



FY27 Spending Plan

From WARM & FUZZY
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Museum



Power of culture

Strategic Plan

Our Mission

To advance the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector by celebrating traditions and talents, championing its collective needs, and equitably investing public resources.

Our Vision

A diverse creative and cultural sector that is valued as essential in Massachusetts.

Our Values

Creativity, Public Service, and Inclusion.

Strategic Plan Goals

Our Ecosystem

Advance the creative and cultural sector through building partnerships, identifying recommendations, and storytelling, both inside and outside of the sector.

Our Impact

Build and support programmatic practices that advance equity, diversity, and inclusion through our services to the sector.

Our Culture

Ensure that our internal systems, structures, and ways of working reflect our values and advance the sector's needs.

FY27 Revenue Summary

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Funding Source	Amount	% of Total
State: Basic Appropriation (0640-0300) less Earmarks	\$27,348,072	78%
State: Earmarked Pass-Through Funds	\$758,000	2%
State: Chapter 23K Funds (Gaming Mitigation estimated)	\$5,094,902	15%
MassDevelopment: For Mass Cultural Council expenses associated with Cultural Facilities Fund	\$358,705	1%
National Endowment for the Arts	\$1,260,938	4%
Harry Rice Trust Account (Estimated)	\$64,726	0%
Total	\$34,885,343	

Summary of Legislative Language

1. Align spending with Strategic Plan
2. Invest 75% of state appropriation into grant spending
3. Submit a Council approved FY2027 spending plan by November 3, 2026.

Compliance with Legislative Mandate

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- Required: 75% of state appropriation (\$28.1M) must go to grantmaking
- Minimum threshold: \$21.1M
- Mass Cultural Council's spending plan exceeds this requirement, dedicating \$27.8 to grantmaking, representing 132% of the statutory minimum.

Advancement

Two Primary Goals

1. Position the arts and culture sector as a visible, recognized resource and an essential partner in problem solving across the Commonwealth.
2. Leverage resources from outside of our sector for the economic benefit of those within.

Advancement Focus Areas

Based on constituent needs and priorities of the Commonwealth, three areas of overlap across teams were identified:

- Workforce Development/Competitiveness
- Arts and Health
- Community Development and Housing

FY27: Program staff work across teams in working groups to support efforts in these three areas.

Select Advancement Activities in FY27

- **Creative Wealth Fund Feasibility** – \$25k in funding to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Creative Wealth Fund designed to build long-term value from cultural infrastructure investments and reinvest returns into nonprofit cultural organizations.
- **Cultural Policy Development Advisory Council (CPDAC)** – \$10k in funding to establish a creative economy definition and economic measurement of the Cultural/Creative Sector in coordination with other state government data gathering efforts.

Select Advancement Activities in FY27

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- **Cross Sector Partnership Convening** – \$10k in funding to support a cross-sector convening to bring together partners from economic development, community development, health, workforce, and related fields to examine how the cultural sector contributes to broader public priorities. The convening would also help identify opportunities for partnership, investment, and policy alignment across sectors.
- **Ongoing Conversations:** Building on the FY26 connections we built with the Executive Office of Labor, the education agencies, and the Department of Public Health we are working with each agency to institutionalize the impact of the arts in each of these sectors

Advancement: Expanding brand

- Web Presence: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/advancement>
- Blog Post: What We Talk about When We Talk About Advancement
<https://massculturalcouncil.org/blog/tag/advancement/>

Programs Overview

- Review and re-launch all grant programs to make an estimated **2,300 grants totaling \$27 million, an increase of \$900,000 over FY26.**
- In FY26, across all direct programs and including the Local Cultural Council Program, we received **over 19,000** applications through our grants management system. We anticipate the same number or more in FY27.

