

Posted online 6/20/25



*Power of culture*

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL  
PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025: 1:00 PM

BROADCAST MEETING

**MEETING WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT**

**<https://www.youtube.com/live/CAyvS6iLdzw>**

**MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED AT**

**[HTTPS://MASSCULTURALCOUNCIL.ORG/ABOUT/BOARD/](https://massculturalcouncil.org/about/board/)**

**UNDER “JUNE 25, 2025 PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING”**

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
1. Call to Order and Open Meeting Law Notice	
2. Minutes Approval- February 12, 2025 Meeting	<b>X</b>
3. Chairs' Report	
4. Executive Director Report	
5. Data Presentation on FY 26 Grants	
6. FY 26 Grants Program Preview	
7. Discussion	
8. Adjourn	

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

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

#### **ONLINE MEETING**

**Committee Members Present** were

Cecil Barron-Jensen, Co-Chair of the Programs Committee  
Julie Wake, Co-Chair of the Programs Committee  
Marc Carroll, Council Chair  
Jo-Ann Davis, Council Vice Chair  
Emily Bramhall  
Donna Haghighat  
Ashley Occhino  
Mark Snyder

**Staff Members Present** were

Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director  
David Slatery, Deputy Executive Director  
Jen Lawless, Senior Director of Program Operations  
Catherine Cheng-Anderson, Senior Director of Business Operations and Chief Financial Officer  
Bethann Steiner, Senior Director of Public Affairs  
Ann Petruccelli Moon, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Carmen Plazas, Communications & Community Engagement Manager  
Dan Blask, Program Manager  
Carolyn Cole, Special Projects Manager for Advancement  
Summer Confuorto, Program Officer  
Lillian Lee, Program Officer  
Sara Glidden, Program Manager  
Carolyn Cole, Program Officer

Co-Chair Cecil Barron Jensen called the meeting to order at 1:03pm and asked Deputy Executive Director David Slatery to read the Open Meeting Law statement. David read the Open Meeting Law statement. Cecil then asked if Committee Members had reviewed the minutes of their last meeting held on October 16, 2024, and called for a motion to approve them. Mark Snyder moved to approve the minutes; Programs

**Prepared on 3/28/25**

Committee Co-Chair Julie Wake seconded the motion. By roll call vote and noting that Simone Early was absent all were in favor, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Programs Committee approves the minutes of the October 16, 2024 Programs Committee Meeting in the form presented at the meeting.

Cecil let Committee Members know that she and Co-Chair Julie Wake did not have anything official to report and unless there were questions, she would ask Senior Director of Program Operations Jen Lawless to begin her update. There were no questions.

Jen began by sharing that she is excited about a new staffing configuration: Artists and Youth program staff members have formed one team under Program Manager Dan Blask. She then shared a document outlining grant program consolidation and realignment efforts that have taken place between FY21 and FY26. This effort has helped staff to broaden their focus and created time for work supporting the Agency's advancement goals. The document is available upon request.

The FY26 applications for two grant programs will open soon – Operating Grants for Organizations opens February 18 and closes April 17; Creative Experiences opens March 4 and closes April 30. Jen noted that YouthReach will now alternate with Operating Grants for Organizations and the Gaming Mitigation Program will be offered every other year.

Vice Chair Jo-Ann Davis asked about statutory requirements for the annual distribution of Gaming funds. Jen clarified that eligible organizations are still able to receive Gaming grants but must choose between the Gaming Mitigation Fund and Operating Grants for Organizations; and Dave added that while  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the funds must be used for a "gaming mitigation program", the statute does not dictate frequency with which grants are to be made.

Mark Snyder asked how staff anticipate changes within the federal government might impact Mass Cultural Council. Michael explained that 80% of FY25 funds from the National Endowment for the Arts have been received; the last 20% has been requested and approved and it is anticipated the Agency will receive them soon. The future- FY26 and thereafter- is unknown and once more is revealed, senior staff will work to formulate a plan to adapt to any changes.

Mark then asked how ready the staff is to determine if applicants are receiving more than one grant. Jen explained that the process is 90% of the way there and all done through the Grants Management System. Mass Cultural Council is aiming to implement safeguards so that people can only apply for opportunities they are eligible for. The goal is to take this in stages, ensuring organizations don't feel like they're suddenly losing support. By allowing applicants to apply for all opportunities they qualify for and select the most beneficial grant, we provide flexibility while maintaining control over the process. Michael's outreach to the largest affected organizations has already yielded positive results. Increasing the number of new organizations we can fund is a priority. While some in the sector may initially feel disappointed, we've found that when we explain the rationale behind these changes, there is a better understanding of the approach. Michael added that it is rare for organizations to receive multiple grants each year from the same funder and that the cultural asset mapping data shows that

the cultural sector is far larger than anyone understood it to be; the number of declined applications will continue to increase.

Cecil asked if there is a certain approach Council Members should take when they spread the word about grant opportunities so that applications are encouraged but disappointment is mitigated.

Jen explained that the Agency always wants to encourage applicants and prioritizes new applicants to ensure we're reaching a broader audience. The success rate for organizational applicants is around 70%, down from 90%, while for individuals, the success rate is only 14%. Dan Blask shared that while 14% sounds low, it's triple what the success rate was in FY21. Jen continued sharing that the team strives to make applications as simple and concise as possible, recognizing that not everyone will receive funding. The goal is to lower barriers to entry while maintaining a fair and accessible process. Michael added that this is the main reason the Agency is ramping up Advancement efforts; grant dollars will never be enough to be able to meet the need that exists within the sector.

Emily Bramhall asked if Operating Grants for Organizations are two-year grants or one-year grants since Jen shared the program would be offered every other year. Jen explained that they are four-year grants, and the program application is open every two years.

There were no further questions.

