



*Power of culture*

## MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS COMMITTEE

**TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021  
10:00-11:30 AM**

### ON-LINE MEETING

(CALL-IN INSTRUCTIONS POSTED AT  
<https://massculturalcouncil.org/about/board/>  
UNDER "May 11, 2021 GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING")

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
1. Call to Order- Open Meeting Law Notice	
2. Minutes- December 17, 2020	<b>X</b>
3. Chair and Executive Director Reports	
4. FY21 Artist Fellowships: Grant Recommendations	<b>X</b>
a. Crafts	
b. Dramatic Writing	
c. Film & Video	
d. Music Composition	
e. Photography	
f. Sculpture/Installation/New Genres	
5. Two Supplemental Economic Recovery Grant Programs (one funded from NEA ARP Funds and one from Gaming Funds)	<b>X</b>
6. Gaming Mitigation Fund Grants- 2021 Round	<b>X</b>
7. Upcoming Grants Committee Meeting in June	

## **OPEN MEETING LAW STATEMENT**

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

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

Please note that this body has invited staff of Mass Cultural Council to be present at the meeting.

Mass Cultural Council welcomes members of the public to attend its public 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.

Any member of the public may record this meeting provided that they first notify the Chair and must not interfere with the meeting. The Chair will then inform the members of the meeting that they are being recorded.

This meeting is a virtual meeting held under the Open Meeting Law as modified by the Governor's recent emergency declaration. Only Committee members, Council members and invited staff will be able to address the meeting. All other persons will be muted. Please note that anyone attempting to disrupt the meeting may be muted, have their ability to project video images shut off or even removed from the meeting, at the discretion 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.

**TIPS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A VIRTUAL OPEN MEETING USING VIDEOCONFERENCING**  
**WHEN THERE ARE SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS**  
**(adapted from several sources)**

- In order to minimize background noise, please mute microphone when not speaking.
- Please raise hand in order to be recognized by the chair.
- In order for all members to have an opportunity to speak and be heard, please wait to speak until specifically recognized by the chair.
- If there are questions, please direct them to the chair and the chair will then recognize the appropriate person to respond.
- Please limit statements to three minutes.
- The chair will reserve the right to limit discussion in order to allow sufficient time for every member to be heard who wishes to speak.
- Modify Video Settings to "Hide all non-video participants"- this will make it easier to follow who is speaking and participating
- In the event of a service interruption during a Zoom call due to hackers, so-called "zoom bombing" or other technical difficulties, staff will indicate the call is to be terminated. Please exit the call and staff will circulate instructions by email for a new Zoom call to continue the meeting.



MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL  
GRANTS COMMITTEE  
**TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021**  
**10:00-11:30 AM**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Section 2**

RESOLVED: that the Grants Committee approves the minutes of the December 17, 2020 Grants Committee Meeting in the form presented to the Grants Committee at its May 11, 2021 Meeting.

**Section 3**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the FY21 Artist Fellowship grant awards in the disciplines of Crafts, Dramatic Writing, Film & Video, Music Composition, Photography and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres as reviewed by the Grants Committee at its May 11, 2021 meeting.

**Section 4**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants-Federal Funds and Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants-Massachusetts Funds programs described in the memorandum presented to this meeting.

**Section 5**

RESOLVED: To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the 2021 Round of the Gaming Mitigation Program described in the memorandum presented to this meeting.

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020**

**ONLINE MEETING**

**Committee Members Present** were

Victoria Marsh, Chair, Grants Committee  
Nina Fialkow, Chair, Mass Cultural Council  
Marc Carroll, Vice Chair, Mass Cultural Council  
Barbara Schaffer Bacon  
Karen Barry  
Kathy Castro  
Jo-Ann Davis  
Sandra Dunn  
Karen Hurvitz  
Cecil Barron Jensen

**Staff Members Present** were

David Slatery, Deputy Director  
Bethann Steiner, Communications Director  
Jen Lawless, Operations Director  
Dan Blask  
Luis Cotto  
Sara Glidden  
Erik Holmgren  
Maggie Holtzberg  
Ann Petruccelli Moon  
Carmen Plazas

Chair Victoria Marsh called the meeting to order at 9:30am and welcomed all Committee members and staff. The Open Meeting Law statement was dispensed with since no guests were present. Victoria then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the two Grants Committee meetings held in June. Karen Barry moved to approve the minutes, and Jo-Ann Davis seconded the motion. Acting Executive Director David Slatery did a roll call and the motion passed unanimously. David noted that all

members of the Grants Committee were present today (noting that Jake Brennan and Lillian Do had been removed from the Committee by the Chair due to nonattendance)

Victoria then stated that the agency had, at this point, secured level funding for FY21 with no earmarks and therefore has a little more money than last fiscal year. Victoria was eager to have David's Acting Executive Director's report and to hear from staff so that the Committee could move towards voting to recommend the proposed spending plan.

David explained that he would take the Committee through a PowerPoint presentation (copies will be made available upon request) on the budget recommendations and that agency staff were present if there were questions. At the end of the presentation, we will ask the Committee for a vote.

David then began his report stating that this has been a year like no other. We have seen a complete disruption of the cultural sector, and we as an agency are in a dramatically different place. Due to delays caused by the pandemic, we are looking ahead at six months to execute a fiscal year spending plan, instead of 12. Anita Walker has retired and we have interim leadership. We have all adapted to working from home, and we are striving to be responsive and offer stability, service, and a trusted partnership to the field. We have adopted a framework to describe the proposed spending plan: *Recover, Rebuild, Renew* as a means of offering high levels of service tailored to their needs, and a true partnership.

We have just over \$24M available: \$18.1M from the state, an increase in NEA funding of \$50K, and Chapter 23K Gaming funds we have already spent/committed in FY21 in the amount of \$3.88M (these funds were approved in the spring, but we weren't able to spend them until July).

David then walked the Committee through the spending plan and showed how it aligned with the agency's strategic plan.

**Enriching Communities** David mentioned this plan increases funding for Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts and maintains a level of funding for Festivals as well as supporting our partner organizations, Mass Humanities and NEFA.

**Growing the Economy:** David mentioned the Cultural Facilities Fund here, thought the Committee will not vote on those grants today. The Cultural Investment Portfolio would be maintained with an increase for Gateway grants, which are the way into the Portfolio. The Agency would continue to support artists through fellowships and finalist grants and will seek approval to grant the same amount approved for last year (although last year the agency redirected some of those funds in response to the pandemic to the artist relief fund). We hope to make a second round of investment in relief funding for artists in FY21. Media partnership grants will also be maintained. David then referred the Committee to the summary of grants in their meeting materials.

**Advancing Inclusion & Equity,** in the proposed spending plan the agency would maintain UP initiative grants and grants for the LEAD conference. UP's Innovation

& Learning Network would this year be fully remote. Staff proposes an increase in funding for Projects grants to amplify the reach of grants to organizations that are new to us. Funding for the Network for Arts Administrators of Color would be maintained. An increase in investment in Traditional Arts Apprenticeships is proposed, and the program would transition to a two-year program – \$30K of funding for the apprenticeships comes from the NEA.

**Empowering a Creative Generation**-the spending plan proposes an increase in investment for YouthReach and SerHacer grantees. The STARS program will adapt to serve schools remotely. Creative Minds Out of School and Poetry Out Loud would continue. META and CYD teaching artist fellowships would pause, along with Big Yellow School Bus and Amplify. Mass History Day would continue.

David referred the Committee to the list of grants in their meeting materials, throughout the presentation. At this point he welcomed general questions, but asked Committee members to hold program-specific questions for the moment. There were no questions.

Victoria asked that before the Committee began its discussion of each grant program, the Conflicts of Interest list be reviewed. David explained that he sent the list around that morning, and has received a few updates. He then explained that the list would be consulted when the Council voted on grants and that it would be reflected in the minutes that Council members did not vote on or participate in any discussion on grants where an identified conflict existed.

