

Fiscal Year 2020

State Budget Request

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New FY20 Investment: \$750,000

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

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

New FY20 Investment: \$500,000

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

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

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

New FY20 Investment: \$500,000

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

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

New FY20 Investment: \$250,000

Background:

Mass Cultural Council is a state agency that promotes excellence, education, diversity, and inclusion in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to improve our quality of life and contribute to the vitality of our communities and economy. It pursues this mission through a wide range of grants, initiatives, and advocacy for artists, communities, organizations, and schools. Its FY19 budget is \$18 million, which includes a \$16 million state appropriation and grants from the National

Endowment for the Arts and other sources. The agency also runs the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) in partnership with MassDevelopment, with a separate, \$10 million allocation from the state's capital budget.

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