

Posted on 08/07/2026



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Mass Cultural Council Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2026

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Agenda
Mass Cultural Council
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2026

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Broadcast Meeting

The meeting will be livestreamed on
[Mass Cultural Council's YouTube channel](#)

Meeting materials will be posted online under
[Governing Council Meeting Schedule](#)
"August 13, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting"
on Mass Cultural Council's website

Agenda Items

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Call to Order – Open Meeting Law Notice | |
| 2. Minutes | Vote |
| 2a. Minutes of the Meeting Mass Cultural Council Executive Committee – June 17, 2026 | |
| 3. Chair's Report | |
| 3a. Executive Director Search Update | |
| 4. Acting Executive Director's Report | |
| 5. Legislative and Public Affairs Report | |
| 6. FY27 Budget and Program Allocations Plan | Vote |
| 7. Business Operations Report | |
| 7a. Out-of-State Travel Approval | Vote |
| 8. Draft Agenda: August 27, 2026 Council Meeting | Vote |
| 9. Adjourn | |



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Open Meeting Law Statement

(Virtual)

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 the Mass Cultural Council's website 48 hours or more 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. Instructions on how to contact the Council with questions or problems accessing the broadcast are also included in such notice. Only Council members, staff, and invited guests will be provided access to the Zoom platform hosting the meeting.

As a safety measure, in order to prevent disruption of the meeting or non-public communications among the participants, the Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Committee of Mass Cultural Council have asked staff to implement the following protocols for participants in online meetings of Mass Cultural Council or its committees:

- Any "chat" or similar function on the Zoom platform hosting the meeting shall be disabled.
- 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 on the Zoom platform may be required to enter a waiting room and digitally sign in before being admitted.
- Any attendee on the Zoom platform who nonetheless causes a disruption will be summarily removed from the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

This meeting is not a public hearing; public testimony will not be taken. Individuals may not address the meeting without the permission of the Chair.

Any member of the public may record this meeting, provided that they do not interfere with the meeting.

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.



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Resolutions

Mass Cultural Council Executive Committee

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Section 2

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the Mass Cultural Council Executive Committee Meeting dated June 17, 2026, in the form presented.

Section 6

RESOLVED: that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council approve the recommendation to the Programs Committee, Advancement Committee and full Council the FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Plan presented to the Executive Committee on August 13, 2026.

Section 7a

To approve the staff-recommended Out-of-State Travel Request presented to the Executive Committee on August 13, 2026.

Section 8

RESOLVED: that the Executive Committee approve the draft August 27, 2026 Mass Cultural Council Agenda presented to the Executive Committee

Posted on 07/14/2026



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Unofficial Draft Subject to Approval by the Council at its next meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Mass Cultural Council's Executive Committee Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Online Meeting

Council Members Present:

- Ché Anderson, Chair
- Jo-Ann W. Davis, Vice Chair
- Cecil Barron Jensen
- Simone Early
- Julie Wake
- Diane Asadorian Masters
- Vinny deMacedo
- Joyce Linehan
- Anika Lopes
- Allyce Najimy
- Ashley Occhino

Mass Cultural Council Staff Members Present:

- David Slatery, Acting Executive Director
- Ann Petruccelli Moon, Acting Chief of Staff
- Cathy Cheng-Anderson, Chief Financial Officer
- Jen Lawless, Senior Director of Program Operations
- Bethann Steiner, Senior Director of Public Affairs
- Carmen Plazas, Communications & Community Engagement Manager

Chair Ché Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:06am and asked Acting Chief of Staff Ann Petruccelli Moon to read the Open Meeting Law statement. He then asked if Committee Members had reviewed the minutes of their last meeting held on April 14, 2026. If they had, he would entertain a motion and a second to approve them. Julie Wake moved to approve the minutes; Vice Chair Jo-Ann Davis seconded the motion. By roll call vote and noting that Iván Espinoza-Madrigal was absent, it was unanimously

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting in the form presented.

Ché then welcomed all present to the meeting, noting that he and Jo-Ann extended an invitation to the meeting to all Council Members, as an update on the Executive Director search process would be provided. He then paused to thank Jo-Ann for her guidance through that process and Acting Executive Director Dave Slatery for his hard work in support of it.

He began the update noting that former Chair Marc Carroll had assembled a task force to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an executive search firm. Their charge was to help ensure the Agency would continue its important work while moving the search process forward with urgency. He thanked all Council Members who contributed to developing the RFP.

