



*Power of culture*

# FY21 State Budget Request

Mass Cultural Council, the state agency responsible for promoting excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences, fostering a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents, and contributing to the vitality of our communities and state economy **requests a FY21 state appropriation of \$20 million**, a \$2 million increase from the current fiscal year. The Council will invest these resources into a portfolio of programs and services that enhance, support, and promote the cultural sector in every corner of the Commonwealth.

## Just the Facts

Data shows that a robust investment in the arts, humanities, and sciences through Mass Cultural Council delivers significant returns to the Commonwealth. Whether in Greater Boston, Cape Cod, the Berkshires or in between, nonprofit cultural organizations drive local economies in every region of the state. Further, the nonprofit organizations supported by Mass Cultural Council:

- Generate **\$2.3 billion** in annual economic activity.
- Support more than **71,000 full time equivalent jobs** statewide.
- Produce more than **\$128 million in new revenues** for Massachusetts, and
- Every dollar awarded is leveraged to raise an **additional \$157** in private funds.

## Previous State Appropriations | Line Item 0640-0300

Mass Cultural Council is deeply appreciative of our legislative champions and advocacy partners who work diligently each year to incrementally restore the Agency's line item to previous funding levels approved in the late 1980s and early 2000s. When secured, additional revenues are immediately invested into programs and services supporting Massachusetts' communities, artists, students, and cultural organizations.

| FY86    | FY87    | FY88    | FY89    | FY00    | FY01    | FY02    | FY19    | FY20    | FY21 Requested |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| \$19.5M | \$23.5M | \$27.4M | \$25.1M | \$18.3M | \$18.5M | \$19.1M | \$16.2M | \$18.2M | \$20M          |

## Unmet Needs

Mass Cultural Council can demonstrate concerning levels of unmet need across the sector at existing funding levels. In FY19 the Council's state appropriation was \$16.2M. While these resources were aptly invested statewide, they were not enough to satisfy the needs of all stakeholders:

- Local Cultural Councils received over 9,000 grant requests totaling \$8.6 million but were only able to fund 45% of that amount.
- The Council could approve less than half of Cultural Investment Portfolio Projects grant applications received, and only 38% of the applicants to the Cultural Investment Portfolio Gateway grant program, and
- Most dramatically: funding for STARS Residencies, which bring students and teachers together with practicing artists, scientists, and/or scholars to create rich cultural experiences, was gone within 34 minutes of the application going live.

Without sustained investment in FY21, Mass Cultural Council will be faced with approving fewer grant applications and/or distributing smaller funding awards to arts and cultural organizations, while staff will be able to conduct less frequent site visits to local cultural council officials and cultural nonprofits in every community, and have diminished opportunities to provide technical assistance and professional services to those serving the sector.

## Looking Ahead

Massachusetts' vibrant cultural sector will suffer if Mass Cultural Council's funding is cut as suggested by the Governor's recommendation. **We urge our legislative partners to fund Mass Cultural Council at \$20 million in FY21.** This level of support will make a demonstrable impact to the state economy and among Massachusetts' artists, communities, cultural organizations, and schools. With this funding the Council will:

Enrich Massachusetts communities and amplify cultural vitality statewide through integrated community-focused grants, initiatives, and advocacy and strong investment in the grassroots Local Cultural Council network.

- Expand the Commonwealth's Creative Economy by providing cultural organizations and artists the supports they need to thrive.
- Empower a Creative Generation by enhancing creative learning experiences in schools that inspires the growth of creative, productive, and independent-minded young people. And,
- Promote access to cultural engagement opportunities for all Massachusetts residents by ensuring equity in policies and practices across the sector.

## A Call to Action

Please join Mass Cultural Council in embracing the #PowerOfCulture and support a continued robust state investment in the arts, humanities, and sciences. **The Council respectfully requests line item 0640-0300 be funded at \$20M in FY21, because in all its forms, culture is essential to the health and vitality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**