Cecil asked Special Projects Manager for Advancement Carolyn Cole for her update on the Cultural Districts Initiative redesign. Carolyn gave a presentation on the project thus far. The staff is working in collaboration with Civic Moxie on the redesign and has engaged more than 25 state agencies in the process. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

Cecil asked Carolyn if she had engaged Chambers of Commerce in the process. Chambers of Commerce were not a focus group, but some current districts are managed by their city or town's Chamber.

Mark agreed with Cecil and encouraged the team to work with Chambers of Commerce as they move ahead with the project as he knows they can be a big help especially with public relations efforts.

There were no further questions.

Cecil encouraged Committee Members to do their Conflict-of-Interest training if they hadn't already. She then asked David to review the Conflict-of-Interest list before moving on to a vote on additional FY25 grants. David reviewed the list with the Committee and there were no updates. Cecil then asked Jen to give a brief report on the grants the Committee would be voting to recommend.

Jen explained that Committee Members received a memo from each staff team in their meeting materials and shared a few highlights:

**Gaming Mitigation:** A big congratulations to Program Officer Lillian Lee for her work on the program alongside Sara Glidden and the Grants team. While the total number of grantees remains the same, 34% are new to Gaming. Lillian led a re-design conversation that expanded access for less traditional presenting models, making the process easier for both applicants and staff. Decisions came down to the wire as applicants made decisions about whether to receive a Gaming grant or an Operating grant.

**Operating Grants for Organizations & Cultural Investment Portfolio:** With decisions finalized, we were able to add additional grantees. Committee Members will notice two organizations that should have been on the November list but were left off, plus one new addition.

**Grants for Creative Individuals:** The application success rate landed at 14%, and the team gained valuable insights into the applicant pool—56% were new applicants, and 98% are receiving their first Mass Cultural Council grant. Also, with some reshuffling and cancellations to be evaluated in the next week, the February Council meeting will include 12 more grantees beyond what is listed in today's materials, which we're excited to identify and support.

Jen thanked the Programs team for their hard work.

Cecil asked if there were any questions for Jen or the team and there were none. She then asked for a motion to approve the grant recommendations. Julie moved to approve the recommendations; Donna seconded the motion. By roll call vote and noting that Simone Early was absent and that the following Committee Members did not deliberate or participate in the vote on the following organizations:

Marc Carroll  
a. Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra  
b. The Rivers School

Jo-Ann Davis  
a. The Care Center  
b. Springfield Museums  
c. MASS Creative

Cecil Barron Jensen  
a. Artists Association of Nantucket  
b. Egan Maritime Institute  
c. Nantucket Cultural District

Donna Haghighat  
a. WAM Theater

Julie Wake  
a. Arts Foundation of Cape Cod

Ashley Occhino  
a. Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition/One South Coast Chamber Foundation  
b. Southeastern Massachusetts Visitors Bureau

- c. SouthCoast Community Foundation
- d. Society of Arts and Crafts

It was

RESOLVED: To recommend to the full Council approval of the Gaming Mitigation Fund grants as described and presented at the Programs Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend approval by the full Council the final list of Operating Grants for Organizations as described in the memo provided at the Programs Committee Meeting.

RESOLVED: To recommend to the full Council approval of the Grants for Creative Individuals as described and presented at the Programs Committee Meeting

The end of the agenda had been reached and Cecil, as Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 1:56pm.





# Culture Counts



Power of culture

Hannah Parker, RAW Art Works  
alum, with her artwork



# National Data

*Work by Beth Galston, Artist  
Fellow FY13, FY02*



# Mass Cultural Council Grantmaking

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How do we compare to  
other State Arts Agencies  
across the country?

(FY23 Data)

National Assembly of  
State Arts Agencies  
(NASAA) Report

State Arts Agency Grant Making				
Fiscal Year 2023				
	Total Grants Awarded		Communities Funded	Grantees Funded
State	Number	Dollars	Number	Number
Alabama	451	\$5,244,337	88	283
Alaska	164	\$1,177,598	34	123
Arizona	486	\$5,370,747	60	478
Arkansas	351	\$2,151,182	62	210
California	894	\$23,722,654	168	724
Colorado	148	\$12,410,000	50	147
Connecticut	369	\$2,585,058	83	288
Delaware	267	\$3,825,188	34	221
District of Columbia	1,020	\$37,801,818	22	729
Florida	718	\$49,117,964	140	674
Georgia	351	\$4,759,346	114	285
Guam	9	\$74,100	4	9
Hawaii	160	\$1,534,575	46	147
Idaho	246	\$831,381	60	215
Illinois	1,153	\$61,694,695	155	924
Indiana	479	\$3,348,831	120	464
Iowa	197	\$1,525,006	67	195
Kansas	65	\$494,235	30	62
Kentucky	215	\$1,385,808	72	203
Louisiana	193	\$1,282,359	54	158
Maine	109	\$478,107	58	104
Maryland	1,892	\$48,882,742	194	1,151
Massachusetts	7,147	\$77,693,455	436	6,284

# Mass Cultural Council Reach – Broadest in the Country

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In FY23, we were **2nd in the nation** in the amount of money we granted: \$77,693,455.

We were **1st in the nation** in terms of:

- The number of grants made: 7,147
- The number of grantees served: 6,284
- The number of communities\* we reached: 436

\*NASAA counts unique ZIP codes to stand in for “communities.” I believe there are 680 to 703 ZIP codes in use in MA. I can’t find a definitive answer

# Mass Cultural Council Reach – Broadest in the Country

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State	Total Grants Awarded		Communities Funded	Grantees Funded
	Number	Dollars	Number	Number
New York	3,806	\$230,389,060	265	1,631
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>7,147</b>	<b>\$77,693,455</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>6,284</b>
Illinois	1,153	\$61,694,695	155	924
Florida	718	\$49,117,964	140	674
Maryland	1,892	\$48,882,742	194	1,151
Minnesota	1,167	\$43,166,216	195	1,005
District of Columbia	1,020	\$37,801,818	22	729
Tennessee	1,026	\$33,118,890	183	669
New Jersey	342	\$28,683,106	141	294
California	894	\$23,722,654	168	724

Sample FY23 State  
Arts Agency  
Grantmaking Data:

10 largest SAAs by  
dollars

Note: Not all our grant making data is included in the report we submit to the NEA/NASAA, which is called the FDR. Therefore, you will see a difference in the FY23 numbers here vs this presentation in prior years.

