



*Power of culture*

**UNOFFICIAL DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF  
MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL  
GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019**

**MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL OFFICE  
10 ST JAMES AVENUE-3D FLOOR  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Chair Victoria Marsh called the meeting to order at 10 AM

**Committee Members Present**

Victoria Marsh, Chair of Grants Committee  
Nina Fialkow, Chair of Mass Cultural Council  
Karen Barry  
Jo-Ann Davis  
Sandy Dunn (by phone)  
Kathy Castro (by phone)  
Barbara Schaffer Bacon (by phone)  
Cecil Barron Jensen (by phone)

**Staff members present** were

Anita Walker, Executive Director  
David Slatery, Deputy Director  
Greg Liakos, External Relations Director  
Jen Lawless, Operations Director

Victoria Marsh opened the meeting by reading the following

**Prepared on 9/11/19**

I, Victoria Marsh as chair of Mass Cultural Council's Grants Committee, hereby call this meeting to order.

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Please note that this meeting is an open meeting of a public body subject to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. A notice of this meeting together with the agenda was posted on Mass Cultural Council's website 48 or more hours ago (excluding weekends and holidays).

This meeting shall be open and accessible to all members of the public except at such times when this body has voted to go into closed executive session under the Open Meeting Law.

Please note that this body has invited Mass Cultural Council's senior staff and other staff members as requested to participate in today's meeting

Mass Cultural Council welcomes members of the public to attend its meetings. Under the Open Meeting Law, however, this is not a public hearing and public testimony will not be taken. Individuals may not address the meeting without permission of the chair.

Draft minutes of the open session of this meeting shall be kept and shall be posted on Mass Cultural Council's website no later than 30 days after the meeting provided that such minutes shall not be considered official until they have been approved by this body in open session. Individuals asserting a violation of the Open Meeting Law may file a complaint with this body within 30 days or with the Attorney General's office thereafter.

## **CONFLICTS LIST**

Victoria then asked Dave Slatery to address the Conflict of Interest Procedures.

Dave explained that a copy of the Conflicts List had been provided in the meeting materials and that an updated list had been circulated today. Dave stated that any possible conflicts of interest are disclosed in the list and that any member who had so disclosed a conflict with

respect to a particular organization or grantee would abstain from any vote or discussion regarding any Committee discussion or action relating to any Council grant or service to such organization or grantee. Victoria asked if any member who wished to add any organization to the list of possible conflicts contained in the Meeting Book.

It was noted that all the votes recommending the FY20 grant recommendations will note the various possible conflicts and abstentions of the Committee Members in attendance at this meeting.

**Nina Fialkow** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Boston Ballet and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.**

**Victoria Marsh** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to **Company One** or **WGBH**

**Sandy Dunn** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Discover Central Massachusetts**

**Barbara Schaffer Bacon** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Arts Extension Service or New England Foundation for the Arts.**

**Jo-Ann Davis** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **The Care Center**

**Kathleen Castro** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Little Theater of Fall River or the New Bedford Festival Theater and the Fall River Coalition for Arts & Culture.**

**Karen Barry** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other assistance to the **Friendship Home.**

**Cecil Barron Jensen** disclosed that she would abstain from any discussion or vote regarding the provision of a grant or other

assistance to the **Artists Association of Nantucket, The Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket Cultural District or Nantucket Arts Council.**

Victoria then asked Executive Director Anita Walker to make a presentation on the proposed FY20 Grants Recommendations. Anita indicated that immediately prior to this meeting, the Executive Committee had met and reviewed the proposed FY20 Budget and Spending Plan and voted to recommend it to the full Council for approval on August 27, subject to the Grants Committee's review and recommendation of the FY20 Grants Recommendations. Anita explained the Grants Recommendations presentation and plan had been developed internally with staff and had been informed by the FY 20 Budget and Spending Plan and was today being presented as a draft to the Grants Committee. Anita then proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation, copies of which are available upon request.

At the end of the presentation, the Committee members had the following questions and comments.

Karen Barry was interested in knowing more about the geographic distributions of grants and grant outreach and indicated she would like to see pie-charts breaking it down and breaking out where applications are coming from. Victoria thought it would be a good idea to know more about the applicant pool. Barbara Schaffer Bacon would like to see how the grantmaking data plays out with the application data and was concerned about whether we were holding back enough of a reserve.

