

## ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021: 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

### ON-LINE MEETING

(CALL-IN INSTRUCTIONS POSTED AT  
<https://massculturalcouncil.org/about/board/>  
UNDER "MAY 18, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING")

#### **AGENDA**

#### **VOTE**

- 
- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Call to Order, Welcomes and Open Meeting Law Notice |          |
| 2. Minutes of 150 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting        | <b>X</b> |
| 3. Reports   |          |
| a) Chair Report  |          |
| b) Executive Director's Report                         |          |
| i. Agency Updates                                      |          |
| c) Advocacy Report-FY22 State Budget                   |          |
| d) DEIA Report   |          |
| 4. FY21 Financial Update                               |          |
| 5. 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                   |          |

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 6. Supplemental Economic Recovery Grant Programs | <b>X</b> |
| 7. Gaming Mitigation Fund Grants- 2021 Round     | <b>X</b> |
| 8. Cultural Districts                            | <b>X</b> |
| a) Bedford                                       |          |
| b) Little Saigon- Boston                         |          |
| 9. Adjourn                                       |          |

## **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  
**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021**  
**11:30 AM-1:30 PM**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Section 2**

RESOLVED: that the Council approves the minutes of the March 16, 2021 Council Meeting in the form presented to the Council at its May 18, 2021 Meeting.

**Section 5**

RESOLVED: To approve 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 Council at its May 18, 2021 meeting.

**Section 6**

RESOLVED: To approve the Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants-Federal Funds (SERG-FED) and Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants-Massachusetts Funds (SERG-MA) programs described in the memorandum presented to this meeting, including the allocation of \$844,000 NEA ARP funds to the SERG-FED program (and \$700 to expenses) and the allocation of \$738,000 of Organizational Support monies in the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund to the SERG-MA program.

**Section 7**

RESOLVED: To approve the 2021 Round of the Gaming Mitigation Program described in the memorandum presented to this meeting and the allocation of \$3,000,000 of Gaming Mitigation monies in the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund to the 2021 Round.

**Section 8 –Cultural Districts**

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

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



*Power of culture*

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

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

**TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021**

**ONLINE MEETING**

Chair Nina Fialkow called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

**Council Members Present** were

Nina Fialkow, Chair  
Marc Carroll, Vice Chair  
Barbara Schaffer Bacon  
Karen Barry  
Kathleen Castro  
Jo-Ann Davis  
Sherry Dong  
Sandra Dunn  
Simone Early  
Karen Hurvitz  
Matthew Keator  
Susan Leff  
Victoria Marsh  
Ann Murphy  
Allyce Najimy  
Robert Price  
Troy Siebels

**Also Present** were Mass Cultural Council Staff Members David Slatery, Jen Lawless, Bethann Steiner, Ann Petruccelli Moon, Luis Cotto, Erik Holmgren, Käthe Swaback, and Diane Daily; and guests Joshua Anderson and Christie Gibson.

Nina opened the meeting by causing the following to be read into the record.

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

**Prepared on 4/21/21**



agenda was posted on Mass Cultural Council's website 48 or more hours ago (excluding weekends and holidays).

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As Chair, Nina welcomed all participants to the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mass Cultural Council. She then called for a vote on the minutes from the Council's 149<sup>th</sup> meeting which was held on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Schaffer Bacon moved to approve the minutes. Kathleen Castro seconded the motion. Deputy Director David Slatery called the role. Council Members Robert Price and Simone Early abstained from the vote as they were not yet appointed to the Council when the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting took place. Acknowledging that Council Member Lillian Do was not present it was

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

Nina then took a moment to welcome newly appointed Council Members Simone Early and Robert Price to the Council before beginning her Chair's update: one year ago, Massachusetts shut down due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The months that followed were painful with every area of the cultural sector suffering. Mass Cultural Council staff and Council persevered. Nina expressed thanks to all. Five surveys of the field have been completed and reveal \$588M in losses, we will hear more later in the meeting

about the Agency's recovery efforts. Nina then asked Vice Chair Marc Carroll to deliver his update.

Marc noted that this is the 46<sup>th</sup> day of Executive Director Michael Bobbitt's first 100 days leading the Agency. During his first six weeks Michael has been getting to know the programs of Mass Cultural Council and the people who make these programs so effective. Marc thanked Council members and staff who are serving on Michael's transition team. Michael's calendar has been full as he has been taking many meetings with staff and legislators in addition to hosting a weeklong statewide listening tour. He will be meeting one-on-one with each Council member in April. Later this month, Michael, along with Nina and Marc will meet with Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito. He is also continuing to meet with philanthropic organizations, artists, and cultural leaders.

Nina thanked Marc for his update, then asked Michael Bobbitt for his Executive Director's report.

Michael thanked Nina and Marc and noted that it has been a very busy time. He thanked leadership and staff for their support giving special thanks to Public Affairs Director Bethann Steiner and Public Engagement Manager Ann Petruccelli Moon. Michael is looking forward to his one-on-one meetings with Council Members so that he can learn about each of them and their priorities. Another transition team meeting is scheduled for May. Michael is looking forward to meeting with Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito and will have a strategy meeting to refine his messaging later this week. He has called on staff for their input, especially with regards to the bond bill. His first 46 days have been full of meetings, reading, and learning. Staff is presently doing a light audit, looking at programs to better understand the Agency's impact and see if we might be stretched too thin to accomplish our goals. Michael is starting to have some vision impulses, but not a full vision just yet.

There were no questions for Michael from Council members. Nina then asked Bethann Steiner to give her Advocacy update.

Bethann echoed Michael in noting that it has been a very busy time. A good deal of work has been focused on legislative outreach and media strategy. On Monday, the Agency published the results of its fifth Covid impact survey and, as expected, numbers are growing and are increasingly dire. This fifth survey was timed deliberately as the Agency wanted new impact numbers to share with Beacon Hill as the one-year mark of the pandemic approaches. After releasing the new data, the Agency received a week of strong media attention including a spread in the *Boston Globe* as well as editorials in the *Globe* and the *Salem News*. Michael has been on the radio, and State House News picked up the story as well. At this point news of our survey data has been published in all regions of the Commonwealth and all coverage mentioned the importance of the cultural sector to the overall economic health of Massachusetts. Michael, David Slatery, and Bethann testified last Tuesday before the Joint Committee on Ways & Means seeking a \$20M allocation for the Agency. As staff makes that request, they are billing the annual line item as a stabilization force for the sector. Bethann reminded Council Members that the Governor's H1 budget proposed a 10.4% reduction to the Agency's line item; she feels staff had a productive conversation with the Ways & Means Committee. Now attention turns to scheduling meetings with legislators on both sides of the aisle to introduce Michael as the Agency's new Executive Director, discuss our

budget ask, and seek support. Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development Chair Carole Fiola will be the Agency's champion when the House budget debate begins next month. In terms of relief legislation, Chair Kennedy on the Senate side has filed a bill to establish a cultural recovery plan. This would be a new fund administered by the Agency seeded with dollars from the federal government. In the bill, Chair Kennedy included \$200M for the fund with the requirement that Mass Cultural Council will use the funds to make recovery grants to artists, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit cultural organizations. MASSCreative is playing a huge role in advocating for this, and the bill has 30 co-sponsors so far. A smaller piece of legislation we are focused on is the Local Cultural Council (LCC) membership expansion bill which we are working on with Representative Ken Gordon and Senator Adam Hinds. This bill will allow more people to be appointed to and serve on LCCs. So far feedback has been positive and the bill has 15 co-sponsors. Scheduling meetings is ongoing, we currently have meetings scheduled with Senate President Karen Spilka, House Ways & Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, and others. Bethann concluded by thanking Council Members for their support.

Nina thanked Bethann for her report noting that on a weekly basis her inbox pings and it's another fantastic piece of news from Bethann. Nina encouraged all Council Members to read what Bethann sends and to look at the Agency's blog. Jo-Ann Davis agreed with Nina and praised Bethann's communications to the Council.

Nina then asked Deputy Director David Slatery for his financial update.

David noted that we are three quarters of the way through the fiscal year, yet, due to this odd COVID year, we only had our spending plan approved 10 weeks ago; we are just getting started. All Council Members should have received a report on the Gaming Mitigation Fund. The Agency receives 2% of all casino tax revenues and have applied those funds to different programs. Staff recently submitted a long, 13-page report to the legislature on the use of the funds. To date, we have spent \$4.7M of the casino funds and have \$2.25M unspent. David further reported that, through usage of certain grant that were approved but not requested this year, we were able to spend \$1.171M on \$1500 relief grants to 781 individual artists – all artists who applied for grants were given grants. To make up the difference and be in a position to give grants to all artists who applied, Funds were redirected from the STARS residency program – this money typically goes to teaching artists. This year, due to remote school programming, most residencies didn't happen and we were able to reallocate the funds to support artists. Finally, David reported that in June 2019 we were notified by the National Endowment for the Arts' Office of the Inspector General that they were auditing the Council usage of NEA funds over a three-year period. We know that the NEA began auditing all states a year ago, and we were in the second group. We responded and supplied all requested information. An auditor from the NEA visited us in August 2019 with the goal of having a report completed in the fall of 2019. Unfortunately, there was a delay and when they were ready to ask for more information, the pandemic had started causing a further delay and the audit was not complete until a few weeks ago when the formal report was issued; this is why Council Members are just hearing about this audit now. We have been notified that while we complied with the requirements, we had not complied with some reporting obligations. We've fixed all of the issues identified and have implemented necessary changes and will further document those fixes per the audit recommendations. Another issue was that in FY16 and FY18 we used folk arts funds to fund traditional arts fellowship grants, and the auditor found that those were "honorific" programs for which NEA funds may not be used so we are identifying some other eligible

costs for those years so as to avoid refunding \$60,000. Michael submitted our responses to the NEA last Friday, we expect no further publicity. If anyone would like a copy of the report, we can share it with you along with the details of our corrective plan in May. David concluded his report there and was happy to take questions.

Sandra Dunn had a question pertaining to the FY21 budget asking why there was a substantial difference in the line item for consultants and panelists, referencing line 16 in the budget. David explained that this relates to the fact that we didn't spend it all in FY20 and when we say "panelists" most grant program applications are considered by outside, hired panelists. The Agency didn't spend all of the allocation for panelists in FY20 due to certain programs being delayed in light of the pandemic.

There were no further questions for David. Nina asked Michael for his report on the Agency's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) efforts. Michael told Council Members that he recently met with Gwendolyn Van Sant of Multicultural BRIDGE who gave him an update on the Agency's work with BRIDGE thus far. He has asked Gwendolyn to revise her plan for Mass Cultural Council. Michael has also met with the Agency's two internal DEIA-focused working groups. Next month, staff launches its race equity action plan. Michael will give a lecture to the staff and then staff will go off on their own to build ideas. Council Members will have a chance to share their input on the race equity plan.

Nina then invited Mass Cultural Council Program Manager Erik Holmgren and Program Officer Käthe Swaback to begin their presentation to the Council on the Agency's Creative Youth Development programs with a strong focus on the newly established BIPOC Alumni Council. Via an extensive PowerPoint presentation, Erik and Käthe walked Council Members through each Creative Youth Development Program – YouthReach, Ser Hacer, Amplify, and the new BIPOC Alumni Council outlining the guidelines, participation, and extraordinary impact of each. A copy of the full presentation is available upon request.

When Erik and Käthe concluded their presentation, Michael added that in his years running a children's theater in Maryland, he saw that creative youth development was huge. The investment we make now creates the future of the cultural sector; these young people are the artists that will be civically engaged. As Michael is doing his reading as part of his onboarding process, he is noticing what is happening national and internationally in the cultural sector and other sectors. He recently read an article that said members of Generation Z are the smartest humans to ever exist on the planet, mostly because of the access to information they have in their pockets. Investing in them and getting them to be more artfully-minded should be a huge focus of the next 10 to 15 years.

Erik explained further that this is about short-term elevating of voices. We want to bring these young people into our Agency. Long-term it's about bringing them into our field so that they can lead it. We know that substantial barriers exist, and this is a first step. Erik thanked Council Members for their support, noting that 27 years of support for a grant program isn't common.

