

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRANKLIN CULTURAL COUNCIL

The mission of the Franklin Cultural Council (FCC) is to encourage participation and enhance opportunities for enrichment in the cultural arts and sciences throughout our community. Composed of committed residents, the FCC meets monthly with the purpose of supporting events and programs through grants from the Town of Franklin and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Local Cultural Councils are administered by volunteers from the community who have an interest in supporting the arts, humanities, and sciences. The more diverse its membership, the better an LCC can serve their community.

“The Massachusetts Cultural Council is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, the Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program enriches the cultural life of all cities and towns in Massachusetts. Led by municipally appointed volunteers, LCCs award \$7.5 million every year, supporting 7,600 cultural programs that include everything from field trips to lectures, festivals, and dance performances. Contact your LCC to apply for a grant.” For more information visit the Massachusetts Cultural Council Website, massculturalcouncil.org.



**“IN ALL ITS FORMS, CULTURE IS
ESSENTIAL
TO THE HEALTH AND VITALITY
OF THE COMMONWEALTH.”**



FRANKLIN CULTURAL COUNCIL
A PROGRAM OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Franklin Cultural Council (FCC) is a grant-making body that allocates funds for projects and programs in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. The FCC has also chosen to conduct a number of arts-related programs and events throughout the year to support and encourage arts and culture within Franklin.

The FY24 Franklin Cultural Council was led by a group of committed volunteers.

JOHN M RISTAINO, CHAIR - 06/30/2025

JEAN M WOLF, MEMBER- 06/30/2025

BRIANNA E CUMMINGS, MEMBER - 06/30/2024

SWATI RAO, MEMBER - 06/30/2026

SARAH E CRONIN, TREASURER -06/30/2025

**PUSHPA LATHA JANGAREDDI, MEMBER
06/30/2026**

A special thank you to Brianna Cummings for her work and volunteerism in the Franklin Cultural sector.

In June 2024 the Council launched their marketing campaign for seeking new volunteer members to join in FY25.



For FY24, the FCC received steady and level funding from the Town of Franklin to support additional grant awards as well as many community programs and events.

This funding was combined with state-allocated Mass Cultural Council funds allowing the FCC to award a total of \$32,120 in grants supporting 28 arts and cultural events for Franklin residents.

The Council Priorities of FY24 were as following:

- Franklin Cultural Council will give priority to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:
- Are Held within the town of Franklin or are of the greatest benefit to Franklin residents.
- Are for events within the boundaries of the Franklin Cultural District, the vibrant, walkable area that surrounds Downtown Franklin. For a map of FCD visit, franklinculture.org
- Are service-oriented and best meet the needs of our community.
- Elevate the voices and experience of historically-marginalized groups to create a more inclusive culture sector in Franklin
- Explicitly link arts to emotional well-being in times of crisis, and contribute to personal and community resiliency.

The Council Guidelines for FY24 were as following:

- The applicant's project should elevate the rich cultural life of our community by expanding access, improving education, promoting diversity and encouraging excellence in the arts, humanities, civics, history or social sciences.
- The applicant's project must provide adequate public access. Explanation of handicap accessibility of the venue, if applicable, must be included in the application.
- Applicants must have a clear, written commitment of the venue from the sponsoring organization or venue.
- Franklin Cultural Council funds are not intended to be used as the sole source of funding for projects.
- ticket prices for events will be taken into consideration during the grant approval process and must be included in your application.
- Applicants must take into consideration local and state public health guidelines in place at the time of their event. The Franklin Cultural Council acknowledges that public health crisis disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and encourages applications that take this into consideration.

The format to which FY24 grantees were given funding was through a reimbursement system. Once the event/program had taken place, grantees submitted receipts/invoices to the FCC and were reimbursed accordingly.

Congratulations to all of the FY24 Grantees!

Amy Adams	Live Art Performance	\$500
Janet Applefield	Combating Hate and Prejudice	\$350
Bates III, Davis R.	Celebrating the Season: A	\$500

	Performance for Seniors	
Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School	Arts Enrichment Assembly	\$1,370
Charles River Chorale, Inc.	Charles River Chorale Organizational Support	\$500
Rachel Daly	Winter Wonderland – Hornithology Ensemble	\$200
Easton Community Access Television ECAT, Inc.	Hockomock Film Festival	\$500
Diane Edgecomb	Fantastical Folktales of Flowers a Story & Harp Concert	\$625
Rosann Fleischauer	Yarning Around Massachusetts	\$500
Franklin Art Association, Inc.	Guest Artist Demonstrations	\$2,000
Franklin Cultural District	BT/ALC Jazz Big Band Guest Artist Performance & Clinicians	\$2,500
Franklin Farmers Market	Franklin Farmers Market	\$5,500
Franklin High School	Family Art Night: Around the World	\$500
Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, Inc.	Franklin LGBTQ Alliance and Celebrate with Pride 2024	\$3,000
Greater Milford Community Chorus	Greater Milford Community Chorus - Golden Jubilee Holiday Concerts	\$325
Grieving Hearts Inc.	Remembrance Rocks	\$350
Horace Mann Middle School	Uncovering History	\$1,500
Indian Cultural Association of Franklin	Navratri Dance Festival	\$3,000
Brenna Johnson	Empty Bowls	\$750
LiveARTS	The 2023-24 LiveARTS Concert Series	\$1,500
MUSE, Inc.	Musical Visits for Seniors	\$1,000

MUSIC Dance.edu	Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors!	\$500
Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild, Inc.	The Massachusetts High School Drama Festival	\$1,000
Norfolk Cooperative Primary, Inc.	Music Enrichment with Mr. Dave	\$100
Southeastern Massachusetts Community Wind Symphony, Inc.	Band Concert	\$650
Celia Taylor	Let's Get It Started Dance Crew Adaptive Dance	\$500
Town of Franklin	"Where's The Toast?" Memory Cafe	\$1,800
Zammarchi, Robert	Elijah T. Grasshopper & Friends	\$600

This was also an exciting year for the continuity of FCC collaborative programming within the community. In April the cultural council, alongside the Franklin Cultural District, coordinated a reception celebrating and honoring the Fy24 Grantees at Dean College.



culture elevates

“Thursday, April 4 at Dean College Memorial Hall starting at 7pm” Live performances; dance and acapella performances, as well as heart warming conversations about the importance of cultural community workflow took hold of Memorial Hall.

Lastly, the FCC made a bold update - in their community logo. Thank you to Allegra printing for working with our cultural volunteers to create this vibrant update to reflect the community it serves.

The new Franklin Cultural Council logo made its physical debut at the Franklin Downtown Partnership’s Strawberry stroll. Where once again, the Franklin Cultural Council volunteers were stationed with collaborative program partners, the Franklin Cultural District.



The support of a local cultural council is the heartbeat of a thriving community. Through its unwavering commitment to fostering creativity, preserving heritage, and amplifying diverse voices, the council serves as a beacon of inspiration and unity.

By funding arts programs, supporting local artists, and creating inclusive spaces for expression, it enriches our shared experiences and strengthens our sense of belonging.

The cultural council’s efforts help to weave a vibrant tapestry of connection, resilience, and pride, making our community not just a place to live, but a place to truly feel at home.

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin Cultural Council members for FY24

- JOHN M RISTAINO, CHAIR
- JEAN M WOLF, MEMBER
- BRIANNA E CUMMINGS, MEMBER
- SWATI RAO, MEMBER
- SARAH E CRONIN, TREASURER
- PUSHPA LATHA JANGAREDDI