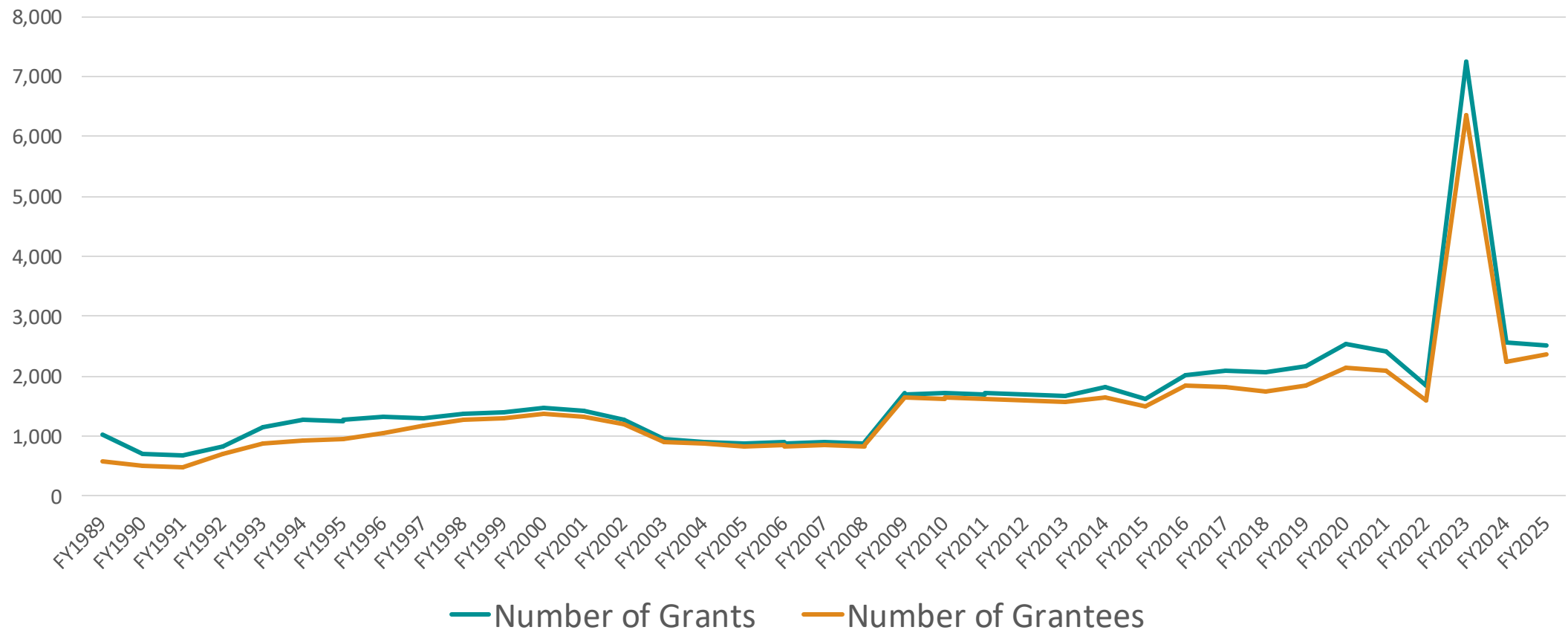


# Our Data Over Time

*Work by Beth Galston, Artist  
Fellow FY13, FY02*

# Reach over time – Number of grants and number of grantees

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# Most Recent Years

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Fiscal Year	Number of Grants	Number of Grantees	Amount Awarded
FY2025	2,522	2,365	\$ 27,628,765
FY2024*	2,573	2,241	\$ 27,497,473
FY2023*	7,247	6,355	\$ 78,362,440
FY2022*	1,847	1,586	\$ 22,982,500
FY2021*	2,410	2,102	\$ 29,107,745
FY2020	2,533	2,155	\$ 16,717,164
FY2019	2,158	1,836	\$ 12,906,679

*\*Includes Pandemic Funds*

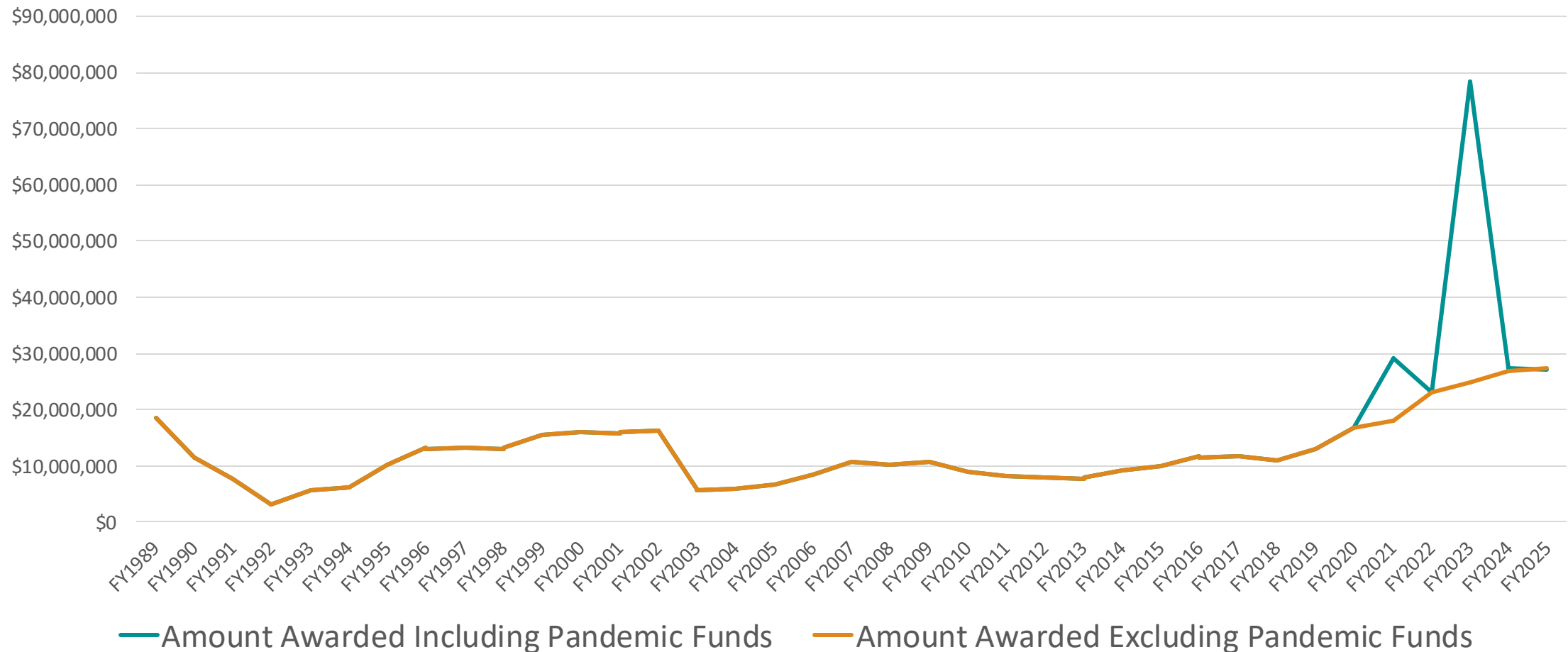
In FY25 we made **51 fewer grants** than in FY24. (FY24 included 139 final pandemic relief grants.)

