



Power of culture

COUNCIL MEETING BOOK

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIFTH MEETING

OF

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020

VILLAGE HALL ON THE COMMON
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

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ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020
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**ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIFTH MEETING
OF MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020: 1:00 TO 4:00 PM

**VILLAGE HALL ON THE COMMON
2 OAK STREET
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**LIGHT LUNCH: 12:30
COUNCIL MEETING: 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.
RECEPTION: 4:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

VOTE

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Welcomes | |
| 2. Call to Order, Welcomes, Lunch and Reports | |
| a) Minutes of 144 th Council Meeting and 2019 Council Retreat | X |
| b) Chair Report | |
| i. 2020 Council Meeting Dates, | |
| ii. Committee Memberships | |
| iii. Open Meeting Law Policy | X |
| c) Executive Director's Report | |
| i. Agency Updates | |
| d) Advocacy Committee Report-FY21 State Budget Request | |
| 3. FY20 Financial Update | |
| a) Comments to Financial Policies | |
| 4. Grants Committee Report | |
| a) FY 20 Artists Fellowship Program: Round 1 Recommendations
(Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry and Traditional Arts) | X |

- | | |
|--|----------|
| b) Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund/ Gaming Mitigation Program | X |
| 5. Retreat Report- Engagement Task Force | |
| 6. Framingham Cultural District Designation | X |



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ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020

VILLAGE HALL ON THE COMMON
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

RESOLUTIONS

Section 2a- Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the One Hundred Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Mass Cultural Council

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the 2019 Retreat of the Mass Cultural Council

Section 2biii- Open Meeting Law

RESOLVED: To amend the Council's remote participation policy adopted in May 2012 in accordance with the terms of the Attorney General's regulations contained in 940 CMR 29.10 so as to permit members at Council chair's discretion to participate remotely in Council committee meetings by teleconference or telephone if the member's attendance at such meeting would be unreasonably difficult.

Section 4a Artist Fellowships

RESOLVED: To approve the FY 20 Artist Fellowship grant awards in the disciplines of Drawing and Printmaking, Poetry and Traditional Arts as recommended by the Grants Committee at its January 7, 2020 meeting.

Section 4b- Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund/ Gaming Mitigation Program

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 23K of the Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended by sections 3 and 4 of Chapter 142 of the Acts of 2019, provides that Mass Cultural Council will receive 2% of the Commonwealth's gross gaming tax revenue from casinos into the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund (the "Fund") to be managed by Mass Cultural Council;

WHEREAS, staff of Mass Cultural Council have presented a plan (the "Plan") for usage of Fund revenues by memoranda to the Council on January 28, 2020 pursuant to which Mass Cultural Council will upon receipt of access to said Fund, dedicate 7% of the assets therein as of such date to the administrative and operational expenses of managing the Fund (and programs associated with it), and dedicate the remainder as follows- 75% to grants under the Gaming Mitigation Program and 25% to payments under the Culture Rx "social prescription" program in each case pursuant to guidelines reviewed by the Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee and approved by the full Council, with the understanding that any additional revenues received by the Fund thereafter shall (including interest earned thereon) will accumulate until the following December 31, at which point, the Fund shall be allocated in the same manner; and

WHEREAS, such Plan has been reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended for approval by the Council; and

WHEREAS, staff of Mass Cultural Council have developed a Gaming Mitigation Program over the past two years and have described said program in a memoranda to the Council presented on January 28, 2020,

WHEREAS, such Gaming Mitigation Program has been reviewed by the Grants Committee and recommended for approval by the Council.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED: that the Council adopt the recommendation of the Executive Committee to adopt the Plan presented to the Council at its January 7, 2020 Meeting, and

RESOLVED: To adopt the recommendation of the Grants Committee approve the parameters of the Gaming Mitigation Program as described in a memo presented to the Council at its January 28, 2020 meeting.

Section 6- Framingham Cultural District

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



Power of culture

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH MEETING
OF
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL OF SPRINGFIELD
127 STATE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Chair Nina Fialkow called the meeting to order at 12:08 P.M.

Council Members Present

Nina Fialkow, Chair
Marc Carroll, Vice Chair
Victoria Marsh
Barbara Schaffer Bacon
Troy Siebels
Karen Barry
Susan Leff
Matthew Keator
Jo-Ann Davis
Sandy Dunn
Allyce Najimy
Karen Hurvitz
Kathy Castro
Ann Murphy
Cecil Barron Jensen

Staff members present were Anita Walker, David Slatery, Greg Liakos, Jen Lawless, Ann Petruccelli, Angelina Lupini, Carmen Plazas, Eric Holmgren, Sam Montaño, Timothea Pham, Kathë Swaback, Diane Dailey and Evelyn Nellum. Also present were Eileen McCaffery, Community Music School,

Prepared on 1/22/20

Emily Ruddock, MASSCreative, Susan Knightley, Niki Conte, Health Policy Initiative and Jessica Collins, Health Connector.

Nina Fialkow opened the meeting by reading the following

I, Nina Fialkow as chair of Mass Cultural Council, hereby call this meeting to order.

Please note that this meeting is an open meeting of a public body subject to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. A notice of this meeting together with the agenda was posted on Mass Cultural Council's website 48 or more hours ago (excluding weekends and holidays).

This meeting shall be open and accessible to all members of the public except at such times when this body has voted to go into closed executive session under the Open Meeting Law.

Please note that this body has invited Anita Walker, Executive Director and other members of Mass Cultural staff as well as following persons to participate in today's meeting-Eileen McCaffery, Jessica Collins and Niki Conte

Mass Cultural Council welcomes members of the public to attend its meetings. Under the Open Meeting Law, however, this is not a public hearing and public testimony will not be taken. Individuals may not address the meeting without permission of the chair.

Draft minutes of the open session of this meeting shall be kept and shall be posted on Mass Cultural Council's website no later than 30 days after the meeting provided that such minutes shall not be considered official until they have been approved by this body in open session. Individuals asserting a violation of the Open Meeting Law may file a complaint with this body within 30 days or with the Attorney General's office thereafter.

Nina then referred to an email each of the Council Members had received earlier that morning from Representative Steven Howitt of Swansea regarding a recommended grant to Primary Source, Inc that was scheduled to be voted on today. The Chair advised the Council that staff had previously conducted an investigation of the concerns referenced in the email and that the Executive Committee had

reviewed the matter as it pertained to Primary Source and that subsequently, both the Executive Committee and the Grants Committee found Primary Source eligible for Mass Cultural Council funding and recommended for approval the FY20 Budget and Spending Plan and Grant Recommendations being presented at today's meeting.

Nina then welcomed everyone today to the Community Music School of Springfield and indicated we would be hearing from Eileen McCaffery, executive director later in the meeting.

Minutes and Reports

The Chair then called for a vote on the 143rd Council Meeting minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the One Hundred Forty-Third Meeting of the Mass Cultural Council.

Nina then announced that she was proud to report that Council Member Marc Carroll had been named the Vice Chair of the Council by the Governor and mentioned that this was a welcome development since we had been without a Vice Chair since former Vice Chair Barbara Wallace Grossman's term had ended earlier this year.

Nina then concluded her report by referring to the tentative upcoming calendar of Council Meetings for 2020 and list of committee assignments contained in the Council materials.

Nina then asked Anita Walker for the Executive Director's report.

Anita thanked the Council Members for coming to the Community Music School today for our "big" meeting where the year's budget is decided and most of the grants are approved. As any grant funds have to be spent before the end of the fiscal year in June, we always have our budget meetings in August so that we can have our grants out as early in the year as possible.

Anita mentioned that our "long-form" application to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will be due at the end of September. She explained that the NEA provides around \$900,000 a year in funding to the Council every year and that under its process, it requires a fuller more detailed application every three years.

Anita also mentioned that funds under the Massachusetts Gaming Act for our Gaming Mitigation program have been accumulating since the new casinos opened (\$1.59 million as of July 31) but that we are working with the legislature on a technical fix to enable the funds to be transferred to us so that we can implement the program as required under the law.

Anita then began a presentation of the new Health Initiative that was being offered as part of the proposed FY20 Budget and Spending Plan. Noting that healthcare costs are about 40% of the state budget and referencing a recent English study indicating that persons participating tended to be much healthier, Anita began a Power Point presentation on the proposed new initiative (copies of such Power Point are available upon request). This initiative grew out of our EBT Card to Culture program and has led to a partnership with the Mass Health Connector and the Caring Health Center in Springfield. The new program introduces the idea of social prescribing and is meant to the “flip the deficit model” in that instead of asking arts organizations to provide discounts or free admissions, it would offer compensation to organizations providing a cultural experience in response to a medical prescription.

Anita then introduced the partners supporting the initiative

- Niki Conte who spoke on behalf of the Health Connector
- Eileen McCaffrey of the Community Music School of Springfield
- Jessica Collins from the Public Health Institute

This year would be a pilot year for the initiative. We would be operating in a few discreet places- such as the Caring Health Center in Springfield while we investigate and test some assumptions.

Jo-Ann Davis then mentioned the Accountable Care Organization and the emphasis upon looking at patients holistically.

Anita referred to the Agency Updates contained in the Meeting Book

Financial Report and FY 20 Budget and Spending Plan.

Anita then introduced the staff-recommended FY20 Budget and Spending Plan. As the Council is aware, we have another \$2 million more to work with this year, meaning we have a \$20 million budget this year and the Council will see proposed an almost 20% increase in spending in all programs

Anita described the staff process involved in developing FY20 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 19.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Anita asked David Slatery, Deputy Director and chief financial officer to summarize the lengthy FY 20 Budget and Program Allocation memo contained in the Council Meeting book which shows the plan in greater detail. David 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.

Anita asked if there were any questions about the presentation or the plan.

Susan Leff asked if museums were approaching the Council about diversity issues after the stories about the Museum of Fine Arts. Anita indicated DEI is a frequent subject on site visits. Barbara Schaffer Bacon encouraged staff to investigate more ways to connect the immigrant artists in the Folk Arts and Heritage programs to the local cultural councils and communities. Matthew Keator asked about the gaming mitigation program and if any other state had implemented a similar program. Anita said we were not aware of any and that the gaming monies were still being held up awaiting a technical legislative fix to enable the monies to be transferred so the program could be implemented. Barbara then noted for the record her concerns which she had previously raised at the Grants Committee over a proposed grant to the JFK Library Foundation and the process by which staff had come to recommend it. Victoria indicated that next May, the Grants Committee was planning to have a longer in depth meeting prior to development of the next fiscal year's budget in order to preview certain ideas. Troy Siebels and Victoria then thanked the staff for all of the work they had put into developing this year's plan and grant recommendations.

Nina then stated that since the Council had now heard the presentation on the budget, she related that the Executive Committee reviewed this document and are recommending approval and would now entertain a motion for approval of the FY20 Spending Plan.

Such motion was duly made and seconded and then Nina indicated that the Council would next consider all of Grants Recommendations

before formally taking a vote but prior to that, she asked David to review our conflict of interest procedure

Conflict of Interest Notifications

A copy of the most updated conflicts list was then given to each Council member. These lists are updated as needed. David stated that any possible conflicts of interest are disclosed 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 conflict but there were no further responses.

It was noted that all the votes approving the FY20 grant recommendations for the Cultural Investment Portfolio will note the following 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.**

Marc Carroll disclosed that he would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra or The Rivers School**

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.**

Jo-Ann Davis disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **The Care Center**

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 NEFA (New England Foundation for the Arts)**

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.

Sandy Dunn disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Discover Central Massachusetts.**

Matthew Keator disclosed that he would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Lenox Library**

Susan Leff disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Childrens Museum or MassHumanities**

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 or the Fall River Coalition for Arts and Culture.**

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**

Cecil Barron Jensen disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Artists Association of Nantucket, the Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket Cultural District or the Nantucket Arts Council**

Grant Recommendations

At the conclusion of the review of the conflicts procedure, Nina asked for the report of the Grants Committee. Victoria as chair of the Grants Committee reported that the Grants Committee had reviewed and discussed the grant recommendations contained in Sections 6 through 17 of the Council Meeting Book and recommended that they be adopted by the full Council. Nina then asked for a motion and a second for approval of the grant recommendations. Such motion was made and seconded after which Victoria went through Sections 6 through 17 of the Council Meeting Book and asked if there were any questions. There were none and then Victoria indicated that concluded the report of the Grants Committee.

At this point Nina asked if there were any objections and hearing none asked for votes on the following resolutions which had previously been moved and seconded and which were approved unanimously

WHEREAS, the General Court of the Massachusetts State Legislature has appropriated a budget of \$18,180,000 (including earmarks) to the Massachusetts Cultural Council (the "Council") for FY 20 and the Governor duly signed said budget;

WHEREAS, Council staff presented a draft FY20 budget and spending plan (the "Plan") to the Executive Committee at its meeting on August 13, 2019;

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 27, 2019 (the "Council Meeting").

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED: To approve the Plan as reviewed by the Executive Committee on August 13, 2019 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.

and

WHEREAS, Council staff presented the grants portion of the Plan to the Grants Committee at its meeting on August 13, 2019 ("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: To approve grant allocations to the Cultural Investment Portfolio, CIP Gateway and CIP Projects, Capacity Accelerator Network Stipends and Media Partnerships (collectively, the "CIP Programs") for a total of \$6,170,000 as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve a grant allocation to the Local Cultural Councils totaling \$4,154,000 and \$30,000 to Compact Grants, up to \$285,000 in Cultural District/Fair Saturday grants, \$20,000 to Art Week, \$110,000 to the Festivals Program and \$20,000 to grants under the Audience Lab program as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve grant allocations to YouthReach and SerHacer and Amplify, continued funding of the Instrument Library in the combined amount of \$1,428,500 and the continuance of the Klarman Family Foundation- Funded original META program, \$50,000 to the META expansion and \$20,000 to the Western Mass DCF Pilot Program as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve the following Education grant allocations, \$1,150,000 to the STARS program, \$150,000 to the Big Yellow School Bus Program, \$40,000 to the Creative Minds Out of School program, \$5,000 to the Early Education & Childcare Pilot, \$20,000 in support of Massachusetts History Day, \$17,500 in support of the NEA-funded

Poetry Out Loud program, and \$5,000 to the Holyoke Arts Education Task Force as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve the allocation of \$55,000 in grants under the Health Initiative as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve the recommended Artist Fellowship program grant allocations totaling \$652,500 as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve the continuation of the UP Program with grants in the amount of \$70,000 as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve a grant to MassHumanities totaling \$679,397 as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve a grant to NEFA totaling 60,000 provided that Mass Cultural Council does not provide more than the other New England states provide to NEFA as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve a grant allocation of \$35,000 to the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation for its "Driving While Black" Library Forum as recommended by the Grants Committee;

RESOLVED: To approve a grant allocation of \$25,000 to ArtsBoston acting on behalf of the Network Arts Administrators of Color as presented as recommended by the Grants Committee; and

RESOLVED: to approve a grant to SMU Data Arts to provide the Cultural Data Profile tool as recommended by the Grants Committee.

Financial Policies/Travel

Nina temporarily adjourned the meeting at 2:00 while the Council took a ten-minute break. Nina called the meeting back to order at 2:10 p.m. and directed the Council to item 18 on the agenda pertaining to FY20 state budget requirements, updated financial policies and out-of-state travel approvals and asked David to explain the item.

David summarized the new requirements placed on the Agency in the FY20 state budget as further described in the memo provided in the Meeting Book. As part of such requirements, the Council was required to approve an annual spending plan providing for expending an amount equal to at least 75% of its state budget appropriation on grants which align with the Council's Strategic Plan (which the Council has already done in approving the FY20 Budget and Spending Plan earlier in the meeting) and also to approve spending guidelines providing for Council approval of out of state travel. Included with the Meeting Book were revised Financial Policies (developed with the assistance of the Council's Financial Task Force earlier this year) which contained provisions for approval of out of state travel. David further explained that per the requirements, Council staff had also consulted with the comptroller's office and the state ethics commission on such policies and would bring any changes based upon any received advice to the Council at future meetings. The revised guidelines also provide that per the Council's enabling statute, approval was proposed to be delegated to the Council Executive Committee for convenience purposes and also asked for ratification for certain travel scheduled to occur prior to today's meeting which was approved by the Executive Committee in July. Additionally David indicated there were additional out of state travel requests, staff was requesting the Council approve today which were detailed in the Meeting Book. A report would be made to the legislature and others detailing the actions taken at today's meeting by October 1 as required by the budget line item. The Council discussed these matters and the conclusion of such discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was

RESOLVED: To approve the revised Council financial policies in the form presented to the Council, the delegation of the power to pre-approve of out-of-state travel as required by Section 2, Line Item 0640-0300 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2019 to the Executive Committee as contemplated by such revised policies and to approve the out-of-state requests presented to the Council Meeting and to ratify all actions taken by the Executive Committee in its actions approving out-of-state travel at its July 22 meeting.

Matthew Keator asked that the Council staff publicize these new spending guidelines. Barbara suggested that this be done in concert with showing how important it is that Council staff be out in the field throughout the state serving our constituents.

Cultural Districts

Nina then asked Anita to present the items related to Cultural Districts. 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 made a short presentation about the program. David alerted members to a revised that had been passed out as the wrong vote for this item was contained in the Meeting Book

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

RESOLVED: To approve the renewal and re-designation of the following seven previously-designated cultural districts:

1. Barnstable Village, Barnstable
2. Newburyport
3. Paradise City, Northampton
4. Riverfront, Haverhill
5. Seaport, New Bedford
6. Springfield Central
7. Vineyard Haven, Tisbury
8. Williamstown
9. Harbortown, Gloucester

in accordance with the memorandum presented to the Council Meeting.

Nina then called for the presentation of a new cultural district. Anita stated before the Council was a recommendation for the approval of the Commonwealth's 48th Cultural District in Winchester. While a slide show ran showing sites in the newly proposed district (copies of which are available upon request), Anita narrated the impressions and review of the district- mentioning the evidence of great life and vibrancy in the proposed district even beyond the influence of the nonprofit cultural organizations. Anita then recognized Paula Tognarelli, executive director of the Griffin Museum of Photography located in the district who spoke to the Council about the museum. A representative of State Senator Jason Lewis' staff also indicated his support of the district and that the senator was a huge fan of the Griffin.

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

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

At this point having reached the end of the official business of the meeting, Nina asked Anita to introduce the new members of the Council Staff. Anita introduced, Timothea Pham and Samantha Montaño in our Community Initiative, Evelyn Nellum, our new Grants Operations Officer and Kathë Swaback who had just joined our Creative Youth Development team. Each spoke and introduced themselves to the Council.