There has been strong interest from search firms, and the goal is to complete the selection of a search firm within the next 30 days.

Once the search firm is selected, the process will move into several phases. First, an internal task force made up of Council Members will review applicants and narrow the field to a group of semifinalists. Those semifinalists will then be evaluated by a second task force composed primarily of external stakeholders, prospective partners, and members of the broader ecosystem who can provide valuable perspective on the qualities needed in our next Executive Director. That group will narrow the pool to a slate of finalists.

The recommendation will then come back to the full Council, where we will consider a single recommended finalist to lead the Agency.

An important part of this process will be engaging Agency staff. Early in the search, and again as we move toward the finalist stage, we'd like candidates to spend meaningful time with staff. It's important that candidates meet the people they will ultimately lead.

Ché shared that during his own first few months as Chair, he spent a great deal of time in the office listening to staff—learning what was working well, where there were opportunities for growth, and what aspirations people had for the Agency's future. He and Jo-Ann would like candidates to have those same opportunities to hear directly from staff, gain insight into the organization, and share their own vision for where they see the Agency going.

To summarize, we'll begin by selecting a search firm through the RFP process over the next 30 days. From there, an internal Council task force will review candidates and identify semifinalists. An external stakeholder task force will then help evaluate those semifinalists and recommend finalists. The Council will receive the final recommendation and make the ultimate selection of our next Executive Director.

The rationale for this multi-tiered process is so we ensure our next Executive Director has the confidence of the Council, the confidence of our staff, and the confidence of our partners and prospective partners. Bringing all those

perspectives into the process will help us identify the strongest possible leader to guide the Agency into the future.

With that, Ché let Council Members know he was happy to answer any questions or hear any thoughts about the process. It was clarified that while only Executive Committee Members were participating in votes and any other official actions during this meeting, all Council Members in attendance were permitted to participate in the discussion.

Joyce Linehan asked if a job description had been prepared. Ché responded that while a draft has been created, the description will not be considered final until work with the search firm begins. The draft was created based on the former Executive Director's job description and incorporated elements of the Agency's current strategic plan. Joyce asked if there would be an opportunity for Council Members to offer feedback. Dave noted that one of the first duties of the search firm outlined in the RFP is to develop a job description. Jo-Ann assured Joyce there would be plenty of opportunity for input from the Council on the job description before it was finalized.

Simone noted that in previous meetings it was discussed that there would be a description for role of those who will participate in the search task force so that if Council Members recruited potential participants, they'd be able to share an idea of the goals and time commitment.

Ché shared that an email had been sent to the Council asking for recommendations for members of the search task force and received a tremendous response. At this point, Ché has a list of 53 individuals who were recommended.

The next step is to narrow that list to a workable committee. While a group of 15 or 16 individuals could be assembled, Ché's preference is to keep it closer to nine members so the committee can work efficiently while still representing a diversity of perspectives.

If there is anyone Council Members feel should be strongly considered who isn't already on the list, they should send Ché names as soon as possible. His goal is to finalize the task force over the next week and a half.

Once the committee is established, a clear outline of its responsibilities and expectations will be provided. The primary responsibility of the task force will be to review candidates and narrow the pool to approximately five finalists for the next phase of the process.

There were no further questions, and Ché asked Dave for his Acting Executive Director's report.

Dave reported that it has been a particularly busy week and a half, especially over the last three days.

He participated in the Creative Sector Summit in New Bedford, hosted by MASSCreative, where he spoke to approximately 350 attendees from across the cultural sector about opportunities and priorities for the field. He also noted that

members of the Advancement team (Erik Holmgren and Carolyn Cole) presented alongside the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) that day.

He was thrilled to participate in the grant celebration events held on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard on June 15.

In addition, Dave attended a half-day seminar hosted by MassHousing in Norwood and participated in a gathering of New England executive directors hosted by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) in Providence, Rhode Island. He shared that Massachusetts continues to be viewed as a leader among the New England states, noting that, with the support of the Governor and Legislature, the Commonwealth's cultural sector is widely regarded as the strongest in the region. He remarked that peer agencies look to Massachusetts as a model for leadership and best practices.

