

Local Cultural Council Program Milestones

Arts advocate Jacqueline O'Reilly imagined a lottery with a portion of its profits going to the arts.

1971

Idea for a state lottery is introduced as a source of revenue for the arts.

1976

First Arts Lottery tickets went on sale. Tickets were \$5 and the first jackpot was \$200,000.

1980

The Arts Lottery was re-introduced as *Megabucks*.

1982

MALC merged with Massachusetts Councils for the Arts and Humanities to form the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). Cuts in the state budget resulted in cuts to the MCC's budget, reducing funding for the LCCs.

1990

Gold Star Awards introduced, recognize exemplary LCC-funded programs. MCC received a grant from the state to create an online grants management system for LCCs: On-line Office.

2001

Leadership Circle Awards introduced, recognize LCC volunteers for their outstanding work in support of the LCC Program.

2004

MCC improved financial reporting process. Ensures LCCs get accurate account information from their city/town and that all available funds are granted to their community.

2009

LCC Program is most extensive volunteer-run, cultural funding program in the nation. 329 LCCs serve every city/town in MA, distributing more than \$3.3 million to 5,000+ projects across the state.

Today

1971

2013

1973

Legislature established a Special Committee on the Arts to investigate improving state arts funding at the community level.

1979

Formation of Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council (MALC). Gov Edward King names Mrs. O'Reilly chairwoman of MALC. Cities and towns began organizing LCCs to distribute funds.

1986

Legislation introduced the Performing Arts Student Series (PASS). No longer called PASS, LCCs continue to fund cultural field trips for children,

2000

MCC implemented streamlining. LCCs given autonomy to make final funding decisions once they demonstrated sound local administration of the grant making process.

2003

MCC launched the Online Office making reporting to the MCC and finding information easier and more accessible. Each LCC is also provided a free, public webpage.

2005

25th Anniversary of LCC Program. Three hundred LCC volunteers gathered at the MA State House to celebrate and advocate for public funding for arts and culture.

2011

MCC overhauled LCC Program regulations, guidelines, application and Online Office to make them more streamlined, accessible, and user-friendly. LCC volunteers and applicants take part in the process.