Nina opened the meeting up to questions from Council Members.

Karen Barry began by saying that every time Erik Holmgren speaks, she gets excited. She loves his energy and vision. Karen thinks the presentation was unbelievable and thanked Erik and Kätthe for it. She is excited to celebrate the work that's been done over the last 27 years and see what can be done to take it to the next level.

Jo-Ann Davis echoed Karen's remarks and congratulated Erik and Kätthe on the foundation they've built for future leadership. She found the stories they shared inspiring. Jo-Ann then inquired as to the age range for the program. Erik stated that the age range is 13 to 24 but noting that in Venezuela where a good deal of creative youth development began with El Sistema the age range is far more broadly. This is something the Agency should continue to think about.

Simone Early asked if young people might eventually be appointed to the Agency's Governing Council. Nina explained that currently members are appointed by the Governor and the 19 seats are representative of each county in the Commonwealth. Nina isn't sure if there is an age requirement for serving on the Council, but it's something that can be looked into. Michael added that staff is seeking feedback on the Agency's race equity plan from the BIPOC Alumni Council members.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon seconded everyone's appreciation of the quality and direction of the work and wanted to remind staff of the slide on demographics that showed 3% of participants were from rural communities. This is something the Agency needs to work on its reach across the state with regards to creative youth development. Michael mentioned that during his listening sessions, this was something that came up multiple times and something that he is focused on. Erik added that staff had not received many applications from rural areas, but the applications they did receive were from programs that work with young people who know a good deal about outreach and inclusivity.

Cecil Barron Jensen asked why the young people in the program are called alumni and what organizations are the feeders of the program. Kätthe explained that the participants are alumni of Agency-funded creative youth development programs.

Robert Price asked if as the Agency creates more forums where young people and adults are commingled, do we feel comfortable that we have the infrastructure relating to codes of conduct, background searches and other standards of operations to make sure we are maintaining safety and decorum. Kätthe clarified that the BIPOC Alumni Council is comprised of young people aged 18 to 24, and Erik offered that this is a concern and a challenge of working with youth. In this particular pilot, everyone is 18 or older, but with other programs like Amplify there is a question of in what ways are we able to be in touch with participants. Is it through an organization, should we always have someone copied on emails, especially when we have programs that work with young people involved with the Department of Youth Services (DYS) – their face cannot be shown, their name cannot be used? We rely on the programs we fund to make sure they have that code of conduct, but we are revising our applications for next year and looking at our policies.

Nina asked if there was any other business. David mentioned that each Council member will soon receive a Council Member Information Form to complete. They are asked to return forms to staff at their earliest convenience. David also noted that the Council's next meeting would take place on May 18<sup>th</sup>. (The time has since been to an **11:30am start time.**)

Jo-Ann Davis again commended staff and especially the leadership team of Dave, Jenifer Lawless, and Bethann on the hard work done throughout the pandemic. Nina agreed with Jo-Ann and thanked her and as Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

To: Mass Cultural Council  
Fr: Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director  
Dt: May 18, 2021

## Executive Director Report (May 2021)

**NOTES:** The focus has been on advocacy for the budget and bills, plus the lite audit of internal programs and operational efficiencies - supporting staff as they review programs and operational practices. I have been taking as many meetings as I can and using off meeting time to continue reading up on trends affecting the field locally, nationally and internationally. Additionally, we have focused on meeting with each staff member and council member.

Attached please find an infographic describing my first 100 days.

### Final Transition Plan

- **Scheduled Staff Meetings**
  - a. Daily Senior Staff Check In (Mon- Thu)
  - b. Invited Weekly Department Check Ins
  - c. Weekly Supervisors Meeting
  - d. Bi-weekly 411 All-Staff Meeting
- **Scheduled Monthly Meetings**
  - a. Nina
  - b. Mentor – Torrie Allen
  - c. NASAA BIPOC Affinity Group (as Available)
  - d. Philanthropy MA monthly meetings and monthly BIPOC Affinity Space Meetings
  - e. [Monthly Check-in with Dan Rivera from MassDevelopment](#)
  - f. [MA LGBTQ+ ED Group](#)
- **As Needed – Regular Meetings**
  - a. Mass Creative
  - b. Emily Ruddock/Brian Boyles
  - c. Barr Foundation/San San Wong

Prepared on 5/12/21



## February

- ~~Meet with Each Department Pt. 1 Feb~~ — ~~Done~~
  - a. ~~Priority Group #1 — EDIA, Race Equity, Demographic Data~~
- Drop-ins to Constituent Gatherings - ~~As Available~~
- ~~Listening Tour (5 days)~~ — ~~Done~~
- ~~Governor Baker, also Senior Advisor Mindy d'Arbeloff~~ — ~~Done~~
- ~~Lieutenant Governor Polito~~ — ~~Scheduled (same as with Gov)~~
- ~~State Government Crash Course with Bethann~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- ~~POC Team meeting~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- Legislative/Budgeting Meet and Greet
  - a. reached out in week 1 by email to all 199 legislators, introduced yourself and offered meet and greets at their convenience - ~~In process~~
- ~~Keiko Orrall, MOTT~~ — ~~Done~~
- ~~Barr Foundation Meet and Greet~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- ~~The Boston Foundation — Paul Grogan, Eva Rosenberg, Lee Pelton~~ — ~~done~~
- ~~Philanthropy MA Meet and Greet~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- Secretary Mary Lou Sudders, Health & Human Services
- Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, Monica Bharel

## March

- ~~30 Mins Meet with each staff member~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- ~~Attend Orientation for new Council Members Simone Early and Rob Price~~ — ~~Done~~
- ~~Meet with Each Department Pt. 2~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- ~~Major Partner Meetings~~
  - a. ~~Mass Development, NEFA, MassCreative, Mass Humanities, MAPC, NASAA~~ — ~~Done/Scheduled~~
- Drop-ins to Constituent Gatherings - ~~As Available~~
- ~~Arts Consulting Group — Wyona Lynch McWhite~~ — ~~In Process~~

## April

- 30 minutes meet with each Council Member — ~~Scheduled~~
- Meet with Major Funders
  - a. ~~NEA~~ — ~~In Process~~, Klarman, Lindy
- ~~Chat with Anita~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- Key Mayors — ~~In Process~~
- ~~Union Briefing~~ — ~~Scheduled~~
- Joann Horgan — ~~in process~~
- ~~Gaming Mitigation Briefing~~ — ~~Done~~
- Speaking Engagements/Press — ~~As Available~~

## May/June

- Organization Constituent Meetings (~~need to consider Equity~~) — ~~As Available/In Process (Moved from April)~~



- a. Would like to prioritize small, BIPOC and Rural orgs and then Bigs
- b. The Big Ones: ~~Museum of Science~~ ~~scheduled~~, ~~New England Aquarium~~ ~~scheduled~~, ~~Museum of Fine Arts~~, ~~Children's Museum~~ ~~scheduled~~, Boston Symphony Orchestra; Worcester Art Museum, Fitchburg Art Museum, Springfield Symphony Orchestra, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Plimoth Patuxet Museums, Cape Ann Museum

#### **DELIVERABLES – First 6 Months**

- Meet with Working Groups
  - o Priority Group #2 – Remote Programming/Tech, Trauma, Covid Safety, HR Working Group
- Draft Agency Race Equity Plan - **In Process**
- Agency Budget - **In Process**
- Advocacy - Budget, Bond Bill, Federal Covid Relief - **In Process**
- Support Statewide Commission on the Impacts of COVID on the Creative and Cultural Sectors - **In Process**
- Children and Youth (Maybe Grantees) –
  - o Roundtable (BIPOC Youth Advisory Committee) - JUNE
- Mayors and City Council Presidents - Kim Driscoll of Salem, Nicole LaChapelle of Easthampton & Steve DiNatalie of Fitchburg, etc. (Move to Fall)
- Support Commission to review state seal and motto
- Support Operations Efficiency - **In Process**
  - o Support New Grants Software and 365 Consolidation
  - o Revisit the Employee Handbook to look at policies to reflect modern handbook
  - o Consolidation of Programs
- Support HR Audit – Pay Equity, Classifications (before EOY)
- **Relaunch Culture Chat - in Process**
- **Artist Constituent Meetings – moved from April**
- **Support Agency Audit – In process**
- **Diversifying our Board – In Process, moved to first 6 months**
- 

#### **DELIVERABLES – 6 month to 1 year**

- Relook at Strategic Plan in response to current times – Check Requirement by NEA
- Aquinnah Cultural District – conversation about Casino
- ~~— Draft Michael's list of Priorities with staff input~~
- Local Cultural Council Meeting by Staff Region Assignments
- **CANE: Cultural Access New England**
- **Jim Rooney, from Greater Boston Chamber and other chambers like Berkshires, Cape Cod, North Shore**
- **Discussions about Statewide event – Governor's Ball**
- **Start the strategic Plan Process**

- Start Implementation of Race Equity Plan
- ACG Council Onboarding Session – October Retreat
- Discussions on:
  - o Culture RX
  - o Visioning of LCC
  - o CIP Equitable Retooling
  - o Expansion of UP into Social Justice Department
  - o Recruitment of BIPOC Orgs
  - o Elimination of Silo-ing
  - o Site Visits
  - o Rethink of Project Grants
  - o Addition of Capacity Building Grants
  - o Implementation of Covid 19 related grants

### **OTHER (to be scheduled as available)**

TSNE MissionWorks

Other Non-profit Services Orgs - NEMA, ~~ArtsBoston~~, Boston Dance Alliance, and Arts & Business Council

Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA) - In Process

Aquinnah Cultural Arts Center

DMH, United Way

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association

[Interpretive Science Org](#)

[History Org](#)

[Humanities Org](#)

Black Ministerial Association of Boston

Cable Access

Legislative Tourism Council

Housing and Economic Development

Department of Education

Interpretive Science Orgs

Meetings with heads of other State Agencies

DTA, Health Connector, ~~MOTT~~, Conservation and Recreation, National Parks of MA

NAAC, Arts Administration of New England, YNPN

Jim Rooney – Greater Boston Chamber

Creative Minds Out Loud

Lisa Donovan at Mass College of Liberal Arts

Arts for All Collaborative

CJP – BlackAFinStem

### **Other Non-Transition Plan Activities/Meetings (completed)**

**Feb 1 – March 16**

~~Attended a meeting with regional state arts agencies~~

~~Met with Kara Elliott Ortega – Boston Arts and Culture Department~~

~~Chatted with Joyce Linehan~~

~~Met with Nasaa POC Affinity Group~~  
~~Spoke at American University Arts Management Class~~  
~~Attended a Philanthropy MA Arts Funders Meeting~~  
~~Met with Erin Williams from Worcester~~  
~~Joined NEFA's board (starting in June)~~  
~~Filmed a welcome speech for Cambridge Community Foundation~~  
~~Met with Bridge Gwendolyn Van Sant (Race Equity Consultant)~~  
~~Attended Cambridge Arts Forum Meeting~~  
~~Met with Dana Hanseon, Office of Congressman Auchincloss~~  
~~Attended NEA USDA Rural Placemaking Webinar~~  
~~Met with Jordan Maynard – Baker's Chief Secretary~~  
~~Moderated Panel discussion at Worcester Legislative Breakfast~~  
~~Attended Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism Quarterly Meeting~~

### **March 17 – May 18**

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
 Submittable – Antiracism in grantmaking webinar  
 Senator Lesser's Lunchtime Live Stream  
 NEA – meet Biden Appointees  
 Forum for youth art, power and peace  
 Project Q  
 ART Lunchroom Chat  
 Kelly Barsdale NASAA  
 DEI Townhall with Northeastern  
 Social Prescription Happy Hour – welcome  
 NBC appearance  
 American Heart Association  
 Podcast Recording – Conner/Smith Show  
 Trauma informed workshop  
 Newton Cultural Council and Mayor – meet and greet  
 Wyona from ACG  
 TACD Meet and Greet  
 Boston Arts Academy Foundation  
 Bright Spots Big Questions Webinar  
 Emerson Workshop for Scenic design students  
 NASAA MESSaging Strategies  
 NEFA State Arts Agency Committee Meeting  
 Teacakes and Tarot  
 Guerilla Opera  
 Lisa McNulty  
 Michael Orlove and Andi Mathis – NEA  
 Erica Schwartz – Emerson Colonial Theatre  
 Boston Public Radio  
 MAPC Metro Common Culture Policy Agenda  
 CMBC – panel on disrupting White supremacy in the arts  
 Mass MOCA