Dave concluded his update by highlighting the Programs Committee Meeting scheduled for later that afternoon. He noted that Jen Lawless had prepared a comprehensive presentation summarizing the Agency's grantmaking activity over the past year, providing a valuable overview of the scope and impact of its programs. He encouraged Council Members with questions to attend the committee meeting, where the presentation would be shared in greater detail. He then turned the meeting back to Ché who recognized Cecil Barron Jensen and Julie Wake.

Cecil thanked everyone who participated in the recent Island events and expressed appreciation to those who made the trip.

Julie echoed those sentiments, noting that while Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard may seem geographically distant, the visits provided a valuable opportunity to connect with local artists, cultural organizations, and community leaders. She shared that the conversations were insightful and highlighted the energy surrounding the impact of cultural funding in the region. She remarked on the wide variety of creative work taking place and emphasized how meaningful it was to engage with artists and partners the Council does not often visit in person.

Julie also expressed appreciation for the time spent with Senator Cyr and Representative Moakley, noting that the events provided excellent opportunities for networking and building relationships across both island communities.

She concluded by sharing that she especially enjoyed touring downtown Nantucket and visiting the Whaling Museum, adding that she came away with many interesting facts and a greater appreciation for the island's history. She thanked everyone who helped organize and host the visit.

There were no further questions and Ché asked Bethann for her Legislative and Public Affairs report.

Bethann reported that the Islands visit was a tremendous success. She shared that when the idea of visiting both Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard in a single day was first proposed to legislators, many thought the schedule was overly ambitious. In the end, however, the timing worked well, allowing legislators to

incorporate the visits into their district day activities. She noted that having dedicated time with them on the islands made the conversations especially productive.

Bethann said one of the highlights of the day was hearing legislators express their enthusiasm for the Legislature's proposed investment in arts and culture in the FY27 budget, which remains under consideration by the Conference Committee. She reported that the Agency has fared well throughout the budget process and is on track to receive what could be the highest operating budget appropriation in its history.

She also shared that Senator Cyr, a senior member of the Senate leadership team, announced that the Agency's line item is expected to receive a five percent increase—an increase that is uncommon among state budget line items. Bethann remarked that hearing that announcement, and the applause it received in Nantucket, was a proud moment and reflected the strong support for the Agency's work. While the budget remains in Conference Committee, she expressed optimism that it will emerge in a favorable position, with the remaining questions focused primarily on which earmarks will be retained.

On the policy front, Bethann reported that the Economic Development Bond Bill continues to move through the legislative process, including several spending authorizations that would benefit the Agency. She also noted that the STEM to STEAM initiative remains under review in the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Bethann highlighted several year-end communications and data resources that have recently been published. Funding lists are now available on the Agency's website, along with updated county reports. Legislator-specific reports are also nearly complete and will be available shortly. She noted that these reports have long been one of her favorite annual projects because they provide valuable tools for strengthening relationships with elected officials by illustrating the Agency's impact in their districts.

Finally, Bethann reminded Council Members about the Agency's final public event of the fiscal year, a virtual year-end celebration scheduled for June 25 from 11am to noon. The event will feature the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, the Massachusetts Poet Laureate, and more than 100 participants from across the Commonwealth. She encouraged Council members to attend if their schedules allow.

Ché thanked Bethann along with the whole team recognizing their tireless work in advancing the Agency's priorities and consistently finding opportunities to move initiatives forward. He expressed the Council's appreciation for all that the staff does on behalf of the Agency.

During closing comments, Vinny DeMacedo shared his excitement about Cape Verde's recent success in the World Cup. Born in Cape Verde, he noted that the nation of approximately 500,000 people had earned a draw against one of Europe's top teams, describing it as a "miracle on the turf."

Che added that Boston's FIFA Fan Festival has created an exciting atmosphere throughout the city. He reflected on the beauty of seeing so many cultures come together to celebrate the world's game and encouraged Council members to take advantage of the opportunity to experience the festivities.

Anika shared that she had recently attended an intimate event with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who spoke about the importance of arts and culture and their impact on communities. She said the conversation reminded her of the Council's work and thanked those who participated in the Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard visits, noting how meaningful those opportunities sounded.

The end of the agenda had been reached, and Ché, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:39am.



