



Culture Connects

DotArt Wearable
Art Fashion Show



Power of culture

Communities Team



Cheyenne Cohn-Postell
she/her/hers

Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
617-858-2704
cheyenne.cohn-postell@mass.gov



Jay Wong
she/her/hers

Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
617-939-1569
jay.wong@mass.gov



Sommers Smith
she/her/hers

Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
617-858-2714
sommers.smith@mass.gov



Lisa Simmons
she/her/hers

Community Initiative Program Manager
Local Cultural Councils, Festivals, Cultural Districts
617-858-2707
lisa.simmons@mass.gov



Timothea Pham
she/her/hers

Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Festivals, Cultural Districts
617-858-2721
timothea.pham@mass.gov



Carolyn Cole
she/her/hers

Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
617-858-2727
carolyn.cole@mass.gov



Greg Torrales
any/all

Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
617-858-2722
greg.torrales@mass.gov

Agenda

1. Agency Overview
2. Local Cultural Council Program Overview
 - a. History
 - b. What is it?
3. Eligibility
 - a. Applicant
 - b. Project
4. Grant Criteria
 - a. Arts, Humanities & Sciences
 - b. Public Benefit
 - c. Non-Discrimination
 - d. Local Criteria
5. Grant Cycle Timeline
6. Application Process Overview
7. Tips & Resources

3



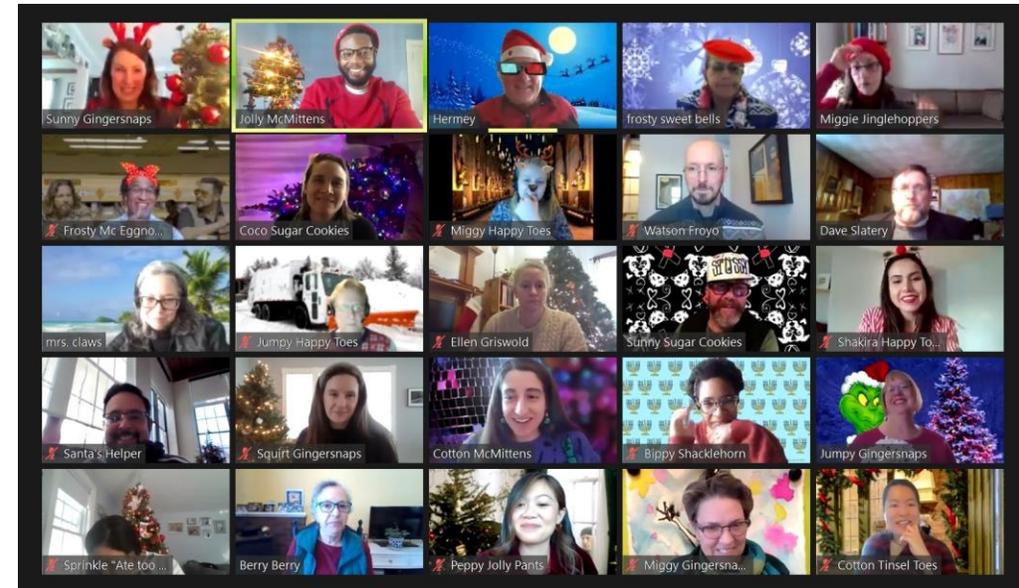
Movie Night on Hyannis Village Green

Agency Overview

Mass Cultural Council is a state arts agency. Its mission, along with its LCC partners, is to advance the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector by celebrating traditions and talents, championing its collective needs, and equitably investing public resources. Visit the [About Us](#) page to learn more about the Agency.

Funded by appropriations from the state Legislature, gaming revenue and the [NEA](#), funds are distributed through:

- Direct grants to individuals and organizations
- An annual allocation to municipalities for their Local Cultural Councils, who regrant the funds and put on their own council programs



LCC Program Overview

5

The Local Cultural Council Program remains the most extensive volunteer-run cultural funding program in the nation!

