

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

### VISIT THE DISTRICT



### #artshappenhere



The Franklin Cultural District Committee (CDC), an official Town Committee, who markets the District and helps to organize cross-partner efforts and events. The purpose of the District is to attract artists and cultural enterprises, encourage business development and job growth, expand tourism, preserve and reuse historic buildings and foster local cultural development.

#### Mission Statement

The CDC's mission is to enrich and inspire our residents and visitors by fostering local cultural, artistic, culinary, and historical development aligned with local partners in a defined walkable area, the Franklin Cultural District (FCD), which is easily accessible and serves as the center of economic activity.

#### Franklin Cultural District History

The Town of Franklin's 2013 Master Plan had listed Goal 2: *Provide quality arts and cultural resources as a vital part of the creativity and growth of our community.* Delivering on this goal, in early 2014 a small group of residents gathered to begin the quest to become a designated Cultural District. Using the criteria established by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a footprint of the Franklin Cultural District was identified by the working group.

Over the next few years, the committee organized festivals and events in the defined cultural district until the Town decided to officially gain designation as a cultural district. A new resident committee was formed and its task was to apply for state designation. MCC conducted a site visit in September 2018

eventually leading to Franklin Cultural District's approval of state Cultural District Status. The Franklin Cultural District Dedication Celebration was held on May 10, 2019.

The volunteer work the Cultural District Committee strives towards was best described by Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin).

*"The arts help us better understand and interpret the world around us, improve our ability to think critically and act creatively, and offer the opportunity to communicate. And the arts provide a way of thinking and a way to be engaged because they are about vision and having that ability to see. In our schools, arts education improves student achievement, well-being, and school climate. And finally, perhaps most importantly, culture plays a central role in helping our citizens discover timeless truths about themselves and the world we share. Government is about improving lives, so given how much the arts do in that regard, it is quite fitting for the state to play a part.... The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us — fostering creativity, empathy, and beauty. The arts also strengthen our communities socially, educationally, and economically."*

#### The FY24 Franklin Cultural District Committee Members:

JOHN T LOPRESTI, CHAIR  
AMY ADAMS, VICE CHAIR  
KATHERINE A BOTELHO, CLERK  
ROBERTA DEBAGGIS TRAHAN, MEMBER  
SUE G CASS, MEMBER  
PATRICK CONLAN, MEMBER  
PANDORA P. CARLUCCI, MEMBER

These seven volunteer members, all of whom are town residents, meet as a full group once a month. Since 2020 all CDC meetings are accessible via Zoom, making it even easier for community members to join the conversation on what is taking place in their cultural district.

Following Massachusetts Open Meeting Laws; the meetings are publicized through social media, as well as the weekly newsletter; meeting times, dates and agendas are posted on the Town's website. All meetings are open to the public.

In addition, the CDC holds quarterly Partners meetings; these meetings usually rotate among weeknights and locations in Town to provide flexibility in attendance, as work schedules vary throughout the community.

### Cultural District Committee Goals FY24

The mission is realized through the CDC's goals. Each year the CDC's goals are reviewed, edited, and voted on by the entire Committee. CDC goals for FY24 are as follows:

- Coordinate resources to assist Franklin Cultural District Partners, local businesses, local artists and art based cultural organizations to recover from negative impact from the pandemic.
- Work to increase economic activity and attract new businesses, including artists and cultural enterprises, to the Franklin Cultural District
- Continue to strengthen the Franklin Cultural District Partnership including the ongoing collaborations with the Franklin Cultural Council.
- Broaden the ethnic diversity of the arts and culture in Franklin.
- Continue to broaden the Franklin Cultural District social media presence to help the committee become more accessible and better able to engage, connect with and expand its audience .
- Work with Town Administration on the Wayfinding Signage Project when the pending timeline is finalized by the town.

### Goals of the Franklin Cultural District Partnership

The goals of the FCD partnership include encouraging programming, events and activities that support the arts and economic development in downtown Franklin. Collaboration between the partners of the FCD and partners to promote the FCD through usage of the FCD logo and media outlets. Partners post their events on the FCD website calendar and social media, as well as helping to cross-promote other partners' events through their own resources.

