittsfield
- Cape Cod Theatre Company, Harwich
- Eureka Ensemble, Cambridge
- Me2/Orchestra, Boston

Innovation Fund. 9 organizations applying for the Innovation Fund 2019 were accepted. The Innovation Fund is a \$3000 grant for an UP Designated Organization try something new when considering barrier removal:

- American Repertory Theater, Cambridge
- ArtsEmerson, Boston
- Greater Boston Stage Company, Stoneham
- Liars and Believers, Cambridge
- Mass Audubon, Lincoln
- Mass MoCA, North Adams
- Wheelock Family Theatre, Boston
- Williamstown Theatre Festival, Williamstown

EBT Card to Culture. EBT Card to Culture, guided by Kalyn King (CIP Program Officer), achieved great success in its first year. Nearly all FY18 participating organizations will participate in FY19. To aid communication updates, applications in FY19 will be reviewed quarterly. Jen Lawless presented on the EBT Card to Culture program at National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in Baltimore and the FY19 UP Initiative application now requests Card to Culture participation. Kalyn King will lead the program having returned from maternity leave December 2018. After a meeting with Massachusetts Department of

Transitional Assistance (DTA) Commissioner McCue, ways to grow the program utilizing recipients of MassHealth are being discussed.

- The program was noted in the press: **Bloomberg: [When a Factory Town Becomes a Museum Town](#)** and has been duplicated by the New Jersey Arts Council.
- An appreciation event will be scheduled to occur at the Boston Children's Museum.
- To instigate broader awareness, Kalyn and Charles will present the program to the DTA marketing teams on January 10.

Education/Consultation

- **ADA 101's:** 6 information sessions were scheduled throughout the Commonwealth. These workshops address legal obligations under the American With Disabilities Act and the ILN of the UP Initiative as a resource. (Sessions in Watertown, Truro, Springfield, Peabody, Lenox, Boston)
- **Local Cultural Councils in Easthampton, Greenfield, and Worcester:** as the deadline approached for the LCC's, Program Officer Charles Baldwin was available to consult on ADA compliance
- **Boston Architectural College:** After leading a warm up exercise at the Natick Cultural Compact gathering, I was invited to lead a class on human design and cultural bias
- **Back Bay Chorale, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Charlesgate Neighborhood Association, Greater Boston Stage Company:** Consultation on Universal Design practices, audience development, relaxed performances

Leadership/Branding

- **Americans for the Arts:** representing the Mass Cultural Council and the constituency of artists with disabilities on the AFTA Equity working group.
- **HUBweek:** panel moderator for two discussions in October during Boston's Innovation Fair: "Disability Aesthetics" (Changemakers Conference) and "Disability and Digital Entrepreneurs" (Hacking Arts Conference).

EXHIBIT A TO AGENCY UPDATES

Amplify 2019

Program descriptions

Ballet Rox (Boston) *Women's Empowerment through Dance:* to choreograph and perform a dance piece meant about the social issues specifically women's' rights and empowerment. The project will use music made by female artists, who advocate for women's rights.

Books of Hope (Somerville), To host a series of writing and community organizing workshops for a group of teens at the Mystic Learning Center led by Youth Artist Andrine Pierresaint. This program will culminate with Andrine sharing her own insights as a youth artist and organizer, and guiding the teens as they plan, host and perform their own original work in BOH's annual Somerville Youth Arts Festival in June 2019

Boston City Singers (Boston), *Combatting Loneliness with a gift of Song:* To create a forum to discuss the "epidemic of loneliness". BCS's Tour Choir will host and videotape interactive sing-a-long social events and discussions with nursing home residents and staff in Dorchester, and utilize it to encourage the creation of positive communities to assist with suicide and addiction prevention (common results of loneliness).

Elevated thought (Lawrence), *Immunity* : To create a film documenting the stories of various Lawrence community members and their families who were directly affected by September's gas explosions. The film will capture in a non-exploitive manner the resilience of the community in the aftermath of extreme adversity.

Enchanted Circle Theater (Holyoake) *Heroes Youth Truth Performance Ensemble:* To create and present a youth performance focused on raising awareness of out-of-home-care experiences and stories. This work will be presented at regional DCF meetings, classes for potential foster parents, and legislators as well as the general public.

Express Yourself (Beverly), *The Bee Project:* To promote constructive conversation and destigmatize mental health in youth by creating an exhibition of linoleum Bees. Besides the exhibition, a video of this project will be featured in Express Yourself's 25th Annual performance.

GreenRoots, Inc. (Chelsea), *Environmental Chelsea Organizers (ECO):* To design and paint Chelsea storm drains to raise awareness about storm-water runoff while adding cool city public art.

Groundwork Lawrence (Lawrence), *Green Team recycling art and awareness project,* to collectively create a piece of artwork using a piece of recycled pipe from the recent gas explosions in Lawrence. This piece will represent the strength of the

Lawrence community in the face of adversity. The art piece will be revealed to the community at the Lawrence S.A.L.S.A (Supporting Active Lifestyles for All) festival.

Hyde Square Task Force (Boston), *Ritmo en Acción Showcase*: To collectively choreograph a showcase of Afro Latin Dances, and perform them for the community.

New Bedford Whaling Museum (New Bedford) "*Once upon a teenager: a storytelling project*": To record each of NBWM's Youth Apprentice's life stories and showcase them in an exhibition as well as the 10th anniversary celebration of NBWM's Apprentices Program

New England Aquarium (Boston) "*Prompting Youth Action: It's our time*": To Create an educational video in collaboration with Zumix, to educate and inspire young people to pursue community and state action to promote an ecologically aware legislature. The video will be shown in four public events.

Sociedad Latina (Boston) "*Raices open mic series*": To design and lead a monthly open mic series titled "Raices" featuring guest artists and youth performers.

The Clubhouse network (Worcester) "*Digital illustration with Paintool SAI*": To offer a series of youth led digital illustration workshops for the community and clubhouse members.

Worcester Public Schools (Worcester) "*Unites Master Class Project*": To design and deliver a series of high school student-led master classes for elementary school students in Worcester Public Schools system.

Worcester Youth Center (Worcester) "*YouthSpeak!: Talent Show*": to design and host a series of talent shows to be held monthly, January 2019 to June 2019; Performers will be recruited from current WYC participants, as well as youth from the City of Worcester and beyond. This program will allow the organizers to practice and strengthen their organization skills, as well as give talent show participants an opportunity to showcase creative talents.



