Strengthen Local Economies

In fiscal year 2016, the Mass Cultural Council invested $4.5 million in 400 nonprofits that generated more than $1.2 billion into the state’s economy through direct spending and employed 32,889 independent contractors and full-time and part-time workers.1

In Cambridge and Boston, arts organizations generate $884 million each year with arts audiences spending an additional $645 million on event-related expenses such as dining out.2

In the Gateway Cities of Worcester, Springfield, and Lowell total annual spending by arts organizations and their audiences is $188 million.3

Arts and cultural organizations drive tourism, retain local dollars, and attract new dollars to main streets and downtown districts.

Attracts additional investment and encourages sustainability

The $110 million invested since 2007 in the MA Cultural Facilities Fund has leveraged more than $2.6 billion in spending on arts, history, and science building projects, and supported more than 25,500 jobs for architects, engineers, contractors, and construction workers.4

In fiscal year 2016, Mass Cultural Council investments of $4.5 million to 400 nonprofits generated more than $138 million in individual contributions.

Public funding makes up less than 2% of most arts organizations’ budgets, but is frequently awarded with the stipulation that every public dollar must be privately matched.

Funding from the National Endowment for the Arts cannot be awarded in a state unless there is a viable and effective state arts agency operating with public support.

In MA, cultural grants are predicted on the ability of grantees to show sound management and planning practice that contribute to long-term financial stability.

Ensures that resources serve the public interest

Public grants are spread across socio-economic, geographic, and demographic divides. Seven of every ten grants awarded by the MA Cultural Facilities Fund have gone to cultural organizations outside Boston. Nearly one in four has been invested in Gateway Cities, and nearly half go to organizations with budgets less than $1 million a year.5

Corporate giving is often driven by marketing goals and focuses on blockbuster arts events or other highly commercialized activities. Foundation support is highly concentrated with nearly half (46.4%) of all foundation contributions coming from just a fraction (2.1%) of the total grants given.6

The Mass Cultural Council assesses the Commonwealth’s cultural needs, including historic and cultural preservation, and organizes efforts to ensure that those needs are met.

MASSCreative Platform & Program:

Advocate for $17 million in funding for the Mass Cultural Council in the FY19 state budget, to support working artists, community-based arts programs, and cultural organizations.

Maintain, repair, and build cultural spaces for artists to create, rehearse, and perform through increasing the Cultural Facilities Fund to $15 million annually.

Support municipal initiatives for dedicated arts funding.

Support professional development for working artists by increasing state and municipal workforce development funding and support for creative entrepreneurs.

Support equal access to opportunities for working artists and arts and cultural organizations to present, promote, and fund their work.

3. Ibid.