It was noted that all the votes recommending the FY21 grant recommendations will note the various possible conflicts and abstentions of the Committee Members in attendance at this meeting.

**Nina Fialkow** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Boston Ballet and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**.

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

**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**

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

**Barbara Schaffer Bacon** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Arts Extension Service**.

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

**Kathleen Castro** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Little Theater of Fall River or the New Bedford Festival Theater and the Fall River Coalition for Arts & Culture**.



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

Victoria then asked David to explain how the next portion of the meeting would be managed. David explained that the Committee would walk through the spending plan program by program and that staff was present to answer any questions the Committee might have. David referred the Committee to the Grants memos included in their materials. The spending plan memo was presented to the Executive Committee last week. What the Grants Committee is considering and voting on today are grants being made out of the agency's state appropriation and its NEA funds.

The presentation began with the newly proposed COVID-19 relief fund for individual practitioners. \$650K is proposed to make 430 grants of \$1500. Jen Lawless explained that thousands of artists were surveyed so that the agency could gain a better understanding of the financial loss, unemployment, and under-employment they were facing. The average loss of income for artists is \$8K, but went as high as \$1M, this increase in funding is an acknowledgement of that plus the fact that federal unemployment expires in December.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon expressed that she was happy to see this proposal, happy to see the addition of these 430 grants, but wondered if artists would be included in any service offerings. Jen clarified that this was just the grant spending. That there were plenty of services the agency planned to offer that would be available to artists, along with \$10K for professional development. Barbara asked if artists would be encouraged to work as part of any events being offered within communities. Jen explained that this was given some consideration – what do artists have the capacity to do right now, but it was decided that they are gravely struggling financially, unable to pay rent, may lose their studios, so the financial investment will remain focused on relief as there is no employment in sight. Dan Blask from the Artists department affirmed what Jen said, and told Committee members that he and his colleagues have heard that artists are still very much in the recovery stage.

Karen Barry expressed that she felt this funding was an important action and only wished more could be done. She referred to the Committee's conversation in April regarding geographic distribution of artist grants. Jen explained that this particular relief program would be open to applicants longer than its previous iteration, and David added that marketing of the program could be increased statewide.

Next the Committee looked at funding for the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program which proposed an increase to \$100K and would change from a one-year program to a two-year program. Maggie Holtzberg was available for questions, and there were none.

The FY21 Artist Fellowship budget is \$652,500 for six different disciplines; the agency would award 40 fellowships, and 35 finalist grants.

Karen Barry stated that she wished the agency could do more here, as well, that she is aware that the need and demand for these grants is great. David clarified that artist

grants are focused on excellence as opposed to need and only 3 or 4% of applicants receive a grant. Need is addressed by the relief program.

The Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) is proposing funding of \$5M including the addition of 12 Gateway organizations who have graduated to the Portfolio. Karen Barry asked if this represented a kickoff to a new two-year cycle. Sara Glidden responded that this is the kickoff of a two-year cycle for Gateway, but the Portfolio is an annual program. Jo-Ann Davis asked to be reminded what the agency defines operating support as. David explained that operating support refers to unrestricted funds; the organizations can spend the funds on anything. When the program was redesigned several years ago, we learned that our organizations were looking for basic grant dollars that they could rely on each year.

Karen Barry mentioned that several CIP organizations have also received Cultural Facilities Fund grants and wonders if it is only once organizations join the Portfolio that they have access to agency services. Jen clarified that services are not just for Portfolio grantees. Karen asked if the agency could consider pausing CIP funding for the year given that some organizations have had access to PPP funds and might have large endowments and give those funds to individuals.

Sara Glidden explained that guidelines had already been published in addition to the fact that staff had spoken with 306 organizations, all of whom experienced devastating loss as a result of the pandemic; in fact, some smaller organizations were better equipped to weather the storm. Jen Lawless added that surveys of the field indicated losses of \$500M. points out that will surveying, \$500M in losses has been reported. Sara then mentioned that there will be an increase in Gateway and Projects to increase the agency's reach to people who are not currently funded, and David added that the impetus of the program is that it is a steady and regular source of funding. This is not extra money; this is funding that organizations build into their budgets and that to pull it away would be a hard sell.

Sandra Dunn stated that she is in support of keeping the CIP program the way it is. Barbara Shaffer Bacon agreed that excellent work had been done, but that she is sure with a new executive director we may rethink how CIP is structured down the road.

Sara Glidden then informed the Committee on funding for the Gateway program. Gateway is a two-year program and FY21 is the first year of the two-year cycle. As was previously mentioned, eight organizations have graduated from Gateway into the Portfolio. This year Gateway received 41 applications from first time applicants and 23 of those were funded. Sara then spoke about the agency's Projects grants: new this year is that organizations can apply for a \$1K or a \$2500 grant. They can fund up to half the cost of a project, this allows very small organizations to apply; we might also see organizations that would typically do larger projects, do smaller projects with a smaller financial footprint. This program looks at traditional public programming and also internal capacity development with an eye towards how that can allow an organization to provide public value. Preference points will be given to establish geographic diversity and support organizations that focus on traditions of BIPOC and other underrepresented groups.

Karen Barry asked when the grant process will open. Sara responded that staff hopes to launch as quickly as possible after the New Year, possibly the third week of January with a March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

The Committee then moved on to review proposed funding for Media Partnerships. Karen Barry stated that she understood staff was proposing \$130K to promote a message for the sector, she hoped there would be a DEI component to the message. Bethann Steiner responded that last year's messages were focused on CultureRx organizations and that the wording was crafted by staff in collaboration with Vice Chair Marc Carroll and members of the Advocacy Committee. Carmen Plazas explained that there would be three different types of PSAs as part of the program: 10, 20, and 30-second spots, used in different ways to support a given message and call-to-action. Victoria added that staff would continue to work with the Advocacy Committee to craft the message, Marc Carroll commented that last year's campaign seemed like a lifetime ago! Carmen then shared a brief story of an event she attended at Arts Emerson. At the event she was introduced to a student and mentioned Mass Cultural Council. The student knew of the agency as a result of the media partnership grant to Emerson's radio station.

The Committee moved onto funding for Cultural Districts and the Communities initiative which proposed a general increase to Local Cultural Council funding, an increase of 50% for grants to Cultural Districts, as well as funding for Festivals. Sandra Dunn was curious why the agency no longer requires match money on Cultural Districts. Luis Cotto explained that the policy was taken away in 2017 because previous Program Manager Meri Jenkins found that there were smaller districts who had problems with municipalities making that match. Sandra asked that it be put on the docket for the new executive director to look into adding this back to the list of requirements.

Next, Creative Youth Development proposed an increased grant from \$19K to \$20K on for their YouthReach and SerHacer grantees. Barbara Schaffer Bacon asked for clarification around the paused META program funded by the Klarman Family Foundation, noting that those remaining monies did appear on the grants list in the Grants Allocation Plan memo. David noted that this was an inadvertent error and would be corrected.

Karen Barry recalled during the Committee's June meetings that this was an area that was identified as one where Committee members would like to see an increase in geographical reach. Jen Lawless explained that this is a multiyear grant and no new applications had yet been sought given that fact. The CYD team has an agenda to get organizations prepared for the new, upcoming grant cycle. Erik Holmgren added that the program has grown, but does still have gaps and that staff will keep working to expand the program's reach.

The agency's Education programs proposed \$1.15M for STARS residencies. Given the odd nature of this school year staff is unsure how many residencies will be pursued, and any money not spoken for after the application period will be transferred to the individual artist relief fund which includes teaching artists. Creative Minds Out of School will receive a smaller \$10,000 allocation and Mass History Day, and NEA funding for Poetry Out Loud remain unchanged. There were no questions from the Committee.

Next, \$80K was proposed for the UP initiative for FY21. Jen Lawless explained that UP offers the Innovation & Learning Network (ILN) and UP Awards in alternating years. This upcoming year is an ILN year. Essentially the agency will fund the ILN, innovation grants, and LEAD conference grants. All ILN offerings will be tweaked to represent the current COVID environment.