Anita then also introduced Emily Ruddock, the current executive director of our partner advocacy organization, MASSCreative.

Anita then asked Eileen McCaffrey, executive director of Community Music School of Springfield, our host today to say a few words. Eileen told a story of how Springfield had been in a bad way six years ago, with no middle school music programs. Her organization managed to leverage STARS grants awarded by Mass Cultural Council to help embed music programs in all public schools. The program has since been expanded to Holyoke. Now there is sequential music education in Springfield for the first time in a generation and thanked Anita and the Council for having helped to make this happen.

Nina thanked Eileen for her story. She reminded members that Council Member business cards if they wanted them were available and interested members should speak to staff. There being no more business to come before the Council, Nina as Chair then reminded the Council members that there would be a reception immediately following and then adjourned the meeting.



Power of culture

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL RETREAT
OF
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

TRURO CENTER FOR THE ARTS
EDGWOOD FARM PRINT STUDIO
TRURO, MASSACHUSETTS

Chair Nina Fialkow called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Council Members Present

Nina Fialkow, Chair
Marc Carroll, Vice Chair
Victoria Marsh
Troy Siebels
Sherry Dong
Jo-Ann Davis
Karen Barry
Kathy Castro
Ann Murphy
Cecil Barron Jensen

Staff members present were Anita Walker, David Slatery, Jen Lawless, Ann Petruccelli, Angelina Lupini, Also present was Katie Barnett, TSNE and Emily Ruddock, MASSCreative.

Nina Fialkow opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending Mass Cultural Council's annual retreat. This is not a regular business meeting but nonetheless needed to be posted as an open meeting under the law.

Prepared on 1/22/20

Nina introduced Bethann Steiner, Mass Cultural Council's new Communications Director, who had just come aboard. Nina also introduced our facilitator for the day, Katie Barnett from Third Sector New England who outlined the Agenda for the day

After introductions, Jo-Ann Davis gave a presentation about roles of Council Members (copies of which are available upon request) and then Marc Carroll and Ann Murphy ran through a PowerPoint presentation (copies of which are available upon request) on how to deal with crisis communications.

The remainder of the day as detailed on the agenda was facilitated by Katie and addressed the halfway point of the Council's 5 year strategic plan and members worked with staff in small groups on a series of exercises related to priorities under the strategic plan.

Nina thanked the members for their efforts and adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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

2019-2020

Retreat	1:00 to 4:00	Tuesday, October 15
Advocacy <i>Mass Cultural Council</i>	1:00 to 2:00	Wednesday, December 18
Grants Executive <i>Mass Cultural Council</i>	NOON – 1:30 10:00-11:30	Tuesday, January 7
Council Meeting <i>Village Hall, Framingham</i>	1:00 to 4:00	Tuesday, January 28
Executive Advocacy Grants <i>Mass Cultural Council</i>	10:00- 11:30 Noon – 1:00 1:30- 3:00	Tuesday, March 3
Council Meeting <i>The Narrows Center for the Arts, Fall River</i>	1:00 to 4:00	Friday, March 13
Executive Grants <i>Mass Cultural Council</i>	10:00 11:00 to 1:00	Tuesday, May 5
Council Meeting	1:00 to 4:00	Tuesday, May 19
Executive (Prelim Budget Meeting) <i>Mass Cultural Council</i>	11:00	[July__] <i>Subject to State Budget Schedule</i>
Executive <i>Mass Cultural Council</i>	11:00	[Tuesday, August 4] <i>Subject to State Budget Schedule</i>
Grants <i>Mass Cultural Council</i>	10:00	[Tuesday, August 11] <i>Subject to State Budget Schedule</i>
Council Meeting	1:00 to 4:00	Tuesday, August 25

**Mass Cultural Council
Committee Membership as of August 2019
(Based on current information)**

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, although subject to the open meeting law, are not in and of themselves, official governmental decision-making bodies. Only the full Council has such authority although the Council may, under the Council's Enabling Act, delegate certain duties to committees.

There are currently three permanent Council committees and their functions and current membership and are described and listed below. Ad hoc and event committees are also occasionally formed as needed. 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 or ad hoc Committees 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 and such other members as the Chair may select. 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 to five times per year (sometimes due to the lateness of the state budget being finalized, the July and August meetings are combined):

1. July (Preliminary Budget review- shortly after state budget finalized)
2. August (Detailed Spending Plan-At least two weeks prior to August Council Meeting)
3. Early January (two weeks prior to January Council Meeting)
4. Early March (two weeks prior to March Council Meeting)
5. 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)
Marc Carroll (Vice Chair)
Victoria Marsh (Chair Grants)
Troy Siebels (Co-Chair Advocacy)
Sherry Dong (Co-Chair Advocacy)
Jo-Ann Davis (Member At Large)

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
Karen Hurvitz

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.

Meetings are scheduled as and when deemed necessary by the Committee Chairs, usually around the time the legislature begins considering the annual budget..

Advocacy Committee Members

Victoria Marsh
Susan Leff
Troy Siebels (co-chair)
Matthew Keator
Ann Murphy
Sherry Dong (co-chair)
Allyce Najimy

Events and Ad Hoc Committees/Task Forces.

These committees exist to assist the Mass Cultural Council in terms of either planning, assembling resources and fundraising for events such as the Commonwealth Awards (to recognize achievement in the arts, humanities and sciences 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 or to address a specific need identified by the Council (such as the Financial Task Force established in FY19). We anticipate that Council members on these committee would “opt in” to serve to assist with specific events as they occur and would meet and confer as and when needed.

Committee Members

Appointed as needed

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



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
From: : David Slatery
Date: January 28, 2020
Re: Open Meeting Law

At the Council Retreat last October, there was some discussion as to the application of the State's Open Meeting Law and to the ability to participate remotely in meetings.

At the Executive Committee on January 7, 2020, the Council's existing remote participation policy (adopted in May 2012) was discussed. This policy was based on the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Regulations (940 CMR 29.10) in force at the time. Such regulations permitted remote participation upon permission of the chair only for 5 specific purposes (Illness, disability, emergency, military service or geographic distance). Since then the regulation has been amended to remove these 5 specific reasons have been removed from the regulation and allows remote participation upon permission of the chair if a member's physical attendance would be "unreasonably difficult." The Executive Committee recommended updating the Council's current policy to reflect the current state regulation and standard and a resolution to that effect is contained in this Meeting Book.

Traditionally, as standing policy the Council Chair has not permitted remote participation by members at full Council meetings as the reliability of the technology at the different cultural organizations is usually unknown and would often be inconvenient to confirm in advance. On the other hand, there has been a standing permission by the Chair to remote participation at Committee meetings as these tend to occur in Mass Cultural Offices where we have conference phones available (though we recently learned that our technology may not work well for this purpose if there are number of persons participating). According to the law, a physical quorum is supposed to be present in the meeting place when remote participation occurs. As Committee meetings do not take final action and we have no written policies on what constitutes a quorum, we have not always been strict in enforcing this requirement in the interest of allowing greater participation.

Prepared on 1/22/20

Staff will continue to investigate better technology to facilitate remote participation. The regulations provide as follows

940CMR 29.10

...

(6) Technology.

(a) The following media are acceptable methods for remote participation. Remote participation by any other means is not permitted. Accommodations shall be made for any public body member who requires TTY service, video relay service, or other form of adaptive telecommunications.

- telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing;
- any other technology that enables the remote participant and all persons present at the meeting location to be clearly audible to one another.

(b) When video technology is in use, the remote participant shall be clearly visible to all persons present in the meeting location.

...

(d) The chair or, in the chair's absence, the person chairing the meeting, may decide how to address technical difficulties that arise as a result of utilizing remote participation, but is encouraged wherever possible to suspend discussion while reasonable efforts are made to correct any problem that interferes with a remote participant's ability to hear or be heard clearly by all persons present at the meeting location. If technical difficulties result in a remote participant being disconnected from the meeting, that fact and the time at which the disconnection occurred shall be noted in the meeting minutes.

...

Regardless of the technology, staff recommends that Members make every effort to physically attend meetings as it enables easier communication and deliberation.



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
Fr: Staff
Dt: January 28, 2020
Re: Agency Updates

EXECUTIVE

Welcome to our first meeting of 2020. You may note both that this memorandum is organized a little differently than past Agency Updates and is a bit longer than usual. We are trying to specifically highlight some of the things the agency is doing- specifically the services being provided under the Cultural Investment Portfolio and our new health and wellness-focused CultureRx initiative, so these sections have been broken out. Also staff has been very busy implementing the programs and initiatives approved for FY20 at the August meeting last year so there is a lot to report on. (Since our January meeting is a week later than usual and our March meeting will be a little earlier than usual this year, the March 2020 Agency Updates should be somewhat lighter)

Committees. The Executive Committee met on January 7 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 20 Artists Fellowship Program grants and well as the parameters of the new Gaming Mitigation Program. Also, as discussed below, the Advocacy Committee met in December to discuss the FY 21 state budget. Minutes from these meetings will be eventually posted on our website.

Upcoming Dates/Website. A reminder that our website includes an "Agency Dates" page at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/culture-now/agency-dates/>. Here we will have a single page from which to share our most pertinent dates. On the "Programs" side is a list of grant application open dates and deadlines and on the "Events" side is where a list of the agency's various webinars, info sessions, pop-up events, regional meetings, etc., will appear.

COMMUNICATIONS, ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE

Our new Communications Director, Bethann Steiner, came on board in mid-October, and has worked hard to familiarize herself with the Council's portfolio of programs, services and initiatives. Hearing during the Council's retreat in October a desire to increase the Agency's visibility in the press as well as with key legislators and Council members, the Communications team has worked to fulfill that request in several ways:

- **Legislative Meetings:** Since October the Executive Director and Communications Director have met with key legislators at the State House to forge/strengthen our relationships and provide briefings on CultureRx. Meetings with our Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development Committee chairs Senator Ed Kennedy (D- Lowell) and Rep. Paul McMurry (D- Dedham) and regular contact with staff have been helpful to ensure policy goals have been met. CultureRx briefings have been provided to Senator Harriette Chandler (D- Worcester), Senator Jo Comerford (D- Northampton), Senator Cindy Friedman (D- Arlington), Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D- Northampton), Rep. Jon Santiago (D- Boston), Rep. Mary Keefe (D- Worcester). Each of these legislators was chosen due to their leadership/committee assignments, District or professional affiliations. Further, Bethann met with Rep. Steven Howitt (R- Seekonk) to open a new line of communication with a legislator who has openly expressed concern with previous Agency awards and has developed relationships with the fiscal analysts who are assigned to the Mass Cultural Council in both the House and Senate Committees on Ways & Means.
- **Legislative Cultural Caucus:** On November 6, 2019 our Executive Director and Communications Director attended a meeting of the Legislative Cultural Caucus at the State House, at the invitation of Caucus co-chair Rep. Mary Keefe. During the meeting Anita gave an overview of CultureRx and took questions. The response was overwhelmingly positive, no concerns were shared by Members or staff.
- **Senate President Emerita Harriette Chandler National Arts Award:** Also, in November Senator Chandler received a national honor, the 2019 Outstanding Woman State Legislator Supporting the Arts Award from the Kennedy Center and Women in Government. Senator Chandler was nominated for this honor by Anita Walker and Mass Cultural Council.
- **Mass Artists Leaders Coalition (MALC):** On November 18th Mass Cultural Council joined MALC for its 13th annual Artists Under the Dome awards ceremony at the State House. This year we are proud to celebrate two of our own, Community Initiative Program Manager Lisa Simmons and former External Relations Director Greg Liakos as both were honored for their dedication to the field with Champions of Artists awards.

- **Increasing Visibility of Agency Programs/Events/Services:** Since October the Communications team has sent more than 30 targeted email updates to state legislators, detailing upcoming events in their regions, key dates and opportunities to promote Agency programs and services. These short informational emails have been well received by legislators and legislative staff and are often followed by press releases in local press and social media mentions on the legislators' pages.
- **Increasing Media Opportunities:** On a regular basis the Communications Director and Executive Director's Scheduler are now meeting to identify potential press opportunities for the Agency. The goal is to maximize the Executive Director's travel schedule throughout the state by also scheduling Editorial Boards or one-on-one interviews with regional press outlets. To date the Executive Director has met with Editorial Boards and reporters from the *Berkshire Eagle*, *CommonWealth Magazine* (and their podcast "The Codcast"), *Worcester T&G*, and has taped TV interviews with CBS Boston news and an episode of "The State We're In" a local political news show on WGBY (Channel 22 Springfield). Resulting press coverage will be captured and shared on social media and with Council members.
- **Proposed Massachusetts Mayors Cultural Caucus:** At the suggestion of North Adams Mayor Tom Bernard, Mass Cultural Council has prepared a proposal to establish a Mayors Cultural Caucus in Massachusetts. Mayor Bernard believes such a group would be a powerful advocacy tool for advancing key arts and culture policy and funding opportunities as well as provide an opportunity for municipal leaders to share information and guidance to the Agency in an advisory capacity as to the needs of their communities that our programs and services may be able to address. The Mayor will share this proposal with his counterparts at the next statewide Mayors' Association convening and will report back on potential next steps.
- **CultureRx State House Briefing:** On March 4 at 11am in State House Room 428 Mass Cultural Council is delivering a briefing on CultureRx to legislators and staff. This event is jointly co-hosted by our TACD chairs, Sen. Kennedy and Rep. McMurtry as well as Senate Public Health Committee chair Sen. Jo Comerford.

Legislative and Budget Update: Gaming Mitigation Fund: On December 13, 2019 Governor Baker signed the FY19 close out budget bill into law (now Chapter 142 of the Acts of 2019). This legislation contains language that Mass Cultural Council drafted in coordination with the Governor's office to establish the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund. With the establishment of this Trust Fund now legislatively authorized the Agency has a

vehicle to receive 2% of gaming revenues as directed in the 2011 expanded gaming law. These revenues must be used in a certain way, as defined by statute: $\frac{3}{4}$ of the revenue will be used to fund a grant program to help nonprofit and municipally owned performing arts centers sustain their operations now that they are competing with casino venues. Staff is proposing the parameters of this new program and the materials are contained in Section 4b of this Council Meeting Book. After review and approval by the Council, the application process should be opened for the new [Gaming Mitigation Program](#) early in 2020. The remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ of gaming revenues must be used under the statute to provide "organizational support" and, as will be presented to the Grants Committee and Council in March, it will be proposed they be used to bolster the financial viability of arts and cultural organizations in Massachusetts by providing funding for a social prescription and reimbursement program, a signature piece of our new [CultureRx Initiative](#), beginning in July 2020.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget: Governor Baker filed his FY21 spending recommendations (known as "H2") on Wednesday, January 22nd and proposed funding at the level of \$16.3 million in FY21. While this is a 9.5% decrease from the amount, we ultimately received in the FY20 state budget and such an amount would lead to cuts in grant funding, the Governor's is roughly consistent with the amount of funding proposed one year ago in H1 for FY20 (\$16.1 million). Per earlier meetings with the Advocacy Committee, Mass Cultural Council has reacted publicly to the Governor's funding level and has advocated for an increase in FY21 from the \$18 million we received in FY20 with the ultimate number yet to be determined. To prepare for the FY21 budget process the Advocacy Committee and key partners (MASS Creative and Mass Humanities) met on December 18, 2019 to discuss a viable and appropriate funding request. The Executive Director and Communications Director will soon meet with our TACD Committee chairs to receive their feedback and guidance on what they expect will be viable in the House and Senate budgets for the Agency's line item. Data is being compiled internally to describe unmet need in each of our programs and services which we believe bolsters an increased funding request. The House debates its budget in April and the Senate follows in May. We expect to finalize our FY21 funding request and begin a public advocacy campaign to build support in the sector and in the Legislature in February.

CULTURAL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (CIP)

In this Meeting's Agency Updates we will be presenting information on the Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) a little differently. While CIP provides critical organizational support in the form of unrestricted grants, we also wanted to specifically call out the increasing amount support we provide to cultural organizations in the form of services- therefore we are presenting this update in two distinct sections **Grantmaking** (which will also cover compliance requirements) and **Services**.

GRANTMAKING

CIP organizations have been required to fulfill requirements to host a "Site Visit" once every four years, and to serve as Site Visitors for other organizations. This has been redefined as the "Service to the Grantee" and "Service to the Sector" requirements, to make it clear that the goal is to serve the needs of the grantees, not to create a burden. We have changed our visit structure to provide a variety of options, and to move beyond the belief that that small organizations get one type of meeting, and large organizations get something different. We recognize that organizations will benefit from different types of engagement, depending on the challenges they are working through. CIP staff developed an in-take survey to identify the organization's needs, and to tailor the visit to meet those needs. This is part of an overall strategy to customize our support for organizations.

Sixty-eight organizations are expected to fulfill their "Engagement Requirement" this year. (NOTE- capitalized terms in quotes refer to terms with specific meanings under the CIP Guidelines) They completed the in-take survey, and CIP has been scheduling the meetings. In some cases, this means bringing together a group of "Peer Advisors" from other organizations for a "Peer Consultation Visit", or groups of community participants and in some cases, legislators, for a "Community Stakeholder Visit". Other organizations have held one-on-one meetings with CIP staff, or "Executive Leadership meetings" with Anita Walker. This fall, the CIP team organized and facilitated the following sessions to support current CIP grantees and fulfill grant requirements:

- 12 Portfolio Organization Executive Leadership meetings with Anita Walker.
- 4 Peer Consultation Sessions.
- 2 Community Stakeholder meetings (including organizations new to the Portfolio).
- Optional: 1 "Special Circumstances" consultation, 7 new Executive Director meetings, 8 consultations with potential applicants, 7 coaching sessions with unsuccessful applicants.

Currently Scheduled for Spring 2020

- 4 Community Stakeholders Sessions.
- 10 Peer Consultation Sessions.
- 3 Executive Director Leadership meetings.
- 5 "New Executive Director introductions."
- 23 one-on-one Capacity or Strategy planning meetings.

Compliance Update

At the August board meeting, 6 organizations had 'holds' or restrictions on their contracts due to various compliance issues. The CIP team worked with these organizations to clear the holds and process the grant awards. 121 Project

grants were awarded at the August meeting, and these organizations are carrying out their projects, and submitting reports throughout the year.

