



May 8, 2023

The Honorable Ronald Mariano
Speaker of the House
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Mindy Domb
Chair, Joint Committee on Tourism,
Arts and Cultural Development
State House, Room 174
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Thank You for Approving \$25M for the Mass Cultural Council in FY24

Dear Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, and Chair Domb:

First, thank you for your leadership and service to the people of the Commonwealth. We wish to thank you for including \$25 million for the Mass Cultural Council's line item 0640-0300 in the House FY24 Budget. This represents an 11% increase from the FY23 allocation and \$3.58 per capita of annual state investments - keeping Massachusetts within the top ten states, nationally, for creative sector support.

In the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis'](#) most recent Creative Economy Satta profile report, Massachusetts' creative sector generated \$27 billion in economic value for the Commonwealth, more than the construction and utilities sectors. Thanks to this year's budget allocation, we know you and your colleagues in the House understand the significant impact of artists, creative workers, cultural organizations, and creative businesses that comprise the Massachusetts creative sector.

As a sector, we are eager to continue our work: connecting communities, amplifying their voices, celebrating the diverse cultures in Massachusetts, and generating significant economic activity in every region of the Commonwealth. The \$25 million

state investment in the Mass Cultural Council will make this possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Members of the Creative and Cultural Community

MASSCreative

Emily Ruddock,
Executive Director
Boston

**Cappella Clausura
Inc.**

Amelia LeClair
Newtonville

**Celebrity Series of
Boston**

Sara Brookner
Melrose

**Southeastern
Philharmonic
Orchestra**

Elena Mauro
Randolph

**Hub Theatre
Company of Boston**

Lauren Elias
Brookline

**Berkshire Choral
International**

Steven Smith
Pittsfield

**Rotch-Jones-Duff
House & Garden
Museum**

Dawn Salerno
New Bedford

**Drum Strategies for
Healing**

Sam Holmstock
Cotuit

City Strings United

Ellen Hallett
Wellesley

**Rodrigo Guerrero,
Arts Policy
Consultant**

*MASSCreative Board
Member*
Rodrigo Guerrero
Watertown

Flying Cloud Institute

Jennifer Hibbins
Great Barrington

**Land Preservation
Society of Norton**

Ann Murray
Norton

**Cabot Performing
Arts Center**

Casey Soward
Beverly

Fearless Ink

Eva Schegulla
North Adams

Mudflat

Jennifer DeAngelis
Lynn

**Charles River
Sinfonietta**

Jacob Litoff
Millis

Old Sloop Presents

Celene Lyon
Rockport

NOA

**Gallery/Destination
Groton Committee**

Joni Parker-Roach
Groton

**Guild of Boston
Artists**

Jean Lightman
Concord

Nutshell Playhouse

Don Jordan
Lenox

Open Mic Classical

Monika Woods
Brewster

The Actors Studio

Kimm Wilkinson
Newburyport

**Cultural Center of
Cape Cod, Inc.**
Molly Demeulenaere
Harwich Port

AGNI
William Pierce
Jamaica Plain

Odaiko New England
Elaine Fong
Brookline

**Hopkinton Center for
the Arts**
Kelly Grill
Upton

Katherine Dander
Boston

Stanley Sayer
Jamaica Plain

Ann Teixeira
Boston

Melinda Moses
Ashland

Charles Washburn
Worcester

Melissa Ehlers
Melrose

Priscilla Kipp
Townsend

Claudia Levin
Northampton

Deb Smook
New Bedford

Ann-Marie Gillett
Seekonk

Laurene Gerrior
Middleboro

Alex Lemski
Somerville

Gretchen Graham
Watertown

Eddie Maisonet
Dorchester Center

Joan Green
Shutesbury

Lonnie Chu
Easthampton

Carl Lazarus
West Newton

Kiki Samko
Jamaica Plain

Kristina Scott
West Springfield

Patricia Lane
Framingham

Michelle M. Forabai
Boston

James Baab
Somerville

**Deb Bretton
Robinson**
Tyngsboro

**Barbara Schaeffer
Bacon**
*Mass Cultural Council
Member*
Belchertown

Ellen Scerbo
Boston

Sheilarae Lau
Auburndale

Toby Lynne Schwartz
Randolph