Cecil Barron Jensen offered her congratulations as she feels the UP initiative is so important especially given the pandemic. She is pleased the ILN will take place this year.

Finally, it was noted that partnership grants to MassHumanities, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Network for Arts Administrators of Color, and SMU Data Arts would remain the same as they were in the previous fiscal year.

Sandra Dunn noted that three years ago the agency had prioritized technology and data and proposed working to improve all internal systems. She asked if that work had been completed noting that the software and technology budget is lower in the proposed spending plan. Jen explained that the number is lower because the agency prepaid for its grants management system, but that the conversion had proven to be challenging and was taking more time than originally anticipated. The conversion should be completed by April.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon asked if it might be possible to find more funding for the Network for Arts Administrators of Color. David responded that at this point the agency is proposing level funding for NAAC, but is awaiting a request from NAAC and will bring it to the Committee for approval if it is higher. We have signaled to them that we have \$25K set aside but that we can increase it if needed.

Karen Barry asked if Gaming mitigation funding lists could appear on the same web page as all the other program funding lists. Bethann Steiner noted her request and said she would have Dawn Heinen work on it.

David stated that when the Committee wished to vote, all resolutions were written out at length on page 3 of their materials. Victoria suggested and it was agreed upon that the Committee would vote on all resolutions at once, she then called for a vote on the FY21 grant allocation spending plan and all FY21 grant recommendations. Jo-Ann moved to approve the spending plan and grant recommendations, and Karen Barry seconded the motion. David read the motion and did a roll call. Unanimously the Committee voted

**WHEREAS,** the General Court of the Massachusetts State Legislature has appropriated a budget of \$18,180,000 to the Mass Cultural Council for FY21; and

**WHEREAS,** Mass Cultural Council staff has presented a recommended FY21 grants budget to the Grants Committee at its meeting on December 17, 2020 ("Grants Committee Meeting"), including recommended grant allocations for a variety of Mass Cultural Council programs;

**NOW THEREFORE,** it is hereby

- RESOLVED:** that the Grants Committee further recommends that the Council approve the allocation of grants and processes and procedures presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the funding of a Relief Fund for individual artists and other cultural practitioners in the amount of \$651,000 plus any contributions from any other source plus unexpended amounts from the STARS program and other approved grant programs; the funding of the Apprentice Grants program in the amount of \$100,000 and Artist Fellowship program allocations totaling \$652,500, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend allocations to the Cultural Investment Portfolio, CIP Gateway and CIP Projects (collectively, the "CIP Programs") as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting in for an aggregate total of \$6,203,000.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend allocations to the Media Partnerships program of \$130,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend an allocation to the Local Cultural Councils totaling \$4,350,000, up to \$397,500,000 in Cultural District grants, and \$50,000 to the Festivals Program all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend grant allocations to YouthReach and SerHacer programs, continued funding of the Instrument Library in the combined amount of \$1,490,000 plus expenditure of any remaining CARES Act funds all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the following Arts Education grant allocations, \$1,150,000 to the STARS program (provided that any unused amounts be repurposed to the Relief Fund for individual artists and other cultural practitioners described elsewhere), \$10,000 to the Creative Minds Out of School program, \$20,000 in support of Massachusetts History Day, \$20,000 in support of the NEA-funded Poetry Out Loud program, all as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the continuation of the UP Program with grants in the amount of \$80,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.
- RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to Mass Humanities totaling \$686,191 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to NEFA up to \$60,000 provided that Mass Cultural Council does not provide more than \$55,000 if the other New England states do not provide to NEFA as much as Mass Cultural Council provides as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council an allocation of \$25,000 to ArtsBoston acting on behalf of the Network Arts Administrators of Color as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

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

Kathy Castro congratulated and thanked agency staff for their hard work calling it a triumph in Covid times. She recalled over the summer the Committee had preliminary meetings around the budget wherein each program area made a presentation to the Committee. Victoria acknowledged this and stated that those meetings were held in anticipation of a normal budget year. Kathy stated that she found the meetings helpful and would like to see them again in the coming year. David said that with new leadership coming in he imagined there would be much discussion around meetings such as these, but that he would note Kathy's request.

Victoria thanked the staff for their hard work and expressed her appreciation for their efforts. David thanked Committee members for their time, feedback, and thoughtful questions.

Victoria as Chair moved to adjourn the meeting.



*Power of culture*

To: Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee  
Fr: Michael J. Bobbitt, David Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Bethann Steiner, Kelly Bennett, Dan Blask  
Dt: May 4, 2021  
Re: FY21 Artist Fellowships

Enclosed for your review are recommendations for 40 fellowship awards (\$15,000) and 35 finalist awards (\$1,500) from a total of 1251 eligible applications for the FY21 Artist Fellowships panels in Crafts, Dramatic Writing, Film & Video, Music Composition, Photography, and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres.

Following this memo are charts with award recommendations from our recent grant panels, including lists of panelists; rankings from each panel; and brief information on each recommended fellow and finalist.

**Artist Fellowships Overview.** The Artist Fellowships provide direct, unrestricted support to artists in recognition of artistic excellence. Mass Cultural Council has awarded Artist Fellowships almost continuously since FY75. The award level has ranged from \$3,000 to its current level of \$15,000 (the highest in the program's history).

There are twelve artistic disciplines in the Artist Fellowships, with six reviewed each year so that every category recurs every other year. In other years, the categories are reviewed in two groups of three and brought to two separate grants committee and Council meetings. Because of the effects of the pandemic and the delayed passage of the FY 21 state budget, all of the disciplines are being brought to the May Committee and Council meetings. This year's application deadline was February 8, 2021 and virtual panels met to make award recommendations in April.

**Outreach.** To encourage a broad applicant pool, we promote the availability of the awards in multiple ways. We announce the grants in the Artist News e-newsletter (10,000+ subscribers), as well as in the Community Initiative (almost 6,000 subscribers) and Power of Culture (12,000+ subscribers) e-newsletters. The Communications Department does media outreach and extensive social media communication to promote the grants.

**Review Process and Criteria.** The review criteria for Artist Fellowships are *artistic quality* and *creative ability*, based solely on the work submitted. Grant panels review the applications anonymously. No aspect of the applicants' biography, career, geography, or other identifying information is introduced into the review. The applications' work samples are scored by each panelist on a five-point scale.

In most categories, there is also a first round of review before the panel, 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 through a discussion and vote. The funding lists that follow this memo reflect the award recommendations that emerged from each panel.



## Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowships Charts May 2021

### FY21 Awards in Crafts, Dramatic Writing, Film & Video, Music Composition, Photography, and Sculpture/Installation/New Genres

<u>Disciplines</u>	FY21 - \$15,000 fellowships, \$1,500 finalist awards							
	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Amount	Total Awarded
Crafts	159	7	4.40%	\$105,000	5	3.14%	\$7,500	\$112,500
Dramatic Writing	158	6	3.80%	\$90,000	5	3.16%	\$7,500	\$97,500
Film/Video	168	7	4.17%	\$105,000	6	3.57%	\$9,000	\$114,000
Music	165	6	3.64%	\$90,000	5	3.03%	\$7,500	\$97,500
Photography	309	7	2.27%	\$105,000	7	2.27%	\$10,500	\$115,500
Sculpture	292	7	2.40%	\$105,000	7	2.40%	\$10,500	\$115,500
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3.20%</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2.80%</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>	<b>\$652,500</b>