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FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan

August 2026

To: Mass Cultural Council Executive Committee
 From: David Slatery, Acting Executive Director
 Date: August 13, 2026
 Re: FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan

This memorandum presents the proposed FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan for Mass Cultural Council. It outlines anticipated revenue sources, key investment areas, and grantmaking priorities. After the Executive Committee meeting, the FY27 grant recommendations for most Mass Cultural Council grant programs based on this plan will be presented to the Programs Committee, and advancement spending will be presented to the Advancement Committee. When approved, the plan and the recommendations will be voted on by the full Council on August 27, 2026.

Legislative Requirement and Compliance

The agency's legislative mandate requires that an amount equal to at least 75% of the Line Item 0640-0300 appropriation (\$28,106,072) be allocated to grantmaking. For FY27, this establishes a minimum grantmaking threshold of \$21,079,554. Mass Cultural Council's FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan exceeds this requirement, dedicating \$27,822,525 to grantmaking, representing 132% of the statutory minimum.

Revenue Summary

We are deeply thankful to the Commonwealth, MassDevelopment, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and our other funding partners for their continued investment in the arts, culture, creative sector, and Mass Cultural Council.

The FY27 state appropriation allocates \$28,106,072 to support Mass Cultural Council operations, representing a 4.2% increase compared to the prior fiscal year. For context, this includes:

- \$27,348,072 for core operations
- \$758,000 for 19 legislative earmarks that fund specific arts and cultural projects across the Commonwealth. The core operations budget includes one unfunded earmark which provides a \$25,000 honorarium to support the Commonwealth's Poet Laureate.

Mass Cultural Council's total projected revenue for FY27 is \$34.9 million, sourced from the following:

Funding Source	Amount
State: Basic Appropriation (0640-0300) less Earmarks	\$27,348,072
State: Earmarked Pass-Through Funds	\$758,000
State: Chapter 23K Funds (Gaming Mitigation estimated)	\$5,094,902
MassDevelopment: For Mass Cultural Council expenses associated with Cultural Facilities Fund	\$358,705
*National Endowment for the Arts: Basic State Plan	\$809,238
*National Endowment for the Arts: Arts in Education	\$62,900
*National Endowment for the Arts: Arts in Underserved Communities	\$278,800
*National Endowment for the Arts: Folk Arts Infrastructure Grant	\$35,000
*National Endowment for the Arts: "Poetry Out Loud"	\$25,000
*National Endowment for the Arts: Art and Health	\$50,000
Harry Rice Trust Account (Estimated)	\$64,726
Total	\$34,885,343

*Federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts is approximately \$1.26 million

Massachusetts Gaming Fund (Chapter 23K)

As in prior years, and in accordance with M.G.L Chapter 23K, 2% of the Commonwealth's gross gaming tax revenues is allocated to the Massachusetts Cultural and Performing Arts Mitigation Trust Fund and ultimately made available to Mass Cultural Council. This program is intended to both mitigate the impact of casino gambling on nonprofit performing arts organizations by helping offset the competitive challenges they face in booking touring artists and performers due to the presence of nearby gaming establishments and also to support cultural organizations generally. Accordingly, the FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan estimates \$5.1 million from the gaming revenues.

Of the total \$5.1 million:

- \$4.7 million will be awarded as grants to eligible nonprofit performing arts centers and to support organizations.

- \$357k will support administrative expenses.

The funding draws from a combination of existing and projected revenues from the Commonwealth's share of casino tax revenue. Mass Cultural Council seeks approval to utilize:

- \$2,138,193 in available funds as of May 30, 2026
- \$2,956,709* in anticipated new revenue from June 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026

*Please note the \$2,956,709 anticipated revenue allocation is a conservative estimate based on year-to-date gaming tax receipts and current revenue trends.

Cultural Facilities Fund

The Commonwealth's FY27 Capital Plan includes \$10M for the Cultural Facilities Fund grant program, which is administered in partnership with MassDevelopment. Mass Cultural Council receives an annual allocation to support program expenses. The FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan reflects a total of \$359k in available administrative funds.

