



MENU

Berkshire Organizations Awarded Cultural Council Grants

08:06AM / Monday, December 09, 2024

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PITTSFIELD, Mass. — The Mass Cultural Council awarded \$7.2 Million to 394 nonprofit cultural organizations statewide for operating support, many from Berkshire County.

This funding provides unrestricted operating support to the recipients through two programs, Operating Grants for Organizations and the Cultural Investment Portfolio.

In Berkshire County:

Adams

- Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum: \$9,000

Great Barrington

- Center for Peace Through Culture: \$14,700
- The Du Bois Freedom Center: \$9,000

Lenox

- Ventfort Hall Association: \$15,300

Pittsfield

- Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative: \$9,000
- Kids 4 Harmony: \$12,200
- Roots Rising: \$9,100

As the Commonwealth's independent state arts agency, Mass Cultural Council is charged with bolstering the creative and cultural sector, thereby advancing economic vitality, supporting transformational change, and celebrating, preserving, and inspiring creativity across all Massachusetts communities.



Mass Cultural Council has long provided unrestricted operating support to cultural organizations through the Cultural Investment Portfolio. First launched in 2009, this program provides multi-year grants to cultural nonprofit organizations that provide public programs in the arts, sciences, and humanities. Following the adoption of the Agency's new equity plans in 2021, the Agency paused applications to conduct a review of the program.

The result of this review was the decision to sunset the Cultural Investment Portfolio and launch a new organizational support grant program for cultural nonprofits, Operating Grants for Organizations.

In designing Operating Grants for Organizations, the Agency solicited feedback from key stakeholders and the cultural sector at large to ensure that the values that are important to grantees would be maintained, while also centering equity in the evaluation and program revisions.

FY25 is the first round of investment through Operating Grants for Organizations.

Mass Cultural Council is awarding unrestricted operating support to 56 more organizations in FY25 than FY24. In total, 155 organizations will receive funding through the Operating Grants for Organizations program, in addition to 239 organizations that will continue to receive funding through the Cultural Investment Portfolio.

Funding lists detailing the organizations receiving FY25 support from Operating Grants for Organizations and the Cultural Investment Portfolio are available online.

In this first round of Operating Grants for Organizations, when reviewing the 155 grantees, Mass Cultural Council notes that:

- 129 are receiving operating support from Mass Cultural Council for the first time
- 54 are BIPOC-Centered Organizations
- 66 voluntarily participate in the Card to Culture Program

Organizations receiving awards from the Operating Grant for Organizations program expressed support for the new program.

Tags: [Mass Cultural Council](#).

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BCC Reintroduces Varsity Athletics

07:25AM / Wednesday, December 11, 2024

PITTSFIELD, Mass. — Berkshire Community College (BCC) announces the comeback of varsity sports, beginning in the fall 2025 semester.

Baseball and volleyball teams will compete as part of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 21 as a D-III Non-scholarship member.

According to a press release, the NJCAA's mission is to promote, govern and foster a competitive environment for two-year college athletics. The NJCAA recognizes the diverse nature of its membership, providing at all times a consistent and inclusive governance structure that provides opportunities for all stakeholders and emphasizes the academic, athletic and community involvement goals of all student-athletes.

The Region 21 Conference of the NJCAA features ten other Massachusetts Community Colleges, as well as three schools from Connecticut and Rhode Island. BCC will compete in 16 conference games for volleyball and 24 conference games in baseball. Bunker Hill Community College won the conference for volleyball this fall and Northern Essex Community College is the defending Region 21 baseball champion.

Students interested in playing in a varsity sport with the Falcons should complete the BCC Varsity Athletics Interest Form that can be found at www.berkshirecc.edu/varsity, which includes a link in the left navigation panel called "Steps to Play for the Falcons."

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