



# Power of Culture

Boston Dance Alliance:  
Photo by Kimberly  
Maroon



*Power of culture*

# FY21: A year like no other

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## **Cultural sector facing multiple crises:**

COVID-19 pandemic, Economic Collapse, Racial Inequity and Systemic Racism, complete disruption to previous non-profit business models

## **Agency in transitional year:**

Dramatically shortened fiscal year for grantmaking, interim leadership, adapting to working from home, being responsive to needs of field and of staff, preparing for new Executive Director

# Continuing to offer Stability, Service, Trusted Partnership

**In a year of chaos and change, we want to offer our constituents:**

- As much predictability, stability, and consistency as we can
- High levels of service tailored to their needs right now
- True partnership that allows us to listen, learn, and move ahead together

# Adapting to serve the field

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## Changes & modifications made to help field:

**Recover** – financial support and services that we can provide the cultural sector to ensure they have “safe harbor” and do not fold.

**Rebuild** – economic investments are necessary to help orgs and individuals prepare to reopen safely – capital investments, training, shifting from in-person to remote programs, etc.

**Renew** – looking inward at the sector, and working to promote access, dismantle systemic racism, so when we can reengage with the public we do so starting “fresh and anew”

# Recover, Rebuild, Renew

## How we are adapting to serve the field

- Modified guidelines across programs to ensure processes are flexible and supportive and to minimize negative impact of COVID-19 on applicants and grantees
- Modifying contracting processes to be COVID-19 responsive - emailing contract packages to organizations since many are not in the office but mailing contracts to individuals because many lack access to printer.



# Mass Cultural Council Budget: Fiscal Year 2021

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Massachusetts State House

**Total: \$24,038,741**

State Appropriation: \$18,180,000

NEA Grants: \$959,600

Applied Gaming Funds: \$3,882,962

Other funds: \$1,016,179

# Amount Granted: FY20 and FY21

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## Including Gaming Funds

**FY20:** \$16,794,213

**FY21:** \$19,621,072

## Excluding Gaming Funds

**FY20:** \$16,047,213

**FY21:** \$16,173,191

# Summary of Legislative Language

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1. Align spending with strategic plan
2. Invest 75% of state funding in grants
3. Report on spending by January 15, 2021



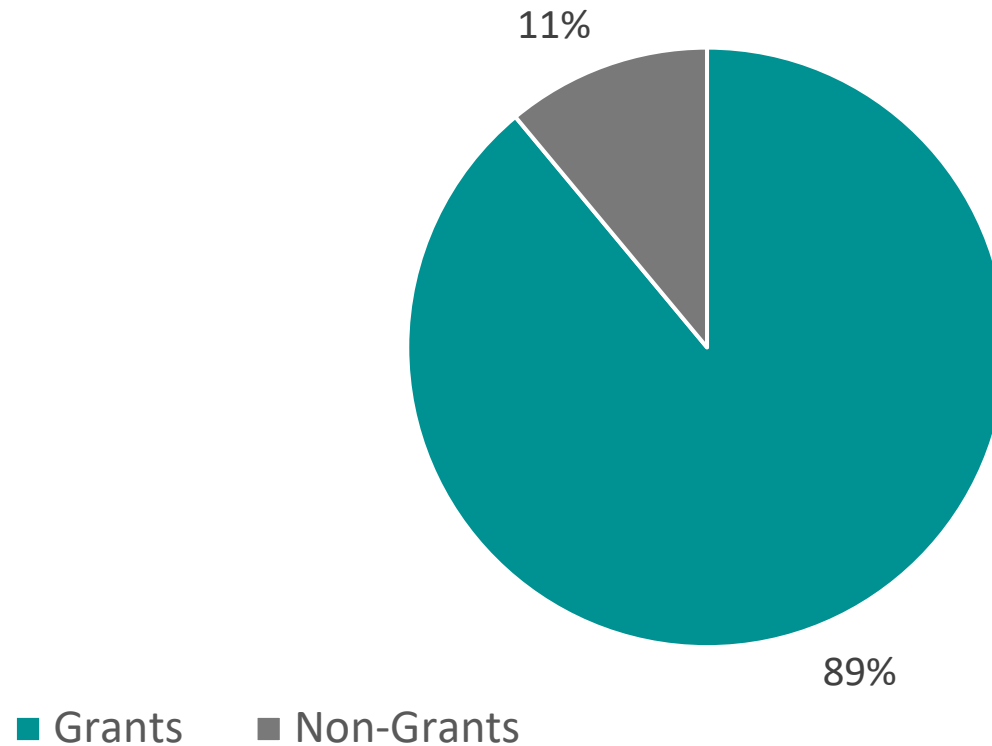
# Percentage of Appropriation Spent on Grants - Including Gaming Funds

**108%** of the State Appropriation (\$18,180,000) is being awarded in grants.

Total in Grants = \$19,621,072

# Percentage of Appropriation Spent on Grants - Excluding Gaming

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# Spending Plan Aligns with Strategic Plan

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Mural in Springfield

# Enriching Communities

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Revolving Museum, City of Lights Parade by Jim Higgins

## Goal

Amplify cultural vitality in cities and towns through integrated community-focused grants, initiatives, and advocacy.