**But we reached 124 more grantees** than we did in FY24.



# Amount Awarded Over Time

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# FY25 Grantmaking

*IBA's Festival Betances*

# Impact of Updates in FY25

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In FY25 we continued to decrease program overlap, limiting the number of direct grants an organization could receive to ensure we could reach as many grantees as possible.

What was the impact of the changes?

# Reduced Overlap in FY25

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**Number of orgs reached increased by 124** despite making 51 fewer grants.

**Number of orgs getting more than 1 grant decreased** from 205 to 145 in FY25.

**The number of orgs getting more than 1 grant that exceeded \$60,000 total decreased** from 53 to 24 in FY24.

In FY24 we had 18 organizations getting between 4 and 15 grants. **In FY25 the most grants per organization was 3.**

# Reducing Overlap in FY26

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In FY25 there was still overlap between OGO/CIP, YouthReach, And UP Innovation fund grants.

- In FY26 any YouthReach grantee awarded the maximum award in OGO/CIP will not receive YouthReach funding.
- Any that receive below the capped amount in OGO/CIP can receive a YouthReach grant in an amount up to that cap.

In FY27, organizations will have to choose between OGO/CIP **or** YouthReach. Also, in FY27 we will know what UP designation, learning, and funding will look like going forward.

CFF now has a two-year wait period so organizations can only get a capital grant once every three years. That overlap will continue.

# Grantmaking Analysis

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What does FY25 grantmaking look like by program and applicant type?

What does application demand look like for our programs?



# FY25 Grantmaking by Program

15

Program	# of Applications	# of Grants	Requested Amount	Grant Amount
CIP Portfolio	238	238	\$ 5,520,680	\$ 5,018,800
Creative Projects for Schools	501	298	\$ 2,505,000	\$ 1,490,000
Cultural District Grant	58	58	\$ 870,000	\$ 870,000
Festivals & Projects	1,328	730	\$ 3,320,000	\$ 1,825,000
Gaming Mitigation Fund	61	57	\$ 33,804,370	\$ 3,574,200
Grants for Creative Individuals	3,124	447	\$ 15,620,000	\$ 2,235,000
Tribal and Local Cultural Council Allocations	332	332	\$ 6,289,058	\$ 5,751,975
Operating Grants for Organizations	575	154	\$ 31,625,000	\$ 2,176,900
Partnership or Service Project	31	31	\$ 2,219,390	\$ 2,191,890
Universal Participation Innovation Fund	92	92	\$ 460,000	\$ 460,000
YouthReach	85	85	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 1,870,000
	<b>6,425</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>\$ 104,103,497</b>	<b>\$ 27,463,765</b>

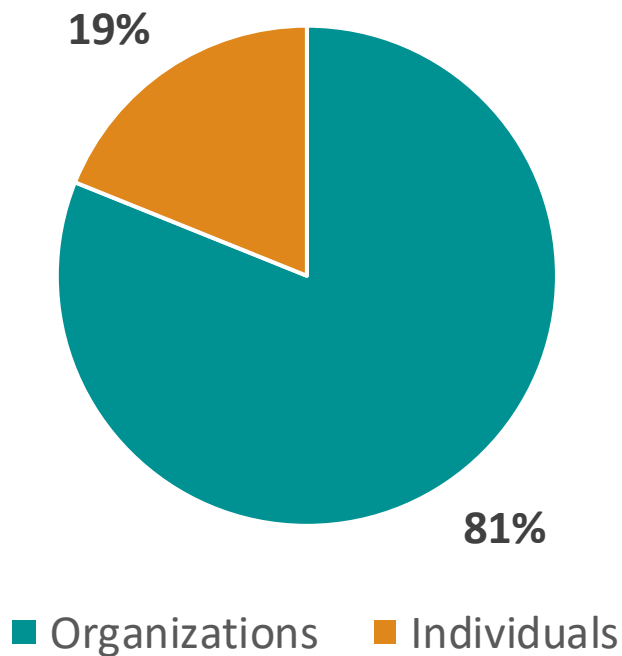
# FY25 Grantmaking by Applicant Type

16

	# of Applications	# of Grants	Requested Amount	Grant Amount
Organizations	3,301	2,075	\$ 88,483,497	\$ 25,228,765
Individuals	3,124	447	\$ 15,620,000	\$ 2,235,000
	6,425	2,522	\$ 104,103,497	\$ 27,463,765

