



Culture activates

"Maria Molteni: Soft
Score" at Fuller Craft
Museum



Power of culture

Captioning and ASL Interpretation

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Agenda

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1. Introductions and Session Overview
2. Program Overview
3. Eligibility
4. Application Process
5. Timeline
6. Questions

Shakuntala Kulkarni, *Untitled*, From the series *Of bodies, armour and cages*, 2013–2014. Courtesy of the Peabody Essex Museum. Photography by Kathy Tarantola.

Today's Presenters & Moderators

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Sara Glidden



Greg Torrales



Kalyn King



Lillian Lee

Ask Questions via Q&A!

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Young people examine an exhibit at the Tsongas Industrial History Center. Photo by Meg Moore/Megpix, courtesy of Tsongas Industrial History Center.

- Submit questions using the Q&A feature.
- We will pause for questions after each section.
- At the end there will be a chance to vocally ask questions as well as submit them through the Q&A feature.

NOTE: This presentation is a supplement to the guidelines.



Program Overview

CJT Dream Dance at the 15th Annual
Malden Lunar New Year Celebration
with Chinese Culture Connection



Program Vision

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Through this program, we aim to support cultural organizations that celebrate, preserve, and inspire creativity, and use the arts, humanities, and/or interpretive sciences to support transformational change and strengthen communities.

Program Background and History

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Operating Grants for Organizations is our primary funding program to support cultural organizations.

The program was designed following evaluation of our funding for cultural orgs, and as a response to the Agency's [Racial Equity Plan](#), and is strongly linked to the Mass Cultural Council's Values expressed in the FY24 – 26 Strategic Plan.

The Portfolio grant program is being phased out.

Mass Cultural Council Values and Vision

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Creativity: Mass Cultural Council believes that creativity is the key to solving many of society's concerns and advancing this asset helps to make the Commonwealth a preeminent place in the nation for it to thrive.

Public Service: Mass Cultural Council serves the Commonwealth and all who live, work, visit, and play here by amplifying creativity, providing resources, expanding relationships, and championing transformational changes that maintain and grow a thriving creative and cultural ecosystem.

Inclusion: Mass Cultural Council works to build a diverse and equitable creative and cultural sector in the Commonwealth, ensuring that all who practice and participate in creative and cultural expression see themselves in it.

Vision: Mass Cultural Council envisions a diverse creative and cultural sector that is valued as essential in the Commonwealth.

Grant Amounts and Use of Funds

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Unrestricted operating support

Renewable up to 5 years

Grants starting at \$6,000. Maximum to be determined.

Grant awards consistent with Portfolio grant amounts

James T. Alfred, Ebony Marshall-Oliver, Victoria Omoregie, Thomika Marie Bridwell. The Huntington's Fat Ham by James Ijames. Directed by Stevie Walker-Webb. Photo by T Charles Erickson.



Eligibility

City Strings United Boston



Eligible Organization Type - Nonprofits

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- Active 501(c)3 status with the IRS as of application deadline, June 13, 2024

AND

- Actively Incorporated as a nonprofit with the Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC)

OR

- Registered as a nonprofit in another state and actively registered as a Foreign Corporation in the SOC

Eligible Organization Types - Cultural Affiliates

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Departments/Programs of a Massachusetts

- Federally Recognized Tribal Government
- State Government (including public colleges or universities)
- Municipal Government

501(c)3 organization that is not eligible to apply on its own (including private colleges, universities, or conservatories)

MA branch/program of a national 501(c)3 organization

Eligible Organization Types - Cultural Affiliates Continued

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To show they are a semi-independent program that operates under a non-cultural parent organization, Cultural Affiliates must also:

- Manage their own budget
- Have at least one full-time (min. 30 hours per week) compensated administrative staff position dedicated solely to operation of the cultural entity.