Power of culture

Fiscal Year 2020 State Budget Request

The Mass Cultural Council requests a **state appropriation of \$18 million for FY20**, a \$2 million increase from the current fiscal year. The agency will put these funds to work toward our vision of a Commonwealth where:

- Culture elevates the quality of life and well-being of all communities
- Culture drives growth and opportunity through the creative economy
- Culture is inclusive, equitable, and embraces our diversity
- Culture empowers a new generation through creative youth development and education

Investing in the arts, humanities, and sciences through Mass Cultural Council delivers significant returns to the Commonwealth. Nonprofit cultural organizations drive local economies, from Greater Boston, to Gateway Cities, to our rural and coastal communities. Nonprofits supported by Mass Cultural Council:

- Generate more than **\$2.2 billion** in annual economic activity,
- Support **73,000 full time jobs**, and
- Produce more than **\$159 million in local and state tax revenue**, according to the 2016 Arts and Economic Prosperity Report.

In our schools, arts education boosts student achievement, attendance, and family engagement. Afterschool programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences—creative youth development—help steer youth away from trouble into successful pathways through school, community, and the workforce. Finally, perhaps most importantly, culture plays a central role in helping our citizens discover timeless truths about themselves and the world we share.

The Mass Cultural Council (*line item 0640-0300*) will put a \$2 million state increase in FY20 to work in four core areas through a range of grant programs and services, focusing on four key goals in the [agency's five-year strategic plan](#)*:

Goal 1: Enriching Communities: Amplify cultural vitality in cities and towns through integrated community-focused grants, initiatives, and advocacy.

The Mass Cultural Council will increase grants to its **329 Local Cultural Councils**, the nation's largest network of community arts support led by **2,500 volunteers** in every city and town. Currently LCCs are able to fund just over half of the thousands of quality proposals they receive for community arts initiatives.

While boosting LCC grants, we will also invest additional dollars in our 46 Mass Cultural Districts, engines of community development in cities and towns across the Commonwealth. And we will continue to work closely with six cities and towns on Cultural Compacts that seek to align local cultural and community development goals. Cultural Compacts aim is to amplify cultural vitality in cities and towns through integrated community-focused planning, grantmaking, and programming. Finally we will also increase our annual partnership grant to Mass Humanities, which supports civic learning and engagement through history, literature, and other humanities disciplines in communities across the state.

New FY20 Investment: \$750,000

Goal 2: Growing the Creative Economy: Enhance the Commonwealth's economic vitality by helping cultural organizations and artists thrive.

Mass Cultural Council will reinvest in its core program for nonprofits: the Cultural Investment Portfolio. These operating support grants to nearly **400 organizations** provide more fuel for our museums, theaters, music centers, and historic sites—major engines for the Commonwealth's cultural tourism sector. Additional grant dollars will also allow our smaller nonprofits—which make up the bulk of our funding—to develop programs, hire new staff and contractors, and strengthen their finances. We will also continue to diversify our pool of new grantees with funding for new and emerging organizations.

New FY20 Investment: \$500,000

Goal 3: Empowering a Creative Generation: Enhance creative learning experiences in schools and communities that instill agency in, and support the growth of, creative, productive, independent-minded young people.

We seek to increase investment in Creative Youth Development, nationally recognized programs that use the power of the arts, humanities, and sciences to help young people learn, grow, and thrive. These include:

- Big Yellow School Bus—\$250 grants to offset school transportation costs for field trips to cultural venues, serving more than **50,000 students** yearly.
- STARS Residencies—grants bring skilled teaching artists and history and science educators into **more than 240 schools** for extended learning programs. These grants up to \$5,000 are immensely popular with teachers and principals at all levels of K-12 education.
- YouthReach, SerHacer & Amplify—deep teaching and learning through arts, science, and humanities alongside positive youth development, with a focus on marginalized communities.

New FY20 Investment: \$500,000

Goal 4: Advancing Inclusion and Equity: Promote more diverse and inclusive participation in the cultural sector by ensuring equity in policies, practices, and opportunities.

We will deepen investments in our Universal Participation (UP) Initiative, which supports a growing cohort of cultural nonprofits that are breaking down barriers to participation through inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible policies and practices. UP Awards recognize and financially support organizations in this cohort that illustrate the core principles of accessibility. Funding will also help us implement a new plan to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion at the agency and across the field, building on partnerships and initiatives like the EBT Card to Culture, through which more than **170,000 Mass residents received free or discounted admissions** to arts experiences last year.

New FY20 Investment: \$250,000

Background:

Mass Cultural Council is a state agency that promotes excellence, education, diversity, and inclusion in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to improve our quality of life and contribute to the vitality of our communities and economy. It pursues this mission through a wide range of grants, initiatives, and advocacy for artists, communities, organizations, and schools. Its FY19 budget is \$18 million, which includes a \$16 million state appropriation and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and other sources. The agency also runs the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) in partnership with MassDevelopment, with a separate, \$10 million allocation from the state's capital budget.

** By statute all final budget allocations must be approved by members of the Cultural Council, who are appointed by the Governor.*



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council Board
Fr: Anita Walker and David Slatery
Date: January 15, 2019
Re: FY19 Mid-Year Financial Update

Following this memo is a one-page budget spreadsheet for FY19.

We are now just over halfway through the fiscal year, and our spending is on target or below in most accounts. Typically spending lags in the first half of the year.

Since our final FY19 spending plan was approved, there have been some minor adjustments in line items to reflect changes in cost estimates and spending sources. Some of the items originally classified as Administration expenses have been reclassified as Consultant expenses and resulted in some transfers between those two lines (both in the overhead and in the program costs section of the attached budget spreadsheet). As anticipated, Klarman Family Foundation has delivered the first installment of its grant (\$90,000) for the META program (they rounded up from the \$88,200 that was estimated at the August meeting).

As will be discussed at the meeting, we are currently reviewing how we report financial information with the Council's Finance Task Force. We have issued an RFP for an Accountant/Financial Professional to help us make better use of the Commonwealth's MMARS reporting system so that we can report spending geographically and programmatically as well as on a functional basis as is currently being done.