Organization applications had a success rate of 63% (down from 77% last year).  
Individual applications had a success rate of 14% (similar to last year's 13%)

# FY25 Grantees by Type



	Number of Grantees
Organizations	1,918
Individuals	447
Total	2,365

# Cultural Facilities Fund

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Funds and approval through MassDevelopment

FY25:

- 257 applications requesting \$1,429,331,831
- 91 grants totaling \$9,088,500

# Tribal & Local Cultural Councils

19

# Applications	# Grants	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
12,801	7,448	\$ 21,090,234	\$ 7,654,049

LCC/TCC Program allocation = **\$5,551,975 (73%)**

Locally raised & unspent state funds granted = **\$2,102,074 (27%)**

# Collective Impact all Grantmaking

20

Program	# of Applications	# of Grants	Requested Amount	Grant Amount
CIP Portfolio	238	238	\$ 5,520,680	\$ 5,018,800
Creative Projects for Schools	501	298	\$ 2,505,000	\$ 1,490,000
Cultural District Grant	58	58	\$ 870,000	\$ 870,000
Cultural Facilities Fund	255	91	\$ 1,429,331,831	\$ 9,088,500
Festivals & Projects	1,328	730	\$ 3,320,000	\$ 1,825,000
Gaming Mitigation Fund	61	57	\$ 33,804,370	\$ 3,574,200
Grants for Creative Individuals	3,124	447	\$ 15,620,000	\$ 2,235,000
Operating Grants for Organizations	575	154	\$ 31,625,000	\$ 2,176,900
Partnership or Service Project	31	31	\$ 2,219,390	\$ 2,191,890
Universal Participation				
Innovation Fund	92	92	\$ 460,000	\$ 460,000
YouthReach	85	85	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 1,870,000
Local Cultural Council Allocation	332	332		
LCC & TCC Grantmaking	12,801	7,448	\$ 21,090,234	\$ 7,654,049
	<b>19,481</b>	<b>10,061</b>	<b>\$ 1,548,236,505</b>	<b>\$ 38,454,339</b>



# Change in applications from FY24 - FY25

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Program	FY24 # of Applications	FY25 # of Applications	Change FY24 to FY25
Operating Grants for Organizations & Cultural Investment Portfolio	343	813	137%
STARS Residency/Creative Projects for Schools	396	501	27%
Festivals & Projects	1,231	1,328	8%
Cultural District Grant	54	58	7%
LCC & TCC Grantmaking	12,632	12,801	1%
Local Cultural Council Allocation	329	332	1%
YouthReach	85	85	0%
Gaming Mitigation Fund	62	61	-2%
Universal Participation Innovation Fund	94	92	-2%
Cultural Facilities Fund	287	255	-11%
Partnership or Service Project	35	31	-11%
Grants for Creative Individuals & Traditional Arts Apprenticeships	4,488	3,124	-30%
Cultural Sector Recovery for Individuals	147	0	-100%
	<b>20,183</b>	<b>19,481</b>	<b>-3%</b>



