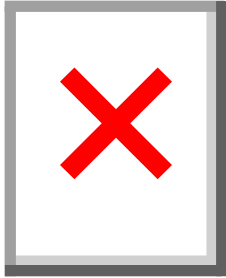


From: Mass Cultural Council <newsletters@notice.mass.gov>
Sent: Dec 02, 2024 18:03:34.000000000 UTC
Subject: Community Initiative - Dec 2024
To: dgaffey@cityofmelrose.org <dgaffey@cityofmelrose.org>

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Community Initiative

New Cultural Districts Designated in Holyoke, Watertown & Westfield



Mass Cultural Council has approved three new state-designated cultural districts in the communities of Holyoke, Watertown, and Westfield.

"This is a celebration of these three communities, their distinct local character, and their cultural vibrancy," said Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director, Mass Cultural Council.

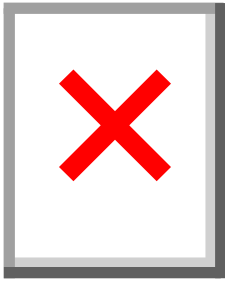
"While Holyoke, Watertown, and Westfield are unique from one another and their peers in the Cultural Districts Initiative, what they share is a commitment to economic development through creative

placemaking, celebrating – and prioritizing – arts and culture and using it as a tool to grow and support their local economies."

Image: The mural "La cultura es poder" in Holyoke Cultural District created by Colectivo Morivivir with local youth.

[Read More](#)

Featured Festivals



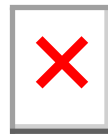
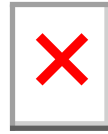
Port Gingerbread Festival in Newburyport.
Photo: Courtesy of Port Gingerbread Festival, Inc.

Celebrate the dynamism of our communities at these festivals – and more* – throughout the season:

- Dec. 6, 2024: [Lighting of Merry Maple](#), Amherst, MA
- Dec. 7, 2024: [Blackstone Valley Festival of Trees](#), Northbridge, MA
- Dec. 7, 2024: [Dunstable Jinglefest](#), Dunstable, MA
- Dec. 11 and 14, 2024: [Lives in Me Heritage Festival](#), Boston, MA
- Dec. 13-15, 2024: [Port Gingerbread Festival](#), Newburyport, MA
- Dec. 14, 2024: [Downtown Westfield WinterWalk](#), Westfield, MA
- Dec. 14, 2024: [Edgartown Village Market & Holiday Faire](#), Edgartown, MA

- Dec. 26, 2024 - Jan. 1, 2025 – [Frozen Fire Festival](#), Salem, MA
-

Out & About at Community Events



We are proud of the commitment and efforts of the Local Cultural Councils and Cultural Districts across the state. Here are just a few places we had the pleasure of visiting recently. We see you, and we celebrate you!

Images (clockwise): Thrillah in the Rivah, funded by Fall River Cultural Council (Photo: Jay Wong); Bedford Cultural District Music and Arts Festival (Photo:

Barbara Purchia); Springfield Pitch Night for LCC Applicants; Fenway Cultural District's 23rd Annual Opening Our Doors event (Photo: Annielly Camargo).

Opportunities & Resources

Register for **Mass Cultural Council's** [next Spotlight Series webinar](#) featuring **Open Door Arts'** new organizational Arts and Culture Accessibility Self-Assessment tool. Dec. 6, 2024.

Mass Cultural Council's [Gaming Mitigation Fund](#) grants are available to Massachusetts nonprofit and municipal performing arts centers to spend on touring shows or touring artist fees. Deadline: Jan. 9, 2025.

The **National Endowment for the Arts**, in partnership with **Mid-America Arts Alliance**, is accepting applications [Creative Forces Community Engagement grants](#) to support non-clinical, community-based arts engagement programming for military and veteran populations, including family members and caregivers. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2025.

Bloomberg Philanthropies' [Asphalt Art Initiative Grant](#) is open to cities with populations of 50,000 or more. The program will award 10 cities grants of up to \$100,000 each for large-scale projects that will make signature streets safer and more accessible, create dynamic new public spaces, or enact other similarly transformative roadway redesigns. Deadline: Jan. 31, 2025.

The next [CreativeGround Network Leader Workshop](#) is Dec. 3, 2024 at 11am via Zoom. Learn how to utilize **New England Foundation for the Art's** [CreativeGround.org](#) for your community.

MAPC's [2025 Technical Assistance Program \(TAP\) grants](#) are available for local programs and planning initiatives. Projects that advance [MetroCommon2050](#) and [Housing Choice initiatives](#) and serve multiple

communities will be prioritized for funding. Apply by Dec. 13, 2024 to be considered when the greatest amount of funding is available.

Essex County Community Foundation is accepting applications for:

- [NiSource Charitable Foundation Fund for Merrimack Valley](#): Grants of \$25,000-\$200,000 to nonprofits in support of the core programming around hardship assistance, economic development, safety, STEM and environmental education. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2025.
- [Women's Fund of Essex County](#): Multi-year grants of \$30,000 each over 3-years will allow organizations to secure support for programs that address longer-term issues to improve lives for women and girls. Deadline: Jan. 6, 2025.

Each month **Mass Cultural Council** posts a round-up of [Opportunities & Resources for Organizations](#).

In the News

- [Downtown Westfield designated as one of three cultural districts](#) (The Reminder, Nov. 22, 2024)
- [Watertown Cultural District Approved by Mass Cultural Council](#) (Watertown News, Nov. 19, 2024)
- [Area briefs: ... Holyoke gets new Puerto Rican Cultural District...](#) (Gazette, Nov. 14, 2024)
- [Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going](#) (The Berkshire Eagle, Nov. 12, 2024)
- [So, You Want to Live in Winchester?](#) (Boston Magazine, Nov. 12, 2024)
- [Inside a Massachusetts studio showcasing the work of artists with disabilities](#) (PBS News, Nov. 10, 2024)

- [Foxboro, Wrentham and Plainville officials give update on regional marketing effort to state Gaming Commission](#) (The Sun Chronicle, Nov. 8, 2024)

[Read More](#)



*If you don't see your festival listed, we also promote festivals on our [Communities Facebook page](#).
Contact [Sommers Smith](#).

Header image: Outdoor performance at Featherstone Center for the Arts in Oak Bluffs, MA.

[About Mass Cultural Council](#)

Mass Cultural Council is a state agency advancing the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector by celebrating traditions and talents, championing its collective needs, and equitably investing public resources.

[About the Community Initiative](#)

Mass Cultural Council's Community Initiative unleashes the power of culture in cities and towns across the Commonwealth. We help communities create rich cultural experiences that improve our quality of life, foster growth and economic development, and celebrate the authenticity of place. And we're leading a movement to bring people of all backgrounds in the arts, humanities, and sciences together for a common cause: to elevate the importance of culture to create a better Commonwealth.

[Communities Team](#)

[Lisa Simmons](#), Community Initiative Program Manager
Local Cultural Councils, Festivals, Cultural Districts
Regions: City of Boston

[Timothea Pham](#), Festivals Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Festivals, Cultural Districts
Regions: The Berkshires, The Islands

[Cheyenne Cohn-Postell](#), Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
Regions: Cape Cod, North-Central Mass,

[Sommers Smith](#), Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
Regions: Franklin County, Greater Springfield, Metro West

[Greg Torrales](#), Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
Regions: Greater Merrimack Valley, North of Boston, South-Central Mass

[Jay Wong](#), Program Officer
Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Districts
Regions: Greater Boston, Hampshire County, Southeastern Mass

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