### FY19 Awards in the Same Categories, for Comparison

<u>Disciplines</u>	FY19 - \$15,000 fellowships, \$1,000 finalist awards							
	Applicants	Grants	Percent	Amount	Finalists	Percent	Amount	Total Awarded
Crafts	96	5	5.21%	\$75,000	5	5.21%	\$5,000	\$80,000
Dramatic Writing	129	4	3.10%	\$60,000	5	3.88%	\$5,000	\$65,000
Film/Video	130	7	5.38%	\$105,000	6	4.62%	\$6,000	\$111,000
Music	115	4	3.48%	\$60,000	4	3.48%	\$4,000	\$64,000
Photography	383	7	1.83%	\$105,000	7	1.83%	\$7,000	\$112,000
Sculpture	232	7	3.02%	\$105,000	6	2.59%	\$6,000	\$111,000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3.13%</b>	<b>\$510,000</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3.04%</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>	<b>\$543,000</b>

**Mass Cultural Council  
Artist Fellowships  
Crafts Panel  
April 6, 2021**

**Panelists**

Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez	Furniture Maker, President Emeritus, North Bennet Street School
Michelle Millar Fisher	Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Kat Nakaji	Craftsperson, Production and Technical Specialist, ArtLab
Berta Welch	Wampanoag Artisan
Adero Willard	Ceramic Artist, Educator

**FY21 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS  
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS  
CRAFTS**

**Panel Date: April 6, 2021**

**Total Applications: 159**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Daphne Board	Holyoke	\$15,000
John Cameron	Gloucester	\$15,000
Kate Gakenheimer	Cambridge	\$15,000
Judith Inglese	Amherst	\$15,000
Laura Petrovich-Cheney	Marblehead	\$15,000
Gillian Christy Preston	Boston	\$15,000
Joyce Utting Schutter	Sandwich	\$15,000
Annie Cardinaux	Jamaica Plain	\$1,500
Amy Hudon	Harwich	\$1,500
Kara Patrowitz	Maynard	\$1,500
Mitch Ryerson	Allston	\$1,500
Matthew Sullivan	Quincy	\$1,500

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Crafts

## RECIPIENTS

### **Daphne Board**

Holyoke, MA

<http://www.daphneboard.com>



*Bespoke leather derby ankle boots*, leather, metal, rubber, thread, 6" x 8" x 11"

### **John Cameron**

Gloucester, MA

<http://johncameroncabinetmaker.com>



*Inverness Desk*, Mahogany, nickel silver, 35" x 42.5" x 22"

## **RECIPIENTS**

**Gillian Christy**

Boston, MA

<http://www.GillianChristy.com>



*Goodnight Sweetheart*, Steel, Paint, White Gold, Bronze, 36" x 22" x 7"

**Kate Gakenheimer**

Cambridge, MA

<http://www.kategakenheimer.com>



*Deco Circle*, stained glass, 23" x 23" x 2"

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Judith Inglese**

Amherst, MA

<http://judithinglese.com>



*Tree of Life detail*, Ceramic tiles, 48" x 36" x 2"

### **Laura Petrovich-Cheney**

Marblehead, MA

<http://www.lauracheney.com>



*Entanglement*, Salvaged wood collected after natural disasters, 48" x 48" x 1"

## **RECIPIENTS**

**Joyce Utting-Schutter**

Sandwich, MA

<http://artbyjus.com>



**Sea Harp**, Abaca pulp, samaras, steel, thread. Waxed linen, pigments, 24" x 20" x 5"



# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Crafts

## **FINALISTS**

### **Annie Cardinaux**

Jamaica Plain, MA

<http://www.anniecardinaux.com>



*Landscape XIV*, Cotton Fabric, Thread, Quilt Batting, 31" x 31" x 0.25"

### **Amy Hudon**

Harwich, MA

<http://www.amyhudon.com>



*Windswept beach grass golden rutile drops on diamond tops*, 18kt gold, golden rutile, diamonds and spessartite garnets, 1.5" x .6" x .5"



## **FINALISTS**

### **Kara Patrowicz**

Maynard, MA

<http://www.karapatrowicz.com/>



*Work in Progress*, Needle felting, watercolor on vintage fabric, 22" x 22"

### **Mitch Ryserson**

Allston, MA

<http://ryersondesign.com>



*Fantasy Playhouse*, Wood, 10' x 15' x 15'

## **FINALISTS**

**Matthew Sullivan**

Quincy, MA

<http://mjsullivanguitars.com>



*Acoustic Archtop Guitar*, Guitar Making, 41.25" x 16.5" x 5"

**Mass Cultural Council  
Artist Fellowships  
Photography Panel  
April 8, 2021**

**Panelists**

Crista Dix	Associate Director, Griffin Museum of Photography
Juan Carlos Gonzalez	Photographer, Director, Arts Programs, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción
Tsugumi Maki	Exhibitions Chief & Collections Officer, ICA
Theo Tyson	Curator, Avant-Garde Academic, Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art, Boston Athenæum

**FY21 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS  
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS  
PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Panel Date: April 8, 2021**

**Total Applications: 309**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Robert W. Castagna	Medford	\$15,000
Janice Checchio	Boston	\$15,000
Tara Conant	Provincetown	\$15,000
Golden	Roslindale	\$15,000
Rania Matar	Brookline	\$15,000
Claudia Ruiz-Gustafson	Framingham	\$15,000
Zhidong Zhang	Boston	\$15,000
Bremner Benedict	Concord	\$1,500
Ben Brody	Southampton	\$1,500
Laura Christensen	Williamstown	\$1,500
Laurence Cuelenaere	Carlisle	\$1,500
Madge Evers	Haydenville	\$1,500
Hamed Noori	Cambridge	\$1,500
Astrid Reischwitz	Bedford	\$1,500

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Photography

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Robert Castagna**

Medford, MA

<http://www.castagnastudio.com>



*Untitled 1*, photography, 8" x 12"

### **Janice Checchio**

Boston, MA

<http://janicehecchio.com>



*Imaginary Brother*, Photography, 12" x 8"

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Tara Conant**

Provincetown, MA

<https://pbase.com/tarac/root>



Simsbury, CT. Melissa Millan was found stabbed in the chest; she died from her injuries.

***Melissa Millan***, Digital Photograph- Archival Pigment Print, 24" x 30" x .25"

### **Golden**

Roslindale, MA

<http://goldengoldengolden.com>



***It's my durag, & I'll call it a crown if I want to***, digital photography, 42" x 42"



## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Rania Matar**

Brookline, MA

<http://www.raniamatar.com>



*Mia and Jun, Allston, Massachusetts, 2020*, Archival Pigment Print on Baryta paper, 44" x 36.8"

### **Claudia Ruiz Gustafson**

Framingham, MA

<http://www.claudiafineart.com>



*El sueño de María (Maria's dream)*, Archival Pigment Print, 12" x 18" x 1"

## **RECIPIENTS**

**Zhidong Zhang**

Boston, MA

<http://www.zhidongzhang.org>



*Boy with Rooster*, Archival Pigment Print, 30" x 24"



# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Photography

## **FINALISTS**

### **Bremner Benedict**

Concord, MA

<http://https://www.bremner-benedict>



*Big Uncle's Spring, Painted Desert, AZ*, archival pigment print, 20" x 30" x 1"

### **Ben Brody**

Southampton, MA

<https://www.photobrody.com/>



*Bomb Suit, Kandahar.*, Inkjet print, 30" x 40" x 1"

## **FINALISTS**

### **Laura Christensen**

Williamstown, MA

<http://www.LauraChristensen.net>

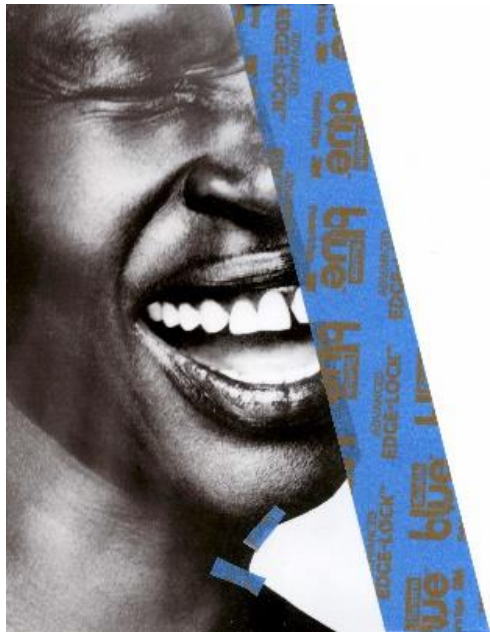


*House Heads (RJD)*, acrylic paint on vintage photograph, 6.5" x 4" x .1"