# Geography

*IBA's Festival Betances*

# Geographic Analysis

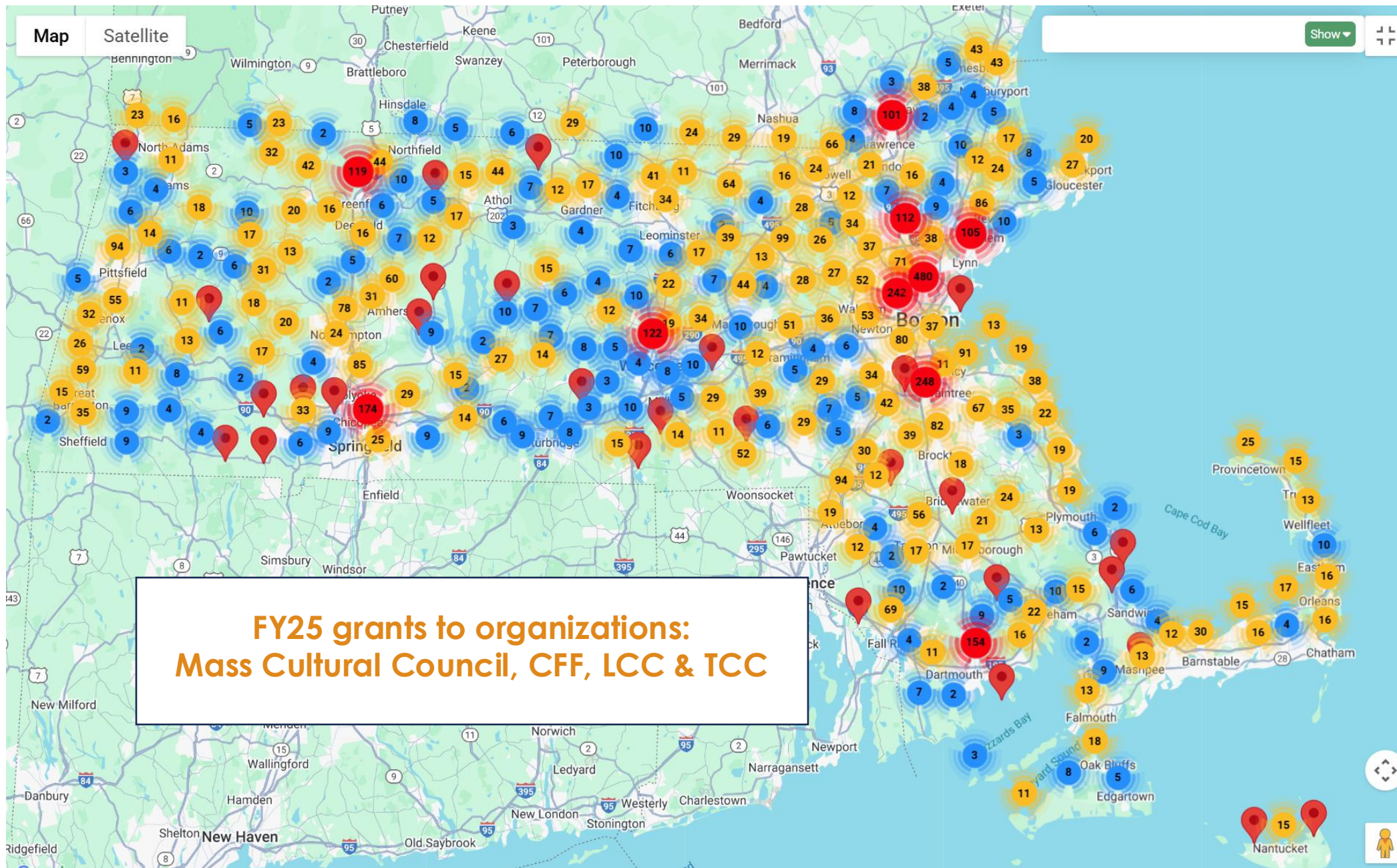
23

Are applications coming from all over the Commonwealth?

How successful are applicants? Is there a difference by county?

How many cities/towns are we reaching?





# FY25 Grantmaking by County

25

County	# of Applications	# of Grants	Requested Amount	Grant Amount
Barnstable	288	109	\$ 4,709,632	\$ 1,038,400
Berkshire	310	154	\$ 5,874,427	\$ 1,710,700
Bristol	356	144	\$ 5,519,504	\$ 1,536,700
Dukes	53	20	\$ 885,357	\$ 195,725
Essex	550	192	\$ 11,714,110	\$ 2,385,400
Franklin	237	102	\$ 1,770,879	\$ 646,600
Hampden	390	192	\$ 3,842,696	\$ 1,813,600
Hampshire	422	143	\$ 4,792,629	\$ 1,853,589
Middlesex	1,432	534	\$ 19,578,323	\$ 5,050,700
Nantucket	21	7	\$ 654,070	\$ 112,500
Norfolk	445	160	\$ 8,194,726	\$ 1,607,000
Plymouth	280	115	\$ 3,522,462	\$ 947,825
Suffolk	1,147	440	\$ 24,147,887	\$ 6,214,401
Worcester	494	210	\$ 8,896,794	\$ 2,350,625
	<b>6,425</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>\$ 104,103,497</b>	<b>\$ 27,463,765</b>

*County data for direct Mass Cultural Council grants. Does not include CFF or the grants that LCCs/TCCs make in their communities.*

# Grant Applications Compared to Approvals by County

26

County	# of Applications	% of Total Applications	# of Grants	% of Total Grants	% Difference
Barnstable	288	4%	109	4%	0%
Berkshire	310	5%	154	6%	-1%
Bristol	356	6%	144	6%	0%
Dukes	53	1%	20	1%	0%
Essex	550	9%	192	8%	1%
Franklin	237	4%	102	4%	0%
Hampden	390	6%	192	8%	-2%
Hampshire	422	7%	143	6%	1%
Middlesex	1432	22%	534	21%	1%
Nantucket	21	0%	7	0%	0%
Norfolk	445	7%	160	6%	1%
Plymouth	280	4%	115	5%	0%
Suffolk	1147	18%	440	17%	0%
Worcester	494	8%	210	8%	-1%
	6425		2522		

How successful are applicants? Is there a difference by county?

There is no significant difference in success rates between counties

Every county's submission rate and approval rate are essentially the same.



# Grants by City/Town

27

- We received applications from applicants in 342 cities/towns.
- We awarded grants to recipients in 342 cities/towns. **97% of MA cities/towns had a direct grant recipient.**
- If you include the grants that LCCs/TCCS made we made grants in 351 cities and towns. **100% of Massachusetts cities and towns had a Mass Cultural or LCC/TCC grantee!**



# Grantmaking to New Applicants/Grantees

*Student performing at 2018 Boston Public Schools Citywide Arts Festival on Boston Common. Photo: Elliot Haney.*



# New Applicants

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	# of Applicants FY25	# New Applicants in FY25	% New Applicants FY25
Organizations	2,803	325	12%
Individuals	3,215	1,782	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,018</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>35%</b>

# New Grantees

	# of Grantees FY25	# New Grantees in FY25	% New Grantees
Organizations	1,918	439	23%
Individuals	447	435	97%
Total	2,365	874	37%