Boston Globe Interview  
WS Development  
MassPort  
UConn Art and Poverty Panel  
Site Visit to Stevens Center in North Andover  
Anita Walker  
Sam Houston U – musical theatre panel  
NAGE Briefing  
TheatreWashington  
NEA Federal Audit Training  
EMACT Webinar on Building Anti-racism plans  
MassCreative Board Meet & Greet  
ARTNY Board Workshop  
Mass Audubon Meet and Greet  
Edvestors  
Meeting with Boston Cultural EDs  
Newport Music Festival Town Hall  
PUAM Team – Salem  
Brockton Easton Cultural Sector Zoom  
Municipal Convening of Arts Councils  
Seen and Heard  
Ben Perkins – Produce Prescription  
Staff Retreat  
Center for Nonprofit Advancement – Change Makers Panel  
TBF Eva and Orlando  
Speaking Engagement – Harvard Institute for Learning  
CMSS Gala – honoring Erik holmgren  
METG Panel to Students  
Consulate General of Israel  
Imari Jeffries King Boston  
Leading Edge – meeting  
Black Boston  
Mass Latino – appearance  
Fall River Site Visit  
Planned Giving Group of New England



g Bailey/Perspective Photo

# First 100 Days

Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

- 1,309 Grants Awarded Totaling \$2.9M
- 196 Meetings with Agency Staff and Cultural Sector Partners
- 51 Speaking Engagements & Interviews
- 45 Meetings with State Government Officials



[www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org)

To: Mass Cultural Council  
Fr: Staff  
Dt: May 18, 2021  
Re: Agency Updates

### **EXECUTIVE**

**Committees.** The Executive Committee met on March 4 to discuss the agenda for today's Council Meeting. The Grants Committee meet on May 4, to address Committee leadership and May 11 to review and recommend the grant proposals which are being brought to the Council for approval on May 18.

**Council Members.** It is with some sadness but very much appreciation for their service that we note the departure of two Council members since the last meeting. Sandy Dunn resigned from the Council effective March 18, 2021 after nearly six years on the Council. Also, at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Grants Committee meeting, Victoria Marsh announced she would be stepping down after the May 18 Council meeting. Victoria was originally appointed in 2016. We thank both Sandy and Victoria for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Council.

We are anticipating the appointment of new Council members at some point later this year. Nina Fialkow as Chair has appointed Jo-Ann Davis to serve as the next Chair of the Grants Committee.

**Council Member Resources.** Through the on-boarding process for our latest Council members, Rob Price and Simone Early, appointed earlier this year, we became aware of certain resources that Council members might find helpful.

*Required Online Ethics Training.* Under the State Ethics Law (also called the Conflict-of-Interest Law), members are reminded that they, along with all other appointed board, commission and council members, are considered "special state employees" under the law and, along with Council staff and all other fulltime state employees, are required to undertake online ethics trainings every two years. Attached is a notice staff receives every two years regarding the obligation. Historically, staff has monitored Council's employees' compliance but have not done so for Council members. The link to the online training course which is



required every two years is at <http://www.stateprog.eth.state.ma.us>. While we believe the Appointments Office has made new appointees aware of this requirement, we have learned that they do not remind members of their ongoing obligations to take the online training. If there are any questions, please contact David Slatery. (Members can feel free to send an acknowledgment of receipt of the summary of the law and the completed course certificate for recordkeeping purposes but it is not required.)

*Video on State Board Service.* Here is a [link](#) to video produced by the Inspector General and Attorney General about service on state boards.

**Transition.** Michael Bobbitt just celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> day at the Council's Executive Director on May 11. Please see Michael's separate Executive Director Report for more information on his meetings, events and other transition activities.

## **LEGISLATIVE, ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Legislative & Advocacy Report.** As we are in the beginning of the legislative session and right in the middle of the FY22 budget building cycle, Mass Cultural Council has prioritized advocacy. In March the Agency unveiled its [Power of Culture Advocacy Campaign](#), seeking FY21 budget spending, bond authorizations, and bills to stabilize, rebuild, and provide COVID relief to the cultural sector.

In April, the House Committee on Ways & Means released its FY22 spending plan, which contained the Agency's \$20 million funding request. During the House budget debate nine local earmarks were added to the Mass Cultural Council account, resulting in a \$21,375,000 appropriation in the [FY22 Final House Budget](#). This record investment represents the highest level of state funding for arts and culture, through the Agency, in three decades.

Michael has worked hard to secure support for this level of investment in the State Senate. He has virtually met with 28 state Senators – 70% of the Chamber membership, including the Senate President, Minority Leader, and Senate Ways & Means Chair – to pitch the Power of Culture Advocacy Campaign and secure the Members' support for the Agency's FY22 spending request, as well as S. 2246, Senator Ed Kennedy's \$200M COVID relief package for the cultural sector and S. 2243, Senator Adam Hinds' Local Cultural Council membership opportunity technical correction.

The Senate meetings have been very productive; not only is Michael making important connections on Beacon Hill, but it is anticipated that when the Senate

Committee on Ways & Means releases its FY22 spending plan the Agency will see strong support for its work.

**Next Steps:**

SWM Budget released May 11.

Senate Amendment deadline May 14.

Senate Budget Debate week of May 24.

At the conclusion of the Senate budget debate, any differences between the final House and Senate budgets will be reconciled by a 6-member conference committee. We anticipate that different local earmarks will be adopted by the Chambers, so it is likely our line item will be subject to conference. This will be another advocacy touch point. FY22 begins on July 1, 2021.

Michael has started to receive invitations from legislators to visit their Districts. To date we have enjoyed networking at the following virtual or in-person events:

- March 30, Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development Chairs Sen. Ed Kennedy and Rep. Carole Fiola hosted a virtual "meet and greet" for legislators and staff to get to meet Michael. It was a success: with 54 attendees!
- April 9, Michael testified at the Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development Industry Impact hearing, and presented the Agency's COVID economic impact data.
- April 9, Michael toured the Stevens Center in North Andover, hosted by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr and Sen. Diana DiZoglio.
- April 20, Michael was the guest of House Majority Leader Claire Cronin for a virtual cultural sector meet and greet in Brockton and Easton.
- May 4, Michael joined Luis for a virtual Coffee and Cultural Community Conversation focused on the proposed Bedford Cultural District, which also featured Sen. Mike Brady and Rep. Ken Gordon.
- May 4, Michael attended the first meeting of the Special State Commission on COVID Impacts to the Cultural Sector, chaired by Sen. Ed Kennedy and Rep. Carole Fiola.
- On May 14 Michael looks forward to a cultural organization site visit in Fall River, organized by Rep. Carole Fiola.

**Mass Cultural Council in the News:**

**April 6 – WBUR**

<https://www.wgbh.org/arts/2021/04/06/with-singing-indoors-still-forbidden-mass-cultural-council-head-says-return-of-the-arts-vulnerable>

**April 9 – Berkshire Eagle/SHNS**



[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/statehouse/mass-tourism-sector-appeals-to-state-for-more-help/article\\_53d20c0c-9954-11eb-afef-a3686e02722d.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/statehouse/mass-tourism-sector-appeals-to-state-for-more-help/article_53d20c0c-9954-11eb-afef-a3686e02722d.html)

**April 11 – NBC Boston**

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/tourism-hospitality-sectors-appeal-more-state-help-in-mass/2351794/>

**April 27 – Fall River Herald News**

<https://www.heraldnews.com/story/entertainment/arts/2021/04/27/covid-19-cultural-impact-commission-look-arts-tourism-sectors/4858442001/>

**April 29 – MassLive**

<https://www.masslive.com/politics/2021/04/massachusetts-tourism-cultural-groups-see-last-minute-boost-in-funding-from-massachusetts-house-477-billion-budget-for-fiscal-2022.html>

**Maps! Maps! Maps!**

Check out this resource that shows federal and state funding for cultural sector organizations and projects across Massachusetts in FY20:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/blog/maps-show-federal-state-funding-for-the-cultural-sector-in-ma/>

**Digital Engagement**

**Social Media Platforms**

- Twitter (During the period of Jan 1 – April 30, 2021):
  - 394 tweets sent by Mass Cultural Council (up 97 from previous period)
  - 256 new followers
  - 2.6K engagements (up 1.1K more than previous period)
- Facebook (Mass Cultural Council):
  - 12,349 Followers (compared to 11K Followers in FY20)
- Facebook (Community Initiative): 1,678 Followers (1,538 Followers in FY20)
- Instagram: 4,768 Followers (3,630 Followers in FY20)
- LinkedIn: 1,541 followers in FY21 (1,031 Followers in FY20)
- YouTube: 413,417 views to date (367,170 video views by the end of FY20)

**Email Lists**

- Power of Culture: 8,455 contacts (7,813 contacts in FY20)
- Artists News: 10,456 contacts (9,833 contacts in FY20)
- Community News: 4,736 contacts (2,061 contacts in FY20)
- Press: 181 contacts (174 contacts in FY20)

## **Noteworthy:**

- **When we share funding lists with legislators, they share the news:**
  - No. of tweets by legislators using @masscultural (Jan 1 – April 30, 2021)
  - Jan – 30 (CIP, CYD, LCC grants awarded)
  - Feb – 13
  - Mar – 11
  - Apr – 50 (festivals, projects, UP grants awarded)

Similarly, legislators share the news on Facebook and Instagram stories. Approximately 30 mentions and/or likes in 2021. Including mentions from House W&M chair Aaron Michlewitz.

- **Overall engagement with @masscultural is growing in all social media platforms. Here are some Twitter stats from Jan 1 – April 30, 2021:**
  - 2,045 Posts included @masscultural (1,786 Posts in same period 2020)
  - 864 Users included @masscultural (747 Users in same period 2020)
  - 4,973 Engagement with posts including @masscultural (3,621 Engagement in same period 2020)
  - 4,607,121 Reach by posts including @masscultural (2,434,069 Reach in same period 2020)
  - 16,449,580 Impressions of posts including @masscultural (8,722,321 Impressions in same period 2020)

## **CULTURAL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (CIP)**

**Gaming Mitigation.** The Gaming Mitigation Program is resuming in FY22 after pausing in FY21 to conduct a feedback process and revise the guidelines of this new program. This is discussed in greater detail in a separate memo included with the meeting materials.

**Update on Recover, Rebuild and Renew Series.** In the Fall of 2020, the Cultural Investment Portfolio team conducted approximately 300 hours of conversation

with grantees to better understand their current strategies, exciting innovations, and sometimes, extremely difficult decisions in operating during COVID-19. Based on these candid conversations, a nation-wide Request for Proposal (RFP) process was completed to provide the nonprofit cultural field the highest-quality, most critical intellectual capital necessary to recover, rebuild, and renew our sector post-pandemic. This resulting Series consists of 42 webinars and 45 hours of one-on-one legal and financial coaching for Massachusetts cultural nonprofits.

We have now delivered 29 of the 42 webinars, focusing on human resources, legal issues, financial management, management, leadership, and board governance. Approximately 1,000 arts administrators, volunteers, board members, artists, and funders have attended live or watched the recordings, available on the Council's YouTube channel. In addition, we are currently creating a capacity building toolkit on the Mass Cultural Council's website where we will unpack the learnings from the sessions, including worksheets, presentations, recordings, and guides. These materials will be used well into the next year as organizations reopen and rebuild their operations.

Part of this Series also includes one-on-one confidential legal and financial consulting through the Arts & Business Council (Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts) and the Nonprofit Finance Fund. We have begun the intake process, consultant matching, and have started deploying these consulting hours. Legal consultation is available to any cultural nonprofit in Massachusetts. Due to the limitations of financial consultant hours, financial consulting is available to organizations in the Cultural Investment Portfolio. Webinars and consulting hours will be deployed through the end of the FY21 fiscal year.