### **Laurence Cuelenaere**

Carlisle, MA

<https://www.laurence-cuelenaere.xyz/>



*Facing the Thin Blue Line*, Photography, 36" x 24" x 1"

## **FINALISTS**

### **Madge Evers**

Haydenville, MA

<http://www.madgeevers.com>



*Luminous Herbarium*, mushroom spores on paper, 30" x 20"

### **Hamed Noori**

Cambridge, MA

<http://hamednoori.com/>



*Public Baths*, Photography, 30 cm x 45 cm

## **FINALISTS**

### **Astrid Reischwitz**

Bedford, MA

<http://www.reischwitzphotography.com>



***Filling the Blank***, Archival Pigment Print with Unique Embroidery, 21" x 26" x 1"

**Mass Cultural Council  
Artist Fellowships  
Sculpture/Installation/New Genres Panel  
April 13, 2021**

**Panelists**

Max Bard

Sculptor

Furen Dai

Multidisciplinary Artist

Erin Genia

Multidisciplinary artist, Artist-in-Residence, Boston

Nilou Moochhala

Artist, Designer

**FY21 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS  
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS  
SCULPTURE/INSTALLATION/NEW GENRES**

**Panel Date: April 13, 2021**

**Total Applications: 292**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Richard Brown and Laura Brown	Norwell	\$15,000
Rayna Chou	Boston	\$15,000
Ryan L. Edwards, Sam Okerstrom-Lang, Julia Ruiz Borys, Caleb Hawkins, and Jeremy Stewart	Boston	\$15,000
Stephanie Houten	Boston	\$15,000
Elizabeth Tubergen	Leyden	\$15,000
Heidi Whitman	Jamaica Plain	\$15,000
Yu-Wen Wu	Boston	\$15,000
Carolina Aragon	Amherst	\$1,500
Dave Bermingham	Jamaica Plain	\$1,500
Georgie Friedman	Jamaica Plain	\$1,500
Katrina Goldsaito and Jonah Goldsaito	Brighton	\$1,500
Timothy Horn	Truro	\$1,500
Maria E. Molteni	Boston	\$1,500
Christine Southworth	Lexington	\$1,500



# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Sculpture/Installation/New Genres

## RECIPIENTS

**Rick Brown, Laura Brown**

Norwell, MA

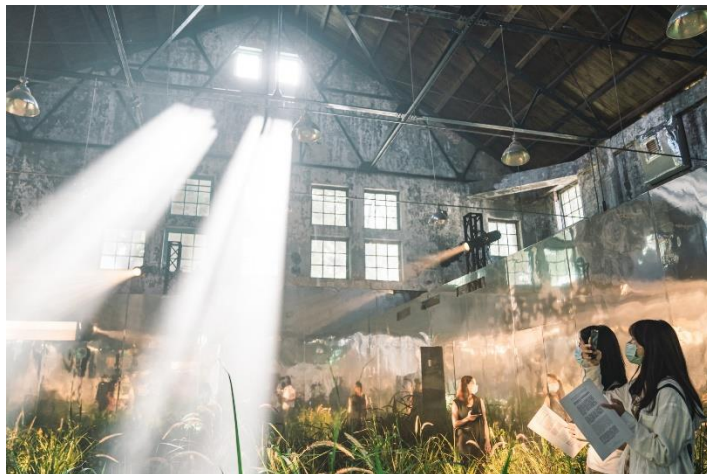
<http://rickandlaurabrownsculpture.com>



**Rayna Chou**

Boston, MA

<http://raynachou.com>



***Hear the Light***, Installation Art: Light, Sound, Nature, 13' x 36' x 39'

## **RECIPIENTS**

**Ryan Edwards, Sam Okerstrom-Lang, Julia Ruiz Borys, Caleb Hawkins, Jeremy Stewart**

Boston, MA

<http://www.masarystudios.com>



Rumble, site-specific installation

## **Stephanie Houten**

Boston, MA

<http://www.stephaniehouten.com>



PlaySpace (2018)



## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Elizabeth Tubergen**

Leyden, MA

<http://www.etuby.info>



*Apparition*, Sculpture, 4' x 40' x 16'

### **Heidi Whitman**

Jamaica Plain, MA

<http://www.heidiwhitman.com>



*New World Overview*, canvas, cloth, paper, foil, rope, plastic, and acrylic, 17' x 60' x 18'

## **RECIPIENTS**

**Yu-Wen Wu**

Boston, MA

<http://www.yuwenwu.com>



*Lantern Stories, site-specific installation*

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Sculpture/Installation/New Genres

## **FINALISTS**

### **Carolina Aragon**

Amherst, MA

<http://www.carolinaaragon.com>



*FutureWATERS | AGUASfuturas (2018)*

### **Dave Bermingham**

Jamaica Plain, MA

<https://www.davebermingham.com/>



*Good Looking*, Domestic objects, fabric, machine embroidery, pearl, steel, 15.5" x 15.5" x 3"

## **FINALISTS**

### **Georgie Friedman**

Jamaica Plain, MA

<http://www.georgiefriedman.com>



Below Churning Ice, 2019

Polished aluminum, rotating motors, hanging hardware, blue and white lights

### **Katrina Goldsaito, Jonah Goldsaito**

Brighton, MA

<http://reachyouspace@gmail.com>



ReachYou, Transmission 01 : Grief and Gratitude. ReachYou launches in living rooms, kitchens and backyards through the portal of a smartphone, offering an immersive, free, interactive performance that melds Augmented Reality (AR), performance art, original music, and community engagement.



## **FINALISTS**

### **Timothy Horn**

Truro, MA

<http://timothyhorn.net>



*Gorgonia 15*, nickel-plated bronze, mirrored blown glass, 84" x 90" x 9"

### **Maria Molteni**

Boston, MA

<http://mariamolteni.com>



*Venusian Rosaceae (Five Seeded Star)*

industrial paint on concrete, participatory performance  
50' x 50'

## **FINALISTS**

### **Christine Southworth**

Lexington, MA

<http://www.christinesouthworth.com>



*Arachnodrone / Spider's Canvas*

**Mass Cultural Council  
Artist Fellowships  
Dramatic Writing Panel  
April 26, 2021**

**Panelists**

P. Carl	Artist-in-Residence, Emerson College Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Melisa Tien	Playwright, lyricist, librettist New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow
Isaiah M. Wooden	Director, dramaturg, critic, scholar Assistant Professor of Theater Arts, Brandeis Univ.
Pirronne Yousefzadeh	Director, writer; Assoc. Artistic Director/Director of Engagement, Geva Theatre Center

**Readers**

Jaime Carrillo	Co-Artistic Director, Fort Point Theater Channel
Andrea Hairston	Artistic Director, Chrysalis Theater Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Greg Lam	Playwright and screenwriter Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Davron Monroe	Actor, singer, educator Elliot Norton Award winner
Anne G. Morgan	Literary Manager, American Shakespeare Center Dramaturg and writer
Elena Morris	Dramaturg and writer Editor, ArtsBoston

**FY21 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS**  
**PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**DRAMATIC WRITING**

**Panel Date: April 26, 2021**

**Total Applications: 158**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Hortense Gerardo	Boston	\$15,000
Caitlin McCarthy	Worcester	\$15,000
Charlotte A. Meehan	North Attleboro	\$15,000
Kira E. Rockwell	Boston	\$15,000
Nicole R. Shaw	Boston	\$15,000
David Valdes	Arlington	\$15,000
John O. Adekoje	Boston	\$1,500
Colleen Keough	Amherst	\$1,500
Adara Meyers	Sharon	\$1,500
Magda Romanska	Boston	\$1,500
Abigail Weaver	Northampton	\$1,500



# **FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Dramatic Writing**

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Hortense Gerardo**

Boston, MA

<https://hortensegerardo.com/>

*The Medfield Anthology*

Play based on real-life memories of the Medfield State Hospital, a former psychiatric hospital.