# Demographics

*IBA's Festival Betances*

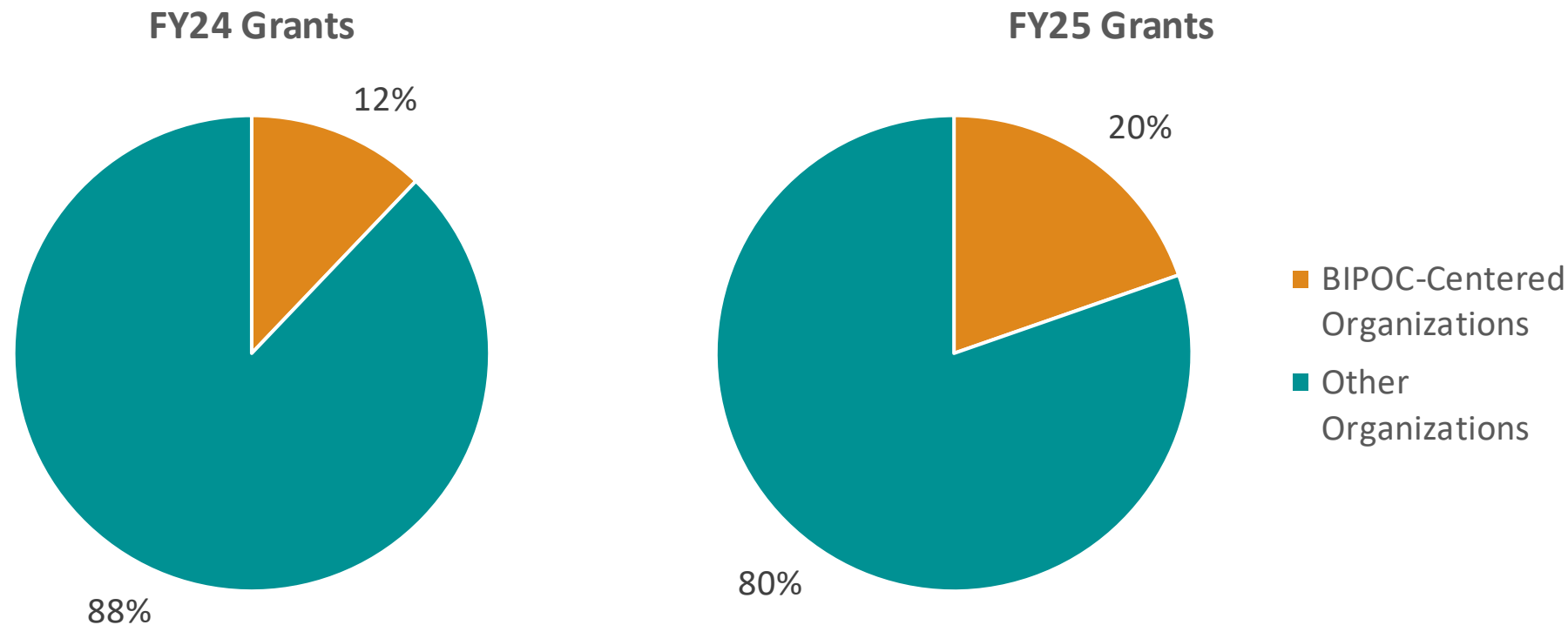
# Cross Program Funding Priorities

32

To promote equity, several funding priorities were used across multiple programs:

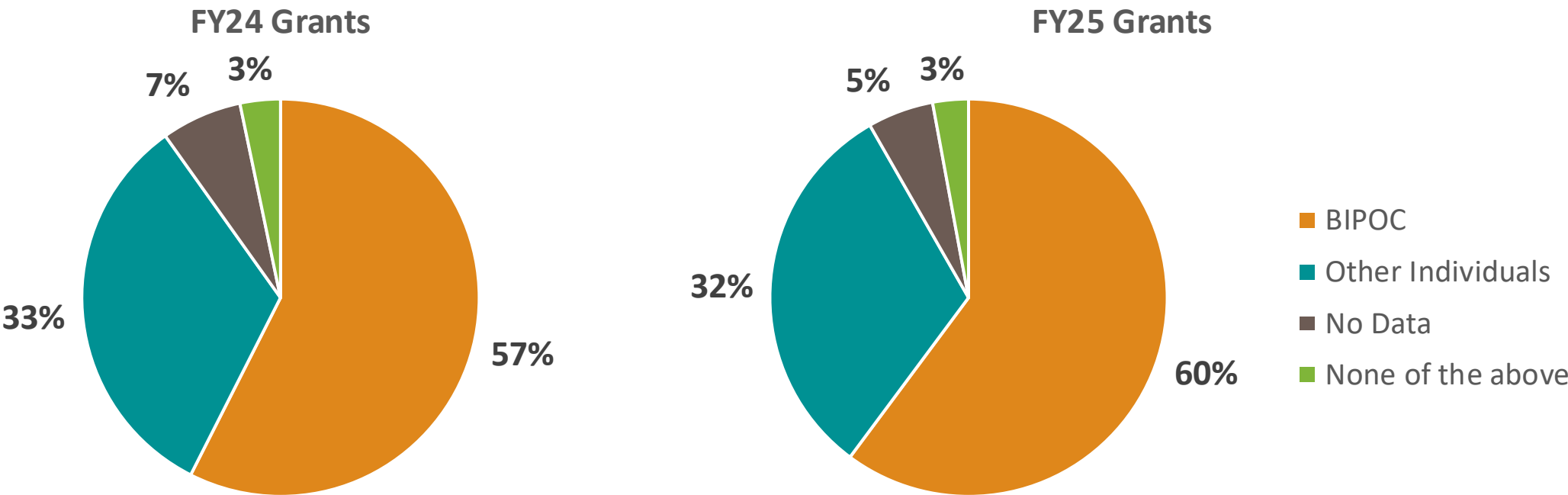
- BIPOC
- Deaf and/or Disability
- No recent Mass Cultural Council grants
  - In 6 fiscal years (Grants for Creative Individuals)
  - In 3 fiscal years (Operating Grants, Festivals & Projects, Creative Projects for Schools)

# BIPOC-Centered Organizations



	FY24 Grants	FY5 Applications	FY25 Grants
BIPOC-Centered Organizations	243	453	408
Other Organizations	1,721	2,848	1,667
	1,964	3,301	2,075