Gateway Grant Program

The Gateway Program is the “on-ramp” for organizations to move into the Portfolio, and long-term, unrestricted operating support. The Gateway Program accepts applications in alternating years. The next application deadline is January 31, for FY21/22 grants. During November/December 2019, CIP staff conducted information sessions in Amherst, Boston, Dennis, Lowell, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Worcester, and an online webinar.

SERVICES

Workshops and Events. This fall, the CIP team organized and facilitated the following sessions to support current and potential CIP grantees. Each is explained in further detail below:

1. 3 DataArts financial management workshops
2. 1 Webinar on legal board governance best practices
3. 1 Workshop on building an effective board
4. 1 Webinar on sexual harassment and human resources
5. 1 Small Shop Workshop for small organizations

1. In partnership with DataArts, the CIP team presented a series of three financial management workshops for CIP Portfolio and Gateway organizations in November. Participants got a deeper understanding of analytic and benchmarking tools and learned how to make critical decisions about data communications. Locations for this series were in Springfield, Worcester and Boston, and a total of 84 people attended.

2. Assisting organizations in area of board governance, the CIP team delivered both a webinar and full day workshop on the topic. The October webinar focused on the legal requirements and responsibilities of nonprofit boards, using Massachusetts AGO requirements as a guide. This webinar was available to all nonprofits in Massachusetts, regardless of funding relationship to the Mass Cultural Council. 55 individuals attended, and the session was recorded and shared widely as a resource afterwards.

3. A full day governance workshop, in partnership with BoardSource, was offered in November and focused on how to build an effective and diverse board, and the partnership between governance with management. The workshop was presented in Cambridge and filled with 80 participants within 48 hours of being announced.

4. The CIP team delivered a webinar on workplace sexual harassment and human resources basics in October. Outside legal and HR counsel was used to present this webinar, and 30 individuals attended.

5. The CIP team presents four small shop workshops annually around the state. The first small shop workshop for FY20 took place at the Mass Cultural Council offices in December. These sessions are open to grantees and non-grantees from organizations with few or no compensated staff members. They are an opportunity for leaders of small organizations to network, and to learn best practices for strong organizations. The remaining workshops will be offered in partnership with three community foundations in the spring: The Greater Worcester Community Foundation, The Western Massachusetts Community Foundation and the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod.

Capacity Accelerator Network (CAN). Following a review of up-to-date financial data courtesy of DataArts reporting, an additional three CIP organizations were invited to participate in the previous Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) Health Analysis process. These organizations appeared financially stressed using our financial indicator methodology. NFF is currently conducting a financial health analysis on those three organizations, bringing our total financial health analysis work to 39 organizations. The additional three organizations are all located on the Cape: Provincetown Film Festival, Wellfleet Harbor Actors' Theatre, and Cape Cod Museum of Art.

Based on the data reviewed on the 39 organizations, the CIP team, in partnership with NFF, will design and deliver three full-day workshops that assists organizations in their financial turnaround in the Spring. These topics include facility planning, managing risk and reserve building, and cash flow/cash management. A portion of these workshops will be available to the broader Massachusetts nonprofit community. These workshops will be in Northampton, Brockton, and Worcester. A kickoff webinar for CAN organizations was held in December. The CIP team moved the previously scheduled Boston workshop to Brockton to allow easier access for our additional Cape Cod organizations.

In addition to these workshops, the CIP team and NFF will offer three virtual group coaching sessions and create a peer advisor network, matching leaders in the Capacity Accelerator Network with other Portfolio leaders who have expertise in these focus areas. An online resource library is also part of the CAN.

Update on CIP Consulting RFPs. As an outcome of the financial health analyses performed, the CIP team identified three organizations that were displaying evidence of severe financial stress, and in need of additional support beyond the CAN workshops. This fall, three requests for proposals (RFPs) were issued for requesting outside consulting assistance to help these organizations focus on strategic planning, business model analyses, capitalization needs, and other areas critical to long-term financial health. They are listed below.

RFP #001: Nonprofit Finance Fund selected to support Boston Baroque

RFP #002: TDC selected to support Actor's Shakespeare Project

RFP #003: Initial review of applicants underway to support Springfield Symphony Orchestra

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Community Initiative Team. The Community Initiative is now fully staffed with 6 members of the team. Each program officer is responsible for 3 regions. The Cultural District manager manages 2 regions and the department manager manages one region. A map of the regional breakdown is included as **Exhibit A** to these Agency Updates. Last year, the team began meeting with their Local Cultural Councils to assess their connection to their community, their municipality and their granting practices. So far there have been 80 communities visited and program staff are planning regional meetings in the Hilltown region, Greater Boston and the Cape Cod over the next 6 months. These convenings are a way to bring together cities and towns around common questions and issues that arise in their regions and will also serve as a networking opportunity for councils and cultural workers to connect with each other.

Staff Update. We have welcomed two new members to the team. Ricardo (Ricky) Guillaume and Verónica Ramírez Martell. Ricky comes to us after a stint as a freelance staff reporter for the Bulletin Newspaper, Inc. and from the Mass Office of Travel and Tourism where he was the marketing manager for sports and tourism. Ricky's regions are Cape Cod, Franklin County and South Central regions.

Verónica comes to us from the Eliot School where she was the program coordinator and woodworking teacher responsible for school & community partnerships. She is also an AmeriCorps alum where she served as a project leader and developed and facilitated trainings for Corps members. Verónica's regions are the Berkshires, Plymouth County and the North Central regions.

Local Cultural Councils. Local Cultural Councils are wrapping up their voting meetings and submitting their Annual Reports. The online application continues to be a very successful tool in providing the Mass Cultural Council a means of collecting data on who is applying and who is being funded throughout the state.

We received over 9,700 applications to the LCC program for the FY20 grant cycle. This is an increase of 1,500 applications from the prior year. The community team has been meeting with councils and working with them to expand their outreach in their communities as well as working with the LCCs to increase their visibility. We are starting to see the changes in how the LCCs are working in their communities through the one on one site visits officers are doing in their regions. The one on one outreach program officers have been doing with their councils over the past year has been paying off. Councils are more aware of Mass Cultural Council opportunities, the LCCs have been very

receptive to recommendations and support from Mass Cultural Council program officers and this new outreach has led to an increase in applicants and LCC visibility and commitment.

Direct Grant Program for Local Cultural Councils. Currently there are 53 councils participating in the Direct Granting program. The pilot was started in FY18 with 19 councils with the goal of allowing councils to give direct grants instead of reimbursing applicants. This switch is twofold: to allow grantees the ability to implement projects with lesser financial hardship, as well as to simplify the payment process for municipalities and councils. Based on the success of the pilot more councils are recognizing the benefits of direct granting and have made the switch. It is not mandatory for councils to participate in direct granting, but in our one on one meetings, we encourage them, as well as their municipalities, to review the program's benefits and if and when they are ready to make the switch from reimbursement to direct granting.

Festivals Program. The Festivals Grant Program is now in its' 9th grant round. The deadline for applications for Spring/Summer festivals is March 16th. We have funded over 225 festivals in Calendar Year 2019. 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 from western to eastern MA festivals in towns as small Gosnold in the Elizabethan Islands to Boston. 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, webinars on social media, data collection, accessibility and inclusion and sustainability.

Audience Lab Grants. In FY20, we have embarked on a pilot program with 10 festivals focused on marketing and audience development. The Audience Lab Festivals Program" pilot began in August of this year and will run for a 10 month period. The Lab works with festivals to help them understand how to create a more inclusive environment for festivals as well as how to widen their marketing reach beyond their current practice. The Lab is also working with festivals to learn different ways to market and promote their festivals with social media and data collection webinars and offering a stipend of \$2,000 to each festival to conduct marketing experiments. The information collected from the pilot will be used to create a resource guide for all festivals that we fund to help them grow their audiences and increase their outreach.

Cultural Districts

Cultural District Initiative Statewide Convening. On October 1, 2019 nearly 60 representatives from 30 cultural districts gathered at the Worcester Art Museum in Worcester's Salisbury Cultural District for the annual statewide convening. We also used historic Tuckerman Hall across the street and Worcester led an after-

lunch bus tour of their incredible murals. This is a huge benefit to the designation as it's the one time where Cultural District managers get to learn from each other.

Attendees heard formal presentations from representatives from Easthampton's Cottage Street Cultural District as well as the Natick Cultural District. There was ample free time allotted in the days schedule to allow for one on one or group discussions within WAMs beautiful galleries as we had the museum to ourselves. They also heard from Sue Dahling Sullivan of ArtWeek and Jordi Albarenga of our partnership with Fair Saturday.

"It was great speaking with you on Tuesday - + thank you for putting together a fantastic event this week! It was so helpful and inspiring! It's amazing to see the creativity and productivity the Cultural Districts inspire."

West Concord Junction Cultural District

Cape Cod Convening. On November 6, 2019 Kelly Bennett (Program Officer, Artists), Ricky Guillaume (Program Officer for Barnstable County), and Luis Cotto (Program Manager, Cultural Districts) met with 18 members from five Cape Cod Cultural Districts and Nantucket. We all discussed successes and pitfalls of the work as well as collaborative ways to cross promote. One result is a recent full-page ad in the Cape Cod Travel Guide. We did this in conjunction with the Cape Cod Chamber.

Fair Saturday (November 30, 2019). Fair Saturday is a "global cultural movement with social impact" that takes place on the last Saturday of November, the Saturday following Thanksgiving. After initial meetings in May, the Massachusetts Cultural Council became the first State in the Nation to join this global initiative.

For more than a decade, the Saturday after Thanksgiving has been known as "Small Business Saturday" in the U.S. in an attempt to bring more people to local businesses after "Black Friday". We decided to pilot this with Cultural Districts as a majority are in commercial centers. We found that while most already had Small Business Saturdays events, many did not. The Council approved mini grants to participants which allowed many the funds to contract artists and activate their Districts. In cases like West Concord Junction, there had never been any activity around the holidays in their Cultural District. This was a great way to show them the possibilities.

Formal District Site Visits. This Fall and Winter we conducted two formal site visits of proposed Districts in Framingham on November 26, 2019 and Fall River on December 20, 2019. We are bringing forward Framingham's application district for consideration and will look to introduce Fall River in March.

Re-designation Process. 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.

For FY2019, nine cultural districts successfully completed the re-designation process. There are four municipalities with cultural districts in the fifth year of designation ending in FY2020:

- Beverly Arts District
- Boston's Literary District
- Plymouth Bay Cultural District
- Worcester's Salisbury Cultural District

Having assessed the requirements to be considered for designation renewal, staff has determined that all four districts are up to date with yearly reporting and in compliance with the use of cultural district funds awarded by the Council and therefore eligible for renewal.

In December, a letter was sent to the municipalities listed above outlining the steps that must be taken to apply for renewal. By January 31, 2020, the municipality must formally notify the Mass Cultural Council of their intent. Once notification is given, staff will guide each District through the renewal process. A recommendation will be brought to the Council in August 2020.

Key renewal components include:

- As the municipality is the applicant and holder of the designation:
 - A letter of endorsement from the top city/town official in the form of a letter.
 - Vote by city/town council recommitting to the cultural district in line with the resolution passed in support of the proposed cultural district five years ago.
- If relevant, any existing third-party agreement with a managing entity will be up for renewal too. This means that a revised or new agreement must be submitted that aligns with future work.
- A cultural district map with the current boundaries and updated asset key, as well as an overlay of proposed boundary revisions and the inclusion of new or existing assets.
- A meeting with cultural assets and stakeholders to identify goals going forward
- A narrative document describing:
 - Changes in the district in terms of business openings, closings, new events/programs/festivals, staffing and so on
 - Commentary on any shift in partnership, leadership

- Management plan going forward
- Key achievements in the past five years
- Goals moving forward that are actionable and achievable and relate to the Mass Cultural Council's Cultural District Initiative goals
- Cultural district marketing/promotion materials

The renewal process offers staff an opportunity to understand the successes, untapped potential, and challenges of this district's work. The renewal process affords the agency insight into how to improve upon our procedures and policy.

Newly Designated Cultural District Funding . Great Barrington, Franklin, Lenox and Winchester were designated in FY2019. Each was invited to apply for up to \$5,000 in matching grant funds to boost their work at as they implement their action plans. These designations were in line with the budget approved for FY2019.

ARTISTS

FY20 Artist Fellowships: In December 2019, Mass Cultural Council hosted grant review panels for FY20 Artist Fellowships in Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, and Traditional Arts. The results of those panels – panel recommendations for 19 Fellowships (\$15,000) and 16 Finalist awards (\$1,500) – are detailed in Section 4a of this Council Meeting 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.

Each fiscal year, there are two Artist Fellowships deadlines. Recommendations in Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, and Traditional Arts represent the first deadline (October 7, 2019). The second deadline, in Choreography, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting, is January 27, 2020. Award recommendations for these categories will go to the May 2020 Council meeting.

Categories for the Artist Fellowships recur every other year. In the FY21 cycle, we'll accept applications in Crafts, Dramatic Writing, Sculpture/Installation/New Genres, Film & Video, Music Composition, and Photography.

ArtSake: ArtSake is Mass Cultural Council's online resource to support individual artists. Comparing 2019 to 2018, the site had increased Users (32,306 in 2018 to 34,938 in 2019) and increased Pageviews (124,869 in 2018 to 126,205 in 2019). The most highly visited pages of 2019 include:

- Weekly artist opportunities (25,082 Pageviews)
- Creative Space Classifieds tool to list/find creative space (6,527 Pageviews)
- Tips on Applying for an Artist Fellowship article (1011 Pageviews)

The site also amplifies the voices and artwork of Massachusetts artists through interviews, "Studio Views," artists discussions, and other articles. Furthermore, we promote the continued success and development of our past awardees through our monthly Fellows Notes features.

In the Field: On January 10, 2020, Kelly Bennett lead an online informational session with the Nantucket Artists Association. The info session explored applications to the Artist Fellowships prior to the program's January 27 deadline.

Kelly Bennett, Luis Cotto, Program Manager for Cultural Districts, and Ricardo Guillaume, Community Program Officer, attended the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau's regional meeting of Cultural Districts in Barnstable on November 6, 2019.

Kelly Bennett and senior staff members met with the Cannabis Control Commission (CNB). Kelly worked with Adriana Campos, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, in developing a proposal to contract with curators in order to acquire and curate art.

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. On January 8, 2020, he participated in a panel meeting to decide Winter 2020 NEST awards.

FOLK ARTS& HERITAGE

Artist Fellowships in the Traditional Arts. A panel was held on December 6 to evaluate 26 applications in the Traditional Arts. The panel recommended four fellows and four finalists. Please see the memo recommending *Artist Fellowships* contained in Section 4a of the Council Meeting Book.

Traditional Arts Apprenticeships. Due to becoming aware of certain limitations on the ability of National Endowment for the Arts' Folk Arts grant to be spent on other matters, staff will proposing some changes to the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program (which remains eligible for such funding) in FY21. Mass Cultural Council has awarded Traditional Arts Apprenticeships every other year, beginning in 2001. Proposed changes will include moving from a 10-month to 2-year grant period. The rationale for the change is twofold; and it provides annual funding for the passing on of traditional arts (rather than every other year) and it allows grant recipients to take advantage of the summer months. Requiring a two-year commitment from master and apprentice should attract more serious applicants who are dedicated to sustaining specific traditional arts forms.

Lowell Folk Festival. Maggie Holtzberg, Folk Arts & Heritage Program Manager has selected Musical Instrument Makers as the theme for the Folklife area of the

2020 Lowell Folk Festival and has begun to research and reach out to traditional craft artists. She participated in the programming meeting in December that evaluates and helps select performing artists for the festival.

Fieldwork. Recent fieldwork documented a 4th generation granite stone carver in Quincy, and the Indra Jatra Festival in Watertown. Upcoming field research will focus on musical instrument makers in Massachusetts and the three subjects of our film project (see below).

National Meetings. In October, Maggie attended the annual meeting of the [American Folklore Society](#) (AFS) in Baltimore. She presented as part of a forum on folklore fieldwork and attended a dozen or so select sessions about presenting traditional arts, managing a fair and equitable grantmaking process, and making our archival collections more accessible. Some of the most valuable time was spent informally interacting with folklore colleagues from around the country, discussing current issues affecting those employed in the public sector.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) National Heritage Fellowships: In mid-September, NEA bestowed this year's National Heritage Fellowships. These highly competitive fellowships are the country's highest honor given in the folk and traditional arts. A year ago, Maggie nominated Balla Kouyaté (Medford, MA) for this award. He is a virtuoso *balafon* player, the West African antecedent of the xylophone. His family lineage on this instrument goes back over 800 years. Balla emigrated from Mali in 2000, settling in Massachusetts in 2001 to pursue a career in music. Balla was one of nine artists recognized last September in Washington, DC, including a formal ceremony at the Library of Congress, a meeting with Congressional leaders, and a concert at the Harman Center for the Arts. In addition, NEA has asked Maggie to select a filmmaker to create a [5-minute tribute video](#) about Balla Kouyate. Good press followed: WBUR followed up with a [feature story](#) on the Artery. The *Boston Globe* published [an article](#) soon after.

New Partnership with BSO: In 2016 and 2018, we produced two showcase concerts in partnership with Rockport Music at the Shalin Liu Performance Center. We have found a new and more promising partnership with the BSO, working with Sue Elliot, Director of Programming at the new Linde Center for Music and Learning at Tanglewood, a.k.a. TLI <https://www.tli.org/>. We bring in-depth knowledge of world-class traditional musicians and dancers that our Folk Arts & Heritage Program has documented, presented, and funded with over the years. TLI provides all contracting of artists, marketing, logistics, and production in a world class venue.

They have been thrilled with the artists we put forth in the fall season – [Rob Napier](#) gave a detail-oriented presentation on ship model building and repair and took part in the "Mastery in the DIY Era" panel. Neuza, a Cape Verdean singer and her band for a performance and panel discussion entitled, "Finding

Home/Belonging.” Upcoming on May 28, 2020, a free afternoon dance workshop and ticketed showcase concert “[Around the World](#)” featuring the music of Mali, Nepal, and Greece will take place May 28.

Living Traditions film project: Maggie is working with videographer Daniel Jacobs to produce three documentary short videos featuring Massachusetts master artists carrying on traditional art forms that are deeply meaningful to specific communities and geographic regions of the state. The videos will showcase the artistic excellence and cultural sensitivity of Massachusetts artists carrying on deeply rooted expressive traditions, while highlighting the work Mass Cultural Council does to support these artists, including Artist Fellowships and Apprenticeships, helping to sustain cultural traditions. They will also inform Local Cultural Councils of local treasures of which may be unaware and encourage engagement. Funding note: Our NEA Folk & Traditional Arts grant is \$30,000 for this fiscal year. The showcase concert came in under budget at \$10,320 and we learned that NEA funds cannot be spent on Artist Fellowships. That leaves funding for traditional arts work that must be spent before June 30, 2020.

CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CYD)

FY20 Amplify Panel and Results. On Wednesday, December 18th we held our panel to review applications for the Amplify program. The panel was made up of the people listed below. Our work was to review applications and make recommendations for funding AND to review Amplify as a program to make recommendations for further implementation. The descriptions of the applicants’ projects are attached.

The panel recommended funding 15 out of 19 total applications representing \$22,000 in funding. Five applications that were recommended for funding were requested to have follow up through further questions that may enhance the strength of their proposed project. The panelist (three of whom were alums of YouthReach programs!) were also able to recommend changes to the application process that will enable youth voice and collaboration of youth and adults in authentic youth-driven ways to shine through even further. Details on the Amplify Program panelists and grantees can be found on **Exhibit B** to this Agency Updates memo

Teaching Artist Programs. Mass Cultural Council continues to operate the largest teaching artist support program in the United States, the Music Educator/Teaching Artist (META) Fellowship which is funded largely by the Klarman Family Foundation. The current class of Fellows has begun their second and final year of the Fellowship. Workshops for this class have been adjusted based on our final report reviews in [SerHacer](#) and [YouthReach](#) programs along with surveys of areas of need. Our next session, in March, will be focused on trauma informed practice and our final session will take place on April 7th, 2020

from 3pm-7pm at New England Conservatory. At that final session, which will be open to the public, the Fellows will report out about their experiences in the Fellowship to the leadership of their organizations, other funders, and invited guests. They will also lead breakout conversations that will elevate their experiences and challenges in the classroom to a broader audience.

In fall of 2019 we also were able to expand the META Fellowship to disciplines beyond music through the Creative Youth Development Teaching Artist Pilot Program. Using the same model as META but opening it up to all disciplines supported by Mass Cultural Council from its own funds, the pilot program began with 19 Fellows from 19 different organizations currently funded in our YouthReach portfolio. We will be assessing this program using the same tools as the META Fellowship so that we can compare and contrast differences across disciplines. Looking ahead, we have a private funder in the area who is committed to co-funding a full implementation of the program in the fall of 2020.

Creative Youth Development Grant Programs. In October of 2019 the CYD staff, Mass Cultural Council leadership, and representatives from our funded CYD cohort (including program alums, leadership and teaching artists) convened to reimagine our existing grant programs in the area. From 2014 to 2020 the Creative Youth Development funding from the Mass Cultural Council grew from \$439,000 to over \$1 million, with grants to individual organizations growing from \$10,000/year to \$19,000/year. The cohort of organizations also grew from 39 funded programs to 74 funded programs while, at the same time, many long-term funders of CYD have moved their philanthropic giving to other areas. Considering all of these changes, we convened this group of people to think about the role of our CYD funding in a new context. Over a three-day period we deconstructed each element of the program and discussed the most essential pieces necessary to serve our field. The outcome was a more targeted program of financial and technical support that we will be developing and refining ahead of the launch of the new guidelines in September of 2020. Stay tuned for more details as continue to refine this 25-year old program.

CULTURE RX

Social Prescription Pilot Program. The pilot programs, which can be thought of as a research project, seek to understand how to prepare organizations and communities to successfully implement the social prescription of cultural experiences. The two pilots will identify the key ingredients to community and organizational readiness necessary to broadly implement the social prescription of cultural experiences throughout Massachusetts.

1. Berkshire Pilot - Developing organizational capacity for social prescription

- \$5,000 to Macony Health (scope for services)
- Up to \$40,000 to five cultural organizations (grants)

- Five \$2,000 grants to participate = \$10,000
- Reimbursement of organization for up to 30 referrals each at \$200/referral for up to \$6,000 per organization = \$30,000

Maximum Obligation: Up to \$45,000

The Berkshire participating organizations include the Norman Rockwell Museum, Mass MoCA, Berkshire Theatre Group, Mass Audubon Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, and CATA (Community Access to the Arts)

2. **Springfield Pilot** - Developing community capacity for social prescription

- \$8,000 to Caring Health to convene advisory group meetings (of doctors, health workers, patients, and cultural organizations), and to assess opportunities for cultural programming. (scope for services)
- \$10,000 to three organizations take part in advisory group meetings and trainings (grants)
 - Two \$3,000 grants

One \$4,000 grant to the lead organization

Maximum Obligation: Up to \$18,000

The Springfield participating organizations include The Enchanted Circle Theater, the Community Music School of Springfield, the Springfield Museums.

3. **External Researcher:** Identifying promising practices for organizations and communities to successfully implement the social prescription of cultural experiences. Evaluation of both pilot sites and the creation of a report with recommendations for broad implementation: \$13,000
4. **Trainings:** \$7,500 two trainings for organizations involved in the Berkshire and Springfield pilot and one webinar for EBT Card to Culture and Connector Care participants, in addition to any necessary individual follow-up via Zoom Chat

For more information about the Pilot Program providers and the external researcher, please see **Exhibit C** to this Agency Updates memo.

ConnectorCare Card to Culture. Drawing on the success of [EBT Card to Culture](#), Mass Cultural Council has launched a [new partnership](#) with the [Massachusetts Health Connector](#) to connect health and cultural sectors at a systemic level. For those with incomes less than 300% of the federal poverty level, residents with a ConnectorCare health insurance plan will be able to access cultural institutions at a free or reduced-price during 2020. This partnership will increase cultural participation of families, young professionals, and new immigrants in Massachusetts, who are the primary Health Connector

clients. It is also a goal to increase the number of people with health insurance by offering cultural access as a benefit to policyholders.

Arts, humanities, and science organizations that participate in this voluntary program offer free or discounted admission to ConnectorCare card holders, with training, communications, and policy support from the Mass Cultural Council.

For the calendar year 2020, 123 sites will be offering discounts to EBT cardholders. This includes 104 distinct organizations and exceeds our goal of 100 participating organizations.

The list includes the Museum of Fine Arts, Blue Man Group, Museum of Science, Franklin Park and Stone Zoo, Worcester Art Museum, and MASS MoCA. The full list can be found on Massachusetts Health Connector's website: <https://www.mahealthconnector.org/learn/plan-information/connectorcare-plans/connectorcare-card-to-culture>

Other related activities:

- December 12, Program Officer Kalyn King presented at a Massachusetts Health Connector recruitment day in Springfield, to help introduce the new benefit and encourage community members to sign-up for health insurance.
- January 10, Anita Walker spoke on a call with representatives from the 5 ConnectorCare health insurance carriers, to begin a relationship with the companies that will serve our broader CultureRx initiative.
- January 17, Mass Cultural Council held a press conference to officially launch the program at Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst MA, with Louis Gutierrez, ED Mass Health Connector, Senator Jo Comerford, chair, Committee on Public Health, and Representative Mindy Domb.
- Late January, Program Officer Kalyn King will present at 4 regional trainings with Massachusetts Health Connector's Community Liaisons to familiarize them with the new benefit for their communities.

Foster Families Pilot Program. On Friday, December 13, the Creative Youth Development team received applications for the Foster Families Pilot Program in Western Massachusetts. We received applications from a total of 10 organizations to receive grants ranging from \$1,000-\$2,500 from a total pool of \$20,000 that was allocated following the Council meeting in August 2019. We requested proposals in three categories:

- 1.) Visitations –Sibling Saturday's or supervised parental visits
- 2.) Workshops – Opportunities for foster involved youth and their families to take a deeper dive into cultural activities; examples include improvisational theater workshops and visual arts workshops

- 3.) **Programming for Social Workers** – Opportunities for social workers to get to know cultural organizations, their offerings, and the impacts of cultural experiences

The grants were reviewed by staff for eligibility and used the three criteria from the guidelines, listed below:

- 1.) **Programmatic Relevancy** - The proposed program is consistent with the mission and programming of the applying organization.
- 2.) **Organizational preparedness** - The organization is providing appropriate staffing and programming to meet the needs of youth and families involved in the foster care system.
- 3.) **Programmatic goals** - The description of the proposed programming demonstrates an ability to reach identified goals.

Listed on **Exhibit D** to this Agency Updates memo are the funding amounts under the Foster Families Pilot to organizations totaling \$19,075. They include funding for each applying organization, a range of programming across the three categories, and opportunities that play to each organization's strength. Funding amounts were determined by staff using the budgets and requests submitted by each organization.

EDUCATION

STARS Residencies. STARS Residencies provides grants of up to \$5000 to schools to fund in-school residencies in the arts, sciences and humanities with a cultural partner. Any school in Massachusetts is eligible to apply. This year, as a result of the budget increase, we were able to increase STARS funding to \$1.5M. As a result, we made grants to 283 schools (17% increase) serving almost 30,000 students and supporting 174 cultural partners (a number of cultural partners work in more than one STARS-funded school.) Once again, demand outstripped available funds 40 minutes after the online application opened.

As always, we work over the summer and into October 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 is included later in this Council update.

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 is the second year of grants at \$250, increased from \$200 in recognition of higher transportation costs. At the halfway mark in the school year, we've awarded 500 grants sending more than 37,699 students to 154 cultural organizations across the Commonwealth. This year, the New England Aquarium heads the list, followed by the Museum of Science, Plimoth Plantation,

and the Worcester Center for Performing Arts. As always, educators tell us that, for many, the Big Yellow School bus grants make the trips possible.

Creative Minds Out of School. Creative Minds Out of School (CMOST) 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. 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 participate in CMOST lessons so they can have the same experience that the children will have of exploring materials and making their own art. The program is run for us by Innovation Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) with Mass Cultural Council oversight.

The CMOST outreach strategy is to develop relationships with systems of sites rather than individual sites – city systems, program systems, rural network systems – to amplify the impact of the program. For example, last summer we worked with a Summer Meals site. The success of that session laid the foundation for a partnership with Sodexo Food Services, Springfield Public Schools, and Springfield Housing Authority to provide CMOST activities at Summer Eats sites in the Springfield area this coming year.

Through our systems outreach, we have also worked with Camp Fire, which highlighted CMOST student art at their fundraiser in October. Here is a taste of the student art they exhibited that completes the phrase “When I grow up, I want to be a ...”:

(See next page for some sample CMOST collage projects)



Paper Collage Self Portraits
Created by Camp Fire Artists during after-school programming

ILC connected Camp Fire with another CMOST program system – Lowell's 21st Century afterschool programs. The two organizations are now collaboratively developing monthly lesson plans, site visits and activities using the Creative Minds curriculum.

FY20 CMOST Trainings

Program	Staff Trained	Student Impact	Status
Camp Fire of the North Shore: School Year Staff (Salem)	15	150	Highlighted Creative Minds artwork at their October Fundraiser at Lynn Arts
Boys & Girls Club of Lynn: School Year Staff (Lynn)	15	120	Implementing Program successfully and posting work to FB page

Berkshire Association of Child Care Providers (Pittsfield)	22	200	Implementing Program
UPCOMING TRAININGS			
Community Day Care Incorporated (Methuen)			Scheduled for April
Project Bread Summer Eats Program (Springfield)			Scheduled for April
Boys & Girls Club of Lynn – Summer Staff (Lynn)			Scheduled for June
Camp Fire of the North Shore – Summer Staff (Salem)			Scheduled for June

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for this program to see student art and learn more.

Early Childhood Initiative. As we wrote in the last update, we are designing an initiative to connect high need 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 for creative experiences to continue at home.

We are pleased to announce that we're contracting with AnLar, a team with extensive experience in early childhood education, to work with us to design our new initiative. They will help us identify best practices and key characteristics of model early education programs in the arts, sciences and humanities; what role families and caretakers should have; what role cultural organizations should have; and, what role Mass Cultural Council should have to grow and support the work. We are using our experience with Creative Youth Development and Creative Minds Out of School to help us design the new program. We are also looking for how we should connect this work with CultureRx and our larger Health initiatives.

As part of the work, AnLar will evaluate Phase II of our Early Education Pilot on the Cape, taking place this spring. This is a partnership with the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) that works with their network of community-based organizations to connect cultural organizations and high need families with children ages 0-5. The network helps identify families to participate and Mass Cultural Council funds the families' participation in the cultural organizations' early education programs. Our goal is to learn on the ground and fold lessons learned into the new program design.

Poetry Out Loud. Poetry Out Loud is celebrating its 15th year! This is the national recitation competition for high school students created by the National

Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The Huntington Theatre runs the program in Massachusetts for Mass Cultural Council. 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, the young people come to understand the meaning of the poems they choose, and then bring that meaning 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 Feb 29- March 2; 5 students from each regional will progress to the state finals at the Old South Meeting House on March 8. 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 is now celebrating its 15th 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.

National History Day in Massachusetts.

[History Day](#) in Massachusetts 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 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."

Mass Cultural Council funding to the Massachusetts Historical Society is growing access to the program by subsidizing student and teacher registration fees for the state and national competitions. It also supports expanded outreach through teacher resources, workshops and training, promotion and marketing. Funds also pay important stipends to the teachers who dedicate countless hours as Student Workshop Volunteers and Regional Leads.

Drawing Day. One hundred and fifty years ago the Massachusetts legislature passed "An Act relating to free instruction in drawing," otherwise known as the "Drawing Act. This first-of-its-kind legislation required that every child in a Massachusetts public school learn to draw as part of their standard education. It also required that towns of a certain size population provide opportunities to learn to draw as part of adult education. A few years later, the legislature

established the Massachusetts Normal Art School to prepare teachers to teach drawing. Now known as MassArt, it is the only state school of its kind dedicated to art and design in the country.

We are working on a committee led by our Cultural Caucus chairs, Representative Mary Keefe and Senator Julian Cyr, to engage individuals and communities across the state to celebrate the act and its links to education, contemporary arts, creativity, innovation, and industry in the Commonwealth. We will keep you posted as the initiative takes shape.

CULTURAL FACILITIES FUND (CFF)

Grant round. In June 2019 Governor Baker announced an allocation of \$10 million for a 2020 CFF round of funding. The Program Guidelines were updated and presented to the CFF Advisory Committee on September 26. As part of the process, the guidelines were sent to the MassDevelopment Board for final approval. The Round 12 Cultural Facilities Fund application was made available to the public on October 11, 2019.

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:

1. Manomet, Plymouth – October 24
2. Lyric Stage, Boston – October 25
3. Easthampton Media - October 31
4. Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge - November 1
5. Gloucester Stage - November 4
6. Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitors Center, Worcester - November 7
7. Old Meeting House, Mashpee - November 8

A webinar was held on November 12 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 15, we received 196 “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 grant announcements will be made after the CFF Advisory Committee and the Mass Development Board meet in May 2020.

Artist Workspace. In related work, CFF staff in response to the alarming number of artist workspace closures over the past couple years convened a series of

regional meetings to listen and discuss strategies for preventing displacement and stabilizing the sector.

Recent artist workspace closures include:

- Framingham—Fountain Street, 70 artists evicted in 2017
- Jamaica Plain—Brookside Artist Building, 15 artists evicted in 2018
- Boston—African American Master Artists-in-Residence Program (AAMARP) Northeastern University evicts artists in 2018
- Cambridge—EMF Building 200 musicians evicted in June 2018
- Boston--Piano Factory, remaining artists units closed in 2019
- Somerville - Joy Street Studios- 42 units, building sold in December 2019 for \$28 million. Artists have not been evicted yet.

The meetings were attended by total of 131 artist workspace owners, municipal employees, real estate developers, artists, funders and planners.

Meeting locations:

1. Essex County Community Foundation—Danvers
2. Co+ Creative Center—New Bedford
3. Northampton Community Arts Trust—Northampton
4. Tyler Street Lab—Pittsfield
5. Worcester PopUp—Worcester
6. The Dance Complex—Cambridge
7. Harwich Cultural Center—Harwich

Some of the take aways from the meetings and topics for research are:

- Adapting former schools as creative spaces
- Funding and financing options including tax credits
- Structuring limited equity co-ops
- How to navigate the real estate development process
- Using zoning to preserve and create artist spaces
- Creating a network of practitioners in this area

In January 2020 we are sending detailed notes from the meetings to a list of 184 who expressed interest in sharing strategies and best practices.

UP -UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.

UP Designation. UP Designation applications will now be accepted in May/June - aligning with the completion of the Innovation and Learning Network (ILN) that upon completion, results in an organization being Designated.

The application is designed to surface information about four key behavioral indicators:

- **Education:** Provide training about inclusive culture.
- **Representation:** Engage with user/experts to inform.
- **Vision:** Integrate inclusion throughout the entire organization.
- **Innovation:** Adaptive thinking and trial and error pathway to solutions.

Innovation Fund Grants. Open to organizations with UP Designation, 15 \$3000 grants have been allocated and awarded in FY20 out of 28 applications received. This grant is growing in popularity.

IDEA Pilot Program. Mass Cultural Council, as part of a continuum of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) work being addressed by the Universal Participation Initiative (UP), has partnered with artists Maia Chao and Josephine Devanbu, to pilot an artist-led program that stewards an innovative approach to drive institutional change. This IDEA Pilot Program is a creative, social experiment that centers the non-attending public as museum critics and consulting experts. This pilot program launches February 2020 across a cohort of 3 art museums.

LEAD Stipend Grants. The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts LEAD Conference (Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability) continues to be at the forefront of accessibility and inclusion work. LEAD provides participants with effective accessible practices, emerging technologies, and engaging peer networks. Organizations with UP Designation are eligible for this 1k grant with applications opening in March 2020. Last year's recipients are not eligible.

UP Award. The UP Award is a **\$10,000 prize** presented at a public ceremony every other year. All organizations with UP Designation are eligible. Peer voting and a panel of 5-6 user/experts informed the top 5, with the winner announced at the UP Award ceremony scheduled for Thursday April 29 at the WGBH Yawkey Theater. The top 5 contenders for the prize: Open Door Arts (formerly known as VSA Massachusetts) (Boston, Worcester), Abilities Dance (Boston), Wheelock Family Theatre (Boston), The Discovery Museum (Acton), and ArtsEmerson (Boston).