- 329 LCCs serve all 351 MA cities and towns
- 2,400 volunteers serve as LCC members statewide

The LCC Program promotes local autonomy and decision-making. LCCs work with their municipalities to make decisions, Mass Cultural Council makes suggestions and provides guidance and support.

How LCC allocation amounts are determined:

- The state legislature provides the Agency with its annual budget in August
- The Agency plans its program budget which is approved by the [Governing Council](#)
- LCC allocations are based on the state's local aid formulas (based on population and equalized property values to provide low-income communities with relatively larger allocations).

Check out the [LCC Program's history](#) and [key milestones](#)

Eligibility: Applicant

1. Applicants must reside in or be based in Massachusetts.
2. Applicants must show that a public benefit results from their project.

LCCs may accept applications from:

- Individuals (sole proprietors)
- Incorporated non-profit organizations
- Incorporated for-profit organizations (Corps, LLCs, etc.)
- Unincorporated groups
- Tribal, federal, state, and municipal government entities

FYI:

- Religious organizations
- LCCs limitations/prioritizations

Eligibility: Project

What types of projects are eligible?

- Grant funds received from an LCC may not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages of any kind.

Grant Amounts

- Vary and are determined by each LCC. The minimum is generally \$250; the range is between \$500-\$750.

Project Timeline

- 18-month window from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025.



WAC's Recruitment Flyer

Grant Criteria

LCCs use the first three criteria (meaning must-haves) listed below to review all funding decisions:

1. Arts, Humanities, and Sciences
2. Public Benefit
3. Non-Discrimination
4. Local Criteria

Guidelines and Priorities are different.

- Applicants must meet all eligibility and criteria requirements.

Grant Criteria: Arts/Humanities/Sciences

9

LCC funds may only be used to support programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences in MA.

Arts refer to creating work in the crafts and performing visual, media, folk, design, literary, and interdisciplinary arts. They also include the presentation, preservation, and education of works in these disciplines.

Humanities are types of learning that deal with human values and aspirations, human thought and culture, language, and creativity. Examples include, but are not limited to, history, social studies, philosophy, criticism, and literature.

Sciences are limited to its cultural, interpretive, and educational expression and refers to types of learning that deal with nature, science, and technology in ways that explain how they relate to people's lives.

Grant Criteria: Public Benefit

LCC funds must support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community rather than benefit any private individual or group.

FYI:

- A key public benefit component is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.
- Subject to LCC interpretation



Sharon Cultural Council 1st Annual Chalk Art Festival

Grant Criteria: Non-Discrimination

11

LCC-funded projects must abide by Anti-Discrimination laws.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that persons with disabilities have equal access to public programs or services as the general public.

LCC-funded projects must consider access for persons with disabilities, including the facility, event location, and the program's content.

FYI:

- Check out the NEA's [Accessibility Planning and Resource Guide for Cultural Administrators](#) for additional information about accessible programming.

Grant Criteria: Local Criteria

12

LCCs publish local criteria on their [Council Profile](#).

- **Local Priorities** help applicants identify what LCCs are looking to fund
- **Local Guidelines** are local application instructions or restrictions.

Council Profiles include:

- LCC mission, objective, contact information, or social media profiles
- Local criteria
- Grant payment type (reimbursement or direct)
- Funded FY24 applications (includes a project description and grant amount)

FYI:

- Applicants should reach out to the LCC regarding their local criteria

Grant Cycle Timeline

13

August – October 2024

- August 31 – LCCs update priorities and contact info
- September 1 – Application opens
- October 16 @ 11:59 PM – Application closes

November – December 2024

- LCCs hold voting meetings to review applications
- LCCs send out denial letters
- Applicants can request reconsideration

January – March 2025

- January 16 – LCCs report on their grant decisions
- January-March – LCCs send notifications and begin processing reimbursement requests or direct grants