Eligibility: Programming and Mission/Purpose

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- The organization's primary mission or purpose is creating, presenting, or providing services in the arts, humanities, and/or interpretive sciences.
- Over 50% of the organization's programmatic (not administrative) work is in Massachusetts.
- Programming is publicly available, or intentionally serving a specific portion of the general public, rather than benefitting any private individual or group.
- A college or university providing programs to its own students, or an organization that only provides programming for its donors, members, or other limited audiences is **not** considered to be serving specific portions of the general public for this program.

Eligibility: Financial Information and Access Plan

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The Organization Must:

- Be able to provide required financial reporting for the three most recently completed, 12-month fiscal years.
- Have minimum expenses of \$50,000 for each of the past two fiscal years.
- Have an Access Plan that illustrates compliance with or improvement towards the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Eligibility: Other Mass Cultural Grant Programs

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Cultural Investment Portfolio Recipients:

- Should only apply for Operating Grants for Organizations if FY24 is their final year of Portfolio funding.

Festivals and Projects:

- Organizations may apply to Operating Grants for Organizations and Festivals & Projects but will only receive a grant from one, if successful in both programs.



Application Process

Albino Mbie performs at the Red Room at
Café 939 with Boston Jazz Foundation



Application Sections

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1. Eligibility Quiz
2. Organizational Overview
3. Application Narrative
4. Financial Reporting
5. Prioritization Factors
6. Additional Information



The Vox Hunters perform at The Revels Pub Sings. Photo by Gus Voorhees.

Eligibility Prescreen & Quiz

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Poems + Parts and Pieces of the Universe at Essex Art Center.

Purpose:

- To confirm eligibility for this grant program
- To make sure that you get the correct version of the application

All applications will be reviewed by staff to verify eligibility

Organization Overview

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- Mission
- Core Programming



Berkshire Pulse: Spring Celebration Showcase

Application Narrative

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Required Sections

- How does the applicant demonstrate equitable practices
- How does the applicant support Massachusetts' artists, humanists and scientists

Choose **one** of the following two sections:

- How does the applicant engage their community deeply and authentically
- How does the applicant advance the cultural sector

Financial Reporting

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This section collects information that will be used in grant calculations for funded applicants.

- 501c3 organizations upload their 990 or 990EZ and answer questions
- Cultural Affiliates complete a financial reporting form and answer questions

This section is not scored.

Prioritization Factors

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In addition to information you enter in your application, prioritization will include the following:

- Past Mass Cultural Council funding history (not including Local Cultural Council grants)
- BIPOC-Centered Self Identification
- Participation in Card to Culture

This section pulls information from your organization profile in our grants management system.

Additional Information

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Questions about:

- Facility ownership/lease
- Programs to support young people
- Performing Arts
- Presenting touring artists

These additional questions help us identify an organization's eligibility for other grant programs.



Timeline

Cape Cod Maritime Museum: CCTSCA
New Years Day Row 2024



Timeline: Key Dates

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Application Opens: OPEN NOW!

Office Hours: Weekly from March 26 to June 13, 2024

Application Deadline: June 13, 2024 (11:59 PM EST)

Applicant Notification: November 2024

Annual Report Due: Tuesday, June 3, 2025

An acrylic painting of a pink flower with a yellow center, set against a teal background. The painting is visible in the top-left corner of the slide, partially obscured by a large orange diagonal shape.

Questions?

Untitled by Hannah Belson 2024. Acrylic on canvas. "Wild Findings" - CATA Art Exhibit at Berkshire Botanical Garden

Contact Information and Useful Links

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Check out our FAQs: [Operating Grants Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Sign up for weekly Office Hours: [Operating Grants Office Hours](#)

One-on-One support: [Operating Grants Virtual Support Meetings](#)

Email: organizations.masscultural@mass.gov

Call: [617-858-2825](tel:617-858-2825)

An acrylic painting of a pink flower with a yellow center, set against a teal background. The painting is visible in the top-left corner of the slide, partially obscured by a large orange diagonal shape.

Thank You!

Untitled by Hannah Belson 2024. Acrylic on canvas. "Wild Findings" - CATA Art Exhibit at Berkshire Botanical Garden

