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: $6M 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.
SD 2105 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.

HD 655/SD 1204 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.