### Participation in Arts and Culture Initiatives

FY24 was a year of continued growth for the Cultural District as we continued to participate in and support artists and creatives, businesses, organizations, and institutions focused on arts and culture. One or more CDC member participated in the following events:

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us in welcoming  
a new class of The Traveling School  
of Fish

Thursday June 6th, 2024  
5pm at The Franklin Sculpture Park



THE 'TRAVELING SCHOOL OF FISH' IS A COLLABORATION  
OF THE GERALD M. PARMENTER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS  
AND THE TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL  
TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

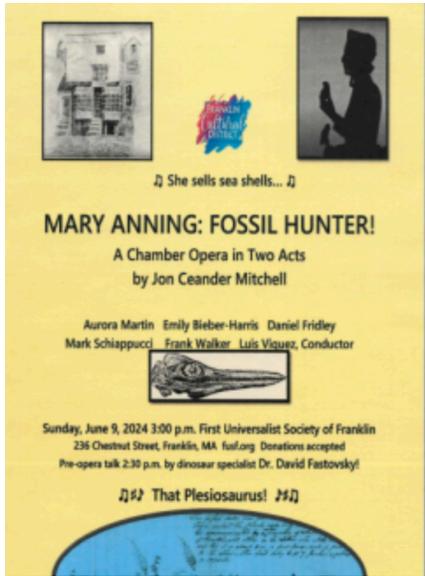
PROJECT HEADED BY ARTIST AND FRANKLIN CULTURAL  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR AMY ADAMS.

- *Cultural District Check-ins* with Carolyn Cole of MCC. The monthly meetings, via Zoom, provide an opportunity to learn from leaders in arts and culture throughout the Commonwealth.
- *Franklin Downtown Partnership Harvest Festival*. The CDC hosted a booth with the FCC, distributing information about all things Arts and Culture in Franklin.
- Joint reception with the Franklin Cultural Council celebrating all FY24 community culture grantees across Franklin. The event was hosted at Dean College, April 2024.
- *Strawberry Stroll*. Co-hosted a booth with FCC. Shared information about all things Arts and Culture.
- Franklin Sculpture Park School of Travelling Fish Rededication Ceremony.

### Cultural Investment Grants funded by the Franklin Cultural District Committee for FY24

The CDC is dedicated to supporting local cultural community events and projects with the district. Whether community members are planning a public art installation, organizing a cultural festival, or developing educational programs, these investment grants provide the financial resources needed to make their project a success.

The CDC supported programs and events totaling \$12,669.75 to community members.



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Franklin Public Library   Mitzi Gousie (Continued)	"Irish in America" Concert for all ages.	Performer Mary King	\$450
Children's Museum of Franklin, Meg Hagen	For Pop-up museum events	Makerspace Materials	\$1,489.75
Franklin Food Pantry, Marsha Tait	Food Pantry Public Art	Painting Supplies	\$1,700
Franklin PorchFest Committee, Karilyn Hammer	Franklin PorchFest	Website development, advertising, administrative supplies.	\$2,000
Franklin Farmers Market, Lauren Kloos	Entertainment at	Three performances.	\$1,200
JFK & Parmenter Schools, Mary MacMurray	Night of the Arts	Drumatix performance	\$1,080
Franklin Lifelong Learning, Jennifer	Presentation to Parents	Dr. David Murphy	\$200

Maitland			
Franklin Art Association, Susan Sheridan	FAA Banner to promote	2'x6' Banner	\$100
FPAC, Raye Lynn Mercer	"August: Osage County"	Production costs	\$500
Franklin Book Week, Alan Earl + Library, Museum, Escape Into Fiction	Ben Franklin's Birthday	Marketing/advertising/publicity	\$1,000
Mary Olsson	Scan & digitize 600	Scan & digitize glass plate	\$900
Jon Ceander Mitchell (continued)	Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter, Chamber Opera	Personnel and production costs	\$1,000
Temple Etz Chaim, Melissa Folsom	Israel Dance and	Performers Fees	\$300
Oak Street School, Brad Hendrixson	Cultural Fair on the Oak/HMM S Campus	Food, Vendors, Performers	\$750



## Highlighted Project Coordinated by the Franklin Cultural District Committee | Artsy Box Projects

Funded by FY24 MCC CDI Grant and additional Town resources, the Artsy Box Project promoted public art within FCD by supporting six individual diverse local artists, teachers and Franklin students.