As we note each year, please also note the current FY19 budget presumes approximately \$325,000 in reimbursement expenses from the Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) program. Under the CFF statute, reimbursable expenses are calculated as a percentage of CFF grants awarded, meaning we may only receive expenses this year once CFF awards have been approved through the CFF process. Governor Baker has allocated \$10 million to CFF in the FY19 Capital Plan and we are conducting a new round of CFF funding this year (as described in the Agency Updates memo). However, our reimbursement funds will not be available until and unless new CFF grant recommendations are approved and MassDevelopment forwards them. We don't anticipate any issue but did want to point out that reimbursement is a contingency event.

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL FY 19 BUDGET Council Meeting January 15, 2018		FY 18 FINAL BUDGET (EST)	FY 19 BUDGET PROJECTED	FY 19 EXPENDED TO JAN 9, 2019
NON GRANT/NON PROGRAM EXPENSES-SALARIES, SPACE, AND ADMINISTRATION				
1	AA: Salaries	\$ 2,463,011	\$ 2,682,686	\$ 1,292,947.51
2	AA: Fringe & Indirect (Salaries & Contracts Paid Thru Fed. or Trust Accounts)	90,476	94,000	-
3	BB: Employee Related Expenses	41,555	46,675	20,018
4	CC: Interns and Contracted Employees	27,222	40,173	17,049
5	DD: Pension and Insurance Related Expenditures (State Chargebacks)	32,305	36,750	6,072
6	EE and FF: Administrative Expenses (NPS)	196,633	204,306	47,836
7	GG: Space Rental and Utilities	353,410	354,010	175,534
8	HH: Consultant Service (NPS) Contracts	180,624	102,634	24,829
9	JJ: Operational Services	6,834	31,000	9,305
10	KK: Equipment Purchases	17,266	15,850	-
11	LL: Equipment Leases and Maintenance (Non-IT)	21,581	23,650	7,032
12	UU: Information Technology Expenses	261,918	451,027	144,681
13	SUB-TOTAL NON GRANT/NON PROGRAM EXPENSES	3,692,835	4,082,761	1,745,304
14				
15	PROGRAM & SERVICES EXPENSES			
16	EE: Administrative Program Expenses	152,810	195,000	32,455
17	HH&JJ: Consultants & Panelists	285,401	522,550	174,548
18	LL&UU: P&S Tech and Equipment	14,100	21,000	3,850
19	SUB-TOTAL P&S EXPENSES	452,311	738,550	210,853
20				
21	GRANTS AND STIPENDS (PP)			
22	Cultural Districts	40,000	240,000	85,000
23	Artist Fellowships	441,000	543,000	-
24	Cultural Investment Portfolio	4,440,100	5,022,500	3,441,638
25	Media	120,000	120,000	-
26	Festival	99,000	115,000	25,500
27	Local Cultural Council Program	3,030,000	3,400,000	546,000
28	Mass. Cultural Data Project	47,500	47,500	47,500
29	Poetry Out Loud	17,500	17,500	-
30	Traditional Arts Apprenticeships	-	70,000	40,080
31	Big Yellow School Bus	117,800	150,000	97,500
32	STARS	865,000	958,400	-
33	CYD -YouthReach	660,000	832,000	593,800
34	CYD-Amplify	14,850	15,000	-
35	CYD-SerHacer	275,670	352,000	204,800
36	CYD: META	119,721	150,000	-
37	UP Program Stipends/Challenge Grants	61,000	70,000	-
38	Compact Grants	50,000	40,000	10,000
39	SUB-TOTAL GRANT EXPENSES	10,399,141	12,142,900	5,091,818
40				
41	PARTNERSHIPS, RE-GRANT AND PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAMS			
42	Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities	525,616	605,229	453,850
43	NEFA Project	50,000	55,000	55,000
44	Pass Through Earmarks	25,000	120,000	20,000
45	SUB-TOTAL PARTNERSHIPS/ RE-GRANT PROGRAMS	600,616	780,229	528,850
46				
47	OTHER			
48	Prepaid Expenses and Carryforward	599,278	330,471	
49	SUB-TOTAL, OTHER	599,278	330,471	
50				
51	SUB-TOTAL, ALL PROGRAM	12,051,346	13,992,150	
51a	CFF GRANTS (OFF BALANCE SHEET)	9,302,400	9,303,000	
51b	ALL PROGRAM SPENDING INCLUDING CFF	21,353,746	23,295,150	
52				
53	TOTAL EXPENSES (Not including CFF)	15,744,181	18,074,911	

54			
55	REVENUE		
56	State: Basic Appropriation (0640-0300) less Earmarks	13,925,699	16,034,982
57	State: Pass-Through Funds	25,000	120,000
58	State: Supplemental Appropriation		
59	MassDevelopment: For MCC Expenses Associated with Cultural Fac	326,549	325,000
60	Prepaid Expenses (Funding from Prior Years' Budgets)	296,840	463,623
61	National Endowment for the Arts: Basic State Plan	585,800	592,700
62	National Endowment for the Arts: Arts in Education	64,100	63,500
63	National Endowment for the Arts: Arts in Underserved Communities	193,800	197,000
64	National Endowment for the Arts: Folk Arts Infrastructure Grant	30,000	30,000
65	National Endowment for the Arts: "Poetry Out Loud"	17,500	17,500
66	Private Funds: Big Yellow School Bus	800	-
67	Harry Rice Trust Account (As of 7/1)	84,882	73,994
68	Additions to Harry Rice	1,584	4,706
69	Comm Awards Trust Account	6	6
70	Additions to Comm Awards Account		
71	Klarman Year I Funding for META	46,621	-
72	Klarman Year II Funding for META	135,000	61,900
73	Klarman Year III Funding for META		90,000
74	Dudamel Foundation	10,000	
75	TOTAL REVENUE	15,744,181	18,074,911
		-	-



Power of culture

Mass Cultural Council Retreat Follow-up

Mass Cultural Council met in Shelburne Falls on October 23, 2018 for its annual retreat, which this year focused on investments in Creative Youth Development. Together with Senator Adam Hinds, Eric Booth, several funded programs and a small group of young people, the Council detailed a number of areas that our work in Creative Youth Development might grow into. After careful examination of each possibility, staff have identified three areas we are equipped to move forward in the coming year.