Kathy Castro though members should be informed enough so as to act for ambassadors for the programs. Cecil Barron Jensen echoed this and would like to get arts and cultural organizations better informed and would like a visit in her community of Nantucket from Council staff.

The members then generally discussed the programs and the ability to review them when they were in an earlier developmental stage. Victoria suggested maybe adding an extra hour to the May Grants meeting to review ideas which may be developed into proposal in the next year's spending plan.

Jen Lawless indicated she could help provide grant information to those who would like to see it. Karen indicated she would like to receive that.

## **FY20 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

After the conclusion of Anita's presentation and the discussion related above, Victoria referred Section B of the Grants Committee Agenda, Parts 1 through 12, and called for the Committee to vote on whether to recommend the approval of the FY 20 grant recommendations contained in the Committee Meeting Book to the full Council. (Note that prior to the following votes occurring, Sandy Dunn left the meeting to attend to another matter.) Upon motion duly made and seconded, with the abstentions noted above, the Committee, by roll call vote, held

**WHEREAS**, the General Court of the Massachusetts State Legislature has appropriated a budget of \$18,180,000 to the Mass Cultural Council for FY20;

**WHEREAS**, Mass Cultural Council staff has presented a recommended FY20 grants budget to the Grants Committee at its meeting on August 13, 2019 ("Grants Committee Meeting"), including recommended grant allocations for a variety of Mass Cultural Council programs;

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is hereby

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** that the Grants Committee further recommends that the Council approve the allocation of grants and processes and procedures presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

### **Section B**

#### **Part 1.a-e**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend allocations to the Cultural Investment Portfolio, CIP Gateway and CIP Projects, Capacity Accelerator Network Stipends and Media Partnerships (collectively, the "CIP Programs") as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting in for a total of \$6,170,000.

#### **Part 2.a-f**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend an allocation to the Local Cultural Councils totaling \$4,154,000 and \$30,000 to Compact Grants, up to \$285,000 in Cultural District/Fair Saturday grants, \$20,000 to Art Week, \$110,000 to the Festivals Program and \$20,000 to grants under the Audience Lab program as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

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**Part 3.a-g**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend grant allocations to YouthReach and SerHacer and Amplify, continued funding of the Instrument Library in the combined amount of \$1,428,500 and the continuance of the Klarman Family Foundation- Funded original META program, \$50,000 to the META expansion and \$20,000 to the Western Mass DCF Pilot Program as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 4.a-g**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the following Arts \$ Education grant allocations, \$1,150,000 to the STARS program, \$150,000 to the Big Yellow School Bus Program, \$40,000 to the Creative Minds Out of School program, \$5,000 to the Early Education & Childcare Pilot, \$20,000 in support of Massachusetts History Day, \$17,500 in support of the NEA-funded Poetry Out Loud program, and \$5,000 to the Holyoke Arts Education Task Force as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 5**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council to provide \$55,000 in grants under the Health Initiative as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 6**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the recommended Artist Fellowship program allocations totaling \$652,500 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 7**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council the continuation of the UP Program with grants in the amount of \$70,000 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 8**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to MassHumanities totaling \$679,397 as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 9**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council a grant to NEFA totaling 60,000 provided that Mass Cultural Council does not

provide more than the other New England states provide to NEFA as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 10**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council an allocation of \$35,000 to the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation for its "Driving While Black' Library Forum as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 11**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Mass Cultural Council an allocation of \$25,000 to ArtsBoston acting on behalf of the Network Arts Administrators of Color as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

**Part 12**

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to contract with SMU Data Arts to provide the Cultural Data Profile tool as presented at the Grants Committee Meeting.

Barbara expressed concern on how the grant to the JFK Library arose as an opportunity. Anita explained that it was opportunistic and that it fit in with our DEI work.

Karen asked if this budget addressed monies that would be available from gaming revenues. Anita indicated that it did not as no monies had been transferred to the Council yet pending a technical fix to the authorizing legislation. Anita indicate that even when those monies were available, there were dedicated to very specific mitigation programs as stated in the legislation and were not available generally for Mass Cultural Council operations.

There being no more business to come before the Council, Victoria as Chair adjourned the meeting.