EBT Card to Culture. [EBT Card to Culture](#), guided by Kalyn King, Program Officer, completed its third cycle on December 31, 2019. It's fourth cycle will run January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

There are a record number of organizations offering discounts for calendar year 2020. There are now over 250 sites across Massachusetts offering discounts to EBT cardholders, 130+ to ConnectorCare cardholders, and 100+ to WIC cardholders. (Discounts to ConnectorCare cardholders is part of a new partnership, see CultureRx section update for more details). Eleven new organizations signed on to the program and all organizations that participated

in the EBT Card to Culture program during the last cycle continued, except for one which ceased operations.

We continue to create new resources for participating organizations in response to their requests for additional training and promotional support. Notably, a webinar for Card to Culture and CultureRx organizations on January 21st, titled "[Creating Welcoming Inclusive Spaces.](#)" The final report from the second half of 2019 was due January 15th, and updated attendance totals to date for the program should be available in early February.

UP Education/Consultations

- **StageSource:** positioning and training to position service organization to be the ADA coordinator for emerging and fringe theater groups. ASL for production stage managers. Shared technology for the sector: captioning and audio-description equipment.
- **South Shore Conservatory:** sustainable practice review upon retirement of ADA coordinator.
- **Liars and Believers:** forming a small theatre alliance to address access.
- **Mass Audubon:** reviewing their online portal for staff education.
- **American Repertory Theater:** charette on new theater space with a focus on access.
- **Boston Area Network of Teaching Artists (BANTA):** universal design for learning and access consultant.
- **On With Living and Learning (OWLL):** senior performance troupe integrating access into programs.
- **REELAbilities:** the Boston Jewish Film's festival that highlights disability: new staff training.
- **ArtsEmerson:** staff training with Open Door Arts (VSA Massachusetts).
- **Tower Hill Botanic Garden:** re-engaging after staff changes.
- **Boston Lyric Opera:** grant review as access becomes central to mission/vision.
- **Boston Architectural College:** universal design class.
- **Boston University:** effective communication class.
- **Urban Nutcracker:** developing an access plan with Tony Williams.
- **Deaf Theatre Access Plan:** working with Moonbox theater to develop local response to national convening.
- **Cultural Access New England (CANE):** workshops designed to complement UP: access at historic sites, social media access on March 19, 2020; emergency preparedness on May 1, 2020.

Leadership/Branding

- **LEAD cohort meeting; November 1, 2019:** from last year's LEAD convention formed a group to meet quarterly
- **Ruderman Inclusion Summit; November 10, 2020:** mental health inclusion
- **ARC Tank:** emerging technologies to support cognitive and neural differences

- **LEAD Conference:** the UP Initiative is recognized for a Community Asset Award.
- **ADA at 30:** working with the Institute for Human Centered Design, the New England ADA Center, Mass Office on Disability, and ArtWeek to facilitate 30th anniversary of the ADA as a Cultural Festival with a spotlight on artists with disabilities and creative sector jobs.

EXHIBITS TO AGENCY UPDATES

EXHIBIT A- COMMUNITY REGIONS MAP

EXHIBIT B- CYD AMPLIFY PROGRAM PANELISTS AND GRANTEEES

EXHIBIT C-CULTURE RX- SOCIAL PRESCRIPTION PILOT INFORMATION

EXHIBIT- FOSTER FAMILIES PILOT GRANTEEES

Exhibit A-REGIONS

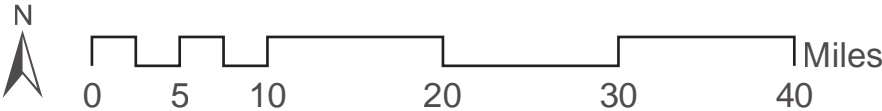
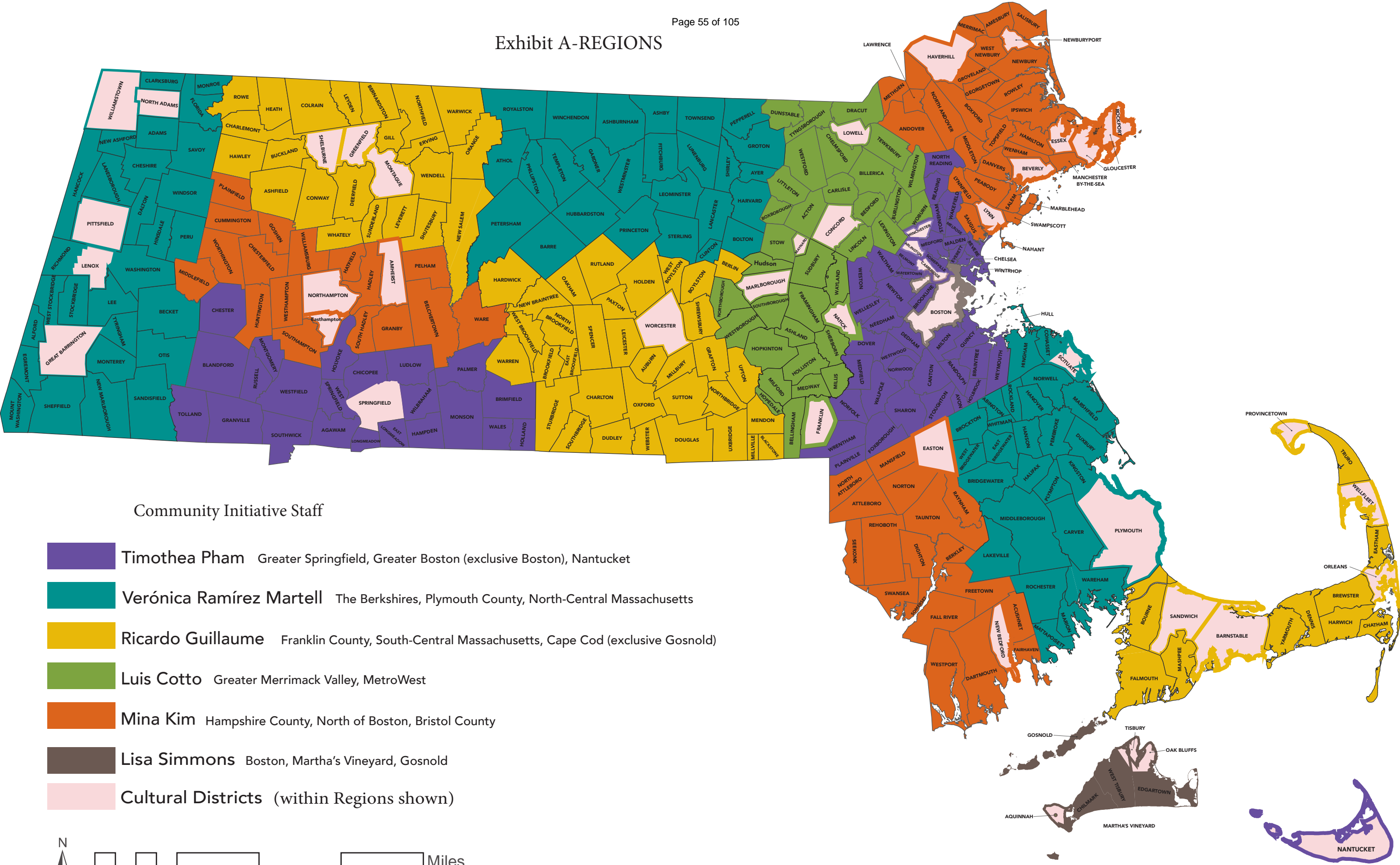


EXHIBIT B AMPLIFY PROGRAM

Panelists:

- Melissa J. Graham, Managing Director, Boston City Singers
- Kristen Heintz-Perkins, Director of Institutional Grants, Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- Eziah Blake, Education Coordinator, The Theater Offensive
- Rebecca Kelley, Executive Assistant, The Theater Offensive
- Emmanuella Marie Fedé, Digital Media Teacher, The Community Art Center

FY20 Amplify Grantees

1. **Applicant:** Karen Andrade
Staff: Tiffany Henriksen
New Bedford Whaling Museum High School Apprenticeship Program, New Bedford, MA
Summary: Young people will educate and inspire people to take action around the United Nation's Life Under Water Sustainable Development Goal by working with organizations and other youth who will focus on a one-day marine area clean-up in New Bedford.
2. **Applicant:** Maureen Bitner
Staff: Samuel Martin
Worcester Youth Center, Inc. Worcester, MA
Summary: Five youth leaders will plan, recruit, and offer a monthly series of talent shows. This program will allow organizers to practice and strengthen their organization skills, as well as give talent show participants an opportunity to showcase creative talents to the community.
3. **Applicant:** Isabella Ceresia and William Kimani
Staff: Liz Georgakopoulos
New England Aquarium, Boston, MA
Summary: Through a partnership between the New England Aquarium ClimaTeens and the Institute of Contemporary Art teens, young people will create artwork on the issues of climate change and display it on World Oceans Day at the New England Aquarium. The exhibit will educate Boston area youth to advocate for climate action and demand climate change in our communities.
4. **Applicant:** Sam Forton
Staff: Priscilla Kane Hellweg
Enchanted Circle Theater, Holyoke, MA

Summary: Young people will lead spoken word, dance/movement, music, poetry, and other creative arts to express personal stories about their experience in foster care and adoption. The HEROES Youth Truth is a creative arts and media performance ensemble focused on creating awareness and positive change for foster and adoptive kids.

5. **Applicant:** Raquel Navarro

Staff: Juan Maldonado

Sociedad Latina Mission Hill, Boston

Summary: Two Youth Artists will organize and lead an open mic series, The Raíces (Roots), in the Youth Arts Mastery Program for youth and community. A "Question & Answer" session with renowned Latino guest artists will help guide a themed discussion centered around a social justice issue chosen by our Youth Artists.

6. **Applicant:** Oliver Jimenez

Staff: Gina Frey

Raw Art Works Lynn, MA

Summary: Young men of color in RAW's leadership program, RAW Chiefs, will create a sculpture entitled, "Talk About It." In creating art in Lynn, and exhibiting the art in Hingham, it will inspire others to explore themes of immigration, injustice, and separation, and hopefully have the courage to talk about difficult injustices in their own lives.

7. **Applicant:** Anthony Clark

Staff: Paula Conrad

Express Yourself Beverly, MA

Summary: Utilizing multiple art forms, including songwriting, stop motion animation, claymation and set design, youth leaders will collaborate to create an original animated short film and theme song for Express Yourself's annual exhibition gala at Endicott College. Themes will educate the public about the realities of what youth experience who have mental health issues.

8. **Applicant:** Trinity Merren

Staff: Susan Klimczak

South End Technology Center @ Tent City, Boston, MA

Summary: Teens will design the project, #MakingLiberation with the Local Voices Network & Everyday Boston to explore a social justice issue important to them. Through facilitated and recorded conversations, their feelings and ideas will be seen through the creation of interactive art, performance, and through a technology project exhibited in three venues.

9. **Applicant:** Joalis Ayala

Staff: Julie Lichtenberg

The Performance Project – Springfield, MA

Summary: Young artist, Joalis, will create a mixed-media exploration of her city entitled, "A Vision of Holyoke." Through the eyes of a young person, using the mediums of drawing, painting and photography, the community exhibit will focus on people and places that are familiar and unique to Holyoke.

10. **Applicant:** Wilfred Acosta

Staff: Marquis Victor

Elevated Thought Foundation, Lawrence, MA

Summary: Teens will create a "Housing Initiative" documentary and build connections through their voice and platform as they work with their community to creatively analyze and address housing instability for young people.

EXHIBIT C

INFORMATION REGARDING CULTURE RX SOCIAL PRESCRIPTION PILOTS AND EXTERNAL RESEARCHER

Berkshire Pilot Medical Site – About Macony Pediatrics

Macony Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine is a pediatric medical practice located in rural Western Massachusetts and serves approximately 5000 patients. Macony Pediatrics has 4 board certified pediatricians, including Dr. Deborah Buccino, who previously held the position of Lead Physician but recently stepped down to devote more of her time to community-oriented projects.

In 2015, Dr. Buccino became aware of growing problems in Berkshire County associated with increasing poverty, substance misuse and household dysfunction — Adverse Childhood Experiences associated with later medical and psychological disability. Existing resources could not keep up with the 700 percent increase in emotional disabilities seen at the local elementary school. In response, and often volunteering her time, Dr. Buccino partnered with Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School principal Mary Berle, and Adrien Conklin, RN Practice Manager to create a collaborative care team. The South Berkshire County Collaborative Care Team also works with Dr. Donna Elmendorf of the Austen Riggs Center and with the Yale Child Study Center as consultants.

Dr. Buccino and Adrien Conklin, RN Practice and Care Manager will be working together to implement the Culture Rx Pilot at Macony Pediatrics. They will introduce cultural experiences as a vehicle to positive outcomes in health and wellbeing for youth and families in Berkshire county. This pilot will focus on preparing organizations to receive and provide impactful experiences to referred clients.

Agreements

- Medical staff will participate in training about the social prescription process, the research, and the cultural opportunities available.
- Work with a range of cultural organizations to prepare them to receive clients that represent new audiences for their organizations.
- The Collaborative Care team/MACONY healthcare providers will prescribe over 100 “tickets” to introduce cultural experiences as a vehicle to positive behavioral health outcomes for youth and families.

- The Collaborative Care team will contribute to a final report that works to describe the pilot and assesses the impact of cultural experiences on public health issues such as social isolation and mental health.

Springfield Pilot Medical Site – About Caring Health

For more than twenty years, Caring Health Center (CHC) has served as an essential source of health care for residents of greater Springfield. When founded in 1995, CHC employed 20 people and provided health care to 5,000 patients at a single site.

Today, CHC employs 250 people, and serves more than 21,000 patients each year at three sites. In addition, the organization operates a pharmacy, the Springfield South WIC Nutrition Program, and serves as the largest Refugee Health Assessment provider in Massachusetts.

CHC's team of community health workers, health navigators, and interpreters ensure that patients receive comprehensive care that addresses their cultural, economic, and language needs, while its behavioral health specialists deliver services to address a wide range of emotional and other issues.

Finally, CHC on-site Wellness Center provides nutrition education, group physical exercise, and other services to support healthy and productive lives among patients.

Agreements

- Serve as a member of the Design team and attend monthly design team meetings.
- Serve as a member of the Advisory Board and attend three Advisory Board meetings.
- Collaborate with Evaluator/Design Team to develop and host focus group(s) and assessment activities as identified in the assessment plan.
- Based on assessment activities, determine opportunity for community and or cultural organization engagement in and assessment of culturally relevant culture/art event.

Evaluator – About Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts. PHIWM will build appropriate models for assessing the impact based on two strategies at the Springfield and the Berkshire sites.

The Berkshire Pilot

- Evaluate the experience and changes in health and well-being for patients and cultural organizations engaged in the pilot. Create an evaluation plan to monitor number of prescriptions; knowledge change regarding arts and health; attendance of prescription participants; knowledge change of cultural orgs regarding health and well-being.

The Springfield Pilot

- Convene a monthly Design Team.
- Convene Advisory Board three times.
- Recommend promising practices in connecting cultural resources to community need in a public health center. Make recommendations for the integration of cultural programming at Caring Health and community health centers more broadly.
- Assess the experience of the Advisory Board and assess the impact of the experience for health care practitioners.
- Identify key areas of connectivity between culture, social service and health care.

Collect, analyze and summarize findings. Submit final report.

Timeline: CultureRx Pilots

January 2020:

- Pilot begins
- Dinner at Austen Riggs celebrating the beginnings of the pilot with the Berkshire community on **January 7th 6-8pm**.
- Tickets are given to Macony Pediatrics by **January 15th**.
- Cultural Humility training by Sandra Bonnici provided for cultural orgs/health care providers. Dates to be determined by Doodle Poll - *week of Dec. 16th*.

March 16, 2020: Mid-pilot check in meetings with Mass Cultural Council.

June 15, 2020: Pilot activities completed.

June 28, 2020: Final reports due.

For Berkshire participating organizations: Reimbursement requests for eligible engagements will be accepted by the Mass Cultural Council at two times throughout the program - March 15, 2020 and June 15, 2020.

EXHIBIT D

FUNDING DETERMINATIONS FOR FOSTER FAMILIES PILOT PROGRAM

Organization	Project Category	Grant Amount	Project Description
Norman Rockwell Museum	Workshop, Programming for Social Workers	\$2,500	For a series of nine workshops for foster involved youth focused on understanding and experiencing the museum, and one workshop for local social workers to have a guided experience of the museum before it is open to the public.
Eric Carle Museum	Workshop	\$2,500	To support an art show of work created by Foster Care involved youth and their families on May 2, 2020 and a foster care recruitment event on May 23, 2020.
Mass MoCA	Visitations	\$2,500	For 10 Sibling Saturdays, the Art-tastic Families Program, and entry fees for social workers
Art Garden	Workshops	\$1,000	To support introductory visual arts workshops for Shelburne Falls area foster families at the Art Garden
Barrington Stage	Workshop, Programming for Social Workers	\$1,500	To support scholarships for summer camp for foster involved youth during the current fiscal year, and engagement with social workers including performance tickets and workshops around theater education
Enchanted Circle+Carle	Workshop	\$3,500	To work with foster involved youth to create a movable, multimedia art display that will be taken to area DCF offices and displayed at the Eric Carle Museum
Berkshire Theater Group	Visitations	\$1,025	To support sibling or birth parent meetings in theater space and admission to Berkshire Theater performances, including The Little Mermaid
Community Music School of Springfield	Workshop	\$2,500	To support the Foster Care Music Connections Program, that includes Sonido Saturday workshops for foster involved youth
Springfield Museums	Programming for Social Workers	\$1,000	To host orientation sessions for social workers at the Springfield Museums, including an overview of admission process, museum resources, guided tours, and drop in arts and literacy programs

Piti Theater	Visitations, Programming for Social Workers	\$1,050	To support a Storytelling Workshop for local social workers and upcoming Sibling Saturday visits.
Total		\$19,075	



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
Fr: Anita Walker and David Slatery
Date: January 28, 2020
Re: FY20 Mid-Year Financial Update

Following this memo is a one-page budget spreadsheet for FY20.

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

We continue to work on our coding and expense reclassification project, and it is an ongoing task. We hope to show greater progress in the meetings to come. We are continuing to refine the definition of program and non-program spending and this has resulted and will continue to result in some adjustments to some of the line items. We note that the Massachusetts Comptroller visited our office in early January (he is visiting all of the agencies) in early January and indicated upcoming changes to the state's financial reporting system which should also be helpful for these purposes.

We also finally received comments from the Comptroller's Office on our Financial Policies in December which we are working through.