Advancement Investments

Mass Cultural Council is committed to strengthening the cultural sector through innovative partnerships, strategic investments, and cross-sector initiatives that expand the reach, relevance, and long-term sustainability of arts and culture across the Commonwealth. The FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan includes funding for projects to support sector-wide learning, policy development, and future investment strategies. These items will be presented for specific recommendations to the Advancement Committee

- **Creative Wealth Fund Feasibility** – \$25k in funding to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Creative Wealth Fund designed to build long-term value from cultural infrastructure investments and reinvest returns into nonprofit cultural organizations.
- **Cultural Policy Development Advisory Council (CPDAC)** – \$10k in funding to establish a creative economy definition and economic measurement of the Cultural/Creative Sector in coordination with other state government data gathering efforts.
- **Cross Sector Partnership Convening** – \$10k in funding to support a cross-sector convening to bring together partners from economic development, community development, health, workforce, and related fields to examine how the cultural sector contributes to broader public priorities. The convening would also help identify opportunities for partnership, investment, and policy alignment across sectors.

Equity Investments

Mass Cultural Council is committed to advancing equity, access, and inclusion across all areas of its work. In FY27, we are investing in targeted initiatives that deepen support for historically marginalized communities and further integrate equity into our grantmaking, operations, and advancement priorities. The FY27 Budget and Program Allocation Spending Plan includes the following equity priorities:

- **Arts & Culture Accessibility Hub** – Continued funding to support our partnership with [Open Door Arts](#) to launch a central resource for cultural organizations to build capacity in accessibility and disability inclusion. The Hub supports learning, technical assistance, and implementation strategies that help organizations better serve individuals with disabilities. This initiative is aligned with the agency's ongoing implementation of the multi-year [d/Deaf & Disability Equity Plan](#).
- **Tribal Cultural Council Grant Program** – FY27 marks the third year of this grant program, which provides targeted support to Native American and Indigenous artists, cultural practitioners, and community-led initiatives. This grantmaking effort is part of a broader commitment to implementing the [Native American & Indigenous Peoples Equity Plan](#), which was developed with Indigenous stakeholders to promote culturally responsive funding, visibility, and inclusion.
- **Work Without Limits and Individual Artist Support** – Dedicated funding to provide enhanced technical assistance, navigation services, and accommodations for individual applicants—particularly those with disabilities and/or limited income. In partnership with [Work Without Limits](#) and through internal efforts, the agency aims to ensure equitable access to its grant programs for all eligible individuals.
- **Native American & Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee** – Funding to continue support for the Native American & Indigenous Peoples Advisory Taskforce, which is comprised of leaders and stakeholders from across the Commonwealth. The taskforce helps identify barriers, improve program accessibility, and ensure that agency policies, programs, and investments reflect the needs of historically marginalized communities.

FY27 Mass Cultural Council Budget

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Table 1 Mass Cultural Council FY27 Revenue by Funding Source

Revenue	State Funding	Gaming*	Cultural Facilities Fund	NEA Federal	MCC Trust	Total
FY27	28,106,072	2,956,709	350,000	1,260,938		32,673,719
FY26 Carry Over / Transfer IN		2,138,193	8,705		64,726	2,211,624
Total Revenue	28,106,072	5,094,902	358,705	1,260,938	64,726	34,885,343

*Estimated FY27 Revenue

Table 2 FY27 Budget and Allocation Plan by Expense Category and Funding Source

Expense Category	Percent of Total State Funding	State Funding	Gaming	Cultural Facilities Fund	NEA Federal	MCC Trust	Total	Percent Total Funding All Categories
AA: Salary	16.3%	4,567,450	189,697	149,467	21,724		4,928,338	14.1%
BB: Employee Reimbursement	0.4%	112,501		4,499			117,000	0.3%
CC: Contract Staff	0.0%							0.0%
DD: Payroll Tax and Fringe	0.3%	96,830	87,469	68,919	10,017		263,235	0.8%
EE: Administrative Expenses	0.7%	197,489	28,454	32,320	3,259		261,522	0.7%
GG: Rent And Electricity	1.4%	397,000	37,500	37,500			472,000	1.4%
HH: Consulting Services	1.1%	319,300		12,000			331,300	0.9%
JJ: Programmatic Services	0.8%	224,183		54,000			278,183	0.8%
KK: Non-IT Equipment	0.02%	7,000					7,000	0.02%
LL: Leases	0.04%	12,000					12,000	0.03%
*PP: Grants Programs (including Poet Laureate)	75%	21,035,602	4,738,259		1,225,938	64,726	27,064,525	77.6%
PP: Legislative Earmarks	3%	758,000					758,000	2.2%
UU: Information Technology	1.3%	378,717	13,522.97				392,240	1.1%
Total Expenses	100%	28,106,072	5,094,902	358,705	1,260,938	64,726	34,885,343	100%

