Welcome to the Local Cultural Council Community
The Mass Cultural Council
The Mass Cultural Council is a state agency that promotes excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences to foster a rich cultural life for all Massachusetts residents and contributes to the vitality of our communities and economy.

The Council pursues this mission through a wide range of grants, initiatives, and advocacy for artists, communities, organizations, and schools.

The LCC Program is one of several programs administered by the Mass Cultural Council. A complete listing of Mass Cultural Council grant programs and services can be found online at www.massculturalcouncil.org
The Mass Cultural Council was formed in 1990 through the merger of two previously separate agencies, the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities and the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council. 

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Local Cultural Council

The Local Cultural Council Program is the largest cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences annually. The program promotes the availability of rich cultural experiences for every Massachusetts citizen.

More information on the LCC Program can be found at [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org)
There are currently 329 local and regional councils that represent all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.
Local Cultural Councils are administered by 2,500 municipally-appointed councilors, serving all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns.
“The LCC Program gives a great perspective on the richness and depth of the cultural arts and opportunities in our community and shows the cooperative nature that evolves between our small towns and the groups within them.” – John Zimmerman, former Westhampton Cultural Council member
In 2016, Local Cultural Councils awarded more than $3,000,000 to cultural projects in Massachusetts.

Whoa! That’s a big number! Aren’t you proud?
That’s $3,000,000 in funding to over 6,000 cultural programs Administered by 2,500 municipally-appointed councilors serving all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns.
Primary responsibilities of LCCs

- Soliciting community input and assessing local cultural needs
- Awarding grants and organizing projects to address local cultural needs
- Serving as resources for the local cultural community
Funds received from LCCs support projects at local libraries, festivals, concert series, art education and so much more!

The Essence of India festival is funded by the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council and other nearby LCCs.
LCC Grant Cycle

- **August**
  LCCs publicize the grant program locally.

- **September**
  LCCs post council priorities on their council profiles by September 1.
  Mass Cultural Council notifies LCCs of their allocation amounts.

- **October**
  Grant applications due to LCCs by October 15.
  LCC Account Form due to Mass Cultural Council by October 15.
  Section 1 and 2 of Annual Report due October 15.

- **November – December**
  LCCs determine the total amount available for granting.
  LCCs conduct their grant cycle voting meetings.
  LCCs send disapproval notifications.
  LCCs handle any reconsideration requests.
  LCCs enter grant decisions and grant cycle voting meeting into the online office.

- **January**
  LCCs submit Annual Report by January 15.
  LCC submit final report for last year’s council programs by January 15.
  Mass Cultural Council transfers funds to LCCs.
  LCCs send approval notifications and publicize grant awards.
  LCCs begin processing reimbursement requests.

- **Spring**
  LCCs process reimbursement requests.
  LCCs ensure grant recipients acknowledge Mass Cultural Council and LCC funding.
  LCCs attend funded projects and invite elected officials.
  LCC conduct their community input process.

For additional resources on the LCC grant cycle, visit [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org)
Hosting a reception to honor grant recipients is a great way to publicize the work of the council. An event can provide an opportunity to recognize grantees and thank the municipal officials, legislators and members who make LCC programs possible.
Social media tools like Facebook and Twitter can help you connect to your community and promote council activities and funded programs. They are also free and relatively easy to use after some practice.
Fundraising is a great way for councils to add to their grant pool or support council programs.

For additional resources on fundraising, visit [www.mass-culture.org/fundraising.aspx](http://www.mass-culture.org/fundraising.aspx)
There are as many ways to raise money as there are ways to spend it. Some of the most common fundraising techniques are:

- Annual appeal letter
- Hold an arts festival to raise council visibility and showcase community artists
- Silent auction/raffle
- Open mic series
- Art show
- Benefit concert
- Studio tours/art walks
- Merchandising
- Corporate, family and community foundations such as:
  - New England Foundation for the Arts
  - National Endowment for the Arts
  - The Barr Foundation
  - Artplace America
  - The Boston Foundation

Is there a local bank in your community? Local banks often sponsor events happening in their community.
Council Programs

A council program is a cultural project that is organized by the council itself and that receives funding from the LCC’s allocation from the Mass Cultural Council. It might represent some larger project that has a wide public benefit, such as a work of public art, festival or exhibition.

For more information on council programs, visit [www.mass-culture.org/council_originated.aspx](http://www.mass-culture.org/council_originated.aspx)
Luminarium Dance Company, a Massachusetts-based organization that has received LCC funding, performs at the State House.
Local Cultural Councils are a part of local government and should be supported with the same access to basic resources afforded other government bodies.