GAMING FUNDS

As mentioned elsewhere in this book (Section 2c "Agency Updates" and Section 4b "Gaming Mitigation Program"), the Final Deficiency Budget was passed in late 2019 and as a result, the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Fund (the "Fund") administered by Mass Cultural Council has started receiving payments under the Massachusetts Casino Gaming Law (MGL, Chapter 23K, Section 59 (2) (a)). Under this law, the Fund will receive 2% of the Commonwealth casino tax revenues from "category 1 licensees" (namely the MGM Springfield casino and the Encore casino in Everett) for specific statutorily-defined programs. These funds are restricted to these programs (and expenses related to them) and may not be used for or to supplement the Agency's basic programs and activities. These funds are completely separate from the Agency's regular annual budget appropriation and may not be intermingled. The Fund, in that it represents a separate pot of money outside our normal budget, is in many ways just like the Cultural Facilities Fund (except the Fund is administered directly and governed by the Council rather than MassDevelopment and the Fund receives tax revenues as opposed to the capital budget allocations).

On January 14, we were notified by the Comptroller and by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance that **\$3,702,410.62** was deposited into the Fund- this represents amounts that have accumulated since first casino was opened in Springfield in August 2018 through approximately December 31, 2019. (This number is higher than anticipated because under the law, the Fund was also entitled to 2% of the [\\$35 million fine levied on Wynn Resorts](#) by the Mass Gaming Commission last spring which added an additional \$700,000).

Under the vote proposed in Section 4b of this Council Meeting Book, this would mean that the following amounts would be available for the statutory programs in 2020:

- **\$2,582,431.41** for the Gaming Mitigation Program
- **\$860,810.47** for the Culture Rx Social Prescription Pilot (to be presented before the Council at the March meeting)
- **\$259,168.74** for the costs of administering the Fund and the two programs above.

We intend insofar as is possible to completely expend such funds in the 2020 calendar year although the Fund has no reversion feature and would retain any unspent funds

Monies will be transferred to the Fund monthly as casino tax revenues are collected. Under the proposed vote, such monies will accumulate throughout the year and will be available (along with interest earned thereon and any other deposits to the fund) for funding the programs and related expenses next year.

We are working on a presentation platform for the Fund to report on to the Council. We will owe an annual report to the Commonwealth each March 1 on the activities of and expenditures from the Fund. The first legislative will be due in about a month in which we will describe how we will set up and operate the Fund (and which we will share with the Council) and in future years, we will present detailed reports on the programs and grants made and expenditures paid from the fund.

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL		FY 19	FY 20	FY 20	
FY 20 BUDGET		FINAL BUDGET	BUDGET	EXPENDED	
Council Meeting- January 28, 2020			PLAN	TO JANUARY 17, 2020	
NON GRANT/NON PROGRAM EXPENSES-SALARIES, SPACE, AND ADMINISTRATION					
1	AA: Salaries	\$ 2,620,283	\$ 2,725,220	\$ 1,367,938.63	
2	AA: Fringe & Indirect (Salaries & Contracts Paid Thru Fed. or Trust Accounts)	78,252	80,000	-	
3	BB: Employee Related Expenses	34,295	26,500	17,402	
4	CC: Interns and Contracted Employees	25,348	24,700	3,456	
5	DD: Pension and Insurance Related Expenditures (State Chargebacks)	44,480	58,650	11,437	
6	EE and FF: Administrative Expenses (NPS)	135,776	138,132	35,118	
7	GG: Space Rental and Utilities	353,010	354,010	146,214	
8	HH: Consultant Service (NPS) Contracts	76,543	116,145	56,126	
9	JJ: Operational Services	14,603	33,200	3,182	
10	KK: Equipment Purchases	-	1,000	-	
11	LL: Equipment Leases and Maintenance (Non-IT)	27,310	33,969	12,156	
12	UU: Information Technology Expenses	448,736	210,609	59,280	
13	SUB-TOTAL NON GRANT/NON PROGRAM EXPENSES	3,858,636	3,802,135	1,712,310	
14					
15	PROGRAM & SERVICES EXPENSES				
16	EE: Administrative Program Expenses	106,371	197,850	23,414	
17	HH&JJ: Consultants & Panelists	456,026	557,610	53,660	
18	LL&UU: P&S Tech and Equipment	10,592	5,000	-	
19	SUB-TOTAL P&S EXPENSES	572,989	760,460	77,074	
20					
21	GRANTS AND STIPENDS (PP)				
22	Cultural Districts	230,000	265,000	93,000	
23	Artist Fellowships	543,000	652,500		
24	Cultural Investment Portfolio	5,010,000	6,030,000	4,495,510	
25	Media	120,000	130,000		
26	Festival	110,000	110,000	33,000	
27	Local Cultural Council Program	3,400,000	4,154,000	2,584,200	
28	Mass. Cultural Data Project	47,500	47,500		
29	Poetry Out Loud	17,500	17,500		
30	Traditional Arts Apprenticeships	70,000			
31	Big Yellow School Bus	140,250	150,000	78,500	
32	STARS	946,500	1,150,000	219,100	
33	CYD -YouthReach	832,000	988,000	744,800	
35	CYD-SerHacer	352,000	418,000	288,800	
36	CYD: META (KFF-Funded)	151,900	191,000		
34	CYD-Amplify	15,000	22,500		
37	UP Program Stipends/Challenge Grants	70,000	70,000		
38	Compact Grants	40,000	30,000		
39	Other New Grants (list in August Board Book)		360,000	20,000	
39	SUB-TOTAL GRANT EXPENSES	12,095,650	14,786,000	8,556,910	
40					
41	PARTNERSHIPS, RE-GRANT AND PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAMS				
42	Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities	605,229	679,397		
43	NEFA Project	55,000	60,000		

[illegible]

Creative Minds Out of School		40,000		
Mass History Day		20,000		
Instrument Program		30,000		
META Expansion (MCC-Funded)		50,000		
DCF Western Mass Pilot		20,000		
Holyoke Arts Ed Task Force		5,000		
Kennedy Library		35,000		
Network of Arts Administrators of Color		25,000	\$ 20,000.00	
SUBTOTAL NEW GRANTS		360,000		



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
Fr: Anita Walker, David Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Kelly Bennett, Dan Blask, Maggie Holtzberg
Dt: January 28, 2020
Re: FY20 Artist Fellowships (First Cycle)

Enclosed for your review and approval are recommendations for 19 fellows (\$15,000 awards) and 16 finalists (\$1,500 awards) from a total of 632 eligible applications for the FY20 Artist Fellowships panels in Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, and Traditional Arts. These recommendations were reviewed by the Grants Committee on January 7 and recommended for approval by the Council.

Included in this memo is a chart that shows the number of applications and recommended grants in FY20, with comparative totals for FY18 and FY16 (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 per fiscal year, each with different disciplines. The first Artist Fellowships deadline for FY20 was in October 7, 2019 for the categories of Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, and Traditional Arts. Panels met in December. These are the recommendations being presented for the January 7 Grants Committee meeting.

The second FY20 application deadline is January 27, 2020, for the disciplines of Choreography, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting.

Panels will meet in April, and recommendations from those panels will go to the May 2020 Grants Committee and Council meetings.

Review Process and Criteria

For all categories except Traditional Arts, 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 Traditional Arts, the review is not anonymous, and there are additional review criteria.

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

On the following page is a chart with funding recommendations for the FY20 Artist Fellowships in Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, and Traditional Arts. We have also included charts from FY18 and FY16 (the last two cycles these disciplines were awarded) for comparison.

Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowships Charts

FY20, FY18, and FY16 Awards in Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, and Traditional Arts

	RECOMMENDED: FY20 - \$15,000 fellowships, \$1,500 finalist awards						
<u>Discipline</u>	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Total Awarded
Drawing & Printmaking	363	8	2.20%	\$120,000	6	1.65%	\$9,000
Poetry	243	7	2.88%	\$105,000	6	2.47%	\$9,000
Trad. Arts	26	4	15.38%	\$60,000	4	15.38%	\$6,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	632	19	3.01%	\$285,000	16	2.53%	\$24,000

	FY18 - \$12,000 fellowships, \$1,000 finalist awards						
<u>Discipline</u>	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Total Awarded
Drawing & Printmaking	348	6	1.72%	\$72,000	6	1.72%	\$6,000
Poetry	230	6	2.61%	\$72,000	6	2.61%	\$6,000
Trad. Arts	17	3	17.65%	\$36,000	4	23.53%	\$4,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	595	15	2.52%	\$180,000	16	2.69%	\$16,000

	FY16 - \$12,000 fellowships, \$1,000 finalist awards						
<u>Discipline</u>	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Total Awarded
Drawing & Printmaking	351	7	1.99%	\$84,000	6	1.71%	\$6,000
Poetry	342	7	2.05%	\$84,000	6	1.75%	\$6,000
Trad. Arts	15	2	13.33%	\$24,000	4	26.67%	\$4,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	708	16	2.26%	\$192,000	16	2.26%	\$16,000

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships
Traditional Arts Panel
December 6, 2019**

Panelists

Marie Abe	Ethnomusicologist, Boston University
Kathleen Mundell (returning)	Folklorist, Cultural Resources, Inc.
Mildred L. Rahn (returning)	Folklorist
Warren R. Senders (returning)	Musician and educator, New England Conservatory

**FY20 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
TRADITIONAL ARTS**

Panel Date: December 6, 2019

Total Applications: 26

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Harold Anthony Burnham	Essex	Essex	5.00	\$15,000.00
Vasileios Kostas	Boston	Suffolk	5.00	\$15,000.00
Josee Vachon	Framingham	Middlesex	4.73	\$15,000.00
Victor F. Cole	Newburyport	Essex	4.70	\$15,000.00
Soumya Rajaram	Lexington	Middlesex	4.35	\$1,500.00
Alexander F. Bellinger	Newburyport	Essex	4.28	\$1,500.00
Stacey Styles	Holyoke	Hampden	4.28	\$1,500.00
Thomas J. Lauria	Yarmouth	Barnstable	4.18	\$1,500.00
Geoffrey Kostecki	Montague	Franklin	4.15	\$0.00
Sandeep Das	Newton	Middlesex	4.03	\$0.00
Sheila Falls Keohane	North Attleborough	Bristol	4.00	\$0.00
Anjali Nath	Watertown	Middlesex	3.78	\$0.00
Sarah Madeleine Tierney Guerin	Wakefield	Middlesex	3.70	\$0.00
Jesse Marsolais	Harwich	Worcester	3.55	\$0.00
Betelehem Melaku	Cambridge	Middlesex	3.53	\$0.00
Norris Plank	Nantucket	Nantucket	3.45	\$0.00
Mark A. Sutherland	Concord	Middlesex	3.15	\$0.00
Smitha Radhakrishnan	Natick	Middlesex	3.00	\$0.00
Madhvi Jayalakshmi Venkatesh	Brookline	Norfolk	2.98	\$0.00
Paula Alves	Boston	Suffolk	2.95	\$0.00
Ricardo Borsatto Faria	Boston	Suffolk	2.88	\$0.00
Benjamin Pearce	Cambridge	Middlesex	2.73	\$0.00
Lance R. Shinkle	Falmouth	Barnstable	2.28	\$0.00
Priscilla Azaglo	Boston	Suffolk	2.13	\$0.00
Theodore Hinman	Greenfield	Franklin	1.90	\$0.00
Eduardo Betancourt	Boston	Suffolk	1.85	\$0.00

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Traditional Arts

RECIPIENTS

Vasileios Kostas, Music of Epirus



Vasilis Kostas, performing at the 2018 MCC Showcase concert, Shalin Liu, Rockport, MA

Selected Performances and recordings Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, Boston, MA; Richmond Folk Festival, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, England. *The Soul of Epirus* album released September 2019.

Harold A Burnham, Shipwright



Four Burnham vessels at Gloucester Schooner Festival, 2018, Chebacco Boat Lewis H. Story, Thomas E. Lannon, Fame, and Pinky Schooner Ardelle.

Selected Awards & Affiliations NEA National Heritage Fellow, 2012, Washington, DC; MCC Artist Fellow 2001, 2010, MCC Apprenticeship 2006, 2017, US Coast Guard; Maritime Gloucester; Mass Maritime Academy.

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Traditional Arts

RECIPIENTS

Josee Vachon, Franco American singer



Selected Performances and recordings Northern Roots Festival, 2018 Brattleboro, VT; Acadian/Cajun Christmas Revels, 2016 Cambridge, MA; Co-founder of *Chanterelle*, Franco-American trio; "Women's Singing Traditions Tour of New England, 1994

Victor Cole, Bird taxidermist



Great Blue Heron Eyeing a Bull Frog Feathers, driftwood, eggplant seeds, resin, walnut, 24" s 24" x 10", 2015

Selected Collections Audubon Joppa Flats Education Center, Newburyport, MA; Town of Barnstable wildlife education center, Barnstable, MA; Harris Center for Conservation Education, Hancock, NH; MA Department of Natural Resources Police; hunters across the US.

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Traditional Arts

FINALISTS

Soumya Rajaram, Bharatanatyam dancer



Selected Performances Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA; Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA; Chennai Dance and Music Festival, Chennai, India; Out of the Box Festival, Boston, MA; Aradhana Festival, Cleveland, OH; Navarasa Dance Theater

Alexander F. Bellinger, Ship-in-bottle



Raleigh, Continental Frigate ship in bottle, glass, paper, pine, ebony, pearwood, boxwood, fine thread, antique Ventian glass, tinted paper, glazing putty, 8 ½ " diameter

Selected Exhibitions and Teaching USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild's Ship Model Show, Charleston, MA; Lowell Folk Festival 2019, Lowell, MA; Custom House Maritime Museum, Newburyport, MA; Essex Art Center, Lawrence, MA.

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Traditional Arts

FINALISTS

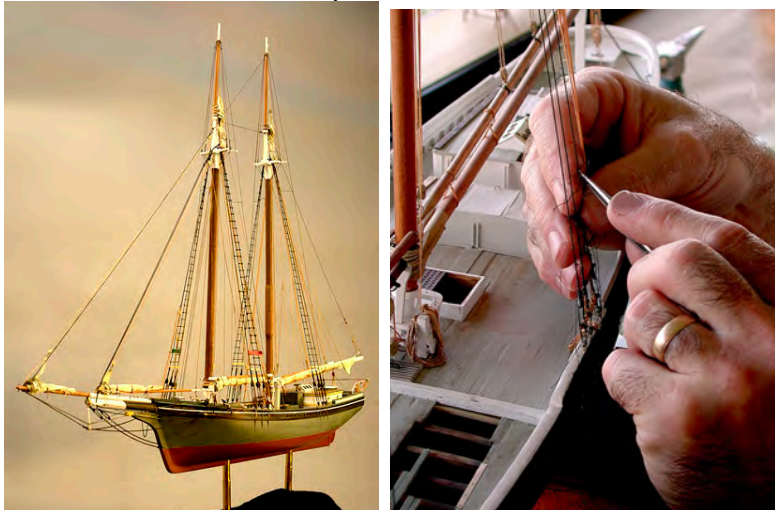
Stacey Styles, String instrument restoration



Rib Restoration, 19th century cello, maple, varnish.

Selected Clients and Presentations Violin Society of America; Oberlin Summer Violin Institute; professional violinists, teachers, dealers and collectors.

Thomas Lauria, Ship modelist



Alice S. Wentworth schooner, Basswood, pearwood, holly, boxwood, paper, linen, acrylics, 2017

Selected Collections and Presentations Nantucket Whaling Museum, Nantucket, MA; USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild, Charlestown, MA; Kahn Fine Antiques, Chatham, MA; private collectors; Lowell Folk Festival, 2019

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships
Drawing & Printmaking Panel
December 9, 2019**

Panelists

Patrick Casey	Printmaker and educator, Lesley University
Rosario Guiraldes	Assistant Curator and Open Sessions Curator, The Drawing Center
Jesse Kahn	Artist, Adjunct Professor, Montserrat College of Art
Corinne Rhodes	Fine Art Printer, Director, Cherry Press
Lauren Szumita	Curatorial Assistant, Worcester Art Museum

FY20 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
DRAWING & PRINTMAKING
Panel Date: December 9, 2019
Total Applications: 363

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Mary Lum	North Adams	Berkshire	3.80	\$15,000.00
Johnetta Tinker	Boston	Suffolk	3.80	\$15,000.00
Roya Amigh	Newton	Middlesex	3.60	\$15,000.00
Marjorie Forte	Cambridge	Middlesex	3.60	\$15,000.00
Sarah Hulsey	Somerville	Middlesex	3.60	\$15,000.00
Saira Wasim	Hopkinton	Middlesex	3.60	\$15,000.00
Stacy Friedman	Boston	Suffolk	3.40	\$15,000.00
Kelly Popoff	Greenfield	Franklin	3.40	\$15,000.00
Ryan Jacque	Wales	Hampden	3.40	\$1,500.00
Tekla McLnerney	Amherst	Hampshire	3.20	\$1,500.00
Anthony Sobiech	Boston	Suffolk	3.20	\$1,500.00
Catarina Coelho	Newton	Middlesex	3.00	\$1,500.00
James Dye	Worcester	Worcester	3.00	\$1,500.00
Zach Horn	Boston	Suffolk	3.00	\$1,500.00
Catherine Kernan	Somerville	Middlesex	3.00	\$0.00
Yetti M. Frenkel	Peabody	Essex	2.80	\$0.00
Pouya Afshar	Cambridge	Middlesex	2.60	\$0.00
Linda Bond	Weston	Middlesex	2.60	\$0.00
Kate Castelli	Cambridge	Middlesex	2.60	\$0.00
David Curcio	Watertown	Middlesex	2.60	\$0.00
Shona MacDonald	South Hadley	Hampshire	2.60	\$0.00
Carolyn M. Muskat	Somerville	Middlesex	2.60	\$0.00
Liz Chalfin	Northampton	Hampshire	2.40	\$0.00
Evelyn Rydz	Boston	Middlesex	2.40	\$0.00
Michelle Samour	Acton	Middlesex	2.40	\$0.00
Nicolle St.Cyr	Attleboro	Bristol	2.20	\$0.00
Mary Teichman	Holyoke	Hampden	2.20	\$0.00

FY20 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
DRAWING & PRINTMAKING
Panel Date: December 9, 2019
Total Applications: 363

