

Mass Gaming Commission

Mass Cultural Council Economic Development Strategies

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

Working through the arts, humanities, and sciences, culture is a dynamic force for enriching communities, growing the economy, increasing accessibility, and fostering individual creativity. Culture is intrinsically valuable and unique in its ability to lift the human spirit.

Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations provide more than 62,000 jobs, pump \$2.1 billion annually into the state economy, and generate another \$2.5 billion of economic activity. In 2015 alone, these organizations generated \$104 million dollars in taxes and fees for the Commonwealth.

The Mass Cultural Council is working on a regional basis to support the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth through its Communities Program. Starting with 7 communities across the state (Worcester, Springfield, Pittsfield, Beverly, New Bedford, Dennis & Blandford) Mass Cultural Council will be harnessing the Power of Culture through the creation of a cultural compact that will:

- Drive growth and opportunity through a thriving creative economy
- Build relationships across ethnic, racial, and generational lines
- Cultivate cities towns who want a better place for people to live, work, and thrive.

Building on the partnerships that The Council has established, as a through line in our programs, we will deepen and grow the reach of our sector through economic and community development strategies.

With funding through an allotment from the Gaming Commission fund, Cultural Compact communities will:

- Help to amplify cultural vitality in cities and towns through integrated community-focused grants, initiatives, and advocacy.
- Increase the impact of community-led efforts to sustain and promote a rich cultural life by providing communities the resources, training, and tools needed to increase their capacity and effect change.
- Support the economic health of communities through targeted investments in artists and the cultural sector.
- Build strategic alliances between the cultural sector, private developers, state agencies, and other Massachusetts community and economic development groups to stimulate economic growth
- Grow the visibility of the creative sector in Massachusetts through partnerships that expand markets and/or promote the work of cultural organizations and artists.

Through partnerships with regional, state, and local stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth, Mass Cultural Council will work to elevate the importance of culture and artists by building communities that are viable and by creating an increased economic impact for communities.