**FY21 Projects Grant Program.** The FY21 Projects Grant Program which would normally have run in late spring of 2020 was postponed to early 2021 due to the delay of the state budget. The grant program was launched in January, with an application deadline of March 2. One hundred ninety-two organizations applied, of which 163 submitted eligible applications. We realized that we had sufficient funds allocated to the Projects program to fund all of the eligible applications. As the panel review process that frequently provides useful feedback to the applicants was not needed, we invited all of the Project applicants to schedule personal feedback sessions with program staff. 45 organizations have taken advantage of this opportunity to have a review session of their applications. Feedback from these discussions has also been helpful to staff as we consider the next round of Projects grants for FY22. A proposal for a revised process will be presented at a future meeting.

## **COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

**Local Cultural Councils (LCCs).** The Communities team is working on closing out

the FY21 LCC program and working with councils to complete their annual reports for funding. The team continues to hold Community Check Ins for the field on a range of topics, the next one coming up at the end of May is around trauma and mental health in the arts community. In June the focus will be on ways in which arts organizations and artists are taking their programming outdoors in creative ways. The team is also in the process of updating its training pages and building new webinars and workshops with the LCC community.

**Festivals.** The Festivals program successfully completed its FY21 Spring/Summer Festival program and awarded 118 festivals with \$500 grants for either the production of their festivals or for work centered around audience engagement and/or development. As we know, festivals are an integral form of social engagement and a way to celebrate culture and we will be continuing our work with Arts Boston who will be providing key support to festivals by way of webinars and workshops, on engaging and developing audiences as well as providing a platform for the promotion of festival activities directly to the public.

The Festivals Grant Program funded:

Festival Audience Development /Engagement	9
In-person Festival	75
Online Festival	34
Grand Total	118

The Festival grantees are chosen through an in-house review process, based on the eligibility requirements of the program. Regional diversity is taken into consideration.

In addition, the new festivals toolkit is now available for all funded festivals and is a welcome resource for marketing, promoting, engaging developing audiences. The festival program will be going through a strategic review of the program in the future, looking at grant cycle, funding and focus while taking a close look at how we can be supportive of helping festivals be sustainable, build audiences and engage communities.

**New Cultural Districts.** The meeting materials includes a memo presenting two proposed districts for your consideration. They are the Boston Little Saigon Cultural District and the Bedford Cultural District. Staff has also been working with stakeholders from East Somerville towards an eventual August presentation.

**Cultural District Designation Renewals.** Staff continues to work with Districts eligible for renewal in 2021 to present recommendations to the Council at its August meeting. They are:

- Worcester's Salisbury Cultural District\*
- Beverly Arts District\*
- Plymouth Bay Cultural District\*

- Crossroads Cultural District, Greenfield
- Amherst Cultural District
- West Concord Junction Cultural District
- Nantucket Cultural District
- Aquinnah Cultural District
- Scituate Harbor Cultural District

\* - held over from 2020 due to COVID19

**Cultural Districts Initiative “Refresh.”** Staff has been working towards a multi-stage refresh of the initiative. The refresh has thus far resulted in trimming down of the grant and renewal application, as well as our site assessment report that is given to municipalities who receive a formal site visit. We are also actively recruiting for new site advisors with an explicit intent of reaching out to a more diverse BIPOC group. We will also take a closer look at our guidelines in the summer to be informed by the results of our racial equity audit.

## **ARTISTS**

**FY21 Artist Fellowships:** In April 2021, Mass Cultural Council hosted grant review panels (via Zoom) for FY21 Artist Fellowships in Crafts, Photography, Sculpture/Installation/New Genres, Dramatic Writing, Film & Video, and Music Composition. The results of those panels – panel recommendations for 40 Fellowship awards (\$15,000) and 35 Finalist awards (\$1,500) – are detailed in the Artist Fellowships Report contained with the meeting materials. Pending approval by the Council, applicants will be notified of their award status in late May. The fellows/finalists work will be posted on Mass Cultural Council Gallery shortly thereafter.

Categories for the Artist Fellowships recur every other year. In the FY22 cycle, we plan to accept applications in Drawing & Printmaking, Poetry, Traditional Arts, Choreography, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting.

**Assets for Artists Collaboration:** The Artists Department is thrilled to be collaborating with MASS MoCA's Assets for Artists Program to offer a [series of free online workshops](#) this May, June, and July to support artists' careers.

The workshops, which focus on topics like fundraising, marketing, housing, and grant-writing, are free to Massachusetts artists and are designed to help recover from career setbacks due to COVID-19.

**High Water Mark for Support for Artists:** In late February, we were pleased to award 781 grants of \$1,500 to artists and teaching artists/humanists/scientists through the COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals. That total (almost \$1.2 million) combined with this month's Artist Fellowships awards, represent a more than \$1.8 million *direct* investment in artists and other creative individuals in the cultural

sector in FY21. This total is close to double last year's direct grants to artists (approx. \$900,000) and more than triple FY19 (which was \$543,000).

**In the Field:** Kelly Bennett served as a Portfolio Reviewer for the Cambridge Art Association (April 24-25, 2021). It was an all-media portfolio review for New England-based artists.

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.

**Folk Arts & Heritage, Traditional Arts Apprenticeships.** Maggie Holtzberg has been in touch with this year's [13 funded apprenticeships](#). A handful are meeting in person, with the rest meeting virtually, or a combination of both. Maggie looks forward to being able to make site visits in person to document the learning that has taken place during the first of a two-year apprenticeship. One positive anecdote came in from Victor Cole, *"I've mounted birds for the MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation and mentioned I was training someone. I asked if they come across any extra birds, like owls and hawks, that Nikki would benefit from being able to work on them. Plus, we offered to do them for free since we are being funded through the MA Cultural Council Apprenticeship Program. I just got a call from the DNR Police and someone will be dropping off a great horned owl for Nikki to work on since the word is out that she is receiving bird taxidermy training. Thanks again for making this happen since others are already benefitting."*

Maggie has been serving as podcast host for [Revels Connects](#) as part of their salon series featuring traditional musicians. April's [podcast](#) featured accordionist and dance musician Tom Pixton. Maggie recorded the last interview of the series May 5. She will reflect on the experience in a Power of Culture blog post later this month.

Other service-related activities include advising WPI students working with Refugee Artisans of Worcester on archival best practices, joining several other staff members to serve on NEFA's NEST panel review, and testing Smart Simple, our new grants management system.

## **CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CYD)**

**CYD BIPOC Alumni Youth Council.** The [CYD BIPOC Alumni Council](#) (CBAC) launched in Feb. 2021 and has worked with great speed to form a trusted partnership of support and initiative, utilizing platforms for their voices and visions to be seen and heard. CBAC members are a very dedicated team and from the very beginning increased the required meetings of once per month to once

and twice per week to prepare for workshops and CYD Zoom calls. Working to build more equitable programs, networks, and systems, the CBAC has been able to participate in many forums and have taken leadership roles in facilitating, speaking, taking notes, and compiling summaries in 8 different large Zoom workshops.

- CYD alums have designed and helped to facilitate CYD calls twice a month on Thursdays with the CYD field. Two calls were formulated and led completely by alums. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, four alums presented on "**CYD Alums: Artistry and Leadership**" and on March 18<sup>th</sup> they presented on "**Active Listening**" in CYD (presentation notes are [here](#).)
- March 19<sup>th</sup> alums from [Bloomberg Arts Internship Alumni Advisory Council](#) and from CBAC facilitated [Youth Art, Power and Peace!](#) the 6<sup>th</sup> Virtual Forum on Remote Learning in Arts Education and Creative Youth Development, co-sponsored by EdVestors, the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, and the Mass Cultural Council. They designed the forum with the theme of community building; processing and healing from trauma; and addressing the socio-emotional challenges of the pandemic through the lens of art making.
- CYD alums are serving as "thought partners" with the Mass Cultural Council in staff meetings, Arts Funders Forums, and on National CYD Zoom Calls.

They will continue in the months of May and June to design three more workshops as safe and brave spaces to work on strategies for greater understanding and impact of young people in CYD programs, philanthropy, and communities while championing the values and goals of creative expression, youth leadership, social and racial justice, and collective action.

**Trauma-Informed Care Workshops.** A cross-agency working group, including the entire CYD/Education team along with Charles Baldwin from the UP Initiative and Miranda Cook from the Cultural Facilities fund team collaborated to create and facilitate two workshops on Trauma informed care and the role of the arts in healing for the cultural sector.

- March 26<sup>th</sup> - "[An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care Approaches: Considering trauma responsiveness, healing, and "do no harm"](#)" with Dr. Tasha Golden
- April 9<sup>th</sup> - "[Trauma, Social Justice, the Arts, and Healing](#)" with Dr. Tasha Golden and Renée Watson

These workshops were in response to needs heard from all over the program areas during the last year. Both trainings had more than 180 people registrants, nearly 100 attendees and were well received by participants as being both relevant and impactful. Many [resources](#) were provided and surveys were

conducted at the end, surfacing many positive comments such as, *"This was one of the best webinars I've ever attended--chock full of information, riveting, and compelling. I left knowing that our organization has to make trauma-informed training and education a focal point for the next year."*

**Teaching Artists.** We continue to engage in planning work with the Klarman Family Foundation for a potential next cohort of Music Educator/Teaching Artist (META) Fellows in the Fall of 2021. After two cohorts and extensive evaluation, the proposed next cohort may include a broader group of participants from throughout the state, including an increase in participants from public schools and organizations and fiscally sponsored programs not currently receiving funding. We will also likely begin the cohort virtually with shorter, more frequent convenings focused on trauma-informed teaching practices, engaging youth virtually, and a continued focus on race equity.

At the same time, we are collaborating with the Eliot School of Fine Arts to distribute a survey seeking to understand more about the changes in the teaching artists field, the impacts of COVID, and the specific needs going forward. One thing we know – professional development dollars are going to be difficult to come by for organizations. This survey is intended to help the Mass Cultural Council, other funders, and organizations deploy effective professional development when and if they are able.

**Convening the Youth Arts Funding Community.** On May 18<sup>th</sup> the Mass Cultural Council will be convening other youth arts funders from throughout the Commonwealth. These quarterly meetings serve three major goals:

- 1.) To share funding strategies and identify gaps and areas of overlap in our work
- 2.) To allow each funder to have a sense of what other funders may be asking or requiring of programs and organizations in an effort to minimize the strain on our grantees from the philanthropic community.
- 3.) To identify new opportunities for our grantees to explore

**Biweekly National Forum for Creative Youth Development.** The CYD and Education (CYD/E) staff continues to hold space biweekly for what has become a national forum for the practice of Creative Youth Development. At each meeting our constituents in Massachusetts are joined by colleagues from as far away as Hawaii and California and as close as New York City. This community has a tremendous capacity to find solutions to shared problems. Our recent meetings have included a focus on recruitment, evaluation, and sharing of different opportunities through the Massachusetts Cultural Council including the [expansion](#) of the [Youth Arts Impact Network](#) into a statewide resource. The



feedback and evaluations of this space continues to be positive and we plan on continuing to offer these convenings through the next fiscal year and will continue to hold the space as long as it is valuable.

**CultureRx.** We are pleased to report that the social prescription of cultural experiences by professional care providers has resumed in Massachusetts. Doctors at MACONY Pediatrics are currently prescribing experiences at five different cultural organizations in the Berkshires, two organizations are cocreating art making experiences with clients of the Caring Health Center, patients are being referred for music therapy sessions at the Community Music Center of Boston, and patients with Parkinson's disease are being prescribed dance classes at Urbanity Dance. We look forward to continuing to develop this program and more fully implement an evaluation plan during the next fiscal year.