Council Retreat Next Steps

- 1. Early Childhood** – A focus on prevention vs intervention: Early engagement in the arts, sciences and humanities has a positive impact on the social, emotional and cognitive development of young children. In FY18, we reached out to the MA Department of Early Education and Childcare (EEC) to find ways for low-income families with children ages 0-5 to connect with cultural resources available through our CIP organizations. We are now looking toward developing a pilot with EEC to run this spring to engage vulnerable families with cultural organizations in their area. We've chosen the Cape as a needy region that is a good size for a pilot. EEC's community-based organizations will provide the link to low-income families they serve. We will provide funding to make programs and resources of four CIP organizations (arts, sciences, and humanities) accessible to the families. We'll track how many families participate, how the families and children benefit from the experiences, and how the arrangements work for the CIP and EEC organizations involved. Our goal is to develop models that can work in other Massachusetts communities with other CIP grantees.
- 2. Expansion of Support for Teaching Artists** – Following the successful evaluation of the META Fellowship Pilot Program, in partnership with The Klarman Family Foundation, we are engaging with a broad group of funders and organizations to expand this program to the other disciplines, outside of music, that we support. We are currently discussing a potential future for the program with several local private funders, Edvestors, and the City of Boston's Office of Cultural Affairs. Our hope is to develop and pilot an

expanded program in the Fall of 2019, enhancing our nationally recognized leadership in Teaching Artist support.

- 3. Broaden the Stakeholders of CYD** - Creative Youth Development is a broad field with entry points for people and organizations that work in the arts, social services, workforce development, mental health, public health, and juvenile justice, to name a few. In the coming year we will seek to open new points of entry to a broader constituency of programs to explore new models of programming and support.

We currently approach this work at three levels. The first is at the state level in partnership and conversation with Department of Mental Health, Department of Youth Services, Department of Children and Families, Department of Public Health, and the Commonwealth Corporation through an Interagency Task-Force for Creative Youth Development. Second, with Americans for the Arts and The National Guild for Community Arts Education we are a founding member of the National Partnership for Creative Youth Development, an alliance has brought unprecedented visibility in research, practitioners and advocacy for CYD. In both cases Mass Cultural Council works in support of its constituents, recognizing them as exemplars, and leveraging tools and opportunities for them to lead the conversation on a broader scale.

An area of untapped potential are the international resources that are at our disposal to continue to build our field, identify new sources of funding and enhance the practice of CYD throughout the Commonwealth. In the next year we will begin working with an international advisory group with representation from agencies, organizations and programs from 7 different countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Scotland, India, and Norway). Our goal will be to start a global exchange that launches a process of international understanding that leads to visibility and efficacy of a global Creative Youth Development network and community. Conversations between international partners and our local programs have been remarkably well received by our constituents and we have heard loud and clear from our funded programs and the council that this work is deserving of the Council leveraging every resource on earth to support it.



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
Fr: Anita Walker, David T. Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Kelly Bennett, Dan Blask
Dt: January 15, 2019
Re: FY19 Artist Fellowships (First Cycle)

Enclosed for your review and approval are recommendations for 16 fellows (\$15,000 awards) and 16 finalists (\$1,000 awards) from a total of 457 eligible applications for the FY19 Artist Fellowships panels in Crafts, Dramatic Writing, and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres. The Grants Committee met on January 8 and recommended approval of the proposed awards described in this memo.

Included in this memo is a chart that shows the number of applications and grants in FY19, with comparative totals for FY17 and FY15 (the last two years these disciplines were reviewed). Following this memo are lists of panelists; recommendations and rankings for each panel; and detailed biographical information on each of the recommended fellows and finalists.

Artist Fellowships. The Artist Fellowships Program provides direct, unrestricted support to artists in recognition of artistic excellence. Artist Fellowships have been awarded in some form by Mass Cultural Council almost continuously since FY75.

There are two Artist Fellowship deadlines, each with different disciplines, each fiscal year. The first Artist Fellowships deadline for FY19 was in October 1, 2018 for the categories of Crafts, Dramatic Writing, and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres. Panels met in December. These are the recommendations being presented for the January 8 Grants Committee meeting.

The second FY19 application deadline is January 28, 2019, for the disciplines of Film & Video, Music Composition, and Photography. Panels will meet in April, and recommendations from those panels will go to the May 2019 Grants Committee and Council meetings.

Review Process and Criteria. The review criteria for Artist Fellowships are artistic quality and creative ability, based solely on the work submitted. Applications in the grant panels are reviewed anonymously and are discussed and scored by each panelist on a five-point scale.

In most categories, there is also a first round of review before the panel meets, which narrows the field to the most competitive applications through a yes/no vote.

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 by discussing the work again and voting. The funding lists that follow this memo reflect the award rankings.

Funding Charts

Below is the list of funding recommendations for the FY19 Artist Fellowships in Crafts, Dramatic Writing, and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres. We have also included lists from FY17 and FY15, for comparison.

FY19 - \$15,000 fellowships, \$1,000 finalist awards								
<u>Disciplines</u>	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Amount	Total Awarded
Crafts	96	5	5.21%	\$75,000	5	5.21%	\$5,000	\$80,000
Dramatic Writing	129	4	3.10%	\$60,000	5	3.88%	\$5,000	\$65,000
Sculpture	232	7	3.02%	\$105,000	6	2.59%	\$6,000	\$111,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	457	16	3.50%	\$240,000	16	3.50%	\$16,000	\$256,000

FY17 - \$12,000 fellowships, \$1,000 finalist awards								
<u>Disciplines</u>	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Amount	Total Awarded
Crafts	141	5	3.55%	\$60,000	5	3.55%	\$5,000	\$65,000
Dramatic Writing	135	4	2.96%	\$48,000	5	3.70%	\$5,000	\$53,000
Sculpture	285	7	2.46%	\$84,000	5	1.75%	\$5,000	\$89,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	561	16	2.85%	\$192,000	15	2.67%	\$15,000	\$207,000

FY15 - \$10,000 fellowships, \$1,000 finalist awards								
<u>Disciplines</u>	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Amount	Total Awarded
Crafts	128	5	3.91%	\$50,000	5	3.91%	\$5,000	\$55,000
Dramatic Writing	127	4	3.15%	\$40,000	5	3.94%	\$5,000	\$45,000
Sculpture	294	6	2.04%	\$60,000	7	2.38%	\$7,000	\$67,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	549	15	2.73%	\$150,000	17	3.10%	\$17,000	\$167,000

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships
Crafts Panel
December 10, 2018**

Panelists

Samuel Aldrich	Exhibition Associate, Fiber Arts Society of Arts and Crafts
Lin Linsberger	Sculptor, Woodcarver Lecturer of Art, University of Southern Maine
Anina Major	Visiting Assistant Professor of Fine Arts Pratt Institute, Brooklyn NY
Adrienne Tharp	Critic, Glass Casting & Moldmaking Rhode Island School of Design
Christopher Watt	Ceramicist Program Dir., Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill

**FY19 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
CRAFTS**

Panel Date: December 10, 2018

Total Applications: 96

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Gretchen Romey-Tanzer	Orleans	Barnstable	5.00	\$15,000.00
Jennifer McCurdy	Tisbury	Dukes	5.00	\$15,000.00
Judith Motzkin	Cambridge	Middlesex	5.00	\$15,000.00
Janice Jakielski	Sutton	Worcester	4.80	\$15,000.00
Mark Del Guidice	Concord	Middlesex	4.80	\$15,000.00
John Cameron	Gloucester	Essex	4.80	\$1,000.00
Matthew Sullivan	Boston	Suffolk	4.60	\$1,000.00
Rebecca Hutchinson	Rochester	Plymouth	4.50	\$1,000.00
Marilyn R. Pappas	Cambridge	Middlesex	4.40	\$1,000.00
Daphne Board	Holyoke	Hampden	4.00	\$1,000.00
Laura Jaklitsch	Somerville	Middlesex	3.75	\$0.00
Wesley Fleming	Ashfield	Franklin	3.60	\$0.00
Leslie Schomp	Rutland	Worcester	3.60	\$0.00
Carrie Gustafson	Arlington	Middlesex	3.20	\$0.00
Betsy Abbott	Andover	Essex	3.00	\$0.00
Jodi Colella	Somerville	Middlesex	3.00	\$0.00
Sidney R. Hutter	Newton	Middlesex	2.80	\$0.00
Amy Gillespie	Arlington	Middlesex	2.80	\$0.00
Timothy Coleman	Shelburne	Franklin	2.80	\$0.00
Kristen Kieffer	Templeton	Worcester	2.75	\$0.00
Marla Shelasky	Longmeadow	Hampden	2.60	\$0.00
Jeanée Redmond	Cambridge	Middlesex	2.60	\$0.00
Joyce Utting Schutter	Sandwich	Barnstable	2.60	\$0.00
Aida Laleian	Williamstown	Berkshire	2.40	\$0.00
Heather White van Stolk	Boston	Suffolk	2.40	\$0.00
Michelle Lougee	Cambridge	Middlesex	2.40	\$0.00

**FY19 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
 PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)
 CRAFTS**

Panel Date: December 10, 2018

Total Applications: 96

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
John Lawson	Sheffield	Berkshire	2.40	\$0.00
Tim De Christopher	Montague	Franklin	2.20	\$0.00
Judith Inglese	Amherst	Hampshire	2.00	\$0.00
Katherine McClelland	West Springfield	Hampden	2.00	\$0.00
Anna Poor	Boston	Suffolk	2.00	\$0.00
Carol Flax	Yarmouth	Barnstable	1.80	\$0.00
Jessica Straus	Newton	Middlesex	1.80	\$0.00
Kevin Barrett	Duxbury	Plymouth	1.60	\$0.00
Betty Vera	North Adams	Berkshire	1.60	\$0.00
Robbie Heidinger	Westhampton	Hampshire	1.40	\$0.00

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Crafts**

RECIPIENTS

Mark Del Guidice



Cherest, Swiss pearwood, Australian Lacewood, Curly and Birdseye Maple, 57" x 19" x 15", 2016

Selected Collections Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; Kent Memorial Library, Suffield, CT; Forrest Hills Cemetery, Boston, MA; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA; Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA; Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT

Janice Jakielski



Jardinier, Porcelain, 15" x 9" x 9", 2016

Selected Exhibitions Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA; MacKenzie Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Peters Projects, Santa Fe, NM; Gallery 5, Boston, MA; Eutectic Gallery, Portland, OR

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Crafts**

RECIPIENTS

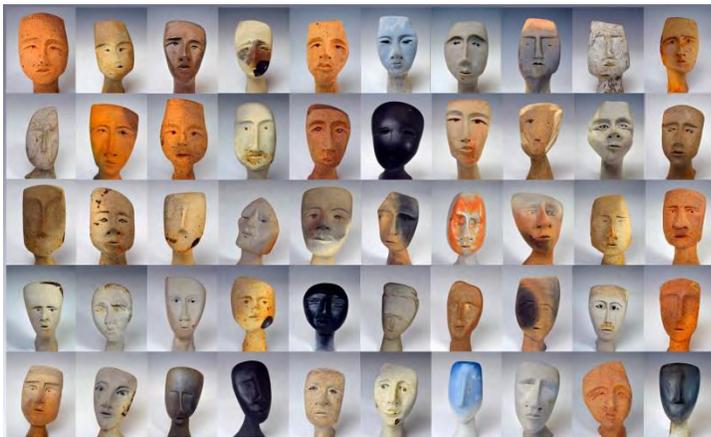
Jennifer McCurdy



Gilded Lotus Nest, Porcelain, 24 carat gold leaf, palladium leaf, 10”x 16” x 16”, 2018

Selected Collections Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona, CA; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD

Judith Motzkin



"All in the Same Boat" 2017

All in the Same Boat, Stoneware and porcelain clay, photo composite, 2017

Selected Collections Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA; Crocker Museum of Art, Sacramento, CA; Jingdezhen Ceramic Museum, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi, China

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Crafts**

RECIPIENTS

Gretchen Romey-Tanzer



Inverse, Handwoven cotton fiber, 28" x 16" x 1", 2015

Selected Exhibitions American Craft Council, Baltimore, MD; American Craft Exposition, Evanston, IL; Craft Boston, Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA; Smithsonian Craft Show, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, Philadelphia, PA

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Crafts**

FINALISTS

Daphne Board



Carmel Loafer Pump, Leather, thread, ink, wax, wood, rubber, glue, 4" x 4" x 10", 2018

Selected Exhibitions As part of "In These Shoes: Bespoke Footwear in America", Dubuque, IA; Holyoke, MA; Brooklyn, NY; Connecticut Historical Society's Southern New England Apprenticeship Program 20th Anniversary

John Cameron



Athena, Clara Walnut, Curly Maple, bronze, mokume gane, 42" x 52" x 16", 2018

Selected Exhibitions Smithsonian Craft Show, Washington, D.C.; The Gallery at Somes Sound, Somesville, ME; Furniture Masters Annual Exhibit, 35 ArtSpace, Portsmouth, NH; Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Crafts**