### **Caitlin McCarthy**

Worcester, MA

<https://www.caitlinmccarthy.com/>

*A Native Land*

Screenplay about a Black Wampanoag detective on Cape Cod.

### **Charlotte Meehan**

North Attleboro, MA

<https://charlottesmeehan.com/>

*Everyday Life and Other Odds and Ends*

Tragicomic play exploring individuals and couples dealing with progressing Parkinson's disease.

### **Kira Rockwell**

Boston, MA

<http://www.kirarockwell.com/>

*The Tragic Ecstasy of Girlhood*

Four teenage girls living in a group home combat grief after the sudden death of a housemate.

# **FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Dramatic Writing**

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Rae Shaw**

Boston, MA

<http://www.wickedlovelyfilms.com/>

*Mating*

Screenplay about a young, African American girl who tries to save others from a child predator.

### **David Valdes**

Arlington, MA

<https://www.davidvaldeswrites.com/>

*Alamar*

Play in which Cubans in two countries navigate race, class, drag, and '80s Reaganonics.

## **FINALISTS**

### **John O. Adekoje**

Boston, MA

*Haram*

Screenplay about a Haitian cab driver with a mysterious passenger and a terrible secret.

### **Colleen Keough**

Amherst, MA

<https://colleenkeough.com/home.html>

*Perpetual Drift*

Audio play about a ship lost in space after climate collapse on Earth.

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Dramatic Writing

## **FINALISTS**

### **Adara Meyers**

Sharon, MA

<http://www.adarameyers.com/>

*Hand Expression*

Satirical play about two mothers exploring identity, postpartum depression, and Jewish lineage.

### **Magda Romanska**

Boston, MA

<http://magdaromanska.com/>

*The Life and Times of Stephen Hawking*

Modern multimedia opera based on the life of Stephen Hawking.

### **Abigail Weaver**

Northampton, MA

*Grains of Wheat*

Play about the Paper Brigade - Jewish activists who hid books and documents from the Nazis.

**Mass Cultural Council  
Artist Fellowships  
Film & Video Panel  
April 27, 2021**

**Panelists**

Ashish Chadha	Filmmaker Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellow
Chico Colvard	Filmmaker Guggenheim Foundation Fellow
Susan Kerns	Filmmaker Co-Director, Chicago Feminist Film Festival
Barbara Vásconez	Director, Ecuadorian Film Festival Programs Manager, Women in Film and Television

**Readers**

Zeina Abi Assy	Writer, media artist, curator
Aya Yamasaki Brown	Animator, Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Peat Duggins	Filmmaker, Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Lynn Kim	Animator, filmmaker
Erik Levine	Filmmaker, Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Julie Mallozzi	Filmmaker, LEF Foundation Awardee

**FY21 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS  
PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS  
FILM & VIDEO**

**Panel Date: April 27, 2021**

**Total Applications: 168**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Khary Saeed Jones	Somerville	\$15,000
Mariona Lloreta	East Boston	\$15,000
Adam Mazo and Ben Pender-Cudlip	Boston	\$15,000
Darby McLaughlin	Dorchester	\$15,000
Shevaun A. Mizrahi	Chelmsford	\$15,000
Patricia Montoya	Northampton	\$15,000
Mary Patierno	Williamsburg	\$15,000
Anaiis K. Cisco	Northampton	\$1,500
Kimberly L. Forero-Arnias	Hyde Park	\$1,500
Ougie Pak	Cambridge	\$1,500
Jay P. Paris	Chelsea	\$1,500
Allison Maria Rodriguez	Jamaica Plain	\$1,500
Adam P. Savje and Erinn Hagerty	Wakefield	\$1,500

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Film & Video

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Khary Saeed Jones**

Somerville, MA

*Night Fight*

Hybrid fiction/nonfiction film exploring the interior life of a man living while black.

### **Mariona Lloreta**

East Boston, MA

*In the Absence of Things*

Experimental short film exploring the vacancy artists feel during COVID-19 times.

### **Adam Mazo and Ben Pender-Cudlip**

Boston, MA

<https://upstanderproject.org/>

*Dawnland*

Documentary about the history of Indigenous child removal in Maine.

### **Darby McLaughlin**

Dorchester, MA

<https://studiodarby.com/>

*Sweet Water Foundation*

Nonfiction film about a project to revitalize a Chicago inner city neighborhood.

# **FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Film & Video**

## **RECIPIENTS**

**Shevaun A. Mizrahi**

Chelmsford, MA

*Untitled Work-in-Progress*

A haunting narrative film set in an Istanbul retirement home.

**Patricia Montoya**

Northampton, MA

<http://patriciamontoya.space/>

*Cuando La Rumorosa Calla*

Spanish language narrative short about the aftermath of sexual violence.

**Mary Patierno**

Williamsburg, MA

<https://www.marypatierno.com/>

*Requiem for a River*

Nonfiction film about the people and communities along the iconic Rio Grande.

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Film & Video

## **FINALISTS**

### **Anaiis K. Cisco**

Northampton, MA

<https://www.anaiiscisco.com/>

*Drip Like Coffee*

Narrative short about an uncertain relationship between two black, female co-workers.

### **Kimberly Forero-Arnias**

Hyde Park, MA

<http://kimberlyforeroarnias.com/>

*Pressed*

Animated art film exploring tactile experiences and the body.

### **Ougie Pak**

Cambridge, MA

<https://vimeo.com/ougiepak>

*Sunrise/Sunset*

Narrative film about a young Korean man adrift in New York as his relationship ends.

### **Jay Paris**

Chelsea, MA

<http://beheard.world/teams/jay-paris/>

*Invisible Imprints*

Documentary about dancers and poets from Boston travelling to hold civil rights town halls.



# **FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Film & Video**

## **FINALISTS**

### **Allison Maria Rodriguez**

Jamaica Plain, MA

<https://allisonmariarodriguez.com/>

*In the Presence of Absence*

Video and animation installations exploring ecological issues.

### **Adam P. Savje and Erinn E. Hagerty**

Wakefield, MA

<https://www.unfoldingofthewave.com/>

*Re-Education of the Senses*

Experimental 16mm film incorporating transparencies and geometric forms.

**Mass Cultural Council  
Artist Fellowships  
Music Composition Panel  
April 29, 2021**

**Panelists**

Laury Gutiérrez	Founder/Director La Donna Musicale
Jessica Rudman	Composer Connecticut Artist Fellow
David Sanford	Composer, Director, Pittsburgh Collective Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Miki Sawada	Pianist Founder/Director, Gather Hear Tour

**Readers**

John Aylward	Composer, Mass Cultural Council Fellow
Felicia Chen	Singer, Sound Artist
David Freeman Coleman	Music Director, Educator
Ayn Inserto	Composer, Director, Ayn Inserto Jazz Orchestra
Tina Tallon	Composer, Radcliffe Fellow
Kirsten Volness	Composer, Rhode Island Artist Fellow

**FY21 ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS AND FINALISTS**  
**PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**MUSIC COMPOSITION**  
**Panel Date: April 29, 2021**  
**Total Applications: 165**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Naseem K. Alatrash	Watertown	\$15,000
Leo Blanco	Medford	\$15,000
Ignacio A. Gonzalez	Allston	\$15,000
Shirish K. Korde	Worcester	\$15,000
Yoon-Ji Lee	Boston	\$15,000
Zach Sheets	Jamaica Plain	\$15,000
Maria Finkelmeier	Boston	\$1,500
Theresa Jenoure	Northfield	\$1,500
Pandelis Karayorgis	Cambridge	\$1,500
Guy Mendilow	Roxbury	\$1,500
Jussi P. Reijonen	Brighton	\$1,500

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Music Composition

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Naseem Alatrash**

Watertown, MA

<https://www.alatrashmusic.com/>

*Bright Colors on a Dark Canvas*

Suite for solo cello and chamber orchestra, influenced by traditional Arabic styles.