"First started in 2023 the CDC published the call to the Franklin Community through social media and the weekly newsletter.. "We are excited to announce, Franklin Cultural District is joining in the movement of creating aesthetic utility box art to share with the Franklin community. Franklin is a vibrant supportive town with lots of historical value. We want to highlight some of its beauty by sharing your interpretation. Franklin artists of all backgrounds, established or emerging are welcome to submit. We want to see your best uplifting works of color to fit the locations they will be featured in. Selected artists would receive a stipend between \$500-\$1000 dependent on location to cover time, transportation, artistic development, and labor.



Artwork and assignments will be evaluated by the FCD committee and Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) for the Town of Franklin." The call for artists was first produced by the Franklin Cultural District Committee.



Ashley Caprarella shares  
"True Bliss"



Brittni Laquidara shares  
"Saturday Morning"



Fatima Wojohat, shares  
"Paper Planes"

#ArtsyBox24



Melanie Christopher shares  
"Night Spirits"



Nicole Littlefield shares  
"Living in the clouds"



Shilpa Adduri shares  
"Tranquil Haven"

Congratulations to our 2024 artists:

- Ashley Caprarella shares "True Bliss", featuring a collection of nostalgic carnival imagery (Town Common)
- Brittni Laquidara shares "Saturday Morning", including the charm of playful birds (West Central St. across from THE BLACK BOX)
- Fatima Wojohat shares "Paper Planes" with a young girl using music to share her dreams (School St. across from the library)
- Melanie Christopher shares "Night Spirits", a magical garden-scape under a night sky (East Central St. near Crescent St.)
- Nicole Littlefield shares "Living in the clouds", with a whimsical version of an evening sky (Town Common)
- Shilpa Adduri shares "Tranquil Haven", featuring a beautiful cottage nestled in a field of wildflowers (West Central St. near West St.)

Many thanks to *Franklin artist and CDC Vice Chair Amy Adams* for her leadership of this visual art initiative. The Franklin Cultural District also thanks the MassCultural Council and the Town of Franklin for supporting this project.

# SNAPSHOT OF @FRANKLINCULTURE



ENHANCING OUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT  
FranklinCulture March - 707 followers  
FranklinCulture June - 894 followers  
Franklin Culture August - 926 followers

## Jul 22 - Aug 20th, 2024

Accounts Reached: 1.5K  
Accounts Engaged: 177 +63.9%  
Total Followers: 926+2.4%  
Content Shared: 162

## June - August Stories & Reels

Shared Stories: 1,000  
Posted Reels: 2.5 Plays  
Watch Time of Reels totaling: 3hrs

Let's get Social

### Looking forward to FY26...

In a town rich with artistic talent and cultural heritage, a dedicated Cultural District Committee plays a crucial role in bringing together the efforts of the cultural council, community partners, and stakeholders to create a cohesive and vibrant district.

By creating a shared space for dialogue and innovation, the Cultural District Committee helps to amplify the voices of local artists, preserve the town's unique character, and offer meaningful cultural experiences to all residents and visitors.

In essence, the committee is the key to transforming individual efforts into a collective celebration of the town's cultural district spirit, ensuring that the arts continue to be a vital and accessible part of our community life.

Respectfully submitted,

### CDC members for FY24:

John Lo Presti, Chair  
Amy Adams, Vice Chair  
Pandora Carlucci, Member  
Roberta Trahan, Member  
Katherine Botelho, Clerk  
Patrick Conlan, Member  
Sue Cass, Member