FINALISTS

Rebecca Hutchinson



Tranquil Bloom, Fired and unfired paper clay, handmade paper, fibers, willow, 12' x 17' x 13', 2016

Selected Exhibitions SOFA Feature, Duane Reed Gallery, Chicago, IL; Tripp Gallery, West Chester, NY; BCA, Burlington, VT; DeDee Shattuck Gallery, Westport, MA; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; Canton Museum of Art, Canton, OH

Marilyn Pappas



Never the Less She Persisted III, Cotton thread on linen, 60" x 19" x 10.5", 2017

Selected Collections New England Biolabs; Ipswich, MA; Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Museum of Art and Design, New York, NY; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Cambridge, MA; Miami-Dade College, Miami, FL

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Crafts**

FINALISTS

Matthew Sullivan



Steel String Acoustic Guitar (detail), woodworking, 38" x 14" x 4", 2015

Selected Experience Matthew Sullivan began making guitars in 2005 after an extensive two decade career as a furniture maker. He is a luthier specializing in the construction of the Steel String Acoustic Guitar and the Arch Top Guitar. Sullivan makes guitars by hand, one at a time, for musicians who want a custom instrument.

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres Panel
December 14, 2018**

Panelists

Carlos Jiménez Cahua Artist and Curator
Professor, Brown University

Shana Dumont Garr Curator
Fruitlands Museum

Ann Hirsch Sculptor
Critic, Rhode Island School of Design

Samuel Toabe Curator
University Hall Gallery, UMass Boston

Readers

Adrienne Elise Tarver Artist
Director, HSA Gallery at Harlem School for the Arts

**FY19 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
 PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
 SCULPTURE/INSTALLATION/NEW GENRES
 Panel Date: December 14, 2018
 Total Applications: 232**

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Rashin Fahandej	Framingham	Middlesex	4.50	\$15,000.00
Anne M. Lilly	Cambridge	Middlesex	4.25	\$15,000.00
Jodi Colella	Somerville	Middlesex	4.25	\$15,000.00
Matthew Mazzotta	Boston	Suffolk	4.00	\$15,000.00
Lucy Kim	Cambridge	Middlesex	4.00	\$15,000.00
Stephanie Cardon	Boston	Suffolk	4.00	\$15,000.00
Pat Falco	Boston	Suffolk	4.00	\$15,000.00
Holly Curcio	Somerville	Middlesex	3.75	\$1,000.00
Janet Loren Hill	Boston	Suffolk	3.75	\$1,000.00
Samantha Fields	Brockton	Plymouth	3.75	\$1,000.00
Maria Molteni	Boston	Suffolk	3.67	\$1,000.00
Venetia Dale	Boston	Suffolk	3.50	\$1,000.00
Jin Choi	Brookline	Norfolk	3.50	\$1,000.00
Janet Echelman	Brookline	Norfolk	3.50	\$0.00
Robin Mandel	Northampton	Hampshire	3.50	\$0.00
Leah Piegras	Swampscott	Essex	3.50	\$0.00
Pouya Afshar	Cambridge	Middlesex	3.25	\$0.00
Dinora Justice	Newton	Middlesex	3.25	\$0.00
Clint Baclawski	Malden	Middlesex	3.25	\$0.00
Daniela Rivera	Wellesley	Norfolk	3.25	\$0.00
Gina Siepel	Greenfield	Franklin	3.25	\$0.00
Maggie Stark	Boston	Suffolk	3.00	\$0.00
David Borden	Cambridge	Middlesex	3.00	\$0.00
Ashley Billingsley	Boston	Suffolk	3.00	\$0.00
Jessica Fafnir Adamites	Montague	Franklin	2.75	\$0.00
Erin Woodbrey	Truro	Barnstable	2.75	\$0.00
Merill Comeau	Concord	Middlesex	2.75	\$0.00

FY19 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)
SCULPTURE/INSTALLATION/NEW GENRES
Panel Date: December 14, 2018
Total Applications: 232

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Daniel Ladd	Northampton	Hampshire	2.75	\$0.00
Corinne Champagne	Boston	Suffolk	2.75	\$0.00
Suzi Banks Baum	Great Barrington	Berkshire	2.50	\$0.00
Richard Brown	Norwell	Plymouth	2.50	\$0.00
Catherine Siller	Somerville	Middlesex	2.25	\$0.00
John Ewing	Boston	Suffolk	2.25	\$0.00
Cristina Parreno Alonso	Boston	Suffolk	2.25	\$0.00
Resa Blatman	Somerville	Middlesex	2.25	\$0.00
Julia Csekö	Somerville	Middlesex	2.00	\$0.00
Stephanie Benenson	Hamilton	Essex	2.00	\$0.00
Eden McDowell	Northampton	Hampshire	1.75	\$0.00

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres**

RECIPIENTS

Stephanie Cardon



Unless, Repurposed construction debris netting, 34' x 63', 2018

Selected Exhibitions Now + There, Prudential Center, Boston, MA; Carole Calo Gallery, Stonehill College, Stonehill, MA; deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA; VSOP Projects, Greenport, NY; Dowling Walsh Gallery, Rockland, ME

Jodi Colella



Stinger (aka Athena), Found doilies dyed black and sewn onto an armature of wire, 7' x 24' x 17', 2018

Selected Exhibitions Boston Sculptors Gallery, Boston, MA; Form + Concept, Santa Fe, NM; Historic Northampton Museum, Northampton, MA; Danforth Art, Framingham, MA; Fountain Street Fine Art, Framingham, MA; Chandler Gallery, Maud Morgan Arts, Cambridge, MA

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres**

RECIPIENTS

Rashin Fahandej



A Father's Lullaby, Video, sound, geolocated contributory website, 8' x 20' x 16', 2017

Selected Exhibitions HUBWEEK, Temporary Public Installation, Boston City Hall, Boston, MA; Boston Center for the Arts Public Plaza, Boston, MA; Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, Boston, MA

Pat Falco



Untitled (Coming Soon), Mixed media installation, 2015

Selected Exhibitions Park Life, San Francisco, CA; Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA; New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA; Miller Yezerksi Gallery, Boston, MA; Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres**

RECIPIENTS

Lucy Kim



Rejuvenate and Repeat, Oil, acrylic, resin, fiberglass, epoxy, foam, steel hardware, 19.5' x 8.5' x 3", 2017