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Resa Blatman	Somerville	Middlesex	2.00	\$0.00
Amanda Maciuba	South Hadley	Hampshire	2.00	\$0.00
Karl Stevens	Boston	Suffolk	2.00	\$0.00
Madeleine Witt	Somerville	Middlesex	2.00	\$0.00
Justin Life	Boston	Suffolk	1.80	\$0.00
Michelle Stevens	Westborough	Worcester	1.80	\$0.00
Edward Tsui	Waltham	Middlesex	1.80	\$0.00
Eliza Moser	Springfield	Hampden	1.60	\$0.00
Michele Lauriat	Wakefield	Middlesex	1.40	\$0.00

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Drawing & Printmaking

RECIPIENTS

Roya Amigh



A Civilian in the Army, mixed media, 10' x 14' x 5', 2016

Selected Exhibitions Kosmos Kulture, Zurich, Switzerland; Yangpyeong Art Museum, Gyeonggi-do, the Republic of Korea; Museum of Contemporary Art of Crete, Rethymno, Greece; Brown University, Providence, RI; Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA; Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA

Marjorie Forte



The Eternal Present, embroidery floss, 56.5" x 88.5", 2019

Selected Exhibitions Dedee Shattuck Gallery, Westport, MA; Brattleboro Museum, Brattleboro, VT; Soprafina Gallery, Boston, MA; University Place Gallery, Cambridge, MA; New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA; Cambridge Art Association, Cambridge, MA

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Drawing & Printmaking

RECIPIENTS

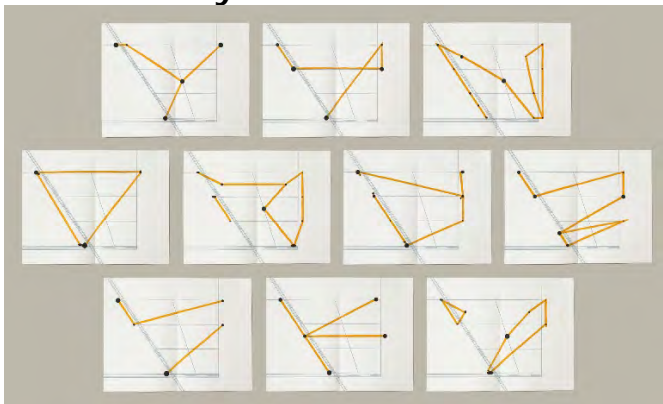
Stacy Friedman



Recorded History / Variation, photopolymer, intaglio and photolithography with chine-collé, 8" x 6", 2019

Selected Exhibitions Boston Public Library, Jamaica Plain Branch, Boston, MA; Newton Free Library, Newton, MA; Chester Gallery of Art, New England College, Henniker, NH; Akilan Gallery, Massasoit Community College, Brockton, MA; Loading Dock Gallery, Lowell, MA; Lynn Arts, Lynn, MA

Sarah Hulsey



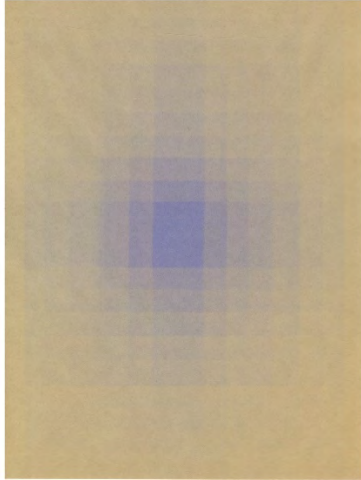
Asterisms (Vowels), woodcut, letterpress, 9" x 6.25" x .75", 2017

Selected Collections The Library of Congress, Rare Book and Special Collections Library, University Park, PA; Wellesley College, Clapp Library, Special Collections Library, Wellesley, MA; Yale University, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library & Haas Library, New Haven, CT; The Center for Book Arts, New York, NY; Boston University, Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston, MA

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Drawing & Printmaking

RECIPIENTS

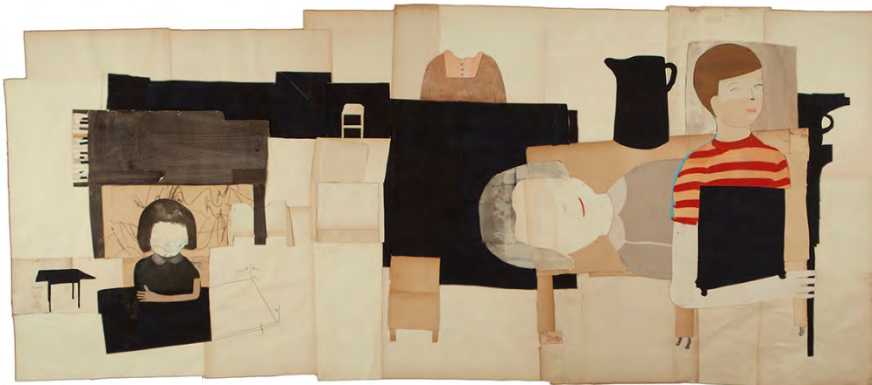
Mary Lum



Blue Square, construction paper and light, 12" x 9", 2019

Selected Collections DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA; MoMA Library, New York, NY; Metropolitan Museum of Art Library, New York, NY; Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta, GA; Asian American Art Center, New York, NY; Wallace Memorial Library, Rochester Institute of Technology, Henrietta, NY

Kelly Popoff



The White Problem, gouache, ink and found paper on muslin, 29" x 66", 2017

Selected Exhibitions June and John Alcott Gallery, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; Herter Gallery, The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Brookline Art Center, Brookline, MA; Mazmanian Gallery, Framingham State University, Framingham, MA

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Drawing & Printmaking

RECIPIENTS

Johnetta Tinker



From the Ancestors, monoprint collage on paper, 20.5" x 16.5" x 5", 2017

Selected Exhibitions Northeastern University, Boston, MA; Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston, MA; University Museum at Texas Southern University, Houston, TX

Saira Wasim



Rest is History, paper cut collage, ink and gouache on wasli paper, 28.5" x 26" x 2", 2017

Selected Collections Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England; Smith College Museum, Northampton, MA; Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia; Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi, India

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Drawing & Printmaking

FINALISTS

Catarina Coelho



Universum, color woodblock prints and typed text, 8.5" x 11", 2019

Selected Exhibitions Danforth Art Museum, Framingham, MA; Jewett Art Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA; Palazzo Ca' Zanardi, Venice, Italy; Muskat Studios, Somerville, MA

James Dye



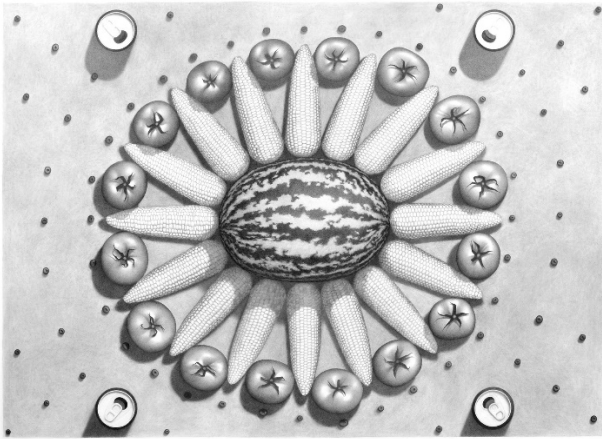
And So Was Bedlam Brought to Order, dip pen and India ink, 12" x 40", 2019

Selected Exhibitions Galatea Gallery, Boston, MA; Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, MA; Gallery Z, Lowell, MA; University Place Gallery, Cambridge, MA; New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester, NH

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Drawing & Printmaking

FINALISTS

Zach Horn



Watermelon, graphite on Stonehenge paper, 35" x 47", 2018

Selected Exhibitions American Labor Museum, Haledon, NJ; University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, ME; Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA; Worcester State University, Worcester, MA; Attleboro Arts Museum, Attleboro, MA; Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, LA

Ryan Jacque



Fielded, graphite pencil on paper, 16" x 21", 2017

Selected Experience Richard Salter Storrs Library, Longmeadow, MA; Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, WI; Francesca Anderson Fine Art Gallery, Lexington, MA; The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art, St. Petersburg, FL; Bennington Center for the Arts, Bennington, VT

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Drawing & Printmaking

FINALISTS

Tekla McInerney



Born of a Storm, unbound book of monotypes, 16" x 12" x .5", 2017

Selected Collections Hampshire College, Amherst, MA; New York Public Library, New York, NY; Montefiore Medical Center, New York, NY; University Museum of Contemporary Art, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; Wheaton College, Norton, MA; Yale University Library, New Haven, CT; University of Utah, Marriot Library, Special Collections, Salt Lake City, UT

Anthony Sobiech



Sideyard, charcoal and conté on paper, 22" x 30", 2019

Selected Exhibitions Sprinkler Factory, Worcester, MA; Fort Point Art Community Gallery, Boston, MA; Birzeit University, Ramallah, Palestine; Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA

**Mass Cultural Council
Artist Fellowships
Poetry Panel
December 13, 2019**

Panelists

Jennifer Barber	Founding Editor of <i>Salamander</i>
Joan Naviyuk Kane	Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellow
Porsha Olayiwola	Poet Laureate of the City of Boston
Aaron Smith	Mass Cultural Council Fellow

Readers

Scott Challener	Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Amy Dryansky	Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Kirun Kapur	Poetry Editor of <i>The Drum</i>
January Gill O'Neil	Grisham Writer-in-Residence, Univ. of Mississippi
Metta Sáma	Director of Creative Writing and the Center for Women Writers, Salem College
Elizabeth Witte	Mass Cultural Council Fellow Associate Editor of <i>The Common</i>

**FY20 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS
POETRY**

Panel Date: December 13, 2019

Total Applications: 243

Applicant	City	County	Rating	Recommendation
Lillian-Yvonne Bertram	Lowell	Middlesex	4.75	\$15,000.00
Simone John	Boston	Suffolk	4.50	\$15,000.00
Krysten Hill	Boston	Suffolk	4.50	\$15,000.00
Lara Egger	Watertown	Middlesex	4.00	\$15,000.00
Jennifer C. Tseng	Chilmark	Dukes	4.00	\$15,000.00
Oliver de la Paz	Holden	Worcester	3.75	\$15,000.00
Erica Charis-Molling	Boston	Suffolk	3.75	\$15,000.00
Jennifer Martelli	Marblehead	Essex	3.50	\$1,500.00
Cassandra de Alba	Somerville	Middlesex	3.50	\$1,500.00
Allison Adair	Brookline	Norfolk	3.25	\$1,500.00
Jessica Fisher	Williamstown	Berkshire	3.00	\$1,500.00
Nicole Terez Dutton	Somerville	Middlesex	3.00	\$1,500.00
Daniel Johnson	Boston	Suffolk	2.75	\$1,500.00
Martin Espada	Amherst	Franklin	2.75	\$0.00
Lori Lamothe	Templeton	Worcester	2.25	\$0.00
Sheila Mullen Twyman	Scituate	Plymouth	2.25	\$0.00
Eleanor Goodman	Natick	Middlesex	2.25	\$0.00
Sandra Lim	Cambridge	Middlesex	2.25	\$0.00
Jason M. Roush	Arlington	Middlesex	2.00	\$0.00
Letta Neely	Boston	Suffolk	2.00	\$0.00
Dawn Paul	Beverly	Essex	1.75	\$0.00
Susanna Brougham	Salem	Essex	1.50	\$0.00
Reginald Fitzgerald Gibson	Lexington	Middlesex	1.50	\$0.00
Mary Alexandra Agner	Somerville	Middlesex	1.25	\$0.00
Kristin Bock	Montague	Franklin	1.25	\$0.00
Robert Dow	Easthampton	Hampshire	1.25	\$0.00
Isaiah Frisbie	Revere	Suffolk	1.00	\$0.00
Sharon Amuguni	Boston	Suffolk	1.00	\$0.00

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Poetry

RECIPIENTS

Lillian-Yvonne Bertram

Awards National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship; Noemi Press Poetry Prize; Narrative Magazine Poetry Prize; University of Utah Levis Poetry Prize; Phantom Books Chapbook Prize

Selected Presentations *Travesty Generator: Poems* (Noemi Press 2019); *Personal Science: Poems* (Tupelo Press 2017); *a slice from the cake made of air: Poems* (Red Hen Press 2016); *But a Storm is Blowing from Paradise: Poems* (Red Hen Press); *Poem-a-day*; *The Believer*

Facts About Deer

Complex and stirring poems about capitalism, violence against women, and race

Erica Charis-Molling

Awards The City of Boston Mayor's Poetry Program Winner; Mass Poetry Spring Showers Contest Winner; Entropy Magazine *Dis*articulations* Best Reader Poem Winner

Selected Presentations *Redivider*; *Crosswinds Poetry Journal*; *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry*; *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*; *Dark Matter: Women Witnessing*; *Apricity Press*

How We Burn

Poetry exploring queerness, church, and belonging, often by engaging biblical texts

Oliver de la Paz

Awards Akron Poetry Prize; Artist Trust GAP Grant; New York Foundation for the Arts Grant

Selected Presentations *The Boy in the Labyrinth: Poems* (Univ. of Akron Press 2019); *Post Subject: A Fable* (Univ. of Akron Press 2014); *Requiem for the Orchard: Poems* (Univ. of Akron Press 2010); *Furious Lullaby: Poems* (S. Illinois Univ. Press 2007); *Names Above Houses: Poems* (S. Illinois Univ. Press 2007); *Waxwing Magazine*

The Diasporas

A series of sonnets exploring immigration and adapting to a new country

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Poetry

RECIPIENTS

Lara Egger

Awards Arts & Letters Rumi Prize for Poetry; New Millennium Writings Poetry Prize Finalist; Basalt Bunchgrass Poetry Prize Finalist

Selected Presentations *The American Journal of Poetry*; *Arts & Letters*; *Basalt*; *Barrow Street*; *Confrontation*; *Grist: a Journal of Literary Arts*

The Igneous Hours

Funny and skillfully made poems with an idiosyncratic voice

Krysten Hill

Awards Jean Pedrick Chapbook Prize; St. Botolph Club Emerging Artist Award; Poetry on the MBTA Selection

Selected Presentations *How Her Spirit Got Out: Poetry Chapbook* (Aforementioned Productions 2016); *Pangyrus Five*; *Up the Staircase Quarterly*; *The Boiler Journal*; *Take Magazine*; *Tinderbox Poetry Review*

Wasps

Beautifully written poems exploring intersections of history, race, gender, and sexuality

Simone John

Awards Boston Cultural Council Opportunity Fund Award; Writers Room of Boston Gish Jen Fellowship

Selected Presentations *Testify: Poems* (Octopus Books 2017); *Collateral: Poetry Chapbook* (Octopus Books 2016); *Apt*; *Wildness*; *The Writer in the World*; *The Pitkin Review*

Sandy Speaks

Poetry that experiments with documentary poetics to magnify stories of people of color

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Poetry

RECIPIENTS

Jennifer C. Tseng

Awards Poetry Magazine Editors Prize; Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Fellow; PEN American Center Open Book Award; Asian American Writers' Workshop National Poetry Manuscript Competition Winner

Selected Presentations *Not So Dear Jenny: Poems* (Bateau Press 2017); *Red Flower, White Flower: Poems* (Marick Press 2013); *The Man with My Face: Poems* (Asian American Writers' Workshop 2005); *Catapult Magazine*; *The Paris Review*; *Poetry Magazine*

Not So Dear Gigi

Poems inspired by – and incorporating language from – letters by the poet's Chinese father

FINALISTS

Allison Adair

Awards *Atlanta Review* International Merit Award; Pushcart Prize; *Florida Review* Editors' Award for Poetry; A Room of Her Own Foundation/Los Angeles Review Orlando Prize

Selected Presentations *Arts & Letters*; *Carve*; *Crab Orchard Review*; *Image*; *Kenyon Review*; *Southern Humanities Review*

Near Miss

Varied and surprising poems grounded in realism and personal experience

Cassandra de Alba

Awards Pink Door Writing Retreat Fellow; Yiddish Book Center Tent: Creative Writing Fellow

Selected Presentations Co-host of Boston Poetry Slam; National Poetry Slam performances throughout the country; *Ugly/Sad: Poetry Chapbook* (Glass Poetry Press 2020); *ORB: Poetry Chapbook* (Reality Hands 2018); *Red Lightbulbs*; *Amethyst Arsenic*

Selected Poems

Poems influenced by poetry slams, exploring the anxiety of being young in the city

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Poetry

FINALISTS

Nicole Terez Dutton

Awards Somerville Poet Laureate; American Library Association Black Caucus Poetry Honor Award; Cave Canem Poetry Prize; The Frost Place Dartmouth Poet-in-Residence; Fine Arts Work Center Winter Poetry Fellowship; Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Residency

Selected Presentations *If One of Us Should Fall: Poems* (Univ. of Pittsburgh Press 2012); Academy of American Poets *Poem-A-Day*; *The Carolina Quarterly*; *Ploughshares*; *Salt Hill*

Magnitude and Bond

Portrait poems written from women's voices, gathered by the poet over the course of six years

Jessica Fisher

Awards Hellman Foundation Fellowship; Rome Prize Fellowship; Yale Younger Poets Prize; Nightboat Poetry Prize

Selected Presentations *Inmost: Poems* (Nightboat Books 2011); *Frail-Craft: Poems* (Yale Univ. Press 2006); *The American Poetry Review*; *The Believer*; *The Bennington Review*; *McSweeney's*; *The New Yorker*

Daywork

Thoughtful and at times playful poems with a sense of erudition and mystery

Daniel Johnson

Awards Mass Cultural Council 2018 Poetry Finalist; City of Boston Artist-in-Residence; City of Boston Mayor's Juried Poetry Selection; Alice James Books Kinereth Gensler Award Winner; Vermont Studio Center Residency Scholarship

Selected Publications *American Academy of Poets*; *publiat*; *Washington Post*; *Boston Globe*; *Slate*; *NPR*

In the Absence of Sparrows

Poems exploring the poet's decades-long friendship with murdered journalist James Foley

FY20 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Poetry

FINALISTS

Jennifer Martelli

Awards Mass Center for the Book "Must Read" Book; Grey Book Press Chapbook Contest Winner; Iron Horse Press Photo Finish Contest Winner; Boston Accent Lit "Impeachment Day" Contest Winner

Selected Presentations *My Tarantella: Poems* (Bordighera Press 2018); *After Bird: Poetry Chapbook* (Grey Book Press 2017); *NELLE*; *Hysterical*; *The Sonora Review*; *The Sycamore Review*

The Cashew is the Nut of All Sadness

Poems that explore long term sobriety with dark humor and inventiveness



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
From: : Anita Walker, Dave Slatery, Jen Lawless, Sara Glidden
Date: January 28 , 2020
Re: Gaming Mitigation Program

Mass Cultural Council is prepared to launch the Gaming Mitigation Program as established by MGL Chapter 23K, Section 59 (2)(a). This program aims to mitigate a direct threat posed by casino entertainment and its pricing structures to the sustainability of non-profit performing arts centers in Massachusetts by providing capital to preserve their ability to compete in a new, unbalanced marketplace. This program was presented to Grants Committee on January 7, 2020 who recommended it for approval by the Council today

The program was developed over a two-year period with the input of the affected performing arts centers and included:

- Surveys
- Three focus group meetings
- A kaizen that included representatives from five organizations
- Numerous conversations with stakeholders by phone and email
- 8-month period of feedback on posted draft guidelines

We are seeking approval of the process by which staff will allocate the funds to be granted under the program. Under the proposed process, applicants must meet a set of eligibility requirements, and then funding would be determined primarily by a formula that considers two factors equally:

1. The percent of performances impacted -the total number of an applicant's eligible performances divided by the total number of performances. ("Eligible" would mean performances that are available to the general public and feature touring arts show/artists.)
2. Total fees paid to touring shows or artists for the eligible performances.