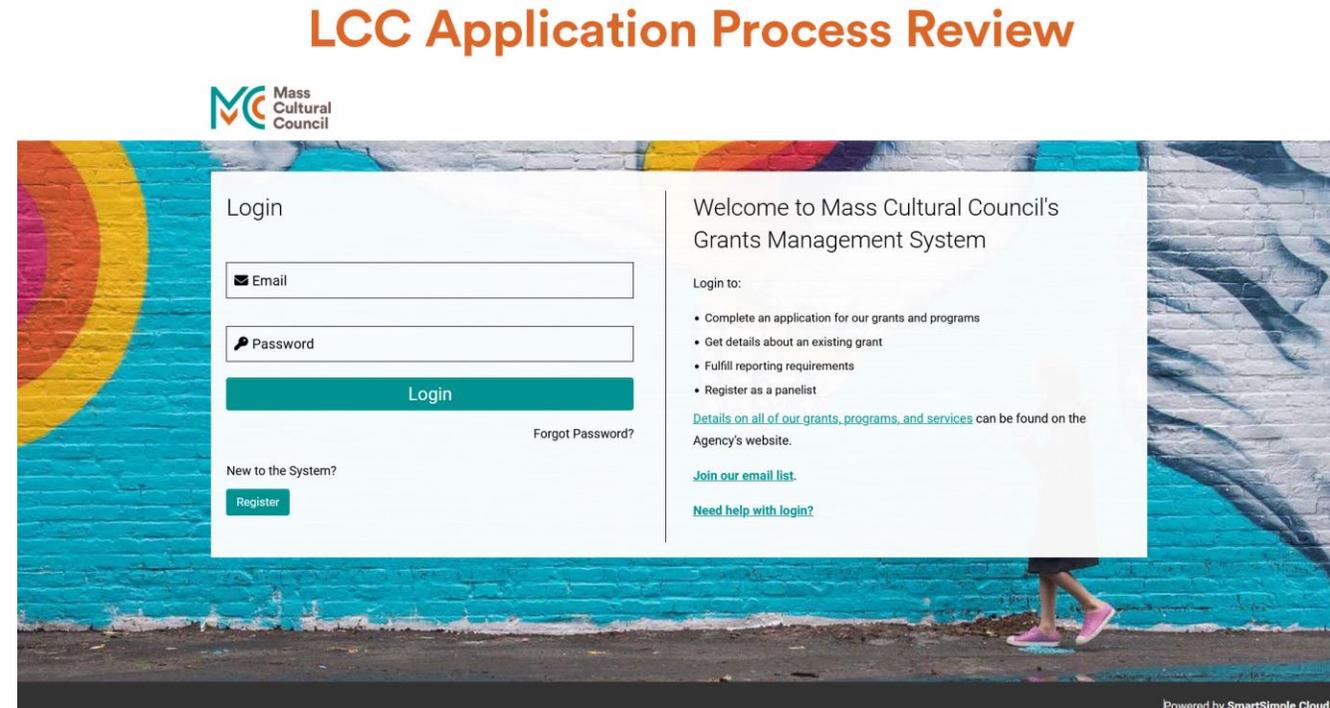


Summer In the City's Marvelous Marvin
Brain Circus

Application Process Overview

14

1. Download [step-by-step instructions](#) for logging into our [Grants Management System](#).
2. Watch a [walk-through video](#) on completing the online application.



Grants Management System (GMS) Login Page

Tips & Resources

15

Tips

- Start early & do your research
- Work offline using the [sample application](#)
- Reach out to LCC Members or Mass Cultural Staff
- Reach out to potential partners and host venues
- Create a realistic budget

Resources

- [LCC Program Guidelines](#)
- [Local Council Guidelines & Priorities](#)
- [Applicant FAQs](#)

*Check out the [Programs At-a-Glance](#) page for our upcoming programs.

*Consider serving as an LCC member at your Local Cultural Council



Lowell Winterfest



Questions?

Contact: Communities@mass.gov