Selected Exhibitions Reilly Gallery, Providence College, Providence, RI; Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY; Tisch Family and Koppelman Galleries, Tufts University, Medford, MA

Anne Lilly



Still from To Be, kinetic sculpture, 2016

Selected Exhibitions Kniznick Gallery, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA; Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, VT; Galerie Denise Rene (Marais), Paris, France; Clark University, Worcester, MA; Suffolk University Art Gallery, Boston, MA; Lunder Art Center, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres**

RECIPIENTS

Matthew Mazzotta



Cloud House, A unique rain-harvest system that works with falling rainwater, wood, metal, acrylic, water, sensors, chairs, 2016

Selected Awards The Congress for the New Urbanism, Charter Award; Americans for the Arts: Public Art Network Year in Review Award for Public Art and Placemaking; CODA Awards, Merit Award for Public Space; SXSW Eco-Place By Design Competition, Audience Choice Winner and Honorable Mention “Revitalization

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres**

FINALISTS

Jin Choi



The Urchins 1, Crocheted polyester rope, Dyneema, steel structure, 10' x 15' x 15', 2017

Selected Exhibitions Dongdaemun Culture and History Park, Seoul, South Korea; Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany; Victoria & Albert Museum, London, England; Yale University, New Haven, CT

Holly Curcio



Guide to Somewhere, Terracotta, 21.5" x 11" x 26", 2016

Selected Exhibitions Incubator Project Space, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Gallery 5, Emmanuel College, Boston, MA; Mudflat Studio, Somerville, MA; Udinotti Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ; The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA; Carbondale Clay Center, Carbondale, CO

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres**

FINALISTS

Venetia Dale



In a State of Becoming, four hooked rugs, collections of unhooked rugs stitched together, 30” x 48” x 1”, 2018

Selected Exhibitions Proof Gallery, Boston, MA; Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland, OR; National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; Room 83 Spring Gallery, Boston, MA

Samantha Fields



The Venus of Ramsdale, Mixed media, textiles, vitreous china, 78” x 66” x 78”, 2018

Selected Collections Barrington Center for Art, Wenham, MA; New Art Center, Newton, MA; Jane Lombard Gallery, New York, NY; Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA; Nave Gallery, Somerville, MA; Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA; Boston Harbor Islands, Boston, MA

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres**

FINALISTS

Janet Loren Hill



When the Night Turns..., Mixed media, 12' x 7' x 7', 2018

Selected Exhibitions Abigail Oglivy Gallery, Boston, MA; Barret Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY; Space One Two One, Boston, MA; Kate Alkarni Gallery, Seattle, WA

Maria Molenti



Soft Hajduk Post Soviet Queer Sport Public Space Reclamation, site specific installation, craft based techniques, 50' x 50' x 50', 2017

Selected Exhibitions Social Emergency Response Center/SERC With Design Studio for Social Intervention Project Row Houses, Houston, TX; BB&N School, Cambridge, MA; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Space Gallery, Portland, ME

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships
Dramatic Writing
December 17, 2018**

Panelists

Liz Duffy Adams

Playwright
Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Steven Bogart

Playwright, Screenwriter, Director
Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Lenelle Moïse

Playwright
Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Dawn Simmons

Director, Playwright
Executive Director, StageSource

Readers

Julie Keck

Filmmaker and Screenwriter

Tim J. Lord

Playwright
Apothetae-Lark Fellow

**FY19 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
 PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
 DRAMATIC WRITING
 Panel Date: December 17, 2018
 Total Applications: 129**

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Melinda Lopez	Bedford	Middlesex	5.00	\$15,000.00
John A. Minigan	Framingham	Middlesex	5.00	\$15,000.00
Greg Lam	Milton	Norfolk	4.50	\$15,000.00
John J. King	Boston	Suffolk	4.33	\$15,000.00
Andrea D. Hairston	Northampton	Hampshire	4.25	\$1,000.00
Morgan Rose Ford & Rosie McInnes	Somerville	Middlesex	4.25	\$1,000.00
Eric Henry Sanders	Northampton	Hampshire	4.00	\$1,000.00
David Valdes Greenwood	Arlington	Middlesex	4.00	\$1,000.00
Thato Rantao Mwosa	Milton	Norfolk	3.50	\$1,000.00
Barbara D'Allessandro	Hingham	Plymouth	3.00	\$0.00
Christina R Chan	Somerville	Middlesex	3.00	\$0.00
Magdalena Gomez	Springfield	Hampden	2.50	\$0.00
David A. Concepcion	Boston	Suffolk	2.50	\$0.00
Michael K. Brady	New Marlborough	Berkshire	2.25	\$0.00
Brian King	Gloucester	Essex	2.25	\$0.00
Gregory R. Hovanesian	Somerville	Middlesex	2.00	\$0.00
Amy L. Heflin	Deerfield	Franklin	2.00	\$0.00
James McLindon	Northampton	Hampshire	1.75	\$0.00
Monica E. Raymond	Cambridge	Middlesex	1.75	\$0.00
Marc Aronoff	Lenox	Berkshire	1.50	\$0.00
Jarice Hanson	Whately	Franklin	1.50	\$0.00
Peng Claire Bai	Cambridge	Middlesex	1.50	\$0.00
Diane Edgecomb	Boston	Suffolk	1.50	\$0.00
Anne J. Roach	Boston	Suffolk	1.25	\$0.00

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Dramatic Writing**

RECIPIENTS

John J. King

Awards: Boston Public Library Playwright-in-Residence; Huntington Theatre Playwriting Fellow; Freedom Art Retreat Residency; Mill 6 Theatre Company Golden Dolphin Award

Selected Presentations Fresh Ink Theatre, Boston MA; OperaHub, Boston MA; Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Boston, MA; Huntington Theatre Company, Boston MA

Martha's (b)Rainstorm

An innovative play about a near-future Boston, suffering from massive climate change

Greg Lam

Awards: Theatre Conspiracy New Play Contest Winner; Navigator's Theatre The Lift-Off Series Finalist

Selected Presentations Theatre Conspiracy, Fort Myers FL; Fresh Ink Theatre, Boston MA; The Depot for New Play Readings, Hampton CT; Boston Podcast Players, Boston MA; Company One Theatre, Boston MA; Boston Theater Marathon, Boston MA

Repossessed

An imaginative futuristic play in which custom-made memories are planted – then removed