For resources on working with your municipality, visit [http://mass-culture.org/municipality.aspx](http://mass-culture.org/municipality.aspx)
Meet Your Legislators

Get to know your legislators so that when you want to ask them to support increased cultural funding, they will know about the council and its work. Council members can ask for a meeting, invite legislators to an event, meet legislators during open office hours, or arrange to go to a legislative event such as a speech, dedication or fundraiser.
Mass Cultural Council
Grant Opportunities

**Artist Apprenticeships**
Apprenticeships are awarded every other year to a limited number of master artists. Priority is given to rare or endangered traditions. Funds (up to $10,000 per apprenticeship) are provided to compensate the master artist for teaching time.

**Artist Fellowships**
The Artist Fellowships provide direct, unrestricted support to Massachusetts artists in recognition of exceptional original work, to foster the creation of new art in the Commonwealth. Artist Fellowships in a range of disciplines are awarded to primary creators of original works of art.

**STARS Residencies**
(STudents and Teachers Working with Artists, Scientists, and Scholars) provide grants of $500–$5,000 to schools to support creative learning residencies of three days or more in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They are an important part of the Creative Youth Initiative.

**SerHacer Program**
SerHacer (To be, To make) is focused on supporting the growing number of intensive, ensemble-based music programs that enable music as a vehicle for youth development and social change.

**YouthReach Grant**
The YouthReach Initiative provides funding to programs that integrate substantive out-of-school arts, humanities, and science opportunities into a collaborative community response to the needs of youth at risk.

**Big Yellow School Bus**
Big Yellow School Bus provides $200 grants to help schools meet the transportation costs of educational field trips to non-profit cultural institutions and activities in the arts, sciences, and humanities across Massachusetts.

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Mass Cultural Council
Grant Opportunities

**Cultural Facilities Fund**
Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) grants support projects that create jobs in construction and cultural tourism; expand access and education in the arts, humanities, and sciences; and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

**Festivals Grant**
The Festivals Program is designed to provide funding to help festival programmers meet the needs of producing, promoting, and developing audiences.

**Cultural Districts**
Cultural districts help local arts, humanities, and science organizations improve the quality and range of their public programs so that more local families can benefit from them. They enhance the experience for visitors and thus attract more tourist dollars and tax revenue. And they attract artists, cultural organizations, and entrepreneurs of all kinds – enhancing property values and making communities more attractive.

**Cultural Investment Portfolio**
The Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP) provides unrestricted general operating support grants and project support grants to nonprofit organizations that provide public programs in the arts, sciences, and humanities in Massachusetts.

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Mass Cultural Council Services

Creative Minds Out Loud
Creative Minds Out Loud was created to give a glimpse into Massachusetts’ cultural capital; to inform, to inspire, and to share the stories of our sector.

Spacefinder
A no-cost discovery tool for artists seeking to rent alternative and/or affordable spaces throughout Massachusetts. Developed by Fractured Atlas, a non-profit technology company servings artists, SpaceFinder Mass is a project of the Arts & Business Council of Boston in partnership with the Mass Cultural Council.

HireCulture
A free, online listing of creative employment opportunities in Massachusetts that includes administrative, production, volunteer and intern opportunities. Cultural organizations have been posting their jobs here since 2003.

Artist Space Resources
Resources to connect you with existing spaces or to help you think through the process of finding, financing, and developing your own space.

Up Inclusive Design Initiative
A Mass Cultural Council initiative putting inclusive design at the center of our work with cultural organizations across the Commonwealth.

Gallery@MCC
Includes work samples from Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellows and Finalists. These individuals have been recognized for exceptional work in a variety of disciplines by a panel of their peers.

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Mass Cultural Council Services

Organizational Capacity Measurement Tool
Developed by the Mass Cultural Council to help non-profit organizations identify institutional capacities.

Creative Minds Out of School
Through this arts-based training, coaching, and professional development program, participants learn to use the nationally-distributed Creative Minds Out of School curriculum as a tool for teaching 21st century skills through visual arts education, and extend school day learning through hands-on experiences. A partnership between Mass Cultural Council, the Innovation Learning Center, and Davis Publications.

Folk Arts and Heritage
This program works to identify craftspeople, performers and cultural specialists, help sustain the practice of tradition where they live, and increase appreciation of their artistry within the community and beyond.

Cultural Tourism 101
An online primer to cultural groups statewide seeking more information on connecting with tourists in the realm of "cultural tourism."

LCC Online Office
Learn more about arts and culture in your community. Visitors can get information on each of the state’s 329 local cultural councils. LCC members can access comprehensive administrative tools, instructions and information to help them manage the Local Cultural Council Program.

Visit www.massculturalcouncil.org for more information on our services.
Thanks!

Any questions?

- Email: lcc@art.state.ma.us
- Call: 617-858-2700
- Visit: www.mass-culture.org