



Culture connects

Pow Wow

Aquinnah



Mass
Cultural
Council

Power of culture

Communities



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Agenda

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- 1.) Introduction to Community Initiative Team
- 2.) Overview of Local Cultural Council Program
- 3.) Examples of funded LCC projects
- 4.) Online Timeline Application
- 5.) Review of guidelines for applying
- 6.) Overview of Application process
- 7.) Q & A

Massachusetts Cultural Council

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- The Mass Cultural Council is a state agency that promotes excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences, fosters a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents, and contributes to the vitality of our communities and economy.
- The Council pursues this mission through a wide range of grants, initiatives, and advocacy for artists, communities, organizations, and schools.
- Mass Cultural Council receives an annual appropriation from the state Legislature and funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, and others.

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/about>

Local Cultural Council Program

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Arlington Porchfest 2022

Photo by Cesar Ziegler

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/lcc-toolkit/council-basics/program-background/>

- Network of Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) that serve every city and town in the state (329); currently more than 2,400 volunteers serving statewide.
- Formed in 1990 through the merger of two previously separate agencies: Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities and Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council.
- Funded by appropriations from the state Legislature and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). Yearly allocation to Local Cultural Councils, which then regrant funds to individuals and organizations in their communities.
- The Local Cultural Council Program distributes funds to local and regional cultural councils, which then regrant funds to arts, humanities, and science projects in their own communities.
- The amount of money allocated to each community is determined by using the state's local aid formulas established by the legislature.

Examples of LCC Funded Projects

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Quincy Arts Council supported the Quincy Symphony Orchestra in their 69th season of programming (from Sept. 2022 – April 2023). The QSO performed 3 classical concerts, as well as holiday, outdoor, and family-centered concerts.

West Stockbridge were involved in the creation of the “Zuchhini Festival.” Beginning from a local legend, the Council was looking for a festival of their own that would be a fun time for the town. It’s a way to celebrate their town, both old and new, and for people to spend time together.

Brockton Cultural Council supported the Old Colony YMCA in their Kidz Konnect afterschool program. The focus is on mental health, violence prevention, community engagement, and social justice for high school teens.

Worcester Arts Council supported Hannah Lipper, business owner and local artist, as they created an interactive wall-mounted structure in the South High School’s School Health Services Program.

Springfield Cultural Council supported Sierra Simmons in an afterschool program for Dr. King Day in 2023. Inviting youth, adults, parents, legislators, and local leaders to see the impact of arts education on the city’s students through performances.



Somerville Open Studios 2022
Photo by Timothea Pham

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/blog/local-cultural-councils-award-5-6m-to-community-based-projects-across-the-state/>

Online Application Timeline

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- September 1 – Application opens
- September 1 - Councils update Council Priorities and contact information
- October 17 @ 11:59 PM – Application closes
- November – December
 - LCCs hold voting meetings to review applications
 - LCCs send denial letters to applicants not funded
 - Applicants can request reconsideration
- January 17, 2023 – Councils file annual report
- January – March - LCCs send decision notifications to applicants

LCC Applicant Eligibility

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Who is eligible to apply for an LCC grant?

Applicants must reside or be located in Massachusetts. Local Cultural Councils may accept applications from anyone included in the list below:

- **Individuals.** Individual applicants must show that a public benefit results from the project for which they are applying.
- **Incorporated private non-profit organizations.**
- **Unincorporated associations that can establish a nonprofit objective.** Community band, theater groups, etc.
- **Incorporated for-profit organizations.** This includes corporations, partnerships, and LLCs.
- **Tribal, federal, state, and municipal government organizations.** This includes Public schools, libraries, other municipal agencies, and the Local Cultural Council itself.
- **Religious organizations.** LCCs cannot fund activities that are “inherently religious” such as religious worship, instruction, and proselytization. Otherwise, as long as the program is available to and benefits the general public and not the religious organization, they are eligible to receive funding.

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>

LCC Funding Criteria

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The first three rules listed below must be followed in the review of all funding decisions by Local Cultural Councils. All three rules are equally important. Additionally, councils have the option of developing local review criteria and may decide how to weigh their importance:

1. Arts, Humanities, and Sciences

2. Public Benefit

Local Cultural Council funds must be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community rather than benefiting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate to satisfy the public benefit requirement.

3. Non-Discrimination

Local Cultural Councils may not discriminate against applicants and/or programs on the basis of age, ability, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, nationality, geographic origin, or immigration, military, or socio-economic status.

4. Local Criteria

<http://massculturalcouncil.org/documents/lccguidelines.pdf>

Grant Restrictions

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1. **Refreshments.** Grant funds received from a Local Cultural Council may not be used to purchase food or beverages.

2. **Scholarships.** Although individual students are not eligible to apply for scholarships, an organization may apply to an LCC to sponsor a scholarship, provided the council feels the scholarship program provides sufficient public benefit and meets all other state and local criteria.

<http://massculturalcouncil.org/documents/lccguidelines.pdf>

LCC Guidelines and Priorities

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- LCC Guidelines:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/documents/lccguidelines.pdf>

- Local Priorities:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/find-your-lcc/>

- FAQ's for applicants:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/faqs/>

Overview of the Application Process

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Screen Share:

- 1.) Login page (<https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com/>)
- 3.) Registering as an Individual
- 4.) Registering as an Organization
- 5.) Homepage
- 6.) Application Overview

Some Tips & Suggestions

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- Start early
- Do your research
- Don't just copy and paste an existing proposal
- Reach out to Local Cultural Council Members and Mass Cultural Program Staff
- Reach out to potential partners and host venues
- Create a realistic budget

FY24 Funding Opportunities

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- Programs At-a-Glance
 - <https://massculturalcouncil.org/programs-at-a-glance/>
- STARS Residencies
 - Opens Sept. 21st, closes Oct 24th.
 - Residencies that bring students and teachers together with practicing artists, scientists, and humanists in K-12 classrooms.
- Grants for Creative Individuals (!NEW!)
 - Opens October, closes in December.
 - \$5,000 unrestricted grants.
 - This program aims to equitably advance creative expression throughout the Commonwealth with unrestricted grants to Massachusetts artists, culture bearers, and creative individuals.

Questions?

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