In February, [Dr. Tasha Golden](#) and [Dr. David Fakunle](#) presented on [defining impact](#) in the cross-sector world of arts and health. These connections also helped us to form regional partners in the State Arts and Public Health arena where we are currently beginning to explore the barriers and opportunities to leveraging the connections between the arts and health within our state and country. On March 24, 2021, our team [presented](#) to 20 stakeholders across the nation about our CultureRx social prescription pilot. We are currently working together with [Daniel Morse](#), [Dr. Jill Sonke](#), Director, Center for the Arts in Medicine, University of Florida College of the Arts and [EpiArts Lab](#) (with a mission to explore arts and cultural engagement on population health outcomes in the US through epidemiological analyses of US cohort studies) and [Stephen Boudreau](#), Chief Administrative Officer at RI Department of Health, who are all involved in innovative approaches to gain momentum state-wide and nationally to elevate the advocacy of the effectiveness of arts engagement through cross-sector partnerships in the world of arts and health.

## **EDUCATION**

**STARS Residencies:** Due to the timing of this year's budget, we ran the STARS application period at the end of January instead of the usual October. Due to the impact of the pandemic on schools and cultural partners, we received slightly less than half the number of applications we typically receive. As a result, we were able to fund ALL applications that were eligible and recommended for funding by the team of outside readers (166 applications.)

We required All residencies to have a plan to be delivered remotely if circumstances at the school required it. We did this so that all residencies would be completed by the close of the fiscal year, June 30.

With schools now returning to in-person learning, the report from the field is that some residencies are now in person, some remote, and some hybrid. Many

cultural partners have been working remotely since the start of the pandemic, so they have been devising techniques to engage young people in the remote environment.

This year, STARS Residencies are more important than ever to help young people express the experience they've been going through, to help them dig deep for meaning, and to bring them joy. The work they create continues to be as powerful, and important, as ever. John Tweedie, Principal of Whaling City Jr./Sr. High School in New Bedford writes: *The students have been assisting and collaborating with our local artist Mark Carvalho to produce the amazing 4x8 picture boards which now proudly hang in our hallways. We have three more to go... We could not have done this without this grant.*



*Picture board from Whaling City Jr/Sr. High School*

**Big Yellow School Bus:** BYSB is on pause due to the pandemic.

**Poetry Out Loud:** *The Boston Globe* printed a lovely [article](#) about our Massachusetts State POL Champion, Rose Hansen on April 30. This was Rose's second time as State Champion, and she was very excited because she is a senior and this was her last year to compete. If you read the article, you can get a sense how she felt about having to perform her poetry via video instead of the traditional in-person competition.

As State Champion, Rose progressed to the National Semi-finals, which were broadcast May 2 (all performances were prerecorded.) Rose's performances were stunning. She did make the top 8 in our region, so she progressed to the last stage of the Regional Semi-final. Unfortunately, she was not picked for the top 3, but was thrilled to have participated a second time at the national level. Rose goes to Yale next year and is already talking with our Huntington Theater partners about ways to keep poetry and performing in her life.

POL is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The Massachusetts program is implemented by the Huntington Theater Company in partnership with Mass Cultural Council.

**National History Day Massachusetts:** Like 2020, NHD Massachusetts 2021 took place as a virtual competition. Despite reduced numbers due to the pandemic, 388 students from 46 schools participated in the competition, with more students doing NHD at a classroom level. Fifty students will be attending the NHD National competition virtually from Massachusetts. In addition, 15 projects will be showcased this summer as part of Mass Historical Society's virtual Juneteenth exhibit. NHD Massachusetts is run by the Mass Historical Society, with financial support from Mass Cultural Council. In a letter to the NHD participants, MHS wrote: "I want to share some great news for Nationals: due to the amazing support of the Mass Cultural Council, we will be able to pay the registration fee for all students heading to Nationals whose schools are unable to do so! With so many families (and school districts) facing unexpected financial hardships this year, we are so glad to be able to take this cost off their plate and ensure that these fees won't be a barrier for any students participating in the contest this year. Thank you so much to everyone at the Mass Cultural Council for making this possible!"

### **CULTURAL FACILITIES FUND (CFF)**

In early March, Mass Cultural Council convened six panels to review 145 CFF applications. There were five Capital Grant review panels, and one Feasibility and Technical Assistance Panel. Twenty-three panelists were selected who had expertise in a variety of fields including: non-profit business planning, real estate development, capital fundraising, community development, finance, architecture, and historic preservation. The materials were sent to the panelists four weeks in advance of the Zoom meetings. In addition, the panelists were introduced to the concept of unintended bias to improve the review process.

The panelists numerically score each section of the application. Cultural Facilities Fund Program Director Jay Paget and CFF Program Officer Miranda Cook facilitated each panel discussion to ensure that all applications received a thorough review based on the criteria in the published guidelines.

On April 14, staff recommended 99 grants to the CFF Advisory Committee. The grant recommendations for this round include Capital Grants; Feasibility and Technical Assistance Grants; and Systems Replacement Plan Grants. The recommendations in these categories were as follows:

- 70 Capital Grants: \$8,790,326
- 15 Feasibility and Technical Assistance Grants: \$397,000
- 14 Systems Replacement Plan Grants: \$115,000

- 99 Grants; Total: \$9,302,326

The total dollar request to the Fund was \$19.9 million and the combined total development costs of all projects was \$306 million.

MassDevelopment will vote on finalizing the grant recommendations on May 13.

### **UP: UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.**

With eight accepted applications for UP Designation in 2021, the total number of organizations with this badge of honor is now 74. The 10 organizations in the Innovation & Learning Network (ILN) will receive UP Designation upon completion of their Final Report on their Access project, due in September 2021. Six organizations are up for UP Designation reapplication which will occur in September 2021 including: Cape Cod Theatre Project, Community Access to the Arts, Danforth Museum, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Partners for Youth with Disabilities, and The Mount. (Outside the Box folded after the death of its funder, Ted Cutler.)

**Innovation & Learning Network (ILN).** The ILN in 2021 went from five all-day sessions over five months to a completely virtual 12-week platform. Online learning has been comprised of a self-paced program through Partners for Youth with Disabilities (22 hours) and weekly peer learning sessions over Zoom (20 hours). The ILN launch featured the work of DEAFinitely youth troupe and Deaf performer Elbert Joseph. Principles of Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning were introduced at early sessions followed by distinct practices for staff training, website design, emergency preparedness, inclusive marketing techniques, and community engagement strategies. The goal was to link and build upon the Partners for Youth with Disabilities learning at each peer session. Centering people with disabilities, additional topics included invisible disabilities, access to play, language access, reasonable accommodations, and accessible social media. Each of the organizations are now in their planning process for the development of an Access project that will be shared with the cohort in June.

The 10 organizations participating in the ILN 2021 are Theatre Espresso, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the New Bedford Art Museum, WAM Theatre, Friends of Mt. Auburn, Malden Community TV, Monkeyhouse Dance, Umbrella Arts, and the Trustees of Reservations.

**Innovation Fund.** All 27 applicants for the UP Innovation Fund were awarded grants for their proposals. These organizations and their new work will be featured during future UP office hours.

**UP Office Hours.** UP Office Hours occur weekly on Tuesdays at 9am and create an opportunity to discuss challenges and successes within the sphere of Access. Besides calling on the organizations within the UP Initiative, guests have included Kalyn King (Card to Culture), Cheyenne Cohn-Postell (Culture Rx), Tri Vi Quach (Mass Creative), Kim Szeto (NEFA), Dawn Simmons (StageSource), Piper Slowinski (PYD), and Donna Danielewski (National Center for Accessible Media).

**Card to Culture.** As cultural organizations reopen, there has been an influx of organizations signing up to offer discounts through the Card to Culture program. New Card to Culture organizations include Boston Harbor Now, Berkshire Botanical Garden, WAM Theatre, Follow Your Art Community Studios, and The Umbrella Arts Center.

These inter-agency Card to Culture partnerships increase access to cultural experiences for all Massachusetts residents, specifically:

- [Electronic Benefit Transfer \(EBT\) cardholders](#), Department of Transitional Assistance
- [Women, Infant, and Children Nutrition Program \(WIC\) cardholders](#), Department of Public Health
- [ConnectorCare type health insurance members](#), Massachusetts Health Connector

Organizations that are not currently part of Card to Culture [can sign up at any time](#).

## **Notice to State Employees**

### **Conflict of Interest Law Education Requirements**

The following information from the State Ethics Commission describes the conflict of interest law education requirements for all state employees. You are a state employee required to acknowledge receipt of the summary of the conflict of interest law and complete the online training program if any of the following is true:

- You hold any elected office, whether paid or unpaid
- You hold any appointed position, including membership on a board or committee, whether paid or unpaid
- You are a charter school employee
- You hold a part-time, seasonal, or intermittent state position

If you do not know whether these requirements apply to you, please contact your agency or the State Ethics Commission. **Please DO NOT send your summary acknowledgment receipt or online training program completion certificate to the Commission unless you are an elected state or county official.** Elected state and county officials will receive a separate notice from the Commission regarding these requirements.

#### **I. Summary of the conflict of interest law for state employees**

You will be provided with the summary of the conflict of interest law. You are required to return an acknowledgment that you received the summary, which your agency will maintain on file. The last page of the summary has an acknowledgment form for you to use. Alternatively, your agency may ask that you acknowledge receipt of the summary by replying to an e-mail or by completing an online form. Please follow the instructions provided by your agency.

#### **II. Conflict of interest law online training program for state/county employees**

Your agency will direct you to complete an online training program on the conflict of interest law. Please follow your agency's instructions on how to access the training program. If you are directed to the program on the Commission website, you may access it at [www.stateprog.eth.state.ma.us](http://www.stateprog.eth.state.ma.us). Before you begin the program, please note the following to ensure that you can obtain the completion certificate to provide to your agency:

- You can now use a mobile device to complete the program. **However, the audio and video will not auto-start until you either click the Slide button or the audio controller on each page to begin the audio and video segments.** To save a completion certificate using a smartphone, you can take a screenshot of it by pressing the power and Home buttons simultaneously on an iPhone or the power

and volume down buttons on an Android device. You can then attach the completion certificate to an e-mail.

- If you need to print a completion certificate, please make sure your computer is connected to a printer. **Please note that if the certificate appears cut-off on the print page, depending on which browser you are using, you may need to either change the page layout from portrait to landscape or adjust the scale to a smaller size.**
- If your agency asks you to submit your certificate electronically, you can do so using one of the following methods:
  - Click 'Print Certificate' and select 'Save as PDF' or 'Microsoft Print to PDF' to save the certificate as a PDF document
  - Click 'Print Certificate,' select your printer, and scan the printed certificate
  - Press the print screen button on your keyboard, paste the screenshot into a word processing software, and save it as a PDF document
  - Take a picture of the certificate with your mobile device
- **Please retain a copy of your completion certificate.** The online training program does not store completion records, so the Commission will not have any record that you completed the program.
- **Please do not click the 'Course Credit' button instead of the 'Print Certificate' button unless you have been directed to do so by your employer.** The 'Course Credit' button is only to be used in connection with a learning management system (LMS) used by some public agencies. If your agency is not using an LMS, the Course Credit button functions as a link to the Commission's website and your employer will not be notified that you have completed the online training program.

If you are directed to an alternative site to access the training program, such as the state agency's website or a learning management application site, please follow the instructions provided by your agency.

To: Mass Cultural Council Board  
Fr: David Slatery, Deputy Director  
Date: May 18, 2021  
Re: FY21 May Financial Update

We are now almost ten months through the fiscal year but due to the truncation of this fiscal year, just over four months from the date of the approved FY 21 Spending Plan. Spending is on target or below in most accounts. We have made progress and are moving with all deliberate speed to get the approved grants out the door. The limited time period and the new grant programs (COERG, Individual Artist Relief) have added to the challenge of processing all the contracts

Following this memo is a budget spreadsheet for FY21. It consists of three parts. The first is the typical "one pager" (though it has expanded to two or three pages over the past few years as our activities have expanded) and showing the grants we have paid to date. The second is a list of grants from line 36 of the first sheet under "Other New Grants" in the "GRANTS AND STIPENDS (PP)" part one the first page.

The third part consists of reporting of the funds Mass Cultural Council is receiving from casino tax revenues through the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund pursuant to the Massachusetts Casino Gaming Law (Mass. General Laws Chapter 23K) as of March 31, 2021. We hope to be able to update the Council with April collections as those numbers should come out the day before the meeting. We account for the spending of these Chapter 23K funds separately so as to reinforce the fact that these funds are separate from and do not support the Council's general activities.

