

Applicant Information

Welcome to the Mass Cultural Council online application for the Grants for Creative Individuals.

The mission of the Grants for Creative Individuals is to equitably advance creativity throughout the Commonwealth with unrestricted grants to individuals who demonstrate **achievement of creative expression** and **commitment to their artistic/cultural practice**. We welcome applications from Massachusetts artists, culture bearers, and creative practitioners in all artistic/creative disciplines.

Primary Contact

Review the applicant information. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click Home button in upper right corner to get to My Profile button.

Name
Address
City State Zip Code
Phone Number
Email address

Legal Name

Please enter your legal name exactly as it appears on your taxes. Your legal name will be used for contracting purposes if you are awarded a grant.

Your username, in the Primary Contact section above, will be used in award announcements and on our website.

Test

Discipline/Category

Please select the discipline or category that best fits your work.

Literature

Describe Your Work (Optional)

Briefly say more about your Discipline/Category in your own words, e.g. "I am a sculptor who works in granite;" or "I work in multiple forms including film and music". 200 character limit includes letters and spaces.

Test

Experience Level

Which experience level best describes your work as an artist/culture bearer/creative practitioner? We are asking this question to ensure that artists, culture bearers, and creative practitioners of all experience levels are supported by this program.

10-25 years experience

Artist Narrative

Share how your work as an artist/culture bearer/creative practitioner demonstrates your achievement of creative expression and commitment to your artistic/cultural practice (1,500 characters including letters and spaces or 2 minutes max for audio or video).

Questions to consider:

- What are you trying to do/express with your creative work?
- How is this reflected in your Work Samples?
- How do your Work Samples and Artist Narrative demonstrate a commitment (of time, energy, focus, and/or experience) to your artistic or cultural practice?

Artist Narrative Format

In which format do you want to submit your Artist Narrative?

Text

Artist Narrative (Text)

Please type or paste your Artist Narrative. 1,500 character limit includes letters and spaces.

Test

Work Samples

Work Sample Upload Instructions

To demonstrate your achievement of creative expression and commitment to your artistic/cultural practice, submit a sample or samples of your creative work. Your work samples should be in-progress or completed within the last five years.

You may submit UP TO FIVE total minutes/pages/image files. This can be all one file type or include a mixture of file types. The important thing is that the total count is at least ONE and no more than FIVE.

You may submit the following file types:

AUDIO: FLAC, MID, MIDI, MP3, RA, RM, WAV, WMA. DOCUMENT: DOC, DOCX, PDF, RTF, TXT.
IMAGE: BMP, GIF, JPG, JPEG, or PNG. VIDEO: ASF, AVI, FLV, M4V, MKV, MOV, MP2, MP4, MPEG, MPG, RM, RMVB, WEBM, WMV.

Document files should be no more than 1 MB. Image, audio, or video files should be no more than 1,000 MB/1 GB.

Uploading a media file is a two-step process and larger files may take a long time to complete. First, select the media file from your computer and add it to your application. You will see the media file appear in the Video Library while the system scans it for viruses. If after 10 minutes the system is still scanning the file for viruses, kindly click "**Save Draft**" to **refresh** the screen and check if the virus scan has been completed. After the upload and scan are complete, click "Properties" to add your work's Title.

Note: During times when a large number of applicants are in the system, each media file may take 30 minutes or more to upload and scan for viruses. Please plan accordingly and we strongly encourage you to upload your files well in advance of the deadline date.

If you experience an error while uploading your file, try switching to another web browser.

If you are working on the application on or around the deadline, please note that you can still submit your application while the system is scanning your media file for viruses, as long as you have answered all other required information.

What type of work samples will you be providing?
Document file(s)

Title (if applicable)	Year completed	Size/di mensio ns; or # of pages; or # of minutes	Work Sample Description
Test	In-progress	00	Test

Prioritization Factors

Funding History

First time applicants or applicants that have not received funding from Mass Cultural Council in the last six fiscal years (2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019). Below you will see the information we have on file for you. Please note, the system only checks for past grants using your email address. It will not account for past awards associated with a different account/email address. During the review process staff will use other factors like name and address as well to look for past awards. As such, the information we display below may change during the review process.

By submitting your application you acknowledge understanding that Mass Cultural Council will verify this information with historical data in our grants management system. Mass Cultural Council will make every effort to ensure accuracy but cannot be held accountable for missing or incorrect information in the relevant sources. If you have questions about the information displayed below send staff a note using the notes feature here or call or email program staff directly.

Received at least one direct Mass Cultural Council grant in the past six fiscal years.

No

Historically Underfunded: BIPOC

Mass Cultural Council acknowledges that historically, both private philanthropy and public sector resources have failed to invest in, and meet the needs of all people, and in particular have underfunded **Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)** communities.

BIPOC is intended to include, but is not limited to:

- ALAANA (also ALANA) - African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Native American
- AAPI – Asian American and Pacific Islander
- BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, People of Color
- Latino/a (also Hispanic) as well as Latine/x and Afro-Latino/a
- Native American (Tribal and Urban) as well as Alaska Native, American Indians, Indigenous
- MENA – Middle East and North African
- People of Color (POC)
- People of the Global Majority
- People of the Global African Diaspora
- And all other ethnicities of color

Do you self-identify as one or more of the identities included in the description of BIPOC?