Melinda Lopez

Awards Mass Cultural Council 2003 Artist Fellowship; Huntington Theatre Company Andrew W. Mellon Playwright-in-Residence; Elliot Norton Awards; IRNE Awards; Boston Globe and The Dig Top Ten Selection

Selected Presentations Arts Emerson, Boston MA; Huntington Theatre Company, Boston MA; Williamstown Theatre Festival, Williamstown MA; Laguna Playhouse, Laguna Beach CA; Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago IL

Mala

A moving one-woman play about aging, motherhood, and mortality

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Dramatic Writing**

RECIPIENTS

John Minigan

Awards New Repertory Theatre New Voices Fellow; Firehouse Center for the Arts New Works Festival First Play/Pestalozzi Prize; Elliot Norton Award Nominee; Williamstown Theatre Festival Weissberger Award Nominee; Actors Theatre of Louisville Heideman Award Finalist

Selected Performances/Publications Plays published by Applesauce Books, Dramatist Play Service, New World Theatre, Smith & Kraus, and StageSource; Boston Center for the Arts, Boston MA; Dayton Playhouse FutureFest, Dayton OH; New Repertory Theatre, Watertown MA; Actors Studio of Newburyport, Newburyport MA

Sarai's Knife

An intriguing drama about race, bias, and artistic expression

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Dramatic Writing**

FINALISTS

Morgan Rose Ford and Rosie McInnes

Snowgirl

A moving play about creativity, imaginary friends, and true selves

David Valdes Greenwood

Awards Company One PlayLab Fellow; Huntington Theatre Company Playwriting Fellow; Boston Foundation Brother Thomas Fellow; Ensemble Studio Theatre Sloan Commission

Selected Presentations Actors Theatre of Charlotte, Charlotte NC; Milagros Theatre, Portland OR; Borderlands Theatre, Tucson AZ; Mixed Blood Theatre, Minneapolis MN; Huntington Theatre Company, Boston MA

The Mermaid Hour

A nuanced and beautiful play about a family with a daughter in gender transition

Andrea Hairston

Awards: Mass Cultural Council 2003 Artist Fellowship; Mass Book Awards “Must Read” Selection; Lambda Literary Award Finalist; James Tiptree Award; Carl Brandon Kindred Award;

Selected Presentations: Chrysalis Theatre, Northampton MA; *Will Do Magic for Small Change: Novel* (Aqueduct Press 2016); *Saltwater Railroad: Novelette* (Lightspeed Magazine 2015); *Thunderbird at the Next World Theatre: Play* (*Geek Theatre Anthology*, Underwords Press 2014); *Redwood and Wildfire: Novel* (Aqueduct Press 2011)

I'ma Be My Own Sun

A wildly inventive, multi-disciplinary dramatic work set in post-Apocalyptic Western Mass.

**FY19 Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists
Dramatic Writing**

FINALISTS

Thato Rantao Mwosa

Awards: Pan African Film Festival Best Short Film Award; Black Entertainment Television Best Shorts Series Finalist; Women of African Descent Film Festival Jurors Choice Award; Roxbury International Film Festival Best Emerging Filmmaker Award

Selected Presentations: *Ya M’Afrika* (13-episode television series broadcast internationally); Black Entertainment Television Best Shorts Series; Women of African Descent Film Festival, Brooklyn NY; Roxbury International Film Festival, Roxbury MA

Memoir of a Snitch

A powerful coming-of-age screenplay set in Roxbury

Eric Henry Sanders

Awards: Mass Cultural Council 2009 Artist Fellowship; Commissions from The Drilling Company; NCTV 7-Day Film Sprint Silver Medal; Joseph Kesselring Prize Nomination; Princess Grace Fellowship Runner-up

Selected Presentations SET Collective, New York NY; Canal Café, London England; Goodman Theatre, Chicago IL; Florida Repertory Theatre PlayLab Festival, Fort Myers, FL; Theatre89, Mainz Germany

I Killed Schrödinger’s Cat

A sophisticated play about pool cons and what it means to be authentic



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
Fr: Anita Walker, David Slatery, Luis Cotto, Lisa Simmons
Re: Massachusetts Cultural District Initiative: Designation – Town of Franklin
Dt: January 3, 2019

We are pleased to submit a recommendation for the designation of the 46th cultural district for the Town of Franklin¹, the third in the Metro West region.

The site visit took place on September 18. This was Meri Jenkins' final cultural district application and she helped shepherd the stakeholder team, led by Bryan Taberner, Director of Planning and Community Development, through the designation process.

Anita Lauricella was the site advisor for the district; Anita Walker, Meri Jenkins, Luis Cotto, Lisa Simmons and the entire Community team also attended.

Excerpted from the site advisor report:

"The Vision is appropriate and achievable. It acknowledges that Franklin has a mix of cultural assets including some significant historic resources that are complemented by an active performing arts and artist community."

"Public investment in facilities has been extensive and strategic. Both the high school and senior center are valuable assets. The high school facility and the program can support a range of District activities and provide valuable talent. The senior center is well positioned as a comfortable and accessible facility with a built-in audience. There are also effective partnerships between the public and nonprofit community that encourage sharing of facilities and insure that public facilities are a community resource."

"The Town has invested significantly to make road and sidewalk improvements. Reconstructed sidewalks on Main Street are wide, accessible and have decorative edging and built in curb plantings. The street has been designed to facilitate programming and power is available to make operations more efficient and safer. The street can be closed for events, like the dance or music, with minimal impact on

¹ Franklin is one of thirteen Massachusetts municipalities that have applied for, and been granted, city forms of government but wish to retain "The town of" in their official names.

traffic flow. The redesigned streetscape is a major asset. It is welcoming and effectively designed to calm traffic, including elements of universal design making it comfortable and accessible, infrastructure to facilitate programming and reclaiming the street from cars and water to maintain plants."

Regarding the management structure, the site advisor outlined the following:

"The Town is the primary lead and very engaged. This is an advantage since it is clear there is a history of proactive planning and investment on the part of the Town. There is demonstrated interest and participation on the part of residents and businesses. This core group of different stakeholders is a strength that is acknowledged and fostered by the Town. "

"The management structure and the establishment of a Town committee is appropriate. The District can benefit from significant coordination and alignment around goals and take advantage of the Town's interest in using capital improvements to support these goals. The investment in facilities and streetscape are tremendous assets for the District. Strong and successful Districts need to be nimble and able to experiment; to test ideas, fail and try again. As a Town based committee it will be important to consider ways this can happen within the Town's operating protocols."