### **Leo Blanco**

Medford, MA

*The South of Strings*

String quartet inspired by Debussy and Bartok but with South American influences.

### **Ignacio A. Gonzalez**

Allston, MA

<https://www.nachogon.com/>

*Alba*

Latin jazz composition influenced by Tango, in homage to the composer's mother.

### **Shirish Korde**

Worcester, MA

<http://shirishkorde.com/>

*Cycles of Time for Soprano, Sheng, Tabla, and Chamber Orchestra*

Composition blending cultural influences, based on Indian, Chinese, and Czech Republic texts.

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Music Composition

## **RECIPIENTS**

### **Yoon-Ji Lee**

Boston, MA

<http://www.yoonjilee.org/>

*The Accents*

Composition based on an immigrant's language learning process through YouTube videos.

### **Zach Sheets**

Jamaica Plain, MA

<https://www.zachsheetsmusic.com/>

*dare-gale, speaks, and spells*

Inventive composition based on poetry by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

## **FINALISTS**

### **Maria Finkelmeier**

Boston, MA

<http://mfdynamics.com/>

*Spirit Touch*

Chamber music from a multidisciplinary performance exploring writer Lafcadio Hearn.

### **Terry Jenoure**

Northfield, MA

<https://www.terryjenoure.com/>

*The Rescue*

Three-part composition exploring facets of recovery from our national health and racial crises.

# FY21 Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Recipients and Finalists Music Composition

## **FINALISTS**

### **Pandelis Karayorgis**

Cambridge, MA

<https://karayorgis.com/>

*L.A. Visitor*

Deftly crafted jazz composition for quintet.

### **Guy Mendilow**

Roxbury, MA

<https://www.guymendilowensemble.com/>

*Radio Play(s)*

Music compositions incorporating spoken-word poetry, exploring burning contemporary issues.

### **Jussi Reijonen**

Brighton, MA

<https://www.jussireijonen.com/>

*Three Seconds | Kolme Toista*

Ensemble work with elements of the Middle East, Africa, Nordic countries, and microtonal jazz.

To: Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee  
Fr: Michael Bobbitt, Dave Slatery, Jen Lawless, Bethann Steiner  
Date: May 11, 2021  
Re: Two Supplemental Economic Recovery Grant Programs

**Background.** As Committee members will recall, last fall Governor Baker as part of his Economic Recovery Plan, included \$10 million to address the needs of cultural organizations impacted by the pandemic. Mass Cultural Council working with the Governor's Executive Office for Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) put together a program called Cultural Organization Economic Recovery Grants (COERG) pursuant to which grants of between \$1000 and \$100,000 were made to 183 Massachusetts cultural organizations. As we have previously mentioned at earlier meetings, the \$10 million provided by the COERG program was only able to accommodate about 43% of the 425 applicants and meet approximately one third of the aggregate \$30 million need reported in the applications.

For the Committee's information, here are some key facts we learned from the final reports filed by the COERG grantees:

- 84% of grantees (155 orgs) said the grant allowed them to retain staff.
- Collectively, those 155 grantees reported that **1,991 employees** were retained because of the COERG funding they received.
- 99% (182 orgs) said the grant was very important in their ability to maintain operations.
- 100% of the 183 grantees are still in operation.
- At the time of the final reports, most organizations had not resumed in-person programming yet (106).
- Of the 77 grantees that had reopened public, in-person programming 92% of them (71 orgs) said getting the grant was very important in allowing them to reopen to the public.

**New Funding-NEA.** As part of the federal government's stimulus program, the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) received funding to address Covid relief and recovery, of which a portion was to be sent to state arts agencies across the country, such as Mass Cultural Council, to address Covid concerns within their own states. On April 29, Mass Cultural learned it would be receiving \$844,700 in NEA ARP funds. Such funds may be used or subgranted for general operational costs such as salaries, stipends, non-capital facility costs, health and safety costs and general marketing costs.

**Gaming Revenues Available for Organizational Support.** As Committee members may also recall, the Commonwealth's Casino Gaming Law (MGL Chapter 23K) provides that 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 "Gaming Fund") for, among other things, Mass Cultural Council to use 25% of such funds (after an allowable 7% reserve for expenses), to provide "organizational support" to the cultural field in Massachusetts. The Council authorized all the Organizational Support funds available as of the April 7, 2020 meeting for a number of purposes (The CultureRx Social Prescription Pilot, the Safe Harbors Soft Landings program, the current series of webinars for organizations known as "Recover. Rebuild. Renew.") but since then, casinos reopened on a limited basis in and another \$591,000 in Organizational Support funds has accrued in the Gaming Fund as of March 31, 2021 (and based on casino operations in March, we expect at least \$80,000 to be added each month for the near future).

Staff is proposing to make use of these two funding sources to go down the list and fund the next 42 unfunded applications from the COERG program up to the combined total of \$1,582,000. (Note- staff arrived at such by adding the amount of NEA ARP funds available with the amount of Organizational Support monies in the Gaming Fund (\$738,000) we anticipate having by June 15).

This is an optimum use of the funds for the following reasons.

1. It uses recent information related to the impact of the pandemic provided by Massachusetts organizations as part of a recent funding process.
2. It meets an unmet need in that unsuccessful applicants under the COERG program never received funding.



3. It removes the need for the Staff to create and the field to respond to a brand-new funding program (at the same time when the staff is creating its FY22 budget and preparing for FY 22 programs).

Because of strict federal funding guidelines prohibiting mixing of different federal and state funding sources<sup>1</sup>, staff is requesting the Grants Committee approve two separate new programs today. The first program will be funded by the NEA ARP funds and will provide grants to \$844,000 of unsuccessful ranked COERG applicants and will be called **Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants-Federal Funds (SERG-FED)** and the second program will use Organizational Support monies from the Gaming Fund and will provide grants to fund another \$738,000 of unsuccessful ranked COERG applicants after the SERG-Fed funds run out and will be called **Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants-Massachusetts Funds (SERG-MA)**.

The two new programs will be identical to COERG except that

1. Maximum grants will be \$50,000
2. There is a different period in which the funds may be used. Grant funds must be spent on eligible expenses incurred after July 1, 2020 and prior to June 30, 2022. COERG had covered expenses from March 10- December 31, 2021.
3. Grantees will not have to provide evidence of expenses incurred (as was the case in COERG) but instead will be required to spend the grant funds on eligible uses during the period referred to above and provide evidence thereof in the final report.
4. Grants may be spent on a slightly different definition of eligible expenses as defined by the NEA ARP guidance documents.
5. SERG-FED grantees will have to comply with federal reporting requirements mandated under the NEA ARP guidance documents.
6. Unlike COERG, there will be no set-aside or different use rules for small organizations.

Again, just to make clear while these funds are ultimately providing funding to grantees who applied to a single opportunity last year, we are here discussing three separate programs which are all separately funded and have slightly different rules.

- COERG was funded from the Commonwealth's federal CARES Act funds controlled by the Governor. That program has been

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<sup>1</sup> This is sometimes called the *Ghostbusters* Rule- you cannot cross the funding streams.

completed and resulted in 183 grants totaling almost \$10 million and is not being voted on today.

- SERG-FED is funded by \$844,000 of NEA -ARP funds and is proposed to provide 17 grants to the organizations listed on Exhibit A.
- SERG-MA is funded by \$738,000 of Organizational Support Funds in the Gaming Fund to provide 25 grants to the organizations listed on Exhibit B.

Please note that since extra reporting and compliance requirements come with receiving federal funds, we have selected those organizations might be better placed to comply with such requirements (e.g., already possess federal DUNS numbers), or are “arts” organizations as opposed to “humanities or sciences” organizations, in the SERG-FED list. Staff reserves the discretion to switch the approved organizations between the two programs to the extent necessary to address such concerns as are discovered after approval.