The formula would allocate more funds to performing arts centers that have a higher percent of impacted performances and that spend more money on touring shows or artists because organizations whose business model relies more heavily on these types of shows/artists will be the most impacted by competition with casinos.

Not all eligible grantees will necessarily receive funding. The maximum grant amount and the minimum grant size needed to qualify for funding will be determined by the Executive Director with input from staff after the applications are all submitted. Any caps or minimums that are set will be determined depending on the amount of funding available, the number of applicants to the pool, and the need to target funding to those most directly impacted by the operation of resort style casinos. Because this is the first time the Council will run the formula, we need the application data in hand to make these kinds of determinations. All of said grants will be submitted to the Grants Committee and Council for review and approval.

For information and illustrative purposes is a copy of guidelines developed by staff to implement the program described above. (Please note that staff would retain the ability to modify the guidelines consistent with the parameters described in this memo which is the same way guidelines are treated in each of the other Mass Cultural Council grant programs)



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
From: Anita Walker, David Slatery, Jen Lawless
Date: January 28, 2020
Re: Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund

On December 13, 2019, Governor Baker signed into [Chapter 142 of Acts of 2019](#) which, in sections 3 and 4 thereof, provided a technical fix to the Casino Gaming Law (MGL Chapter 23K) which provides a workable mechanism for 2% of the Commonwealth's gross gaming tax revenues to be transferred to a special statutory fund called the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund (herein, the "Fund").

This Fund will be managed by Mass Cultural Council for administration and implementation of 1) a Gaming Mitigation Program (*"to support not-for-profit and municipally-owned performing arts centers impacted as a result of the operation of gaming facilities"*) (75%) and 2) to a Mass Cultural Council program for organizational support (25%). The statute also permits Mass Cultural Council to use up to 7% of the Fund in any year for administrative and operational expenses.

The Council and the field have been awaiting this fix since the first Massachusetts casino opened in August 2018 and are ready to move forward with the programs required under the law. Staff has been working with the State Comptroller and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to put the proper accounts and transfer protocols in place,

Staff is requesting that the Executive Committee recommend the following course of action by approval by the full Council at its January 28, 2020 meeting:

Upon initial receipt of the monies into the Fund

1. **Expenses.** Seven percent (7%) of the assets of Fund be set aside and used to pay expenses of administering and operating the Fund.
2. **Gaming Mitigation.** Of the remaining funds, seventy-five percent of which be used to immediately implement the Gaming Mitigation Program (as described in a separate memo to the Committee

subject to the approval of the particulars of the program by the Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee at its meeting immediately following this meeting.

3. **Organizational Support/CultureRx.** The remaining funds (25% of the amount available for grants), after application of steps 1 and 2 above, be set aside and used to fund an organizational support portion of our program known as CultureRx- an initiative designed to advance the role of culture as a protective factor for the health of everyone in the Commonwealth. These funds would be dedicated to a new program to support the social prescription of cultural experiences for residents of the Commonwealth under which we will reimburse participating organizations for the full admission price or class/workshop fee of patients/clients that are referred to the organization by a professional care provider so the patient/clients can attend for free. Such program is still being refined and finalized and will be brought back the Executive and Grants Committees and the Council in March. We propose to hold such funds until such program is finally approved
4. **Future Revenues.** Any further revenues contributed to the Fund after the initial deposit will accumulate until December 31, 2020 (including any interest earned on the Fund which is contemplated by the statute) at which point it will be divided as set forth in steps 1-3 above again and then again until the next December 31 and so on and so forth,

The Executive Committee reviewed the above Plan on January 7, 2020 and recommended approval by the Council

According to our reports there will be approximately \$3.7 million available in the Fund for operations in 2020.

Program Description

The Gaming Mitigation Program, established by MGL Section 59 chapter 23K, aims to mitigate a direct threat to the sustainability of non-profit performing arts centers in Massachusetts by providing capital to preserve their ability to compete in a new, unbalanced marketplace.

This is important because performing arts centers:

- Are economic engines for communities
- Ensure access to the arts across the Commonwealth
- Are centers of community gathering and place making
- Provide young people creative learning opportunities

Grants will be awarded to using a formula as the primary factor. However not all eligible grantees will receive funding. The maximum grant amount and the minimum grant size needed to qualify for funding will be determined after the applications are submitted. Any caps or minimums that are set will be determined depending on the amount of funding available, the number of applicants to the pool, and the need to target funding to those most directly impacted by the operation of resort style casinos. Because this is the first time the agency will run the formula, we cannot tell applicants if they will be funded or what level they might be funded at.

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must meet **all three** the following characteristics described in depth below:

1. Applicants must be a performing arts center
2. Applicants must be non-profit OR municipally owned
3. Applicants must present touring shows or artists

1. Applicants must be a performing arts center:

- Performing arts centers are defined as organizations that commit 50% or more of their operating expenses to the performing arts.
- Performing arts are types of art that are presented live for an audience; examples include dance, music, opera, musical theater, theater, folk/traditional dance and/or music.

2. Applicants must be non-profit OR municipally owned:

- **Non-profit performing arts centers** include fully cultural performing art centers and cultural affiliates as defined below that meet the relevant requirements for each:
 - **Fully cultural non-profit performing arts center:** A legally recognized 501(c)3 performing art center in good standing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This includes non-profit performing arts centers managed by separate non-profit managing organizations.

- **Cultural affiliate performing arts center:** A semi-independent performing art center that operates under a non-cultural parent organization, such as a university or social service organization. This type of performing art center must meet additional eligibility requirements defined below.
- **Detailed eligibility requirements for all non-profit performing arts centers:** To be eligible all non-profit performing arts centers applying must:
 - Have a 501(c)3 designation with the Internal Revenue Service which is currently active and has not been revoked.
 - Complete all required filings as a public charity with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.
 - Complete all Annual Report filings as a nonprofit corporation with the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth.
 - In addition, any organization incorporated outside of Massachusetts must have a current certificate of registration from the Secretary of the Commonwealth to operate as foreign corporation within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
 - An organization managing a non-profit performing arts center must have a long term (at least 5 years) contract, lease, or deed articulating their management responsibilities.
- **Detailed requirements for cultural affiliate performing arts centers:** In addition to the above eligibility requirements of all non-profit performing arts centers, to be eligible performing arts centers that are cultural affiliates must also
 - Manage their own budget.
 - Have at least one full-time (min. 30 hours per week) compensated administrative staff position dedicated solely to operation of the performing art center.
 - Have its own advisory board that meets regularly to discuss policy, strategic direction, and resource development plans to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Municipally owned performing art centers** include:
 - Municipally owned performing arts centers managed by the municipality itself.
 - Municipally owned performing arts centers managed by an eligible managing organization:
 - The managing organization must have a long term (at least 5 years) contract, lease, or deed articulating their management responsibilities.
 - Eligible managing organizations include:
 - a legally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit
 - a for-profit managing company
 - Ineligible managing organizations include:
 - Resort-style or slot parlor casinos

- For profit managing companies that operate under the direction of resort-style or slot parlor casinos

3. Applicants must present touring shows or artists: Touring shows or artists are shows or artists that appear on Pollstar or another similar touring performing arts roster.

Funding

Not all eligible applicants are guaranteed funding. Funding decisions are made primarily through a formula that considers the following factors, which have equal weight:

1. Percent of Performances Impacted

The percent of performance impacted is the **Total number of eligible performances** divided by the **Total number of performances**

For example, if a performing arts center presents 100 performances a year and 30 of them are eligible performances, then 30% of the performing arts center's performances would be considered impacted because the eligible performances are those that compete most directly with casinos. The formula allocates more funds to those performing arts centers that have a higher percent of impacted performances.

2. Total fees paid to touring shows or artists for the eligible performances.

The formula allocates more funds to those performing arts centers that spend more money on touring shows or artists because organizations whose business model relies more heavily on these types of shows/artists will be the most impacted by competition with casinos.

Definitions related to funding:

Total Performances: To calculate the total number of performances the organization should count the number of performances that are:

- **Live presentations of performing arts for an audience:** For organizations that present multidisciplinary events, they do not have to count every gallery opening, yoga workshop, and craft fair. The focus is on the number of performing arts events for live audiences.
- **Presented by the organization or presented by a producer renting the organization's venue**

Total Eligible Performances: To calculate the total number of eligible performances the organization should review the list of Total Performances already identified and should count the number of performances that are:

- **Available to the general public by free or paid admissions**

AND

- **Feature touring arts show/artists.**

Performances only open to university students, K-12 school groups, or other limited audiences are not considered open to the general public.

Total Fees Paid to Touring Shows or Artists: To calculate the total fees paid to touring shows or artists, review the list of Total Eligible Performances already identified and calculate the sum of all the actual cash expenses paid by the organization to touring shows or artists for the eligible performances. Can include:

- Payments to the show/artist including bonuses and percentages
- Housing costs for the touring show/artist
- Travel costs for the show/artist

Fees cannot include in-kind figures. Fees cannot include any show or artist fees that were not included in the Total Eligible Performances.

However, if a contract package/agreement with a touring show or artists includes both eligible and ineligible performances (such as matinees for school groups) the applicant can include the full amount they paid the touring show/artist for all the performances in the Total Fees Paid to Touring Shows or Artists. If a touring show or artists contract package/agreement only included ineligible performances, then none of the fees paid to that artist can be included in the Total Fees Paid to Touring Shows Artists.

Grant Amounts and Use of Funds

The maximum grant amount and the minimum grant size needed to qualify for funding will be determined after the applications are submitted. Any caps or minimums that are set will be determined depending on the amount of funding available, the number of applicants to the pool, and the need to target funding to those most directly impacted by the operation of resort style casinos. **Not all eligible applicants are guaranteed funding.**

Grant funds must be spent on fees paid to touring shows or artists.

If the grantee is a of Non-profit Performing Arts Center:

The grant will be made to the Performing Arts Center with the following exceptions:

- In the case of fully cultural non-profit performing arts centers with a non-profit managing entity, the payment will be made to the organization responsible for paying the touring shows/artists, which is typically the managing entity.
- In the case of cultural affiliate performing arts centers, the payment can be made to the non-cultural parent organization, but the funds must be used to subsidize fees paid to touring shows or artists at the performing arts center.

If the grantee is a Municipally Owned Performing Arts Center:

The grant will be made to the municipality that owns the performing arts center with the requirement that the funds must be used to subsidize fees paid to touring shows or artists at the municipally owned performing arts center.

Application

At the time of application, the applicant will be asked to provide the following information. The information should be from the applicant's most recently completed fiscal year. Applicants that have audits should only submit information from the completed audit.

Used to confirm eligibility and to run formula:

1. Total cash operating expenses
2. Total cash operating expenses associated with performing arts
3. Attachment: Budget information showing how the applicant calculated amount spent on performing arts.
4. Total number of all performances.
5. Total number of performances by eligible touring show/artist
6. Tell us which roster or rosters you used to identify your eligible touring shows/artists.
7. If a show/artist is not listed on a roster, please tell us the name of the touring show/artist and explain why you consider them an eligible touring show/artist.
8. Attachment: Spreadsheet or list of all performances of the year identified.
9. Total fees paid to eligible shows/artists (payment to show/artist, cost of show/artist housing, cost of show/artist travel)

Used to measure impact and to advocate for the mitigation program:

10. Total earned revenue from all performances
11. Total earned revenue from performances by eligible shows/artists
12. Total ticket revenue from performances by eligible shows/artists
13. Total # free tickets for performances by eligible shows/artists
14. Total # paid tickets for performances by eligible shows/artists
15. What shows/artists did you lose to casinos or could not afford because of competition with casinos?

Application Review

Applications are first reviewed by staff to confirm eligibility:

- Ineligible applicants are notified

- Eligible applicants stay in pool

Eligible applications are then reviewed by staff to confirm formula components are correct:

- Staff will contact applicants that need to correct or edit their submission if any problems are discovered. The applicant will be given a deadline to resubmit the corrected application. If the applicant fails to do so, the applicant will not be moved forward.
- Applications without issue and corrected applications will then be moved into formula consideration

The formula is applied to the applications remaining in the pool and awards and/or funding amounts are finalized by Mass Cultural Council staff.

Grant Requirements

The Mass Cultural Council may apply a contract hold, penalty, or restriction if the grantee is not in compliance with necessary grant requirements. Grantees that do not meet annual requirements may not be eligible in subsequent grant years. Grant requirements include:

- Grantees must submit a Final Report.
- Acknowledgement of Funding: Grant recipients are required to credit the Mass Cultural Council for funding. Refer to your Contract Package or the online [Credit and Publicity Kit](#) for more details.
- Accessibility: The Mass Cultural Council and its grantees are contractually committed to abide by state and federal regulations which bar discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, gender identity, or sexual orientation, and which require accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Mass Cultural Council's grantees sign a contract certifying that they will comply with ADA and Section 504. The Mass Cultural Council aims to help grantees understand their obligations and recognize the opportunities that increasing access can provide for both the public and the grantee. Resources and additional [information about accessibility](#) are available on the Mass Cultural Council's website.

Additionally, the MCC has the right to withhold, reduce, discontinue funding, or apply restrictions to the use of grant funds if a grantee:

- Intentionally misrepresents its finances, programming, or other eligibility requirements
- Does not notify the MCC of significant organizational changes
- Cannot carry out stated mission
- Demonstrates inadequate financial management and oversight.

In cases where a grantee experiences serious organizational capacity issues, the MCC will attempt to work with that organization to address the challenge.

Reconsideration Policy

An applicant may request reconsideration of a Mass Cultural Council decision if the applicant can demonstrate that the Mass Cultural Council did not follow published guidelines and procedures. Dissatisfaction with the denial of an award or the award amount does not constitute grounds for

reconsideration. A written request must be sent to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Director within 30 days of the date of notification of the decision. Such requests will be reviewed by the Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee and the Council.

Timeline

January 29: Public Launch of Program – guidelines and info sessions and webinars announced, application live on GOSmart

February and March: info sessions, webinar, staff fielding questions and providing guidance

March 25: Applications due 11:59 EST

April 22: Staff completes review and correction period and can run formula and begin decision process with senior staff.

April 30: Recommended award amounts determined.

May 5: Grants committee reviews recommendations

May 19: Mass Cultural Council votes on Gaming Mitigation grants

May 20: Email award notifications sent to grantees

June 2: Contracts mailed to grantees

January 20-something, 2021: Mass Cultural Council votes to approve process at January Council meeting

March 24, 2021: Final Report/Application for next cycle of funding deadline



Power of culture

Council Engagement Task Force

Background: We had a very productive and well received retreat on October 15. Ten Council Members were able to attend and six of them were able to take some time to provide feedback about the retreat. All six said they were “very satisfied” with the retreat. When asked what worked well, some comments included:

“Got to get to know other council members better, had time to talk about issues.”

“Gaining a deeper understanding of the current Strategic Plan, and the discussion around its elements and potential for enhancing. And I really enjoyed the interaction and conversation with my fellow Council Members and the staff”

“The brainstorming session as well as listening to council members share their knowledge of topics.”

Two of the main themes that emerged from the day were that Council members wanted more opportunities to:

- Connect with each other
- Connect with the work that the Mass Cultural Council is doing in their community/region.

In order to respond to the themes that emerged, the Council Chair and Vice-Chair recommend the formation of the Council Engagement Task Force.

Task Force Goals:

The task force will be council led with the following goals:

1. Identify the ways council members want to engage with each other and in the Mass Cultural Council work that happens in their city/town and/or region.
2. Identify information that council members would find helpful in both new council member orientation and a Council Handbook for use by all members.
3. Identify the areas of expertise that current council members have.

Details and Timeline:

The task force can accommodate all interested council members but would work well with at least 3 members. Most of the work of the task force can be focused on having one-on-one discussions with other members and participation can be done remotely. The group can decide if they would like any in-person meetings.

The task force would begin work in January and report on their recommendations to the executive committee in May.



Power of culture

To: Mass Cultural Council
Fr: Anita Walker, David Slatery, Luis Cotto, Lisa Simmons
Re: Massachusetts Cultural District Initiative: Designation – City of Framingham
Dt: January 28, 2020

We are pleased to submit a recommendation for the designation of the 49th cultural district for the Town of Framingham. This would be the fourth Cultural District in Metro West.

The site visit took place on November 26th assisted by Annie Murphy, Director of The Framingham History Center and Framingham Centre Common Cultural District Board Chair, Dale Hamel, Executive Vice President of Framingham State University, Debra Petke, Executive Director of Danforth Art at Framingham State University, Helen Lemoine, Executive Director of Leadership MetroWest, Susan Nicholl from the Office of Senator Karen Spilka, Erika Jerram, Deputy Director of Economic Development for the City of Framingham and Jennifer B. Doherty, Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Framingham.

We'd be remised if we didn't mention the work by Marianne Iarossi. Marianne was the Senior Planner who started the application process and is now with Natick

Anita Lauricella was the site advisor for the site visit led by Anita Walker and joined by David Slatery and Luis Cotto.

Excerpted from the site advisor report:

"The core of the District, the area around the Common, has a powerful sense of place."

"The [City] is a key partner. The City Division of Community and Economic Development has been a thought leader in the district's development and directly staffed the application process."

"There is a wide range of cultural amenities throughout the District. The facilities are accessible and available to amateurs and professionals, and they provide for a mix of formal and informal opportunities...The Common is an amazing place for a mix of programming activities."