Public investment in the arts creates connections across cultural divides

- Participants in community-based arts programs experience greater connection with their community. In FY18, Mass Cultural Council grantees organized public programs attended by more than 20 million people.

- The Mass Cultural Council supports 45 cultural districts across the state. These intentional cultural districts reduce poverty and build bridges across neighborhood, ethnic, and class divides in ways that other efforts at civic engagement cannot.

- Social science research repeatedly shows that opportunities for cultural engagement and creative expression are just as integral to social well-being as adequate food, housing, income, and the opportunity to pursue meaningful activities.

- Sharing creative experiences and expressing our creativity build powerful connections with the people we’re closest to, our community, and the world around us.

Public investment in the arts elevates historically marginalized and ignored voices

- The traditions, history, and heritage that link us to our past and to each other are crucial to our well-being but are often ignored. The Mass Cultural Council assesses the Commonwealth’s needs for historic and cultural preservation and organizes efforts to ensure that those needs are met.

- People with disabilities compose nearly 12% of the adult population but only 7% of those attending arts events. The Mass Cultural Council’s Universal Design Initiative funds arts organizations that recognize the power of design to accommodate patrons, staff, volunteers, and students.

- Historic social forces disadvantage women, immigrants, people of color, LGBT people, people with disabilities, and other oppressed groups. Public funding supports creative projects by and about these communities. These projects can impact public opinion about these groups and open the door to legislative change that increases equity and inclusion.