When these programs are approved, staff will submit documents to the NEA by the end of May describing the use of the NEA ARP funds and begin contacting grantees under the two programs in June.

Staff hereby requests the Grants Committee to recommend approval by the full Council of the two Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants programs described above.

## EXHIBIT A

### SERG-FED GRANTS

1. Berkshire Pulse, Inc.	Great Barrington	\$50,000
2. Inspire Arts and Music, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
3. Worcester County Mechanics Association	Worcester	\$50,000
4. Worcester Art Museum	Worcester	\$50,000
5. ArtsBoston, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
6. Boston Center for the Arts, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
7. Rockport Music, Inc.	Rockport	\$50,000
8. The Dance Complex, Inc.	Cambridge	\$50,000
9. Boston Modern Orchestra Project	Malden	\$50,000
10. Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
11. Odyssey Opera of Boston, Inc.	Malden	\$50,000
12. Revolutionary Spaces, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
13. Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, Inc.	Plymouth	\$50,000
14. Community Art Center, Inc.	Cambridge	\$50,000
15. Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.	Becket	\$50,000
16. Northampton Arts Council	Northampton	\$44,000
17. Peabody Essex Museum, Inc.	Salem	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$844,000</b>

## EXHIBIT B

### SERG-MA GRANTS

1. Blackstone River Valley Natl. Corridor	Northbridge	\$50,000
2. Galleries At LynnArts, Inc.	Lynn	\$3,000
3. Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	Cambridge	\$7,000
4. Olayeye Communications, Inc.	Boston	\$2,000
5. Outer Cape Chorale, Inc.	Wellfleet	\$22,000
6. Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns	Becket	\$11,000
7. Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum	Hadley	\$13,000
8. Workshop13, Inc.	Ware	\$17,000
9. Cyrus E Dallin Art Museum, Inc..	Arlington	\$4,000
10. Lynn Museum	Lynn	\$28,000
11. Whistler House Museum of Art	Lowell	\$37,000
12. Berkshire Choral International	Great Barrington	\$50,000
13. Eastern States Exposition	West Springfield	\$50,000
14. Arlington Center for the Arts, Inc.	Arlington	\$50,000
15. Double Edge Theatre Productions, Inc.	Ashfield	\$50,000
16. Cotuit Center for the Arts, Inc.	Barnstable	\$50,000
17. City Ballet of Boston	Boston	\$50,000
18. The Hearing Room	Lowell	\$6,000
19. Taunton Art Association	Taunton	\$1,000
20. Amelia Park Children's Museum	Westfield	\$50,000
21. Osterville Historical Society	Barnstable	\$34,000
22. Cape Cod Art Association, Inc.	Barnstable	\$50,000
23. The Center for Arts in Natick, Inc.	Natick	\$50,000
24. Riverside Theatre	Boston	\$50,000

Works, Inc.		
25. Windhover Foundation, Inc.	Rockport	\$3,000
TOTAL		\$738,000



*Power of culture*

To: Mass Cultural Council Grants Committee  
From: Michael Bobbitt, Dave Slatery, Jen Lawless, Bethann Steiner Sara Glidden, Cheyenne Cohn-Postell  
Date: May 11, 2021  
Re: Gaming Mitigation Program

As you may recall, the Commonwealth's Casino Gaming Law (MGL Chapter 23K) provides that 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") for, among other things, Mass Cultural Council to use 75% of such funds (after an allowable 7% reserve for expenses, to administer and implement 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"*)).

At its meetings in January and March-April, 2020, the Grants Committee recommended and the Council ultimately approved the first round of funding of the Gaming Mitigation Program in the spring of 2020.

Due to the pandemic, casinos did not operate for four months in 2020 and had limited operations thereafter, therefore, funds for a new round of funding have not accumulated quickly (though casino operations and revenues have increased greatly in the last few months). As the Gaming Mitigation program was unable therefore to run in FY21. Staff took advantage of the pause to investigate and refine the program and also to wait until the resources in the Fund to get to a comparable size to the first round. Below is a detail of that work and the process for FY22.

**Background.** The Gaming Mitigation Program, as approved previously, awards one-year grants (provided by the Gaming Mitigation funds) that subsidize fees (including housing and travel) paid to touring artists by Massachusetts non-profit and municipally-owned performing arts centers. The application for the first cycle was due on April 30, 2020 and we received 53 total applications.

More details about the first cycle:

**Prepared on 5/6/21**

- \$3,339,654 was awarded to the 52 eligible applicants.
- Applicants ranged from presenting organizations with and without facilities, to producing organizations hosting special events, and annual festivals.
- Grant amounts ranged from \$1,000 to \$250,000 based on the percentage of performances that included an eligible touring artist, and the amount of fees paid to those eligible artists.
- Please see [Funding List – Mass Cultural Council](#) for the first round of grantees.

**Follow-up.** Following the award announcements, the Gaming Mitigation team began to collect information on issues that surfaced in the application and review process. To gather this information all applicants were invited to complete a feedback survey - in which 37 of 52 applicants participated - and then a focus group representing a wide array of the first cycle applicants was convened to get feedback on certain definitions and pieces of the application itself.

**Next Steps.** Staff is now recommending proceeding with a second 2021 round of funding on the same basis as the first round was approved with a few tweaks as highlighted below. Based upon what was learned from the review of the first round of funding, staff will undertake the following steps

1. Clarify definition of touring artist to include more measurable and inclusive criteria.
2. Create a template for organizations to use to report performance/artist information to standardize information and consolidate two application questions into one document.
3. Move to calendar year (2019) for reporting on performances and fees paid to artists. (NOTE-this is due to the pandemic and the “lost year” of 2020 which will have an effect through this cycle and the next round- we anticipate future rounds of funding will be based on more recent information)
4. Proposed 2021 Timeline for Gaming Mitigation program:

**September 20:** Guidelines and Application available

**October 7:** Gaming Mitigation Info Session: Walk through guidelines changes, and timeline with time for Q&A. The session will be available online.

**November 5:** Applications due 11:59 PM EST

**November 30:** Staff completes review and correction period and can run formula and begin decision process with senior staff.



**December 7:** Award amounts determined.

**January:** Email award notifications sent to grantees

**Early February:** Contracts mailed to grantees

**November 4, 2022:** Final Report Due/Application for next cycle of funding deadline

Staff has previewed with Executive Committee that it will request from the Council authority to provide up to \$3,000,000 in funding in the 2021, or if less, the amount of Gaming Mitigation Funds available in the Fund as of August 31, 2021. We will know this amount as of September 15, 2021 when the August revenues are reported and amounts transferred to the Fund.<sup>1</sup>

While staff is not proposing to launch the next round until September, it is requesting to get approval now so that the work can begin (and that the program will not be bunched together with the approval of the Council's budget and all the other programs in August).

As was approved last April, the individual grant amounts will be determined as follows

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.

Staff will share the final Gaming Mitigation grant list with the Council by email prior to notifying the grantees (In January 2022).

Staff hereby requests the Grants Committee to recommend approval by the full Council of the 2021 Round of the Gaming Mitigation Program described above.

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<sup>1</sup> As of March 31, 2021, \$1,773,733 of Gaming Mitigation funds are available in the Fund. Based on March performance, we anticipate at least \$250,000 in new revenues for Gaming Mitigation being collected and transferred each month through the summer.

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING CALL-IN INSTRUCTIONS  
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021  
10:00 A.M.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS WILL BE MUTED.

IF MEETING IS INTERRUPTED FOR ANY REASON AND TERMINATED ABRUPTLY, PLEASE CONTACT [DAVID.SLATERY@ART.STATE.MA.US](mailto:DAVID.SLATERY@ART.STATE.MA.US) FOR NEW CALL-IN INSTRUCTIONS

Topic: Grants Committee Part 2

Time: May 11, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83491462700>

Meeting ID: 834 9146 2700

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