Partnership & Service - Grants

	FY26	FY27	Change	Note
Mass Humanities	\$983,056	\$1,032,234	5%	Formula based
New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)	\$70,000	\$70,000	0%	
MASSCreative	\$30,000	\$30,000	0%	
	\$1,083,056	\$1,132,234	5%	

Artists & Youth - Grants

	FY26	FY27	Change	Note
Grants for Creative Individuals	\$2,270,000	\$2,450,000	8%	Increase. 36 more grants, 490 total
Poetry Out Loud	\$25,000	\$25,000	0%	NEA passthrough funds
Massachusetts Poet Laureate	\$25,000	\$25,000	0%	Paid from appropriation this year
YouthReach	\$1,870,000	\$1,950,000	4%	Increase in number of grants
Youth Arts Impact Network (YAIN)	\$36,000	\$36,000	0%	Level
Social Prescription: NEA Arts & Health	\$75,000	\$50,000	-33%	NEA funds
	\$4,301,000	\$4,536,000	5%	

Artists & Youth – Services & Advancement

- Continue partnership with Governor's Office to present MA artists in her space the over course of the year.
- Offer resources and information to individuals through Artist Opportunities.
- Continue to explore ways to boost opportunities for Massachusetts artists in other sectors, including connections to restaurants, hotels, and other government agencies.
- Planning Folk/Traditional Arts convening with partners.

Communities - Grants

	FY26	FY27	Change	Note
Cultural District Grants	\$870,000	\$870,000	0%	Level
Local Cultural Councils	\$5,700,000	\$5,850,000	3%	Increase. Most LCCs (80%) will see an increase to their allocation.
Tribal Cultural Councils	\$69,300	\$71,200	3%	Increase to each TCC.
	\$6,639,300	\$6,791,200	2%	

Communities – Services & Advancement¹⁷

- Continue partnership with Mass Municipal Association.
- Continue to share information and build awareness in municipalities about the possibility of using Opioid settlement funds for Arts Prescription.
- Other key relationship focuses include Mass Office of Travel and Tourism, Regional Tourism Councils, Office of Rural Affairs, Communities, Council on Aging, and Mass Downtown Initiative, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Barr Foundation, and more.

Organizations - Grants

	FY26	FY27	Change	Note
Operating Support: OGO & CIP	\$7,200,000	\$7,350,000	2%	Increase. 10 more grants. Grants are formula based.
Gaming Mitigation Program	\$3,568,500	\$3,553,694	0%	Estimated. Depends on Actual Gaming Revenue.
	\$10,768,500	\$10,903,694	1%	

Organizations – Services & Advancement

- Identify and share opportunities and resources with field every month in collaboration with Public Affairs
- Create a new Card to Culture training to guide organizations through the real-world dynamics that shape how users experience access and belonging at cultural institutions, and how they can provide a respectful and fair welcome to all Card to Culture participants.
- Continue financial health analysis of funded organizations to monitor for trends and inform resources and information sharing.

Equity, Inclusion, and Access - Grants

	FY26	FY27	Change	Note
Creative Experiences	\$3,375,000	\$3,442,500	2%	Increase. More grants.
Universal Participation (UP) Innovation Fund Grants	\$465,000	\$465,000	0%	Level
Arts and Culture Accessibility Resource Hub	\$100,000	\$100,000	0%	Level
	\$3,940,000	\$4,007,500	2%	

Equity, Inclusion, and Access

- Continued implementation of the d/Deaf & Disability Equity Plan including internal Access Working Group focused on our own access/transition plan.
- Continued implementation of the Native American & Indigenous People's Equity Plan including the Native American/Indigenous People's Advisory Committee.
- Launch new UP Innovation & Learning Network incorporating trainings and resources in the Arts & Culture Accessibility Hub.
- Launch revised UP Designation process with current UP Organizations.

Cultural Facilities Fund

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- In July, the Healey-Driscoll Administration authorized \$10 million for CFF in the FY27 capital spending plan. Staff are working with our partners at MassDevelopment to craft the guidelines and application for the next round of funding.
- Continue [Creative Space DNA](#) series.



Mary Bichner performing
SYNESTHESIA SUITE:
CONSTELLATIONS at
Boston's Museum of
Science, photo
by Jonathan Beckley



Power of culture