

# FY22 State Budget Request

Mass Cultural Council, the state agency responsible for promoting excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences, fostering a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents, and contributing to the vitality of our communities and state economy **requests a FY22 state appropriation of \$20 million**, a \$1.82 million increase from the current fiscal year. The Agency will invest these resources into a portfolio of programs and services that enhance, support, and promote the cultural sector in every corner of the Commonwealth and provide stability for artists and cultural organizations as they continue to rebuild and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Just the Facts

Data shows that a robust investment in the arts, humanities, and sciences through Mass Cultural Council delivers significant returns to the Commonwealth. Whether in Greater Boston, Cape Cod, the Berkshires, or in between, nonprofit cultural organizations drive local economies in every region of the state. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the cultural nonprofit organizations supported by Mass Cultural Council:

- Generated **\$2.3 billion** in annual economic activity across the Commonwealth.
- Supported more than **71,000 full time equivalent jobs** statewide.
- Produced more than **\$128 million in new revenues** for Massachusetts, and
- Every dollar awarded was leveraged to raise an **additional \$157** in private funds.

## Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

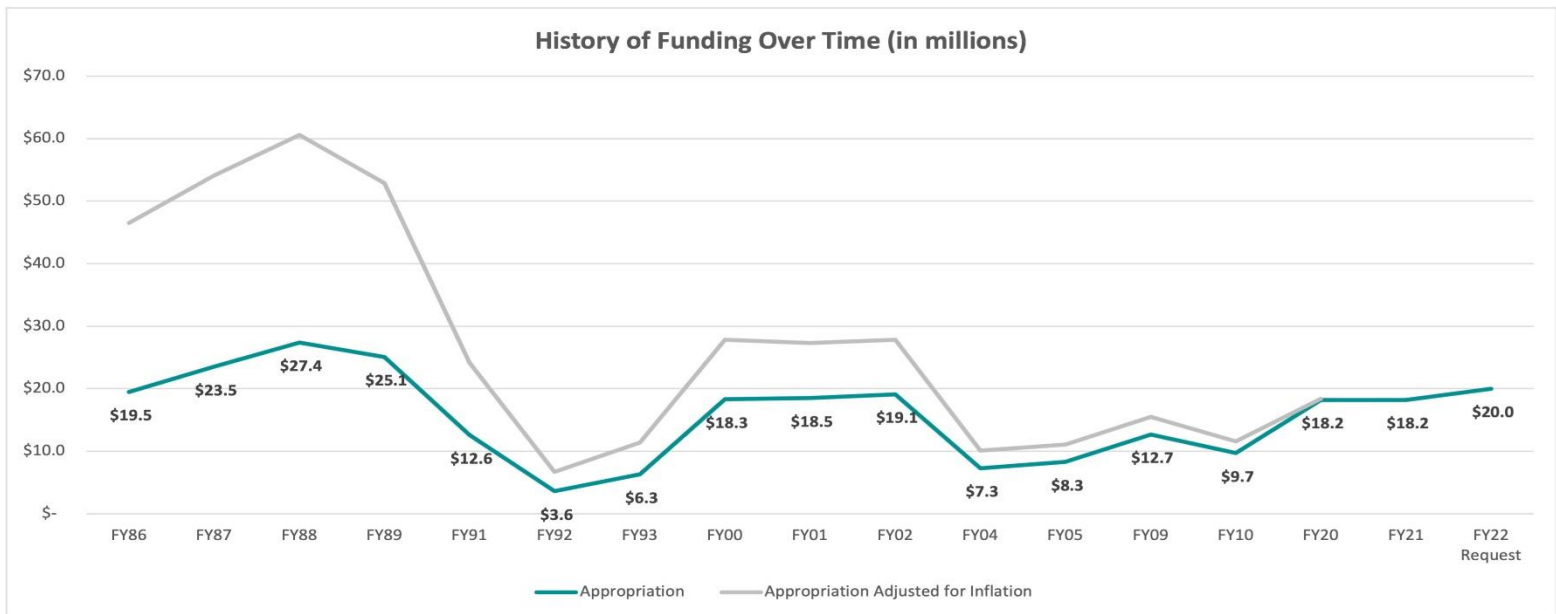
Since March 2020 Mass Cultural Council has surveyed the cultural sector five times to document the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Commonwealth's cultural sector:

- In February 2021 Massachusetts cultural organizations reported a staggering total loss of **more than \$588.3 million in revenue and that 30,009 cultural sector jobs have been impacted** in the past year, due to COVID-19 related cancellations and closures.
- Further, in February 2021, just under 3,000 individual artists, teaching artists, humanists, and scientists who live and work in Massachusetts reported a total loss of **more than \$30.4 million in personal income and 67,986 cancelled gigs** in the past year, due to the pandemic.

- Robust public investment is necessary to stabilize and restore the Commonwealth's once vibrant and booming cultural sector. **Massachusetts' state economy cannot fully recover from the pandemic without the contributions of individual artists and cultural organizations.**

## Looking Back: Previous State Appropriations | Line Item 0640-0300

Mass Cultural Council is deeply appreciative of our legislative champions and advocacy partners who work diligently each year to incrementally restore the Agency's line item to previous funding levels approved in the late 1980s and early 2000s. When secured, additional revenues are immediately invested by Mass Cultural Council into programs and services supporting Massachusetts' communities, artists, students, and cultural organizations.



## Looking Ahead/A Call to Action

The once booming Massachusetts cultural sector has been economically devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our stakeholders: artists, communities, nonprofit cultural organizations, and K-12 students will further suffer from reduced programming and grant activity if Mass Cultural Council's funding is cut in FY22 as suggested by the Governor's H1 recommendation.

**Mass Cultural Council requests line item 0640-0300 be funded at \$20M in FY22, because in all its forms, culture is essential to the health and vitality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

This level of support will make a demonstrable impact to the state economy. The Agency will continue to invest in artists, communities, cultural nonprofits, and K-12 students and provide meaningful, core services to help stabilize the sector as it continues to recover, rebuild, and renew post COVID.

Please join Mass Cultural Council in embracing the #PowerOfCulture and support a continued robust state investment in the arts, humanities, and sciences.