

Endorse the Power of Culture Advocacy Campaign

Budget Funding, Bond Authorizations & Bills to Stabilize, Rebuild and Provide COVID Relief to the Massachusetts Cultural Sector in 2021-2022

The Commonwealth's once booming and vibrant **Cultural Sector** – comprised of individuals and organizations working in the arts, humanities, and sciences – is in severe economic crisis after a year of cancellations and closures necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 8, 2021 Mass Cultural Council released staggering COVID **economic impact data** collected from 981 nonprofit and municipal cultural organizations and 2,951 artists, teaching artists, humanists, and scientists, who reported dire losses sustained between March 2020-February 2021, including:

- A loss of **more than \$588.3M in revenue** for cultural organizations.
- More than **\$30.4M in lost personal income** for artists, teaching artists, humanists, and scientists.
- More than **30,000 cultural sector jobs impacted** statewide.

Through a series of FY22 **budget requests, bond authorizations, and bills** Mass Cultural Council is proposing strategic public investments to provide cultural organizations and individual cultural workers with **stability, rebuilding assistance, and COVID relief**. These initiatives will support core services and fund grantmaking activities necessary for the cultural sector to properly resume post-pandemic operations and safely reconnect with public audiences.

Budget: Increase state support of the cultural sector through Mass Cultural Council in FY22.

Mass Cultural Council is seeking a **FY22 budget appropriation of \$20M** (Line Item 0640-0300). This investment will allow the Agency to enhance core services and increase grantmaking to stabilize and support cultural sector stakeholders in every community, including artists, K-12 arts education and creative youth development programs, Local Cultural Councils, state-designated Cultural Districts, and nonprofit and municipal cultural organizations. [Learn more.](#)

Bond Authorizations: Secure \$24M in the FY22 Capital Spending Plan to rebuild the sector.

Mass Cultural Council is seeking a total investment of **\$24M in the FY22 Capital Spending Plan** to help the cultural sector rebuild from the pandemic. This capital spending will support a **\$10M Cultural Facilities Fund** grant round in FY22, as well as create two new COVID assistance programs authorized by the Legislature in the 2020 Economic Development Bond Bill: **\$3M to create new mediums for artists and cultural organizations to virtually showcase art, exhibits, programming, and events to the public; and \$11M to help cultural organizations with equipment and infrastructure costs necessary to reopen** to safely and sustainably, while upholding public health and social distancing protocols. [Learn more.](#)

Bills: To provide financial relief & build grassroots leadership throughout the cultural sector.

[S 2246](#) **An Act to rebuild the Commonwealth's cultural future – Sponsored by Sen. Ed Kennedy.** Directs a minimum of \$200M in federal COVID mitigation funding the state receives to the cultural sector for one-time relief grants, administered by Mass Cultural Council, to nonprofit and for-profit cultural organizations and individual artists, teaching artists, humanists, and scientists. [Learn more.](#)

[H 3378/S 2243](#) **An Act to expand membership opportunities in local cultural councils – Sponsored by Rep. Ken Gordon and Sen. Adam Hinds.** A technical correction to state law to allow interested, supportive, and engaging community leaders who are elected to non-appointing or appropriating local or regional positions to also serve as Local Cultural Council members in their communities. [Learn more.](#)

Join us! Share your support of the 2021-2022 Power of Culture Advocacy Campaign with your State Legislators and Governor Baker and ask them to endorse these proposed investments into the cultural sector.