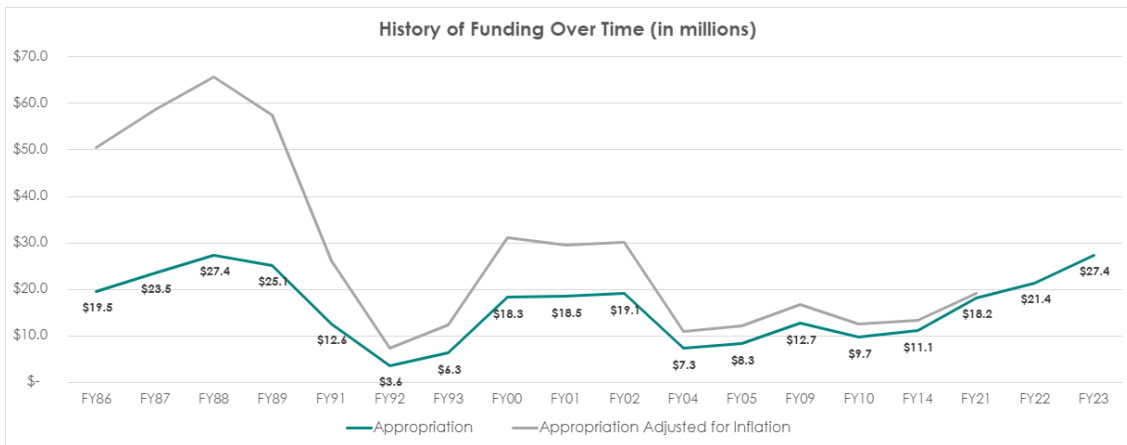


FY23 State Budget Request

Seeking a \$27.4M state investment in the cultural sector – Line Item 0640-0300

Mass Cultural Council, your state agency bolstering the Massachusetts cultural sector and promoting excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences, **requests a FY23 state budget appropriation of \$27.4 million.**

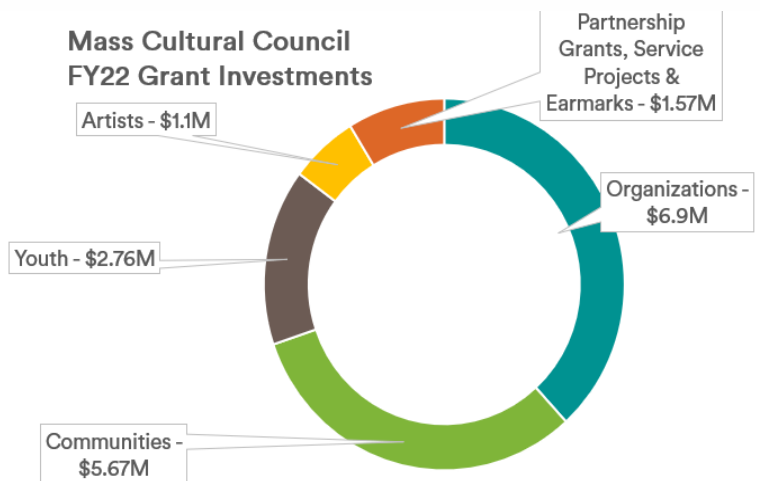
This represents a \$7 million increase to the Governor's \$20.4 million funding recommendation for the Agency in [FY23 H. 2](#), and charts a path for Massachusetts to match the state's record-high investment made in 1988, 34 years ago, supporting arts and culture. After two-years of devastating economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, [Mass Cultural Council urges Beacon Hill](#) to meet the moment and invest \$27.4M into arts and culture in the coming fiscal year.



Putting Public Resources to Work

In FY22, Mass Cultural Council's \$21.4M state appropriation financed **equitable grantmaking** practices, supporting artists, cultural workers, creative youth, cultural organizations, and communities.

The Agency's [FY22 Spending Plan](#) invested **\$18M, more than 84%** of our state budget funding, into **more than 1,500 grant awards made in every city and town** statewide.



A Once Vibrant Economic Driver Struggling to Recover

Data shows that robust public investment in the arts, humanities, and sciences through Mass Cultural Council delivers significant returns to the Commonwealth. Whether in Greater Boston, Cape Cod, the Berkshires, or in between, **artists, cultural sector workers, and cultural organizations drive local economies in every region of the state.**

On March 15, 2022 the NEA's Office of Research & Analysis and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Commerce Department [jointly reported](#) that the Massachusetts cultural sector contributed **\$23.7 billion** to the Massachusetts economy in 2020, representing **4.1% of the state's GDP**, and supported **125,091 jobs**.

ARTS IN A CHANGED WORLD

By the numbers: A year in 'fiscal freefall' for Massachusetts arts and culture

By Diti Kohli Globe Correspondent. Updated March 12, 2021, 7:52 a.m.

The 2020 data confirms what [Mass Cultural Council has diligently reported](#) -- the **Massachusetts cultural sector suffered dramatic economic impacts** due to the COVID-19 pandemic - **losing \$1.5 billion in revenue and affecting 17,487 sector-supported jobs.**

Strong support and investment are necessary to rebuild the Commonwealth's cultural sector, which is critical as the **state economy is not whole without the contributions of artists, cultural workers, and cultural organizations.** Mass Cultural Council's FY23 funding request proposes to dedicate a historic \$27.4M into this key economic sector.

Accessible, Equitable, and Inclusive Practices

RACIAL EQUITY STATEMENT

Mass Cultural Council works to invest financial, programmatic, and informational resources equitably. It also provides leadership to repair, heal, and build toward a cultural sector where racial diversity flourishes, decolonization of art and the cultural sector is achieved, and inclusion and belonging is the norm. Massachusetts' communities, residents, and visitors benefit from robust diversity in the cultural sector, without which the Commonwealth cannot continue to thrive.

A vision of the world that honors a breadth/variety of perspectives makes for a richer and more productive cultural sector. Seeing the world through different perspectives and bringing those ideas to life is the charge of the cultural sector and its leaders. Mass Cultural Council supports these creative visions and visionaries with co-creative, innovative, equitable, inclusive, and decolonized programming and grant making.

Mass Cultural Council's [Racial Equity Plan](#) sets a clear path for the Agency to invest financial, programmatic, and informational resources equitably across the cultural sector. Staff intentionally identify and connect with unserved and historically under-resourced individuals and communities, introducing them to the Agency's programs and services.

Success will be indicated by new applicants and first-time grant recipients across all grant programs.

Mass Cultural Council will equitably invest its FY23 appropriation into a portfolio of programs that enhance, support, and promote the cultural sector in every corner of the Commonwealth. In doing so the Agency will foster a rich cultural life for all residents, strengthen the state economy, and provide relief and stability for artists, cultural workers, and cultural organizations as they continue to rebuild and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- o A \$27.4M state appropriation will **increase grant opportunities**, both in the total number and size of awards approved, for all **cultural sector stakeholders in the coming fiscal year.**

Call to Action

Mass Cultural Council requests line item 0640-0300 be funded at \$27.4M in FY23, because culture is essential to the health and vitality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This investment will continue post-pandemic recovery work and provide critical state support for artists, cultural workers, and cultural organizations.

Please join Mass Cultural Council in embracing the **#PowerOfCulture** and **support a \$27.4M** state investment in the arts, humanities, and sciences in FY23. For more information visit [MassCulturalCouncil.org](#) or contact Public Affairs Director [Bethann Steiner](#).