

# The Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants Process

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Presented by the  
Amesbury Cultural Council

# Criteria & Eligibility

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## **1. The proposed program supports Arts or Humanities or Interpretive Sciences**

Arts - crafts and performing, visual, media, folk, design, literary and inter-disciplinary arts.

Humanities - history, social studies, philosophy, criticism and literature.

Interpretive sciences - learning about nature, science and technology in ways that explain how they relate to people's lives.

# Criteria & Eligibility

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## **2. Public Benefit**

Local council funds must be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefiting any private individual or group.

Whenever possible, activities funded by local cultural councils should be available to the general public by exhibit, performance, demonstration, reading or other means.

To the degree possible, activities funded by local councils should also ensure the full participation and integration of people with disabilities.

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## **3. No Substitution**

Local Cultural Council funds must not substitute for or replace other public funding of programs in the arts, humanities or interpretive sciences. Any item or activity that is generally considered the funding responsibility of the city or town will not be approved, even if funding did not previously exist for that item or activity.

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## **4. Non-Dependency**

Local Cultural Council funds are not intended to be used as the sole source of funding for projects of a continuing nature. If the same project has been funded by the LCC at the same level for three years in a row, it violates the non-dependency criteria.

# Criteria & Eligibility

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## **5. Non-Discrimination**

In accordance with state law, local cultural councils may not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, gender, religion, creed, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or age, nor may they fund projects that discriminate on the basis of these attributes.

# Eligibility: Who Can Apply?

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Applicants must show that they reside in Massachusetts and should have been engaged in the kind of activity for which funds are requested for at least one year.

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- Individuals
- Private nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
- Unincorporated associations that can establish a nonprofit objective that is, groups of individuals coming together with a common purpose (e.g., local community band, theater group) which do not have nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.
- Schools, libraries or other public agencies.
- Religious organizations.
- The local cultural council itself

# Evaluation of Grant Proposals

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## **Relative strengths of each proposal**

- How does the application compare with others?
- What proposals provide the best public benefit,
- What proposals reach an underserved community segment?
- What proposals offer the most compelling artistic/cultural experiences?

# Evaluation of Grant Proposals

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## **Budget Review**

- Detailed, Researched cost estimates
- Include “in-kind” donations - dollar value of anything that is donated to a project, such as art materials, a free space which normally charges rent or an individual's time.
- Budget should balance - total expenses = total income

# Evaluation of Grant Proposals

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## **Partial Funding vs/ Full Funding**

If a project is willing to go forward with partial funding, they are more likely to be granted some \$.