If you choose not to answer this question, your response will not be considered during the prioritization review.

Prefer not to answer

Historically Underfunded: Disability

People who identify as having a disability

The [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA) defines a person with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. This includes people who have a record of such an impairment, even if they do not currently have a disability. It also includes individuals who do not have a disability but are regarded as having a disability.

Mass Cultural Council recognizes that not all people accept or use the term disability as part of their identity. For the purposes of this prioritization review we are relying on the ADA definition as a guide for individuals to determine how to answer this question.

Do you self-identify as a person with a disability?

If you choose not to answer this question, your response will not be considered during the prioritization review.

Prefer not to answer

Historically Underfunded: People whose creative practice has been limited by poverty.

To receive this priority, applicants need to provide proof of participation in one of the following programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as Food Stamps; MassHealth/Medicaid; MassHealth CarePlus/Medicaid Expansion plans; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC); federal and state subsidized housing programs.

Do you identify as a person whose creative practice has been limited by poverty?

Yes

In which program(s) do you participate? (Check all that apply.)

- ☐ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- ☐ MassHealth/Medicaid
- ☐ MassHealth CarePlus/Medicaid Expansion plan
- ☐ Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- ☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ☐ Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)
- ☐ Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAECD)
- ☐ Federal or state subsidized housing
- ☒ Other (Please specify)

Please specify any other program(s):

Test

Benefits Counseling

This program's \$5,000 grant may have an impact on some public benefits, especially those with income and/or asset restrictions (for example, SSI, SNAP, housing, and Medicaid). We are working with a benefits counseling program out of UMass Chan Medical School called [Work Without Limits](#) to offer grant recipients guidance in possible impacts and ways to minimize them.

If you receive public benefits and are selected to receive a Grant for Creative Individuals, would you be interested in being contacted by a benefits counselor?

Not sure

Historically Underfunded: Veterans of the United States Armed Forces

To receive this priority, applicants need to attest that they meet the [Massachusetts Office of Veterans Affairs' definition of "veteran"](#). Mass Cultural Council reserves the right to require further verification of veteran status, including proof of a DD214 discharge form or other verifying documentation, when grant selections are made.

Do you meet the veteran definition as described above?
Prefer not to answer

Culture Bearers or Traditional Artists

We define “culture bearer or traditional artist” as an individual whose creative/artistic practice sustains a living tradition within a specific community and is reflective of that community’s aesthetics, practices, values and/or beliefs. Their community may be defined by ethnic, geographic, tribal, spiritual, or trade/craft-based heritage. Most commonly (but not always) traditional arts are learned orally or by observation, passed down from generation to generation, rather than in an institutional or academic setting. [Read more about how we define culture bearers/traditional artists.](#)

Do you meet our definition of a culture bearer or traditional artist?
Yes

Please describe in either text or audio/video format how your work makes you a keeper of tradition or cultural heritage.

Part of what defines a culture bearer/traditional artist is the significance of their work to the heritage of a community.

Questions to consider:

- How does your work help sustain the viability of your traditional art or cultural heritage?
- How do others in your community regard your work?

Please indicate how you will answer this question. (1,500 characters including letters and spaces or 2 minutes max)

Text

Text Answer

Please type or paste your answer. 1,500 character limit includes letters and spaces.

Text

Will this grant be used to support your individual work as a culture bearer/traditional artist or will this grant be used to support a traditional arts apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship

Are you the mentor or apprentice artist?

Mentor artist

Please indicate the name of your mentor or apprentice.

Test

Mentor or Apprentice Artist Details

How long have you known your mentor or apprentice artist and have you worked with them before? Why do you want to teach/learn from this person? What particular skills, styles, or techniques do you expect to teach or learn?

Please indicate how you will answer this question. (1,500 characters including letters and spaces or 2 minutes max)

Text

Text Answer

Please type or paste your answer. 1,500 character limit includes letters and spaces.

Test

Acknowledgement

Ready to Submit?

Once you click "Submit" below, you will no longer have access to make changes to your application. You will receive an email confirmation after you submit that includes a copy of your application without any uploaded files.

Please note: You have not successfully submitted your application until you see the following message: "Congratulations - You have successfully submitted your application."

Authorized Signature: I certify that all the information contained in this application, including all supporting documents and materials, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I attest that all submitted work sample(s) represent my own work. I hereby release Mass Cultural Council, its members, and employees, from any liability and/or responsibility concerning the submission of materials to this program. In addition, I agree that the required public acknowledgment will be given to Mass Cultural Council if this application is approved. Through the inclusion of my work samples and other materials in my application, I grant permission to the Mass Cultural Council to use this material for promotional and publication purposes only. If used, all work will be properly credited with the artist's, organization's, and photographer's information.

Clicking "submit" below serves as an authorizing electronic signature.

Attestation I agree