

Culture connects



Mass Cultural Council

2

An independent state agency charged with bolstering the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector.

Our efforts:

- advance economic vitality
- support transformational change and
- celebrate, preserve, and inspire creativity across Massachusetts

We pursue our mission through a broad range of programs, services, advocacy, and the equitable investment of public resources.



Boston's Latin Quarter Cultural District Summer performance.

A Historic Year...

Our funding comes from:

- @ \$22M from the annual state operating budget. By law at least 75% must be used for grants
- 2% of state casino gaming revenues for the Gaming Mitigation Grant Program
- \$10M in partnership with MassDevelopment for state capital funding through the Cultural Facilities Fund.
- Nearly, \$1M from The National Endowment for the Arts

Because of one-time Pandemic Recovery funding, Mass Cultural Council is tasked with investing almost \$100M to the creative and cultural sector.

Grant Programs At-A-Glance

4



This year Mass Cultural Council offered 11 funding opportunities to individuals, organizations, and communities:

- Creative Youth Development Grants
- Cultural District Investment Grants
- Cultural Facilities Fund
- Cultural Investment Portfolio Grants
- Festivals & Projects Grants
- Gaming Mitigation Program Grants
- Local Cultural Council Grants
- Recovery Grants for Individuals
- Recovery Grants for Organizations
- STARS Residencies Grants
- Up Designation Grants

Art piece, Hyarts Artist Shanties.

Arts & Culture and the Massachusetts Economy

5

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2020 the arts and culture sector contributed **\$23.7 billion** to the Massachusetts economy, representing **4.1% of the state's GDP**, **125,091 jobs**, and total compensation of **\$13.6 billion**.



Rufus Cesspool outside performance at the Crossroads Cultural District.

Arts & Culture – a Key Partner with Tourism

6

People from all over the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world travel to Massachusetts to engage with our history, diversity, and rich cultural creative landscape.



New England Aquarium.

What Other are Saying About Us

7

- “It's basically a living history book, Massachusetts is a state of firsts, it's a great place to enjoy the arts, it's a haven for creative types, all your favorite alt-rock bands formed here.” – *23 Reasons Why Massachusetts Is Possibly the Best State*
- **#10 Stockbridge, MA** - *10 best small town arts scenes/USA Today 2021*
- **#5 Vineyard & Haven, MA & #9 Greenfield Town, MA** - *Top 10 Arts-Vibrant Small Communities/SMU DataArts 2019*
- **#2 New Bedford, MA** - *10 Cities That Creatives Should Move to That Are Not NYC or L.A./Complex.com 2013*



Initiative of the Plymouth Bay Cultural District in partnership with Plymouth High School and artist Franklin Marval.

The Massachusetts Cultural Districts Initiative

8



Many Cultures One Heart festival,
Framingham Centre Common Historic District.

- Established by state law in 2011, the Massachusetts Cultural Districts Initiative is managed by Mass Cultural Council.
- currently support a vibrant network of 53 districts.
 - drives economic growth, strengthens the distinctive local character of communities, and improves the quality of life across Massachusetts.
 - act as hubs of cultural, artistic, and economic activity, and an identity for the creative community.

State-Designated Cultural Districts in the Old Colony Planning Area

- Plymouth Bay Cultural District
- Scituate Harbor Cultural District
- Shovel Town Cultural District (Easton)

Middleborough and Duxbury have reached out seeking more information.



Unveiling of the “Perseverance” public art installation at the Plymouth Antiquarian Society in the Plymouth Bay Cultural District. Photo: Luis Cotto.

Benefits of State-Designated Cultural District

10



Audience enjoying music at the Arlington Porch Fest.

- Attracts tourists and entrepreneurs, helping to develop city/town cultural sectors and tax base.
- Eligible to apply to Mass Cultural and other state agencies' grant programs.
- Monthly convenings, information and best practices sharing, and serve as a support system and resource network for others.

Contact us

Carolyn Cole

she/her/hers

Program Officer

Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts

617-858-2727

carolyn.cole@mass.gov



Stay engaged!

12

- Visit www.massculturalcouncil.org for the e-newsletter Agency initiatives, events, grant opportunities & advocacy.
- Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn & Instagram - @MassCultural
- Let's Connect - **Michael.Bobbitt@mass.gov**



Thanks so much!

Questions?