**Other matters.**

*NEA Audit.* As was reported at the March meeting, Mass Cultural Council was notified, in June 2019, by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Inspector General that it would be conducting a Performance Audit on selected awards. The NEA IG issued their final audit on March 24, 2021 and it can be viewed at <https://www.arts.gov/about/inspector-general/reports/audits> (If you cannot access the site, please let me know and I will forward a copy). We submitted a Corrective Plan in April, a copy of which is attached. We anticipate updating



our manuals and documents and procedures and addressing the Audit Recommendations as detailed in the Plan over the summer and presenting the outcome to the Executive Committee on August 10 and then submitting the results to the NEA IG by September 24 as required.

*State Audit.* As they say, “when it rains, it pours.” We were notified by the State Auditor this month that they would be undertaking an audit of Mass Cultural Council. Michael Bobbitt, David Slatery and Carina Ruiz-Esparza met with the State Auditor team at an Entrance Conference on May 10. We have also responded to their initial information request and also held a separate meeting describing our grant systems.

A copy of the engagement letter is attached. The State Auditor will be reviewing the 13-month period from March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. It's a general performance audit but the team indicated they will be looking at procedures related to our handling of Covid-19 Relief Funds including the \$10 million in federal CARES Act funds provided for the Cultural Organization Economic Recovery Grants Program in late 2020. While their timeline is to work over the summer and come up with a draft by the fall, they indicated this was just an estimate and audits can take “as long as they take.”

The state auditor last did a limited performance audit in 2015 (as to internal control questionnaires) and last did a more general audit in the 2008-09 timeframe.

We will keep the Executive Committee and the Council up to date on the progress of the state audit.

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL			
FY 21 BUDGET			
Mass Cultural Council Meeting- May 18, 2021			
	FY 20	FY 21	FY 21
	FINAL BUDGET	BUDGET	GRANT SPENDING
		PLAN	TO MAY 10, 2021
<b>SALARIES, SPACE, AND ADMINISTRATION (NON-PROGRAM &amp; SERVICES)</b>			
1 AA: Salaries	\$ 2,759,087	\$ 2,632,835	
2 AA: Fringe & Indirect (Salaries & Contracts Paid Thru Fed. or Trust Accounts)	95,800	140,000	
3 BB: Employee Related Expenses	22,603	7,000	
4 CC: Interns and Contracted Employees	14,853	25,000	
5 DD: Pension and Insurance Related Expenditures (State Chargebacks)	46,824	57,000	
6 EE and FF: Administrative Expenses (NPS)	87,224	92,500	
7 GG: Space Rental and Utilities	354,010	354,010	
8 HH: Consultant Service (NPS) Contracts	68,101	95,500	
9 JJ: Operational Services	2,393	65,500	
10 KK: Equipment Purchases	-	27,654	
11 LL: Equipment Leases and Maintenance (Non-IT)	26,660	18,000	
12 UU: Information Technology Expenses	195,549	165,580	
13 <b>SUB-TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,673,104</b>	<b>3,680,579</b>	
<b>EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>			
14 EE: Administrative Program Expenses	43,248	7,500	
15 HH&JJ: Consultants & Panelists	378,784	519,415	
16 LL&UU: P&S Tech and Equipment	-	13,600	
17 <b>SUB-TOTAL P&amp;S EXPENSES</b>	<b>422,032</b>	<b>540,515</b>	
<b>GRANTS AND STIPENDS (PP)</b>			
18 Cultural Districts	250,000	382,500	225,000
19 Artist Fellowships	603,000	652,500	
20 Cultural Investment Portfolio	6,021,300	6,203,000	5,673,840
21 Media	130,000	130,000	130,000
22 Festival	90,500	50,000	23,500
23 Local Cultural Council Program	4,154,000	4,350,000	2,930,100
24 Mass. Cultural Data Project	47,500	47,500	47,500
25 Poetry Out Loud	17,500	20,000	
26 Traditional Arts Apprenticeships	-	100,000	100,000
27 Big Yellow School Bus	100,250	-	
28 STARS	1,150,800	722,450	398,000
29 CYD -YouthReach/SerHacer (Incl NEA CARES)	1,810,050	1,490,500	1,158,750
30 CYD: META (KFF-Funded)	103,442	-	
31 CYD-Amplify	22,500	-	
32 UP Program Stipends/Challenge Grants	59,000	80,000	18,000
33 Compact Grants	-		
34 Other Grants (list on Sheet 2))	269,974	193,225	
35 Individual Artist Relief	303,000	1,171,500	474,000
36 <b>SAFE HARBORS STIPENDS</b>	<b>747,000</b>		
37 <b>GAMING MITIGATION GRANTS</b>		3,339,654	3,339,654
38 FY20 Catch up		20,400	20,400
39 CARES ACT (COER)		9,960,600	9,960,600
40 <b>SUB-TOTAL GRANT EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,879,816</b>	<b>28,913,829</b>	<b>24,499,344</b>
<b>PARTNERSHIPS, RE-GRANT AND PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAMS</b>			
41 Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities	679,397	686,191	428,762
42 NEFA Project	55,000	60,000	30,000
43 Pass Through Earmarks	180,000		
44 <b>SUB-TOTAL PARTNERSHIPS/ RE-GRANT PROGRAMS</b>	<b>914,397</b>	<b>746,191</b>	<b>458,762</b>
45 PERCENTAGE OF GRANTS TO STATE APPROPRIATION(EXCLUDING GAMING F	89.15%	144.18%	
46 <b>OTHER</b>			
47 Prepaid Expenses and Carryforward	723,708	157,627	
48 <b>SUB-TOTAL, OTHER</b>	<b>723,708</b>	<b>157,627</b>	
49 <b>SUB-TOTAL, ALL PROGRAM</b>	<b>17,939,953</b>	<b>30,358,162</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>21,613,057</b>	<b>34,038,741</b>	
<b>REVENUE</b>			
50 State: Basic Appropriation (0640-0300) less Earmarks	18,000,000	18,180,000	
51 State: Pass-Through Funds	180,000		
52 MassDevelopment: For MCC Expenses Associated with	325,821	325,000	
53 Prepaid Expenses (Funding from Prior Years' Budgets)	680,350	458,762	
54 National Endowment for the Arts: Basic State Plan	599,400	633,700	
55 National Endowment for the Arts: Arts in Education	63,500	63,500	
56 National Endowment for the Arts: Arts in Underserved	200,300	212,400	
57 National Endowment for the Arts: Folk Arts Infrastructure	30,000	30,000	
58 National Endowment for the Arts: "Poetry Out Loud"	17,500	20,000	
59 National Endowment for the Arts: CARES ACT	475,300	68,800	
60 Chapter 23K Funds (Gaming)-Applied	822,863	3,882,962	

66	CARES ACT		10,000,000	
67	Private Funds: Big Yellow School Bus	-	-	
68	Harry Rice Trust Account (As of 7/1)	79,970	83,017	
69	Additions to Harry Rice	3,047		
70	Comm Awards Trust Account	6	6	
71	Additions to Comm Awards Account	-	-	
72	Klarman Funding for META	135,000	80,594	
73	NEFA Contribution for Artist Relief	48,110		
74	GKV Foundation Contribution for Artist Relief	30,000		
73	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>21,613,057</b>	<b>34,038,741</b>	
	Postive (Negative)	-	-	

<b>OTHER NEW GRANTS (NEW PP)</b>			
Art Week		\$ 25,000	
Fair Saturday		\$ 18,000	
Audience Lab		\$ 20,000	
CIP Capacity Accelerator Network (CAN)		\$ -	\$ -
CultureRX (from Gaming Funds)		\$ 50,000	\$ 108,225
Early Education and Childcare			
Mass History Day		\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Instrument Program		\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
META Expansion (AET)		\$ 27,899	
Foster Families Pilot		\$ 19,075	
Holyoke Arts Ed Task Force		\$ -	\$ -
Kennedy Library		\$ 35,000	
Network of Arts Administrators of Color		\$ 25,000	\$ 35,000
<b>SUBTOTAL NEW GRANTS</b>		<b>\$ 269,974</b>	<b>\$ 193,225</b>

CHAPTER 23K (GAMING) FUNDS	CONTRIBUTED	ALLOCATED
INITIAL DEPOSIT- JANUARY 2020	\$ 3,702,411	
COUNCIL ALLOCATION 1.28.2020		
EXPENSES (7%)		\$ 259,169
GAMING MITIGATION (75 % AFTER EXPENSES)		\$ 2,582,431
ORG. SUPPORT (25% AFTER EXP)		\$ 860,810
ADDITIONAL DEPOSITS JAN 2020-MAR 2020	\$ 1,236,596	
COUNCIL ALLOCATION 4.7.2020		
ADDITIONAL GAMING MITIGATION FUNDS		\$ 757,225
ADDITIONAL ORG SUPPORT -SAFE HARBORS, SOC. PRESCR.		\$ 252,940
ADDITIONAL DEPOSITS APR 2020 - APRIL 15 2021	\$ 2,388,046	
TOTAL DEPOSITS THROUGH APRIL 15 2021	\$ 7,327,053	
FUNDS PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED BY COUNCIL	\$ 4,708,073	
UNALLOCATED FUNDS AS OF APRIL 15 2021	\$ 2,618,980	

NOTES

1. For the Gaming Mitigation Program, grants in the amount of \$3,339,654 were awarded in June 2020 and paid in July 2020
2. Of the allocated Org Support Funds, \$753, 750 was allocated to Safe Harbors Grants, \$240,000 to Consulting Services, and \$120,000 to the Social Prescription Pilot in APR 2020. In NOV 2020, amounts for consulting services were reallocated among different vendors
3. Of the unallocated funds, up to \$254,003 is available for expenses, at least \$1,773,733 must be spent on gaming mitigation grants, and at least \$591,243 is available for organizational support
4. Expenses consist of employee retained to run Gaming Mitigation Program and website design for funded programs and costs of program kaizen

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL****CORRECTIVE PLAN**

April 23, 2021

This Corrective Plan is issued in accordance to the cover letter contained with National Endowment for the Arts Office of the Inspector General's Performance Audit Report No. OIG-21-01 on Selected Awards to Massachusetts Cultural Council dated March 24, 2021.

Such plan describes written corrective action for each recommendation included in the report including description of actions taken or planned, target dates and names and titles of the officials responsible for implementation. Please note that many of the descriptions below are fuller explications of the material contained in the "Management Responses" which were included with the report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES****1. *Document and implement procedures to ensure its [Federal Financial Report] FFR report costs are accurate;***

The Council made an error in the calculation of the match for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) 2017 award (covering the Council's FY 2018 expenditures) and substantially overstated its costs. This error was related to the Council's mistaken practice of reporting all of its grant activities as the match for the NEA rather than a much smaller number closer in size to the actual federal grant amount as would be appropriate.

**Actions Taken**

- After becoming aware of this issue in Summer 2019, Mass Cultural Council staff double-checked calculation amounts on its next FFR due in September 2019 and correctly reported the actual match amount.
- The Council's FFR submission made in September 2019 reported an amount much closer in size to the NEA grant amount.

### Actions Planned

- Rewriting Mass Cultural Council's "Managing Federal Contracts: Contract Officer Guide" (the Federal Funds Handbook) to
  - Detail a process by which NEA Annual Partnership Funds are allocated to fund particular Mass Cultural Council grants or other costs or activities.
  - Detail a process by which Mass Cultural Council's matching funds (the Match Funds) to the NEA Annual Partnership Funds are allocated to fund particular Mass Cultural Council grants or other costs or activities.
  - Provide that the Match Funds in any particular year will not exceed by more than 10% the amount NEA Annual Partnership Funds in any particular year.
  - Prescribe a specific worksheet showing the allocation of NEA Annual Partnership Funds and Match Funds and showing in detail how the calculation of Match Funds was arrived at for purposes of the FFR.
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the changes to the Federal Funds Guide described above.

### Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook and Internal Control Guide for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved.

### Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
 Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer  
 Elsie Sanon, Fiscal Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

## **2. Document and implement internal controls that ensure it adheres to its written FFR reporting policy;**

As described above under Recommendation #1, Mass Cultural Council, due to its longstanding practice and apparent confusion over what was to be reported in FFR, historically routinely reported all of its spending as part of the Match Funds on FFRs in contradiction to its own Federal Funds Handbook thus making a great deal of Council activity unnecessarily subject to federal regulation and open to federal audit.

### Actions Taken

- The Council's FFR submission made in September 2019 reported an amount of Match Funds much closer to the NEA Partnership Funds amount for the period in question.

#### Actions Planned

- The Council's next submission of its FFR (the due date for which has been extended to next September due to ongoing pandemic) shall report an amount of Match Funds equal to or not exceeding by more than 10% the NEA Partnership Funds amount for the period in question.
- Rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook to
  - Detail a process by which NEA Annual Partnership Funds are allocated to fund particular Mass Cultural Council grants or other costs or activities.
  - Detail a process by which Mass Cultural Council's matching funds (the Match Funds) to the NEA Annual Partnership Funds are allocated to fund particular Mass Cultural Council grants or other costs or activities.
  - Provide that the Match Funds in any particular year will not exceed by more than 10% the amount NEA Annual Partnership Funds in any particular year.
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the changes to the Federal Funds Handbook described above.

#### Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook and Internal Control Guide for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved.

#### Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
 Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer  
 Elsie Sanon, Fiscal Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

### **3. *Document and implement internal controls that ensure FFR costs are supported;***

This issue resulted from the unnecessary inclusion of subawards in the FFR reporting (as discussed under Recommendations #1 and 2 above). Documents requested by the auditor in 2020 during the height of COVID-19 restrictions made it difficult for some federal subrecipients to access their records and for Council staff to review subrecipient's submissions. As a result, subrecipients failed to supply required supporting documentation

#### Actions Planned

- Rewriting the notice provided to subrecipients of NEA Partnership Funds or Match Funds to more clearly delineate the requirements associated with receiving federal funds such as the need to retain supporting documentation showing the lawful expenditure thereof and providing rights



of inspection and audit by Mass Cultural Council and warnings as to possible consequences of failing to comply with federal requirements.

- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the changes to the subrecipient notice described above.

#### Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the federal funds subrecipient notice for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved. This will permit the Council to send out the subrecipient notices together with the grant contract packages for the grants approved at such meeting

#### Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

#### **4. Document and implement monitoring procedures that ensure reported subaward costs are incurred within the award period;**

In response to the audit, some subrecipients reported costs that were incurred outside the award period for the NEA Partnership Funds and Match Funds at issue.

#### Actions Planned

- Rewriting the notice provided to subrecipients of NEA Partnership Funds or Match Funds to more clearly delineate the requirements associated with receiving federal funds such as the need to ensure that they are spent only on eligible costs relating to the award period for which the federal funds were provided and providing rights of inspection and audit by Mass Cultural Council and warnings as to possible consequences of failing to comply with federal requirements.
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the changes to the subrecipient notice described above.

#### Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the federal funds subrecipient notice for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved. This will permit the Council to send out the subrecipient notices together with the grant contract packages for the grants approved at such meeting

#### Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer

Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

**5. Document and implement monitoring procedures that ensure only allowable costs are included on its FFRs;**

In response to the audit, some subrecipients reported costs that were not permissible uses of NEA Partnership Funds and Match Funds.

Actions Planned

- Rewriting the notice provided to subrecipients of NEA Partnership Funds or Match Funds to more clearly delineate the requirements associated with receiving federal funds such as the need to ensure that they are spent only on eligible costs and not for ineligible costs such as international travel (without prior NEA approval), fundraising, alcohol, general social activities or other ineligible uses of federal funds and providing rights of inspection and audit by Mass Cultural Council and warnings as to possible consequences of failing to comply with federal requirements.
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the changes to the subrecipient notice described above.

Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the federal funds subrecipient notice for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved. This will permit the Council to send out the subrecipient notices together with the grant contract packages for the grants approved at such meeting.

Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

**6. Update its documented procedures to ensure honorific subawards are excluded from its FFRs;**

Mass Cultural Council employed federal funds from the Folk Arts Partnership portion of its 2015 and 2017 NEA Partnership Funds to support its Traditional Art Fellowships program. The audit deemed this program to be an honorific and therefore an ineligible use of federal funds.

### Actions Taken

- The Council's Traditional Arts Fellowship program in its FY2020 did not use any NEA Partnership Funds and only employed state monies (state funds which will not be identified as Match Funds on the relevant FFR).

### Actions Planned

- Rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook to specifically include a directive that no federal funds, whether NEA Partnership Funds or Match Funds, may be used in connection with the Council's Traditional Arts Fellowship program or any other program which is an "honorific" under NEA's General Terms and Conditions.
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the change to the Federal Funds Handbook described above.

### Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook and Internal Control Guide for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved.

### Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director.

## **7. Provide any additional support for Traditional Arts costs to the Arts Endowment for its review;**

While the Council's Traditional Arts Fellowship program was not an allowable use of the Folk Arts Partnership portion of the NEA Partnership Funds for the 2015 and 2017 awards, the Council did incur sufficient allowable costs related to Folk and Traditional Arts for the time periods of the 2015 and 2017 awards (specifically July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016 and July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018, respectively) on items such as the salary of our Folk Arts and Heritage Program Manager and documentary field work. Therefore, the Council does not believe there will be a need to refund of any NEA Partnership Funds.

### Actions Planned

- Submit records of allowable Traditional Arts costs incurred during the time period covered by the 2015 and 2017 awards (in excess of \$30,000 for each period) to Arts Endowment staff within 30 days after submission of this corrective plan, if not sooner.

### Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will submit such records shortly after submission of this corrective plan and then respond to and follow the directions of Arts Endowment staff

Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
 Maggie Holtzberg, Folk Arts and Heritage Program Manager  
 Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer  
 Elsie Sanon, Fiscal Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

**8. Document and implement policy and procedures to ensure FFATA reporting requirements are met;**

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires reports be submitted of any subawards made to any individual grantee in excess of \$25,000.

Actions Taken

- The Council's has since the audit occurred in August 2019, reviewed its records and made all required FFATA reports for the audit period and all periods since the audit period.

Actions Planned

- Rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook to provide that all required FFATA reports are required to be made no later than 30 days after Mass Cultural Council has at its annual fiscal year spending plan approval meeting (typically occurring in August) voted to formally approve those grants identified as receiving either NEA Partnership Funds or Match Funds for that year (pursuant to the process for selecting such grants discussed under Recommendation 1 above)
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the change to the Federal Funds Handbook described above.

Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook and Internal Control Guide for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved.

Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
 Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

**9. Document and implement internal controls to ensure all subrecipients are notified of the Federal award requirements;**

The Council is taking action to assure that its grantees who are selected to be subrecipients of NEA Partnership Funds or Match Funds are more fully informed of the requirements related to receiving federal funds. The Council will review its Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program in particular in order to ensure the participants are aware of federal requirements and obligations.

Actions Planned

- Reviewing the guidelines and application for the Council's Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program with the aim of clarifying budgets and reporting obligations.
- Rewriting the notice provided to subrecipients of NEA Partnership Funds or Match Funds to more clearly delineate the requirements associated with receiving federal funds (including links to the NEA's General Terms and Conditions and regulations under 2 CFR 200.331) and highlighting particular requirements related to record retention and restrictions on expenditures. Such notice shall also provide that the Council retains rights to inspect and audit subrecipient's administration of its grant as well as warnings as to possible consequences of failing to comply with federal requirements.
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the changes to the subrecipient notice described above.

Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on reviewing and revising the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program guidelines and rewriting the federal funds subrecipient notice for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved. This will permit the Council to send out the subrecipient notices together with the grant contract packages for the grants approved at such meeting.

Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
 Jen Lawless, Operations Director  
 Maggie Holtzberg, Folk Arts & Heritage Program Manager  
 Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director

**10. Document and implement procedures that ensure final reports are submitted on time.**

Due to the issue of over-reporting Match Funds discussed under Recommendation 1 and 2 above, the Council was often waiting for information and was often late in submitting its final reports.

Actions Taken

- After this issue was raised by the Auditor in 2019, the Council's final report was filed on the due date in September 2019.

Actions Planned

- The due date for the final reports that otherwise would have been due in September 2020 have been extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the Council intends to file them on time later this summer.
- Rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook to require that all final reports have been completed by three business days before the due date therefor and if not complete by said date, that an official request for a deadline extension shall be submitted to the NEA and that the Council submit such final reports on or prior to any such deadlines
- Updating Mass Cultural Council's annual internal controls guide to reflect the change to the Federal Funds Handbook described above.

Timeline

Mass Cultural staff will work on rewriting the Federal Funds Handbook and Internal Control Guide for presentation to the Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee at its meeting currently scheduled for August 10, 2021 in advance of the Council's regular annual meeting where the fiscal year spending plan is approved.

Responsible Staff

David Slatery, Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer  
 Cyndy Gaviglio, Contracts Officer  
 Scott Hufford, Information Systems Coordinator

With approval from Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

ONE WINTER STREET, 9TH FLOOR  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

SUZANNE M. BUMP, ESQ.  
AUDITOR

TEL: (617) 727-0025

2021-1328-3S

May 5, 2021

Michael J. Bobbit, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
10 St. James Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Boston, MA 02116-3803

Dear Mr. Bobbit:

In accordance with Chapter 11, Section 12, of the Massachusetts General Laws, we will be conducting a performance audit of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In government, a performance audit is designed to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of a program, with the goal of implementing improvements. We intend to start this audit on or around May 5, 2021.

The Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS), commonly referred to as the "Yellow Book", are produced in the United States by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The standards apply to both financial and performance audits of government agencies. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with these standards and will include but not be limited to the administration of COVID-19 Relief Funds and the Cultural Organization Economic Recovery Program Funds.

As you may know, Chapter 11, Section 12, of the General Laws requires organizations being audited to provide our audit team with books, documents, and other records pertaining to the audit. We will also make inquiries regarding audit issues with the members of your staff responsible for the functions involved in this audit. If you would like to have a member of your management team meet with our data analytics unit for a better understanding of the process and what may be expected regarding the accuracy, completeness, and security of the information we are requesting, please contact our data analysis Rob Birmingham upon receipt of this letter at 857-242-5580. We ask that all requested records and information be made available to us within 72 hours of the date of the request. Also, we ask that you allow inquiries with your staff to be completed as expeditiously as possible. As part of our audit process, we also may request from management, written confirmation of statements your staff made to us during the audit.

At the completion of our audit, we will provide your agency with a draft copy of our audit report for your review and comments. Your comments should be forwarded to us within 15 days of notification. Also, if you would like a formal exit meeting please request the meeting at this time.

Karen LaPlante of our staff will contact you to make arrangements for an entrance conference to be scheduled for the week of May 3, 2021. She can be contacted at 857-242-5764 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Elaine Silva  
Audit Manager  
[elaine.silva@sao.state.ma.us](mailto:elaine.silva@sao.state.ma.us)  
(857) 242-5404

cc: David Slatery, Deputy Director, Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Nina Fialkow, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Alicia Daniel, Deputy General Counsel, Office of State Auditor  
Abigail Durland, Legislative Affairs Coordinator, Office of State Auditor  
Kim Stanley, Audit Planning Manager, Office of State Auditor  
Robert Birmingham, Data Analyst Manager, Office of the State Auditor



## **ATTACHMENT**

Please email the following requested information prior to the entrance conference to [karen.laplante@sao.state.ma.us](mailto:karen.laplante@sao.state.ma.us):

- Organizational Chart during the audit period and Current organizational chart or table identifying the organizational structure, divisions, and locations within the organization.
- History/background of agency inception, Current Mission Statement, and Strategic Plan.
- List of all employees, including job title, from March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020.
- Internal Control Plan along with any Risk Assessments performed by management from March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
- Agency policies and procedures and/or any Fraud Policy relating to COVID-19 Relief Funds and the Cultural Organization Economic Recovery Program.
- Documents related to any recent audits or program reviews related to the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
- Any Chapter 647 reports filed between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.
- Board of Directors minutes of Mass Cultural Council for the audit period March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021
  - Please provide a listing of any sub-committees and purpose of the Board of Directors
  - Board Member listing for March 1, 2020 to present, to include start dates, end dates, Board role, and contact information.
- Any audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies performed on or issued during the audit period March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, including any corrective action plans submitted.
- List of any Information Systems used in-house or contracted out by a third party vendor, Information Systems Technology Manual, Related Security Policies and Procedures, and IT contact person.