*See Table 3 for FY27 Grants Program (PP) Details

Table 3 FY27 Grant Programs (PP) by Funding Source – Details \$27,064,525 (77.6% of Agency Budget)

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Grants Programs	State Funding	Gaming	Cultural Facilities Fund	NEA Federal	MCC Trust	Total	Percent of Total Grant Funding
Organizations	-	-	-	-	-	7,350,000	27%
Operating Grants (OGO & CIP)	5,356,197	1,184,565	-	809,238	-	7,350,000	-
Artists & Youth	-	-	-	-	-	4,486,000	17%
Grants for Creative Individuals	2,450,000	-	-	-	-	2,450,000	-
YouthReach	1,608,300	-	-	341,700	-	1,950,000	-
NEA: Poetry Outloud Huntington Theatre	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	-
Poet Laureate (Unfunded Earmark)	25,000	-	-	-	-	25,000	-
YAIN (Edvestors)	36,000	-	-	-	-	36,000	-
Communities	-	-	-	-	-	6,720,000	25%
Local Cultural Councils	5,850,000	-	-	-	-	5,850,000	-
Cultural District Grants	870,000	-	-	-	-	870,000	-
Equity and Inclusion	-	-	-	-	-	4,078,700	15%
Creative Experiences (F&P and Schools)	3,442,500	-	-	-	-	3,442,500	-
Tribal Cultural Councils	71,200	-	-	-	-	71,200	-
UP Innovation Fund	465,000	-	-	-	-	465,000	-
Open Door Arts	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000	-
Advancement	-	-	-	-	-	811,405	3%
New England Foundation for the Arts, Inc.	70,000	-	-	-	-	70,000	-
Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy, Inc.	1,032,234	-	-	-	-	1,032,234	-
<i>FY26 Mass Humanities Carry Over</i>	<i>-559,241</i>	-	-	-	-	<i>-559,241</i>	-
<i>1% Mass Foundation for Humanities Reserve</i>	<i>188,412</i>	-	-	-	-	<i>188,412</i>	-
MITx	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Massport Artist Program	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Catalyzing Grant to open Arts Benefit Market	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
NEA: Art & Health Project	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	-
Mass Creative	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-
Other Grants	-	-	-	-	-	3,618,420	13%
MCC Trust (Grant Reserve/Uncommitted)	-	-	-	-	64,726	64,726	-
Chapter 23K Funded Grants Gaming Mitigation Program	-	3,553,694	-	-	-	3,553,694	-
Total Grants	21,035,602	4,738,259	-	1,225,938	64,726	27,064,525	100%

Budget Line Item Descriptions

AA: Salary:

- We currently have 41 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee. In FY27, we expect to fill one backfill vacancy.
- Payroll projections include a 2% cost-of-living increase effective July 12, 2026, and an additional 2% cost-of-living increase effective January 10, 2027, for unionized employees, consistent with their collective bargaining agreements.
- For non-union staff, payroll projections include a 2% cost-of-living increase for senior staff and a 4% cost-of-living increase for managers effective July 12, 2026. A reserve has also been included for a 2% cost-of-living increase for non-union staff effective January 10, 2027.
- The Acting Executive Director has excluded himself from these increases; therefore, no separate vote is required.

BB: Employee Reimbursement:

- This line item covers reimbursements for work-related employee expenses, including in-state travel for meetings, conferences, professional licensing, and similar activities.
- It also includes an annual budget of \$22,000 for out-of-state travel expenses.

CC: Contracted Staff: Not applicable.

DD: Payroll Tax and Fringe: This line covers payroll tax for staff salaries. It also includes fringe related to federal or state trust-funded salaries or contracts. Several salaries are paid from a trust account for the Cultural Facilities Fund and a casino tax revenue trust for employees managing the Gaming Mitigation Program or "organizational support" from Gaming Revenues under the Gaming Law.

EE: Administrative Expenses: This line covers administrative costs, including Commonwealth chargebacks for accounting and payroll systems/services, office supplies, utilities, printing, postage, membership fees, subscriptions, event-related expenses, staff training, credit card purchases, and costs related to grant program panels.

GG: Rent and Electricity: This line reflects our annual office lease (\$450K) and utility expenses.