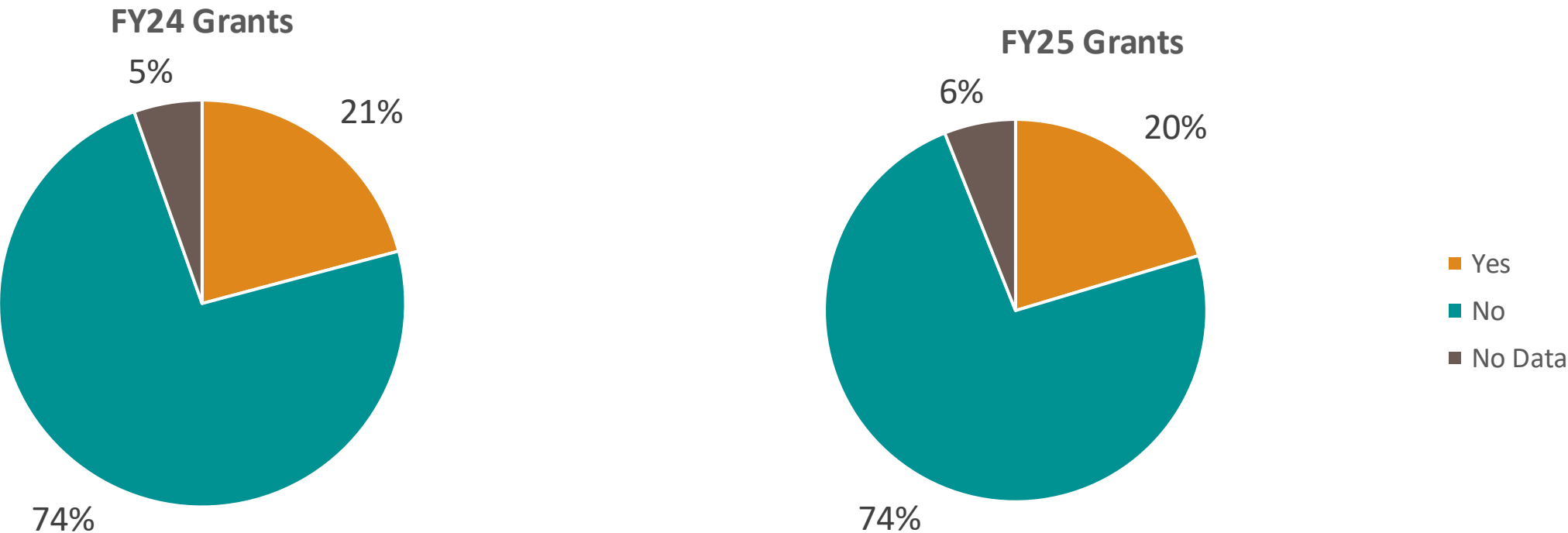
# BIPOC Individuals



	FY24 Grants	FY25 Applications	FY25 Grants
BIPOC	350	1,267	269
Other Individuals	199	1,622	141
No Data	40	284	24
None of the above	20	71	13
	609	4,724	447



# Individuals: Identify as Deaf/Disability



Do you identify as Deaf/Having a disability?	FY24 Grants	FY24 Applications	FY25 Grants
Yes	127	387	91
No	449	2,676	329
No Data	33	181	27
	609	3,244	447

# No Recent Mass Cultural Council Funding

36

Several programs prioritized funding to grantees who had not recently received a Mass Cultural Council grant:

- **Operating Grants, Creative Projects for Schools, and Festivals & Projects:** 50% of grants (591) were to organizations that have not received funding in past **3 fiscal years**
- **Grants for Creative Individuals:** 99% of grants (443) were to individuals who have not received funding in past **6 fiscal years**

# Focus for FY26

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- Continue progress on Equity Plans.
- Review/analyze cultural asset inventory results to inform programs and outreach and recruitment.
- Continue strategic plan implementation – including combining/streamlining programs and evaluation of resource distribution.



# Program Snapshots FY26

*Performance by  
ANIKAYA Dance Theater*



# Grants for Creative Individuals

39

- Debrief from the second round of the new program and propose any necessary updates to the program for FY25. No major changes anticipated.
- Run third year of the program in FY26.

# Folk and Traditional Arts

40

- Continue developing relationships with immigrant, folk, and traditional artists and arts organizations to support outreach and recruitment for Grants for Creative Individuals and other Agency programs.
- Support Native American & Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee work.

# Operating Support

41

- Second year of **Operating Grants for Organizations**.
- Continuation of Equity Impact points in formula for third year incorporating addition of financial health/need into funding formula.
- Next application will open in FY27 for FY28 funding.
- Continued support/funding for remaining **Cultural Investment Portfolio** recipients as program sunsets.

# Gaming Mitigation Fund

42

- Second year of two-year grant (FY25 – FY26)
- Next application cycle will open in FY27.



# New! Creative Experiences

43

- For the first time, we will run a program which combines Festivals & Projects and Creative Projects for Schools (formerly known as STARS Residencies).
- Grants of \$2,500 or \$5,000.
- Application deadline has passed. Funding recommendations will be made in August.
- FY27 program will launch in spring of FY26.

# Local and Tribal Cultural Council Programs

44

- Second year of Tribal Cultural Councils. Four will launch in September, looking at two possible additions during the year.
- Will spend FY26 laying groundwork for and encouraging regionalization of Local Cultural Councils and introducing them to advancement opportunities and approaches.

# Cultural District Investment Grants

45

- No major changes proposed for FY26 grants but they will change for FY27 and beyond.
- Roll out new Cultural District Designation program in the fall. Current Districts will be the first group to apply, the launch for new districts will be later.

# YouthReach

46

- Fund 1-year extension of current YouthReach. Recipients will be allowed one final year of overlap with OGO/CIP but grant amounts will be capped at max award of OGO/CIP.
- Open new YouthReach in FY26 for FY27 funding.

# Universal Participation (UP)

47

- Continue Innovation Fund Grant as annual grant to UP Designated organizations.
- Award 2nd grant to an access/inclusion organization to launch web-based learning hub in FY26
- Redefine UP Designation and Up Innovation and Learning Network for FY27 launch
- Support Disability Advisory Committee work

# Cultural Facilities Fund

48

- Will recommend small number of FY25 applicants for funding in the fall.
- Will open new application for next cycle in October.
- Capital grantees now have 2-year waiting period.
- Will continue to work on ways to highlight and promote climate resiliency and carbon neutral planning and projects through fund and workshops/trainings.



# Questions and Discussion

*Odaiko New England performance of  
Taiko Drumming*

## **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.

This meeting is a virtual meeting held under the Open Meeting Law as modified under current law to permit online meetings. This meeting is being broadcast to the public on a publicly available YouTube channel as described in the posted meeting notice.

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- Other than Council members or participants specifically recognized by the Chair of the meeting, all Zoom platform participants will be muted and have no ability to share media or documents or project or type images or text.
- All participants in the Zoom platform may be required to enter a waiting room and digitally sign-in before being admitted.



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VIDEOCONFERENCING PLATFORMS 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.