*Power of culture*

To: Mass Cultural Council  
Fr: Michael J. Bobbitt, David Slatery, Jenifer Lawless, Bethann Steiner, Kelly Bennett, Dan Blask  
Dt: May 18, 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. These recommendations were presented to the Grants Committee on May 11, 2021 who voted to recommend them to the full Council.

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>

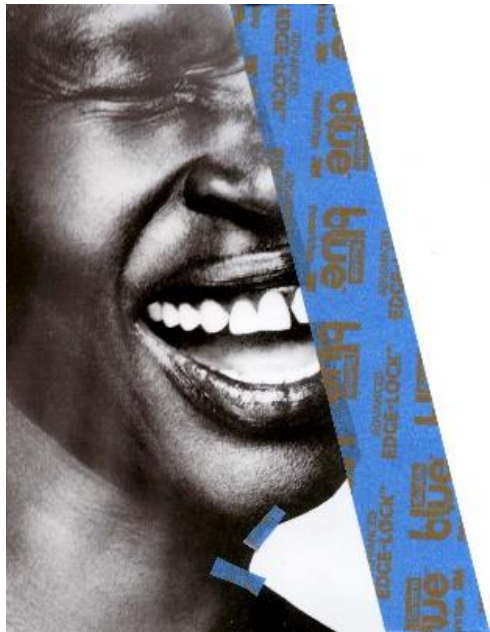


*House Heads (RJD)*, acrylic paint on vintage photograph, 6.5" x 4" x .1"

### **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  
Fr: Michael Bobbitt, Dave Slatery, Jen Lawless, Bethann Steiner  
Date: May 18, 2021  
Re: Two Supplemental Economic Recovery Grant Programs

**Background.** As 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 members may also recall, the Commonwealth's Casino Gaming Law (MGL Chapter 23K) provides that 2% of the Commonwealth's gross gaming tax revenues are 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.") 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 in the COERG program and fund the next 42 unfunded applications 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 the 42 grantees recommended for funding here were next in the list for funding under the COERG program.

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).

**Original COERG Program Funding Priorities.** The new programs will necessarily repeat most of the priorities established for the COERG program. As a reminder, here are the prioritization factors developed for COERG in 2020 with EOHED:

*Funding Prioritization:* Funding was intended to help non-profit cultural organizations adversely impacted by the pandemic. All eligible organizations could apply, preference was given to cultural organizations:

- That had been unable to reopen or have been unable to fully reopen.
- Whose mission was primarily focused on:
  - Presenting, promoting, and/or preserving the cultural traditions, art, history, and creative expression of people of color, women, people with disabilities, veterans, immigrants, people who are LGBTQIA+, and members of other historically underrepresented and underfunded groups, or
  - Advancing and/or supporting artists who are people of color, women, people with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQIA+, and members of other underrepresented and underfunded groups.
- That had not received aid from other federal programs related to COVID-19.
- That operated a cultural facility they own or lease
- That were located in a [Gateway City](#) or in an under-resourced rural town.
- That supported economic recovery through their participation in: State Designated Cultural District, Organization Improvement District (BID), Transformative Development Initiative District.

### **Today's Proposed Programs are Completely Separate New Programs..**

Because of strict federal funding guidelines prohibiting mixing of different federal and state funding sources<sup>1</sup>, staff is requesting approval of two separate new programs today. The first program will be funded by the

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

NEA ARP funds and will provide grants to \$844,000 of the next ranked COERG applicants that did not receive funding 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 the following next ranked COERG applicants that did not receive funding 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. COERG made grants of up to \$100,000.
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 slightly different 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 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.
- Some interesting facts about the 42 organizations recommended for SERG-FED and SERG-MA funding:
  - Through the COERG program 51 grants were made to cultural organizations whose mission primarily focuses on presenting, promoting, and/or preserving the cultural traditions, art, history, and creative expression of people of color, women, people with disabilities, veterans, immigrants, people who are LGBTQIA+, and members of other historically underrepresented groups. There were 57 eligible organizations that met this criterion. Through these new funding programs, we are reaching **4** more of these organizations that we did not reach through COERG.
  - **Nine (21%)** of the proposed grantees have never received funding from us before. They are receiving a total of \$264,000.
  - **Eight (19%)** of the proposed grantees had not received any federal funding at the time of application. They are receiving a total of \$89,000.
  - A geographic breakdown of the grantees of the two new programs (as well as the original COERG applicants and grantees) is attached as Exhibit C to this memo.

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 Council of the two Supplemental Economic Recovery Grants programs described above, allocate \$844,000 of NEA ARP funds on the SERG-FED program (and allocate the remaining \$700 of

NEA ARP funds to be applied to Council facility expenses), allocate \$738,000 of Organizational Support monies in the Fund to the SERG-MA program.

## EXHIBIT A

### SERG-FED GRANTS

Name	City	Grant
ArtsBoston, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
Berkshire Pulse, Inc.	Great Barrington	\$50,000
Boston Center for the Arts, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
Boston Modern Orchestra Project	Malden	\$50,000
Inspire Arts and Music, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Inc.	Becket	\$50,000
Northampton Arts Council	Northampton	\$44,000
Odyssey Opera of Boston, Inc.	Malden	\$50,000
Peabody Essex Museum, Inc.	Salem	\$50,000
Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra, Inc.	Plymouth	\$50,000
Revolutionary Spaces, Inc.	Boston	\$50,000
Rockport Music, Inc.	Rockport	\$50,000
The Community Art Center, Inc.	Cambridge	\$50,000
The Dance Complex, Inc.	Cambridge	\$50,000
Worcester Art Museum	Worcester	\$50,000
Worcester County Mechanics Association	Worcester	\$50,000

\$844,000



## EXHIBIT B

### SERG-MA GRANTS

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

\$738,000

## EXHIBIT C

Regional Breakdown of COERG Applicants, COERG grantees  
and proposed SERG-FED and SERG-MA grantees

Region	# of Total Applicants	%	COERG Grants	%	SERG Grants	%
Greater Boston	153	36%	66	36%	15	36%
Central	24	6%	13	7%	3	7%
Metrowest	26	6%	13	7%	1	2%
Northeast	50	12%	19	10%	7	17%
Southeast	95	22%	34	19%	6	14%
Western	77	18%	38	21%	10	24%
	425	100%	183	100%	42	100%

To: Mass Cultural Council  
From: Michael Bobbitt, Dave Slatery, Jen Lawless, Bethann Steiner Sara  
Glidden, Cheyenne Cohn-Postell  
Date: May 18, 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 Council 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, and 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 be run before the end of FY21, staff took advantage of the pause to investigate and refine the program and also to wait until the resources in the Fund accumulated 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:

- \$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 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 is requesting 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).

The Grants Committee reviewed this proposal on May 11 and recommended approval by the full Council. Staff requests the Council approve the 2021 Round of the Gaming Mitigation Program described above and allocates up to \$3,000,000 of Gaming Mitigation monies in the Fund to such round.

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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.



To Mass Cultural Council  
From Michael Bobbitt, David Slatery, Luis Cotto, Lisa Simmons  
Re Massachusetts Cultural District Initiative: Designation – Cities of Bedford & Boston  
Date May 18, 2021

We are pleased to submit a recommendation for the designation of two Cultural Districts in the Commonwealth, the proposed Bedford Cultural District in Bedford, MA, and the proposed Little Saigon Cultural District in the Fields Corner micro neighborhood of Boston. Bedford would become the fourth Cultural District in the lower Greater Merrimack Valley, joining the Maynard Cultural District and Concord's Concord Village and West Concord Junction Cultural Districts. The Little Saigon Cultural District would become the fourth in the City, joining the Fenway Cultural District, Boston's Latin Quarter, and the Roxbury Cultural District.

### **Bedford**

Bedford is the custodian of the Bedford Flag; the nation's first flag flown in battle (Lexington and Concord). Proponents began the process that got them to today in 2016 with the creation of the Bedford Arts and Culture Working Group. The Group includes participants from the Bedford Arts and Crafts Society, Bedford Historical Society, The Bedford Citizen, Bedford Cultural Council, Middlesex Community College, First Parish Church, Bedford Public Schools, Bedford Center for the Arts Photo Group, Bedford Chamber of Commerce, Bedford Selectmen, and Planning Board.

The proposed district's panhandle like boundaries are anchored by three vertices which show off the district's strengths: their ties to the American Revolution, a rich bicycling tradition, and a town hall campus that serves as a community gathering space. Their Depot Park complex, which serves as the Bedford terminus of the Minuteman Bikeway, includes an historic freight house (visitors center) with an accompanying vintage rail diesel car from the former Boston & Maine Railroad. One other historic building houses an active stain glass artist's collective and a stone carving studio that is an active workshop space. Another railway, the Bedford Narrow Gauge Rail-Trail, leads to the Veterans Park where one finds Bedford's The Patriot statue, by Bruce Papitto, commissioned by the Cultural Council in 2000. The district's third point is their Town Center campus that is conveniently set aside from the main road and houses two municipal office buildings, a high school, middle school, and an expanded library where the original Bedford Flag resides in a special room on the Flag Balcony, protected from heat, light, and humidity. It can be viewed at any time the Library is open. The nucleus includes the old Town Center, the Town Common, the town's old burial ground, and a density of shops. The burial grounds date to 1729 and, amongst the interred, holds the remains of formerly enslaved soldiers who fought in the conflict.

Bedford's cultural assets include five galleries, two artists' studios, a high performing Cultural Council, two regionally recognized artists associations, and a Town

administration and locally elected officials that recognize the arts, and a potential cultural district, as a valuable economic development strategy for the community.

### **Boston Little Saigon**

Boston Little Saigon mirrors Boston's Chinatown and the Latin Quarter Cultural District with its density of residents as almost 40% of residents are of Vietnamese descent. Boston has the largest population of Vietnamese Americans in the Northeast and 75% live in the proposed district. While interest for a Cultural District started locally amongst local stakeholders in 2014, it wasn't until January of 2018 when the lead applicant, the Networking Organization for Vietnamese Americans (NOVA Boston), started working towards that goal. The organization guided the application locally for two years with a series of community meetings which led to a successful City Council vote in September of 2019 in support of the Cultural District.

The proposed district houses the nation's first Vietnamese-American Community Center and the Luc Hoa Buddhist Center and Temple. Little Saigon is a bustling center with more than 200 shops, services, and restaurants. The applicants have a commitment to highlight, recognize, and preserve the current Vietnamese American experience through its arts, culture and traditions. This is work that has been happening and, with a cultural district designation, the hope is to leverage a designation towards making the district a destination for outside visitors. From a mobility standpoint, the district is in a major stop on the MBTA's Red Line with various bus lines that run through it as well as adequate bicycling infrastructure. Since the application process started, NOVA Boston has established an office in the district with plans of creating a visitor center.

The district has a major cultural anchor with the Dorchester Art Project, a community driven art space who serves a largely BIPOC community of artists in Dorchester and Greater Boston by providing affordable studio, performance, gallery, and community gathering space. This past year, during the pandemic, the organization expanded to occupy their building's street level retail space in order to provide space for artists to sell their works. The district also has a key partner with the local Main Streets org, Fields Corner Main Street (FCMS), one of 20 in Boston, which also participates in creative placemaking initiatives in the district. Recently FCMS hired a local photographer as an artist in residence to capture the community to display virtually. The Fields Corner Library is, like many libraries in our Commonwealth's district, an active cultural asset by coordinating Vietnamese cultural programs such as lantern making and traditional fan and hat dances.

Staff requests the Council vote to designate the cultural districts described above for Bedford and the Little Saigon Cultural District in Boston.

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING CALL-IN INSTRUCTIONS  
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021  
11:30 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: 151st Meeting of the Mass Cultural Council  
Time: May 18, 2021 11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83015661702>

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