HH: Consulting Services: This line includes expenditures related to outside attorneys, event speakers, program consultants, advisors, and stipends for taskforce participation.

JJ: Programmatic Services: This line covers costs for photographers, auxiliary services, staff trainers, videographers, audio-visual providers, language or ASL interpreters/accommodations, grant reviewers, mission moments, and program panelists/readers.

KK: Non-IT Equipment: This line covers purchases of non-IT equipment, such as office furniture and equipment, as well as ADA accommodation needs.

LL: Leases: This line covers all non-IT equipment lease agreements as well as car rental expenses for staff travel.

PP: Grant Programs and Legislative Earmarks: A detailed grant allocation list is included in this packet.

UU: Information Technology: This line includes costs for information technology needs such as the grants management system, ISP Service Retrofit, technology service providers, phone services/charges, laptop lease, web development, and Commonwealth chargebacks for IT services.



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Out-of-State Travel Approval

To: Mass Cultural Council
 From: David Slatery, Acting Executive Director
 Date: August 27, 2026
 Re: **Out-of-State Travel Approval**

Under the current Out-of-State Travel Policy, out-of-state travel by the Executive Director shall be approved in advance by the Executive Committee when it exceeds the applicable threshold of \$1000 per trip established by the Council.

The travel request outlined below totals \$1,938 and covers travel to Washington, lodging, and conference registration. Attendance by Acting Executive Director David Slatery provides clear public benefit, directly supports his core job responsibilities, aligns with the Council's mission, Strategic Plan, and Equity Plan, and represents a cost-effective use of resources. His required Travel Authorization Forms and Procurement Request Form are on file.

NASAA Assembly 2026, Washington, DC, October 7 – 9, 2026

This dynamic, in-person gathering will be attended by arts and cultural leaders from across the country who will engage in two days of shared learning, peer exchange and conversation about the future of public support for the arts. This conference is both a celebration of the work happening across the field and an opportunity to connect, learn and collaborate. Participants engage in: sessions exploring timely trends, challenges and opportunities shaping the arts sector; peer gatherings for executive leaders, commissioners/council members and job-alike groups; and unifying plenary sessions featuring national perspectives and inspiring voices. A [full agenda](#) is available online.

*Power of culture***DRAFT**

Agenda
One Hundred Seventieth Meeting
of Mass Cultural Council
Thursday, August 27, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Broadcast Meeting

The meeting will be livestreamed on
[Mass Cultural Council's YouTube channel](#)

Meeting materials will be posted online under
[Governing Council Meeting Schedule](#)
"August 27, 2026, Council Meeting"
on Mass Cultural Council's website.
<https://massculturalcouncil.org/about/board/>

Agenda Items

- 1. Call to Order – Open Meeting Law Notice**
- 2. Guest Speaker: 3rd Eye Youth Empowerment**
- 3. Minutes** **Vote**
 - 3a. Minutes of the 169th Meeting of Mass Cultural Council – May 19, 2026
- 4. Chair's Report**
 - 4a. Update: Executive Director Search
- 5. Acting Executive Director's Report**
 - 5a. Advancement Report

5(a)(i). FY27 Advancement Spending

5b. Equity Progress Report

6. Public Affairs Report

6a. Legislative Update

6b. Department Updates

7. FY27 Spending Plan Presentation

8. Program Operations Report

8a. Department Updates

8b. Programs Committee Report

9. Conflict of Interest Notifications

FY27 Grant and Program Recommendations

10. Partnership & Service Grants

10a. Mass Humanities

10b. New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)

10c. MASSCreative

10d. Legislative Mandates (Appendix A)

11. Organizations

11a. Unrestricted Operating Support for Organizations (Appendix B & Appendix C)

12. Communities

12a. Cultural District Investment Grants (Appendix D)

12b. Local Cultural Councils (Appendix E)

12c. Tribal Cultural Councils

13. Arts Education & Youth

13a. YouthReach (Appendix F and G)

13b. Creative Youth Development and Education Grants

14. Equity and Inclusion

14a. Creative Experiences (Appendix H)

14b. UP Innovation Fund Grants (Appendix I)

14c. Equity, Inclusion, and Access Grants

15. Business Operations Report

15a. FY27 Budget Spending Plan Summary

15b. Executive Committee Recommendation on Spending Plan

15c. Approval of FY27 Spending Plan and Grant Recommendations **Vote**

16. Adjourn