



# Culture builds



[Daniela Rivera's Tilted Heritage]

# Mass Cultural Council

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**Mass Cultural Council is the Commonwealth's independent state arts agency.**

- Strengthening the cultural sector
- Driving economic vitality
- Supporting transformational change
- Celebrating and preserving creativity in every community

**Our purpose:**

To elevate cultural life across the Commonwealth for everyone who lives, works, visits, and creates here.



# Arts, Culture, and Community: *Building Belonging Through Creativity*

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- Arts and culture foster connection, identity, and belonging.
- Creative strategies turn spaces into places and projects into movements.
- Arts partnerships build trust, pride, and local prosperity.
- Creative industries drive jobs, small business growth, and visitation.



[Cummington Cultural District]



[Fenway Cultural District]

# National Impact & the Power of Culture

## Cultural investment = stronger communities

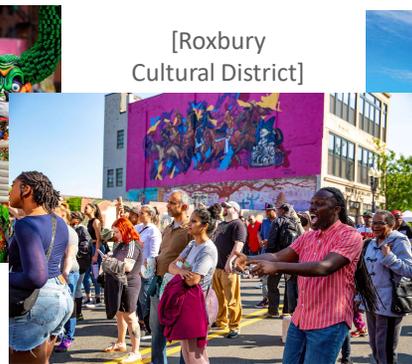
- Increase in high-performing students
- Reduction in crime

## Arts and culture are recognized as a catalyst for more stable, vibrant communities

- building healthier, more connected neighborhoods
- fostering equity, trust, and belonging
- stabilizing neighborhoods, preventing displacement, shared ownership



[Worcester's Salisbury Cultural District]



[Roxbury Cultural District]



[Shelburne Falls Cultural District]



[New Bedford's Seaport Cultural District]



[Hyannis HyArts Cultural District]

# It's Working in Massachusetts

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## MassHousing

- Creative housing models; i.e. Fitchburg & Beverly
- Creative Placemaking Grants - build healing, belonging, and connection to place.

## Cultural Districts Initiative

Cultural Districts play a crucial role in enhancing the visibility of their community and driving local economies, supporting the arts, fostering engagement, and **celebrating the uniqueness of people and place** while supporting economic, community, and inclusive cultural development.

### Goals

- Attract artists and cultural enterprises
- Encourage business and job development
- Establish the district as a tourist destination
- Preserve and reuse historic buildings
- Enhance property values
- Foster local cultural development



[Holyoke Puerto Rican Cultural District]



[Boston Latin Quarter Cultural District]

**When CDCs lead with creativity, they're building belonging.**

# Mass Cultural Council Grants

Mass Cultural Council

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## Programs At-a-Glance

FY26 Funding Opportunities (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

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### YouthReach



Opens: February 5, 2026  
Deadline: April 2, 2026  
Grants to Creative Youth Development

### Creative Experiences



Opens: March 3, 2026  
Deadline: April 30, 2026

### Grants for Creative Individuals



Opens: September 16, 2025  
Deadline: October 28, 2025

### Cultural Facilities Fund



Opens: October 9, 2025  
Deadline: December 11, 2025  
Grants to support the acquisition, design, repair, rehabilitation,

### Local Cultural Council Program



Opens: September 2, 2025  
Deadline: October 16, 2025  
Every community in Massachusetts is

### Tribal Cultural Council Program



Opens: September 2, 2025  
Deadline: October 16, 2025



# Thank You!

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