

The Waltham Cultural Council Announce 2021 Grantees



For Immediate Release: LOCAL GRANTS AWARDED FOR WALTHAM

Waltham, March 10th, 2021 - The Waltham Cultural Council announce the award of 45 grants totaling \$54,257 for cultural programs in Waltham. This year we received a record 66 applications requesting a total of \$172,156. A complete list of this year's recipients can be found below.

The Waltham Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Waltham Cultural Council are:

Rosemary Harbeson, Carolyn Melbye, Elizabeth Moy, Sharyn Nolan, Eileen Peng, Brad Pielech, Scott Schurr, and Consuelo Valdes.

In response to this year's Community Input Survey, 65% of community members voiced a strong desire for publicly funded cultural projects to be specifically aimed at our teen population. In an effort to ensure programs and events supported with WCC grant funds match the interest of our diverse community of teens, we launched a Teen Advisory Group to help review applications and provide vital feedback. The council thanks this year's teen

advisors, Emily Lin and Delanie Pon. Both Juniors at Waltham High School, Emily and Delanie provided invaluable insight during the review process.

Statewide, more than \$4 million will be distributed by local cultural councils in 2021. Grants will support an enormous range of grass-roots activities: concerts, exhibitions, radio, and video productions, field trips for schoolchildren, after-school youth programs, writing workshops, historical preservation efforts, lectures, First Night celebrations, nature and science education programs for families, and town festivals. Nearly half of LCC funds support educational activities for young people.

This year's 2021 Waltham Cultural Council Grantees include:

- African Cultural Services Inc: Africano Youth Dance Goes Digital During the Pandemic/Operating Costs Support for Africano Cultural Center
- Andrew Harms: Brass Connections Waltham Student Scholarship
- BJEP Jewish Sunday School: Standing up to Racism - A Jewish Perspective
- Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation: Almost Forgotten Immigrant Inventors
- Chesterbrook Community Foundation: CCF Art and Nature Programming
- Discovery Museum: Open Door Connections
- Downtown Waltham Partnership: Waltham Riverfest 2021
- Downtown Waltham Partnership: Watch City Steampunk Festival
- Ethnic Arts Center of Somerville, Inc.: Ugandan Puppet Theatre Series for Africano Waltham
- FitzGerald Elementary PTO: Annual FitzGerald Science Fair
- Gore Place: My Farm at Waltham: Audio Tour Interpreting the Historic Landscape of Gore Place
- Grace Christian Church: Creating a Safe Space to Talk About Race: a Kaleidoscope Experience
- Gregory Cook: Wonderland Spectacle Co. Art and Nature Video for Kids
- Hovey Players: New Theatre Space in Waltham
- Jessica Lucci: Watch City Readers
- Juliet Najjumba: Your Story Matters Magazine
- Kevin Burke: Summer Rock Band Camp
- Layla Bermeo: Mural in honor of the Waltham Black Future Fund
- Mamai Art Gallery: Waltham Children's Business Fair
- Marci Diamond: Circus Arts Online for Waltham Youth
- Maria Photinakis: Comics Summer Camp/Extraordinary Times

Mouli Pal: Indian Dance at Beaver Brook

- Natural Deathcare Collaborative: Making Art While Grieving Death: Community in Isolation
- Opportunities for Inclusion: Arts Programming for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Prospect Hill Community Foundation, Inc: Prospect Hill Community Foundation Operating Support
- Robert Treat Paine Historical Trust: Partners in Protest: A pop-up exhibit on Waltham women suffragists
- Sarah Jane Nelson: Folklore of the Fiddler in Ballads, Stories and Tunes
- Stephanie South: Waltham Elementary School StoryWalk
- Tal Shalom Kobi: A Tribute to Women Composers from Around the World
- The Dorothy and Charles Mosesian Center for the Arts: ASL Shadow Interpretation Partnership
- Waltham American Legion Band: Celebration of Community Band Music
- Waltham Boys & Girls Club: Murals for Change
- Waltham Fields Community Farm: Lawn Signs and Book Walks
- Waltham Arts Council: Waltham Summer Concerts on the Common
- Waltham Farmers' Market: Waltham Farmers' Market 2021 Concert Series
- Waltham Historical Society: The Waltham Historical Society's Edmund L. Sanders Lecture Series
- Waltham Land Trust: Snakes Awake at Spring Break!
- Waltham Mills Artist Association: Waltham Open Studios 2021
- Waltham Partnership For Youth: Waltham's 2nd Annual Mental Health Awareness Event
- Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra
- Waltham Public Library Children's Program Series
- Waltham Public Library Teen Room: Graffiti Camp

The Waltham Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall. Applications and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org. Applications are due mid October.

For guidelines and complete information on how to apply or how to become a member of the Waltham Cultural Council, contact Sharyn Nolan at walthamculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

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