# Enriching Communities

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**Increase the impact of community-led efforts to sustain and promote a rich cultural life by providing communities the resources, training, and tools needed to increase their capacity and effect change.**

- Increase to Local Cultural Councils to help them support their communities
- Increase in funding to Cultural Districts to help them support their districts' efforts to recover and rebuild
- Help festivals rebuild and transition to remote delivery and/or new approaches to audience engagement and community celebrations, continue Festival LAB with ArtsBoston

# Enriching Communities

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**Increase the impact of community-led efforts to sustain and promote a rich cultural life by providing communities the resources, training, and tools needed to increase their capacity and effect change.**

- Reimagine and revamp Cultural District designation process to align with Current COVID reality with aim of designating three new districts
- Robust online service agenda with bi-weekly Community check-ins, regular office hours, up to 6 regional meetings, a virtual cultural district event, and more



# Enriching Communities

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**Partner with regional, state, and local stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth to elevate the importance of culture and artists in community building.**

Maintain support for partner funders:

- Mass Humanities
- New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)

# Growing the Economy

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Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, photo by Michael Lavin Flower

## Goal

Enhance the Commonwealth's economic vitality by helping artists and cultural organizations thrive.

# Growing the Economy

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**Support the economic health of communities through targeted investments in artists and the cultural sector.**

- Invest new \$10 million through Cultural Facilities Fund promoting option to use of CFF funds to support necessary COVID-19 capital investments. Secure FY22 allocation via Governor's capital plan.
- Maintain vital, reliable operating support through Cultural Investment Portfolio
- Increase investment in Gateway to ensure pathways for more organizations to Portfolio funding

# Growing the Economy

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**Support the economic health of communities through targeted investments in artists and the cultural sector.**

- Award 75 Artist Fellowship Grants and 35 Finalist Grants to artists
- Make a major investment in second round of economic relief funding for individual artists and teaching artists/humanists/scientists to reach 433 individuals with \$1,500 grants. May make more awards if other resources become available
- Work with a partner to offer artists workshops responding to their specific needs working in the COVID environment

# Growing the Economy

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**Support the economic health of communities through targeted investments in artists and the cultural sector.**

- Continuation of Safe Harbors work with 39 additional technical assistance opportunities for organizations around a variety of urgent topics. Free to all organizations, whether they are a grantee or not
- Cross agency teams developing technical assistance to provide guidance related to COVID-19 safety and share and promote best practices for remote programming

# Growing the Economy

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**Build strategic alliances between the cultural sector, private developers, state agencies, and other Massachusetts community and economic development groups to stimulate economic growth.**

- Invest \$10 million of federal CARES funding through Economic Recovery Grants for Cultural Organizations on behalf of EOHED and Baker-Polito Administration, received over 400 applications



# Growing the Economy

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

- Maintain Media Partnership Grants

# Advancing Inclusion and Equity

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Wheelock Family Theatre

## Goal

Promote more diverse and inclusive participation in the cultural sector by ensuring equity in policies, practices, and opportunities.

# Advancing Inclusion and Equity

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**Cultivate a culture of equity and inclusion within Mass Cultural Council to ensure these values are reflected in all our grants and initiatives.**

- Continue our internal work with BRIDGE including our all-staff trainings and consultation time
- Added line item to support racial equity and DEIA initiatives coming out of our all-staff agency sessions and the public forums
- Will report back after sessions about what came out of them and how we propose moving forward

# Advancing Inclusion and Equity

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**Encourage full participation in Mass Cultural Council-supported programs by promoting universal design principles, inclusive practices, and equitable access for all.**

- Maintain Universal Participation (UP) Innovation Fund grants and LEAD Professional Development grants.
- Adapt UP Innovation Learning Network to fully remote learning network.
- Offer several workshops to field focused on trauma and healing arts practices
- Increase funding to Project grants to amplify ability of the program reach organizations that are new to us and increase focus on promoting diversity, inclusion, equity and access through prioritization and review

# Advancing Inclusion and Equity

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**Increase diversity in the sector by creating connections and expanding leadership opportunities for people of color, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups.**

- Maintain funding for Network for Arts Administrators of Color (NAAC).

# Advancing Inclusion and Equity

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**Support artists and organizations working in diverse cultural traditions and/or underrepresented communities, with improved outreach, focused investment, and technical assistance.**

- Increase investment in traditional artists through the Traditional Arts Apprenticeships



# Empowering a Creative Generation

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Museum of Science

## Goal

Enhance creative learning experiences in schools and communities that instill agency in, and support the growth of, creative, productive, independent-minded young people.

# Empowering a Creative Generation

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**Provide targeted resources and training to increase the depth and quality of creative learning for youth in and out of school.**

- Increase investment in YouthReach/SerHacer orgs to help them continue to recover and rebuild
- Adapt STARS to serve schools in ever changing educational environment
- Continue support of Creative Minds Out of School, Poetry Out Loud, and Instrument Program

# Empowering a Creative Generation

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**Provide targeted resources and training to increase the depth and quality of creative learning for youth in and out of school.**

- Support Youth Arts Impact Network to extend Boston-specific resources to organizations outside of Boston and engage new CYD programs ahead of the next grant cycle
- Pause Music Educators and Teaching Artists (META) Fellowships and CYD Teaching Artists Fellowships
- Pause Big Yellow School Bus and Amplify

# Empowering a Creative Generation

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**Expand opportunities for youth to engage in culture through strategic partnerships with agencies and organizations that share common goals.**

- Provide funding to Mass History Day, partner with history organizations & schools to expand student participation
- Pilot the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) CYD Alumni Council to formalize youth voice on our team, in our agency, and in the field





Keepers of Tradition  
Showcase



*Power of culture*