



Meeting with your Legislator/Legislative Staffer

Goals of the Meeting

- Build/make a connection with your legislator or legislative staffer.
- Convey your passion for arts and culture.
- Convey the impact of the arts and cultural community.
- Ask your legislator to:
 - Support increased investment in the creative community by boosting the Massachusetts Cultural Council budget (line item 0640-0300) to \$16 million in FY18.
 - As part of the MA Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan, work to ensure the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) creates robust and accessible school report cards on arts education and rewrites the Commonwealth's outdated arts education curriculum frameworks.
 - Cosponsor S.1896 to establish a Massachusetts Public Art Program (MPAP).

Outline of Meeting

- **Connect**
 - *Story of Self:* Introductions. Share who you are and what brings you to this work.
 - Ask legislator/legislative staffer about his/her personal connection to arts and culture.
 - Ask legislator/legislative staffer about what local arts and cultural organizations makes an impact in his/her district.
 - Thank the legislator/legislative staffer if they signed the FY17 MCC Budget Veto Override letter, signed the letter to support arts education in the MA ESSA State Plan, and/or cosponsored the MPAP bill.
- **Context**
 - *Story of Us:* Talk about the impact the arts and cultural community has in your town/city.
- **Commitment**
 - *Story of Now:* We need your support now.
 - Will you support increased investment in the creative community by boosting the Massachusetts Cultural Council budget (line item 0640-0300) to \$16 million in FY18?
 - As part of the MA Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan, will you work to ensure the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) creates robust and accessible school report cards on arts education and rewrites the Commonwealth's outdated arts education curriculum frameworks?
 - Will you cosponsor S.1896 to establish a Massachusetts Public Art Program (MPAP)?
- **Catapult**
 - Make sure there's a follow up plan:
 - Take a group picture with your legislator or legislative staffer. Post on social media with #AMAD17;
 - Hand out organizational materials/cards;
 - Invite your legislator to visit or come to an arts and cultural event;
 - Follow up on their commitments;
 - Get back to your legislator with any additional information he/she requested.

Tips

- The State House is a busy place, so your meeting may not start right on time and you may meet with a legislative staffer instead of your legislator. Meeting with staff is still very effective, since it's their job to relay all constituent matters to their bosses.
- Don't worry if you can't answer one of your legislator's questions. Tell them you'll get back to them as soon as possible with the information.
- Tell us how your meetings went. Please fill out the yellow "Legislative Meeting Report Form" in your folder and drop it off in the House Member's Lounge, Room 350 or mail it to MASSCreative.